

Picture this: sports history

SC historian Dunn
assembles extensive
collection of rare photos
for new book

Authors 2000
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Santa Cruz's Geoffrey Dunn, an award-winning author and documentary filmmaker with more than three decades experience as an investigative reporter, has turned out yet another easy read.

His latest book is mostly pictures.

"Images of America; Sports of Santa Cruz County," distributed by Arcadia Publishing, is loaded with 183 compelling images.



DUNN

"I had a book signing last week and had an epiphany about what the book is about," said Dunn, a 58-year-old lifelong county resi-

dent. "For me, the word that hit me about this book is 'uplifting.' Everyone in it, or their accomplishments or stories, are almost, without exception, uplifting in my life."

While several chains, including Costco, carry the book, Dunn notes it's also for sale at a pair of stores on the Santa Cruz Wharf: Bonnie's Gift Shop and Made in Santa Cruz. It retails for \$21.99.

While Dunn didn't have to write a ton for the book, he packs a ton of information and history in each caption. Much of his rare collection of images were donated to him by members of the community, friends and family.

Arcadia prohibited from using newspaper photos.

Most of the pictures are portraits or team shots rather than action.

"To me, it makes it more about the person than the play itself," Dunn said.

The first image inside the 127-page book is of the 1912-13 Santa Cruz High girls basketball team, decked out in game-day dresses. Dunn notes in a caption that he was shocked this beautiful image went unscathed after a fire ravaged the original campus structure on Walnut Avenue the same year.

Three images reside on the last two pages, including an impressive aerial shot of the starting line at the annual Wharf to Wharf race from Santa Cruz to Capitola, which draws 15,000 participants annually and many more spectators.

On the last page are more recent shots, one of the Santa Cruz Warriors, an NBA D-League team that began playing in Santa Cruz in 2012 and even reached the playoffs during its first season, and another of the 2013 Santa Cruz Derby Girls'

HISTORY

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Boardwalk Bombshells.

Do the math. That makes 100 years of history cover-to-cover.

Bill Dodge, a longtime baseball coach at Santa Cruz high — the school's field is named after the legendary skipper — has a copy of the book and loves it.

"He knows a lot of the people and it goes way back," Dodge said of Dunn, who seemingly attends every sporting event in the area and is always wrapped up in conversations with fellow spectators. "He can go back like five generations. His whole family came from Italy, so he knows everybody in Santa Cruz.

And if he doesn't know them, he knows somebody who does know them."

Not everyone Dunn asked for photos helped the cause though. Still, Dunn said he gathered more than 500 photos for the book and noted that Arcadia is interested in him turning out another edition in the future.

A Soquel High alum who played baseball for the Knights, Dunn later served as assistant at Santa Cruz High. About a third of the book is baseball-related and includes dozens of classic shots from the early 1900s.

Name the sport — badminton, boxing, surfing, polo, track and field, fishing, golf — and Dunn has it documented in his book.

"This was a real fishing community," Dunn said. "Opening day of Steelhead

season, they closed the schools. I'm not kidding."

Dunn's love of sports is obvious. He cherishes the people who play them. Each face in every photo has a story behind it, he said.

"I've been collecting this stuff since I was a kid," Dunn said of the photos. "I grew up around the corner from Joe Brovia. He'd play catch with me when I was 5, 6, 7 years old after he completed his professional career. He'd tell me stories of his time with the San Francisco Seals, Portland Beavers or Sacramento Solons. From an early age, I loved those stories.

"I've had a lot of that go on in my life."

Now, Dunn wants to share his stories with you.