

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910458273503321
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Titolo	Integrating the gridiron [[electronic resource]] : Black Civil Rights and American college football / / Lane Demas
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Brunswick, NJ, : Rutgers University Press, c2010
ISBN	1-282-56249-5 9786612562495 0-8135-4931-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (192 p.)
Disciplina	796.332/630973
Soggetti	Football - United States - History College sports - United States - History Discrimination in sports - United States Racism in sports - United States African American athletes - Social conditions Civil rights movements - History Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- Prologue -- 1. Beyond Jackie Robinson: Racial Integration in American College Football and New Directions in Sport History -- 2. "On the Threshold of Broad and Rich Football Pastures": Integrated College Football at UCLA, 1938-1941 -- 3. "A Fist That Was Very Much Intentional": Postwar Football in the Midwest and the 1951 Johnny Bright Scandal -- 4. "We Play Anyone": Deciphering the Racial Politics of Georgia Football and the 1956 Sugar Bowl Controversy -- 5. "Beat the Devil Out of BYU": Football and Black Power in the Mountain West, 1968-1970 -- Epilogue -- NOTES -- SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX -- ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Sommario/riassunto	Even the most casual sports fans celebrate the achievements of professional athletes, among them Jackie Robinson, Muhammad Ali, and Joe Louis. Yet before and after these heroes staked a claim for African Americans in professional sports, dozens of college athletes asserted their own civil rights on the amateur playing field, and

continue to do so today. Integrating the Gridiron, the first book devoted to exploring the racial politics of college athletics, examines the history of African Americans on predominantly white college football teams from the nineteenth century through today. Lane Demas compares the acceptance and treatment of black student athletes by presenting compelling stories of those who integrated teams nationwide, and illuminates race relations in a number of regions, including the South, Midwest, West Coast, and Northeast. Focused case studies examine the University of California, Los Angeles in the late 1930's; integrated football in the Midwest and the 1951 Johnny Bright incident; the southern response to black players and the 1955 integration of the Sugar Bowl; and black protest in college football and the 1969 University of Wyoming "Black 14." Each of these issues drew national media attention and transcended the world of sports, revealing how fans-and non-fans-used college football to shape their understanding of the larger civil rights movement.
