

Game On: The All-American Race to Make Champions of Our Children

"Youth sport is the most important institution of all our sports, because it is where the magic begins. It is where we learn to love sports, picking up fitness habits and rooting interests that can last a lifetime. But it's an institution at a historic crossroads, one in which performance often matters more than participation does." Tom Farrey



Tom Farrey

ESPN Correspondent
and author of
the award winning book
Game On



Date: Friday, October 16

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Location: Reitz Union 282

Veteran ESPN reporter Tom Farrey will explore the myths and truths about youth sports in America, with advice for parents, sport and recreation leaders on how to make sports accessible to all while still creating opportunities to develop elite athletes. Author of the award winning book *"Game On: The All-American Race to Make Champions of Our Children,"* Farrey will discuss the changing face of youth sports in America and around the world.

Several significant issues, such as how young is too young to start a child in sports, how the lure of college scholarships shape parental behavior; and what role sports and recreation are playing in America's losing battle with the ongoing obesity crisis will be discussed. He'll also share behind-the-scenes stories of his visit to the world's largest sperm bank where the seeds of college athletes are sold to those intent on having an athletic child, and he'll share his trip to a top soccer academy in France that explains why the U.S. isn't producing nearly as many great players. Despite all the problems plaguing organized sports there is plenty of good happening too that will be covered; and he'll talk about a renewed sense of hope for the future of these games we love and a new model for thinking about them: youth sport as a human right.

Tom Farrey is a veteran journalist whose work has been recognized among the nation's best on television, in print and online. A regular correspondent with ESPN's primetime newsmagazine E:60, he has been called a "brilliant investigative reporter" by the Boston Globe and in 2007 was one of seven journalists selected among the "100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America" by a panel of experts brought together by the Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island. Farrey has also contributed reporting for Outside the Lines, SportsCenter, ESPN.com and in ESPN the Magazine, where he is a Senior Writer. Farrey is a graduate of the University of Florida.