

Acknowledgements

All books represent author journeys and ethnographic texts provide an especially acute representation of relationships formed along the way. I have considered where to place the origins of this text. Should it be with my doctoral supervisor at the University of Toronto, Dr Peter Donnelly, who helped me consider the possibility of switching my focus from my personal passion, capoeira, to my father's fixation, cricket? Did the journey start with my fourth-year undergraduate exchange mentor at Victoria University in Australia, Dr Chris Hallinan, who recommended that I would make a good academic, an idea I had never before contemplated. Or should I trace back even earlier? In many ways, this book began when my eighth-grade teacher at Ramer Wood Public School, Ted Cowan, told me the best athletes are "thinkers," instantly collapsing what had hitherto been two separate categories in my mind. He also taught me to think critically about the sometimes disingenuous separation of fact and fiction and the value of telling stories for both speakers and listeners.

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