

For Immediate Release:ABC-CLIO Contact: Christina Ekonomi, 805.961.5129, cekonomi@abc-clio.com**Greenwood Encyclopedia Wins 2016 IPPY Award**

Weird Sports and Wacky Games around the World: From Buzkashi to Zorbing recognized in Sports/Fitness/Recreation category

Santa Barbara, Calif. (Apr. 14, 2016) – Though many books address traditional sports and activities, no book on the market covers as many inventive and culturally relevant ones as does *Weird Sports and Wacky Games around the World: From Buzkashi to Zorbing*. It therefore comes as little surprise that the title, released in April 2015 by ABC-CLIO, has been awarded a Bronze medal in the Sports/Fitness/Recreation category of the 2016 Independent Publisher Book Awards.

The Independent Publisher Book Awards recognize outstanding independent, university, and self-published titles. Established in 1996, the IPPY awards have since been given to over 5,500 books. Gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded annually to winners in 80 fiction and nonfiction national categories, in regional categories in the United States, Canada, Australia/New Zealand, and Europe, and in 10 e-book categories.

Weird Sports and Wacky Games around the World: From Buzkashi to Zorbing approaches sports in a way that offers readers insight into not only what games people play around the world but also how those games are intrinsic to their respective countries. For example, *Buzkashi*, a Central Asian sport that involves dragging a goat towards a goal, differs significantly from zorbing, an afternoon activity that involves rolling down a hill in a transparent plastic ball. While readers may be familiar with activities such as yoga and ultramarathons, sports specific to the country in which they originated, such as *Brännboll*, a sort of Scandinavian baseball, and *La Soule*, a French game similar to soccer, are likely unknown to most. Organized alphabetically, geographically, and thematically, entries range from individual to team activities and from animal sports to pub games.

Author Victoria Williams, PhD, draws on her expertise of cultures and customs to bring the reader this wonderfully whimsical encyclopedia suitable for school and public libraries, academic settings, and even the coffee table. Her past titles include ABC-CLIO's *Movies in American History: An Encyclopedia*; *Conflict in the Early Americas: An Encyclopedia of the Spanish Empire's Aztec, Incan, and Mayan Conquests*; and *They Do What? A Cultural Encyclopedia of Extraordinary and Exotic Customs from around the World*.

Weird Sports and Wacky Games around the World: From Buzkashi to Zorbing (hardcover, \$89.00) is available for direct purchase at www.abc-clio.com and through all major distributors.

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