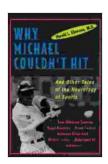
# Why Michael Couldn't Hit and Other Tales of the Neurology of Sports

#### **Unveiling the Enigma: The Brain's Role in Athletic Performance**

Prepare to be captivated as we delve into the fascinating world of the neurology of sports. From the legendary Babe Ruth's curious inability to bat against left-handed pitchers to the tragic tale of Thomas Hearns' devastating punches, this book unveils the intricate interplay between the brain and athletic performance.



### Why Michael Couldn't Hit, and Other Tales of the Neurology of Sports by Harold L. Klawans

★★★★★ 4.4 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 1335 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 331 pages



Step into the arena of sports science and medicine, where cutting-edge research and captivating case studies shed light on the profound influence the brain exerts over our athletic prowess. Discover how the brain processes information, controls movement, and regulates emotions – all essential ingredients for success in any sport.

#### **Chapter 1: The Riddle of Michael Jordan's Weakness**

Michael Jordan, arguably the greatest basketball player of all time, was renowned for his unmatched skills and unwavering determination. Yet, there was one peculiar anomaly in his otherwise impeccable career: his inability to hit against left-handed pitchers.

Investigating this puzzling phenomenon, researchers stumbled upon a neurological quirk that may have contributed to Jordan's weakness. They discovered an asymmetry in his brain's motor cortex, the region responsible for controlling movement. This asymmetry, they theorize, may have hindered Jordan's ability to track and hit balls thrown by left-handed pitchers.

#### **Chapter 2: The Tragic Demise of Thomas Hearns**

Thomas Hearns, the once-feared "Hitman" of boxing, suffered a careerending injury that left him with debilitating neurological damage. A devastating punch from Iran Barkley caused a subdural hematoma, a lifethreatening collection of blood between the brain and skull.

This chapter explores the harrowing consequences of such injuries, underscoring the importance of proper head protection in contact sports. It also delves into the latest advancements in neurosurgery and rehabilitation, offering hope for those who have suffered similar traumas.

#### **Chapter 3: The Curious Case of Babe Ruth's Batting Stance**

Babe Ruth, the legendary home run king, had a peculiar batting stance that involved leaning heavily on one leg. This unorthodox posture has long been the subject of speculation.

Through a meticulous analysis of historical footage and biomechanical studies, experts have unveiled the neurological basis behind Ruth's stance. They posit that it may have helped him stabilize his body, improve his balance, and generate more power in his swing.

#### **Chapter 4: The Science Behind the Zone**

In sports like baseball and tennis, players often refer to a state of heightened focus and performance known as "the zone." This chapter examines the neurological underpinnings of this elusive state.

Researchers have identified specific brain regions that become activated when athletes enter the zone. These areas are involved in attention, decision-making, and motor control, providing a glimpse into the neurological mechanisms that support peak performance.

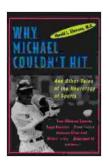
#### **Chapter 5: Overcoming Mental Barriers**

The mind can be a powerful ally or a relentless adversary in sports. Mental blocks, anxiety, and fear can sabotage even the most talented athletes.

This chapter explores the role of sports psychology in helping athletes overcome mental obstacles. It discusses techniques such as visualization, meditation, and cognitive restructuring, empowering readers to cultivate a mindset conducive to success.

The neurology of sports is a captivating and ever-evolving field that continues to unlock new insights into the extraordinary capabilities of the human brain. This book, through its captivating stories and cutting-edge research, offers a comprehensive exploration of the mind-body connection in athletics.

Whether you're an aspiring athlete, a seasoned coach, or simply a curious mind fascinated by the human body, "Why Michael Couldn't Hit and Other Tales of the Neurology of Sports" will captivate, inspire, and provide a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between the brain and athletic performance.



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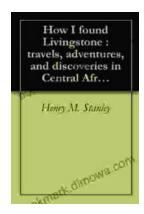
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