

FAITHFUL TO THE GAME

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Winning is Not Enough, by Andrew Wingfield-Digby & Stuart Weir (Marshall Pickering, £3.50) is 11 chapters on sportspeople who are well known in their sports and who are Christians. The authors, Andrew Wingfield-Digby and Stuart Weir, both work for "Christians in Sport", and you get the impression that they are known and trusted by the sportspeople featured. There are no tabloid exposés here, nor the in-depth analysis of a Hugh McIlvanney of the *Observer*. There are straightforward accounts of the sporting achievements of each person, and honest quotations and reflections on the road to Christian faith and on the ups and downs of their Christian lives. The book is happily free of the exaggerations of so much sports journalism: "We murdered them" or "The greatest moment of my life was seeing the ball hit the back of the net." Indeed, in his foreword Gerald Williams makes the point that top sportspeople often learn early that "The moment of mountain-top experience that we

believe will sustain us for life . . . lasts only a very short time", and that something greater, a relationship with God, is needed.

The chapters are inevitably uneven: one I found embarrassing in its quotations, others I thoroughly enjoyed and would have liked more of (I'll keep quiet on the first, but Garth Crooks and Brian Irvine, Wilf Slack and Alan Knott, for example, on playing in South Africa, intrigued me). If you enjoy athletics, golf, football, rugby, cricket, squash or racing, then you'll enjoy at least some of the chapters and the book will open a window on to some of the Christians involved in those sports: it won't take you far into the inner sanctum, either of the sports world or of their faith, but it provides honest, unexploitative accounts and would also be very readable by a non-Christian sports enthusiast. That may well prove the best use of the book.

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