

***REVIEWS* of Trash Talk**

Reviewed by Paige Lovitt, Reader Views

Author Robert Gussin manages to successfully combine his two passions into one book. His love of science and his love of sports created “Trash Talk.” To jocks, “trash talk” is defined as athletes “insulting each other by swearing and saying bad things and insulting people on the other team so they get upset and angry and it screws up their game.” It is considered an art form. To environmentalists, “trash talk” is a topic involving garbage and its negative impact on the environment.

Athletes are getting a bad image because of their poor behavior and foul language at the games. The commissioners from a variety of sports decide to order them to take courses that help them to improve their image. The athletes are not happy about this. When they hear that there is a conference in Florida that is titled “Trash Talk” they get excited and sign up for it. They feel they can meet this new requirement and improve on their art of trash talk.

Actually it is a conference put on by the Sarasota Environmentalist Society (SES). The people at SES are thrilled to see that they have a huge turnout for this conference. When the jocks become incensed upon realizing they are at an environmentalist conference, the SES people jump on the ball and add some new topics to be covered to meet the jocks needs.

In addition to topics such as, “Trash the World Over – Let’s Recycle, Reduce and Reuse It,” they added “Trash Talk, Its Origins, Practice and Environmental Impact.” Issues to be discussed under that topic included the question of whether or not trash talk leads to inappropriate urination and defecation. They also covered, “The Superbowl and Excremental Overload: The Local Environmental Impact.” If you increase beer and hotdog sales, you increase sewage output at the games.

On a positive note, the athletes start to take notice about environmental issues that they hadn’t considered prior to attending this conference. The sessions are also much livelier than expected because the environmentalists are catching on to “trash talk” and having a blast. On a negative note, the environmentalists are catching on to “trash talk” and not behaving as appropriately as one would expect.

This makes for a hilarious time! “Trash Talk” is a blast for everyone to read. Environmentalists who don’t take themselves too seriously or don’t mind being portrayed as nerds, will love it. Athletic fans will also love it because the sports characters are hysterical. Gussin does a fantastic job of developing the characters in such a way that they are quirky and fun, and that you like them. This is a fun, light read that manages to put a light hearted spin on two serious issues that we are facing today: the environment and the negative behavior of athletes. Don’t miss this one!

Reviewed by Evelyn Sears, Bookpleasers Review

Violence in major league sports is not unusual. Athletes fight each other. Fans fight each other. Athletes and fans fight each other. Is there a feasible way to reform the culture of sports and eliminate all of this violence? In *Trash Talk*, Robert Gussin offers a humorous solution by imagining what could happen if several hundred professional athletes spent four days with several hundred environmentalists.

This meeting of brains and brawn is brought about through a hilarious coincidence. The commissioners of the four major American professional sports (baseball, basketball, football and hockey) have declared that all major league athletes must attend at least one educational seminar each year. When an athlete discovers an advertisement for a conference entitled, *Trash Talk*, he thinks he's found the perfect solution. Expecting to learn more about the art of trash talking their opponents, hundreds of athletes register for the conference. They are baffled and angry when they find themselves amidst hundreds of environmentalists who intend to discuss the dilemmas of rubbish management. A joint committee of athletes and environmentalists imaginatively resolves the conflicting agendas of the two groups.

Overall, *Trash Talk* is amusing and may be suitable as a book to read at the beach or by the poolside.

Reviewed by Andra Tracy, Out Word Bound Books

Trash Talk by Robert Gussin is a surprisingly funny story. What can you expect when you introduce environmentalists to major league players? Arnie and his team are in charge of planning a convention for environmentalists and they come up with "Trash Talk" as the theme. At the same time the sport commissioners have decided that all players need to get some continuing education in areas other than their sports. When Arnie and the athletes collide at the convention they quickly discover that trash talk has two meanings. This is definitely a laugh-out-loud book and I will recommend it to my book club and my husband's friends.

Reviewed by The Islander

Longboat Key author Robert Gussin has just released his new novel, "*Trash Talk*," an unlikely mix of environmentalism and athleticism which takes place in Sarasota.

The Sarasota Environmentalist Society is sponsoring a national convention on garbage and its impact on society, he writes. The organizers decide to give the seminars a catchy phrase, and decide "*Trash talk*" is a good title.

Unfortunately for the group - but fortunately for readers - a recent dictate by most of the professional sports organizations has ordered all athletes to participate in ongoing education programs. Since every sports figure figures he's an expert in "talking trash" to his opponents, the pros decide the conference is perfect for them.

The result is a hilarious mix of the likes of Tim Dorsey and Carl Hiaasen, all taking place in our part of the world.

Enjoy.