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Nota di contenuto	Preface -- Acknowledgements -- Chapter 1: Contextualizing the Narrative -- Chapter 2: Theoretical insights and research pathways -- Chapter 3: Colonial Independent Boys' Schools and the Birth of Australian Football -- Chapter 4: The Rugby Union Football Colonies: New South Wales and Queensland -- Chapter 5: Australian Rules in Melbourne and South Australia: The Evolution of a British Legacy.
Sommario/riassunto	This book posits that during Australia's colonial period (1788–1900), all sport, including the hegemonic football codes (rugby union and Australian rules football), was closely tied to British nationalism. The first part of this book, drawing from theories articulated by Tony

Collins and Andy Harper, argues that both rugby union and Australian rules in colonial Australia were expressions of British nationalism, promoted and reinforced by the colonial power structures. Meanwhile, soccer, despite its widespread popularity in Britain, was excluded as the hegemonic football code from the colonial sporting landscape. The author argues that the origins of colonial football can be traced to the independent boys' school system, where football was first developed before spreading to the wider community. The second part of this book shifts focus to senior community sport, exploring its role as an extension of British nationalism beyond the school system. Through case studies of horse racing, cricket, yachting, and lawn bowls, this book demonstrates how these activities reinforced British cultural identity within colonial communities but were linked to commercial interests. While the organizational structures and purposes of school-based and adult community-based sports differed, this analysis reveals that both ultimately served to affirm British nationalist ideals. School sports were closely tied to education, discipline, and the cultivation of elite leadership, while adult community sports catered more to leisure, entertainment, and social cohesion. Despite these distinctions, both realms contributed to the broader narrative of colonial sport as a vehicle for British cultural hegemony. Relevant to scholars and students in both sports studies and history, this book provides a timely reset for Australian sporting history. .

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