

# SPORT LITERATE'S "30th" ANNIVERSARY ISSUE IS HERE

July 2025

by William Meiners

Friends of *Sport Literate*,

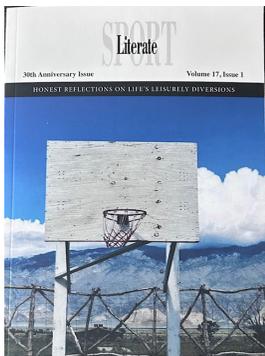
Around 25 people converged in Chicago on the last day of May to help us celebrate *Sport Literate's* 30th anniversary. With the same titled issue in hand, we met new contributors and reconnected with older ones. Lots of folks kept a keen eye on the Indiana Pacers winning Game 6 against the New York Knicks in the Eastern Conference Finals. A good time surely had by all.

Not since our early days have we gathered to celebrate the good writers and poets of *SL*. For a few more photos and memories, [check out our website](#).



**Party People:** Lora Keller (far left), Nancy Luana (in yellow) and Justin Staley (far right) are all in *SL's* anniversary issue. That's an aging me (Meiners) in the middle next to Joellen Lewsader, my better half. Tall Nicholas Reading, a longtime editor and friend, stands in the back.

## SL MILESTONE



It's fitting, we think, to have 30 contributors in our "30th Anniversary" issue. From Kareem Tayyar hitting lead-off with a basketball essay (and supplying that cover photo) to lots of poets and writers, this collection is stocked with both *SL* rookies and veterans. You can see all of them, and sample a few, at our [table of contents](#).

If you think your subscription has lapsed, it probably has. Of course, you can remedy that by signing up for a two-issue, [\\$20 subscription](#). The 120-page pub travels nicely to both beaches and pools. You can even read it between innings at a baseball game. And it patiently awaits your reading eyes on nightstands and near toilets.

## BOOK REVIEW

### A Higher Standard

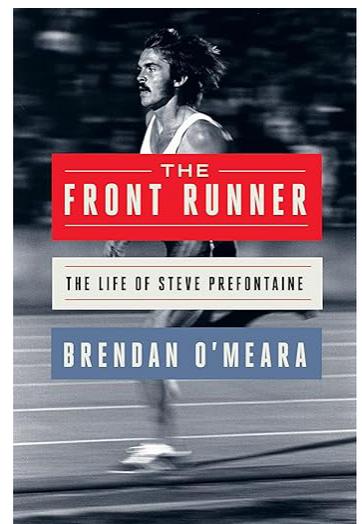
A Review of Brendan O'Meara's *The Front Runner: The Life of Steve Prefontaine*  
by Scott F. Parker

A substantial biography of Steve Prefontaine has been a long time coming. In the 50 years following Prefontaine's death, Tom Jordan's *Pre* was the only book devoted to the life of America's most iconic distance runner. As serviceable an introduction to Prefontaine as Jordan's book is, it lacks the depth an athlete of Prefontaine's stature deserves. And so on the very month of the semicentennial of the car crash that took Prefontaine's life, Brendan O'Meara's *The Front Runner* becomes the first full biographical testament to one of the remarkable lives in track and field.

It's no simple task to write about Prefontaine. Despite the relative paucity of biographical attention he's received, his memory has taken hold in the running world like few others', thanks largely to the films (two biopics, two documentaries) that both treat and establish his legacy. O'Meara is exactly right that Prefontaine, "a runner who never won an Olympic medal or broke a world record, remains, to this day, an avatar of self-belief, hard work, and determination, a philosopher runner who, as [Bill] Bowerman noted, sought a higher purpose than winning. Above all, a legend that superseded the man at the heart of the myth." The challenge to the biographer of such a subject, then, is plain: to locate the man behind the myth, to puncture the legend with reality. And to a moderate degree, O'Meara succeeds.

[Read more...](#)

[Scott F. Parker](#) is the author of the poetry collection, *How to Run, a DIY guide for romantics*. His other books include *Run for Your Life: A Manifesto* and *The Joy of Running qua Running*. His writing has appeared in *Runner's World*, *Running Times*, *Tin House*, *Philosophy Now*, the *Believer*, and other publications. He teaches at Montana State University and is the nonfiction editor for Kelson Books.



## ANOTHER GOOD READ

---

### The Hodge Review



Robert Atwan, the longtime series editor of *Best American Essays*, for many years helped lift the voices of dozens of small presses like ours. The noteworthy nods in the annual collection have been points of pride for *Sport Literate*, as well as those deserving writers.

In his retirement, Bob is up to something new, which includes having some fun with a Substack journal, which you can [find here](#). In the recent edition of The Hodge Review, he offers, somewhat satirically, "Great Moments in Literary Baseball."

Here's a snippet of an installment where he takes Papa Hemingway out to (and out of) the ballgame.

*Hit in the shoulder by a pitch during an exhibition game in Key West, Florida, in 1933, Cubs catcher **Ernie Hemingway** refused to take first base. The next pitch hit Hemingway in the nose. Hemingway stood his ground. The third and fourth pitches hit him in the shin and the ear respectively. He dug in deeper though in noticeable pain. The fifth pitch felled him. The home-plate umpire allowed the seriously injured Hemingway to be carried to first base on a stretcher.*