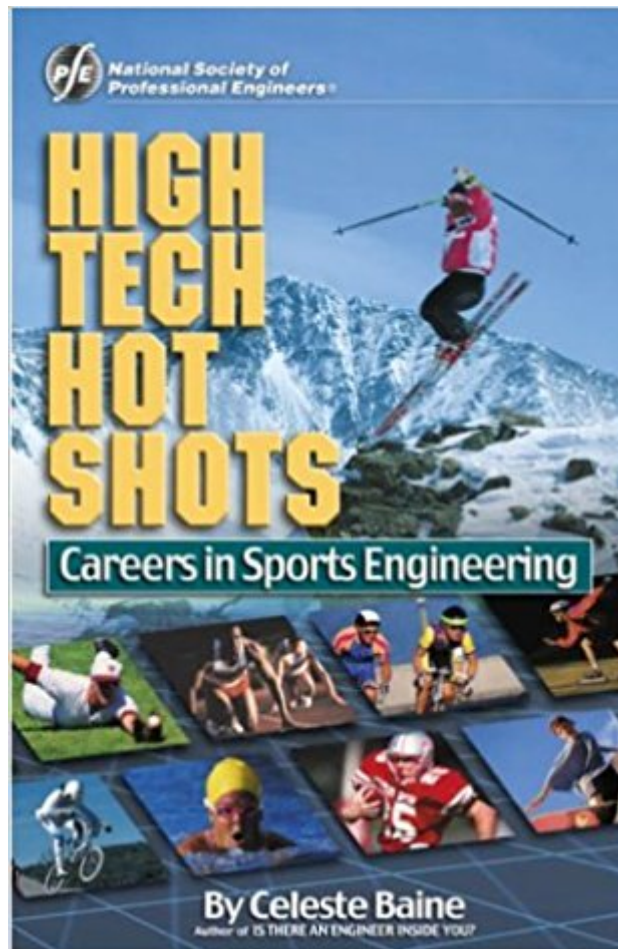




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High Tech Hot Shots: Careers In Sports Engineering



Synopsis

A fresh way to look at a career in sports for the student with a passion for athletics and an aptitude for engineering. Over 20 sports engineering career profiles that highlight new opportunities
Inspirational, real-life engineering success stories Explanations of how engineering innovations can play a major role in athletic success and broaden your horizons A "Getting Started" chapter that tells how you can ease the transition from student to successful engineer Employer Web sites and contact information for every sport and a large recommended-reading section that connects you to sports engineering Learn how to turn the love of sports into a lucrative engineering career. Consider this book a gateway. It is designed to open your mind to the wonders of engineering. You will see, first hand, the hundreds of things that you can do with an engineering degree and an interest in sports. You will discover opportunities you hadn't thought about, and you may even begin to look at engineering in a new way. Be prepared to get excited and to learn that engineering can give you a new and different way of seeing the world. Written for middle school, high school and pre-engineering college students, this book compiles resources, information, and stories of engineers who work passionately in the sports industry to design new and improved products for athletes and spectators, alike. Ranging from the design and construction of stadiums and courses to the design and manufacture of skateboarding, golf, swimming, and skiing equipment, as well as shoe design and much more, you will understand what you need to know to work in this industry and find a satisfying and rewarding job as a sports engineer. This book presents possibilities you never expected. You will see what types of engineers create your favorite sports equipment and find out how to identify companies that will hire you as an engineer. From the software engineers who design scoreboards to the materials engineers who work on new helmets to the mechanical engineers who create new "extreme sports" products, the sports industry has a place for almost every type of engineer. You will learn what it takes to design sporting goods and get advice from engineers about how to succeed as a sports engineer. A strong motivation for writing this book is to help you see that engineering can be fun. It's fun being on the cutting edge of technology, and it's exciting to try to make the world a better place in which to live in. If you have ever played a team sport, you understand that teamwork is integral to the success of the team. Each player brings different strengths to the team, without which the team can't function as efficiently. Engineering design works in the same way. Each member of the team contributes, according to his or her individual strengths, and, as a result, the learning produces an excellent product. A vital component of engineering success, especially in the sports engineering industry, is excellent communication skills. As explained by Jennifer Ocif, a performance footwear engineer at Reebok International Ltd.,

"Communication is a life skill that constantly needs attention and improvement. Unfortunately, it is not specifically taught in engineering classes, but you can learn it by doing it anywhere. You just have to work at it, because, no matter how smart you are, if you can't communicate with the people you work with, your ideas will never go anywhere." Because the sports industry is so large, I can't cover every sport in this book. Some sports may be left out entirely and some descriptions may leave you craving more information. If you find yourself in the craving-more-information category, use that energy to your benefit. Contact the manufacturers listed to inquire about summer work or co-op opportunities. Tour facilities and begin talking to engineers for tips on getting through school and for gathering information about what they do now. Take apart your favorite piece of equipment to figure out how it works. Then, you'll truly begin to think and work like a sports engineer. Don't be afraid to fail a few times, either. Thomas Edison was one of the most prolific inventors of all time. What made Edison so great was that he believed that every failure brought him closer to success. As a result of a lifetime of work and tens of thousands of failures, he held over 1,000 patents for his successful inventions. Failure is a rite of passage to success. Some of the most amazing inventions and technologies on the market today exist because one engineer had an idea. Look back at old pictures of the bicycle. People wanted it to go faster, they wanted it to go down mountains and wanted it to be more comfortable. The difference is engineering. Year after year, engineers returned to the drawing board and made the bicycle better. What will bicycles look like in another 10 years? It's up to you and your imagination to make the world a better place-a place that is safer, more fun, and enjoyable for everyone. If you want an exciting and diverse career, an engineering degree can blow open the doors of opportunity. So lace up your running shoes and let's get going….

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A great way to generate excitement among school athletes who may want to combine their avocation with their vocation. -- PRISM Book Report, September 14, 2004An exceptional vehicle for non-professional athletes who want to work in sports to channel their passion sports engineering. -- SWE Magazine, October 2004This book is packed full of resources about sports engineering, a career field that combines health, science, and technological design. -- National Science Teachers Association, September 21, 2004This book really explores the multitude of options available to engineers in the sports industry--a great guide! -- University of Notre Dame, February 2004This is a well written, excellent manuscript that would be a great addition to any school or home library. -- U.S. Olympic Committee, April 2004This was a joy to read. The information was accurate, detailed--perfect for anyone interested in this field. -- Nike Sports Research Lab, March 2004

Was there once was a time when you loved nothing more than to play baseball, and hear the crack of the bat and the roar of the crowd as you rounded the bases? Perhaps there were even dreams of making it to the Big Leagues. However, in all likelihood, reality set in, and your keenness for math, science, and problem-solving led you to a more practical career path as an engineer. For many young people who have a love of sports and engineering, they may not know that the two can go hand in hand. Now they can learn just how to integrate the two in *High Tech Hot Shots: Careers in Sports Engineering*, published by NSPE. Author Celeste Baine offers students in middle school and high school, as well as college students who have not yet decided on a major, an opportunity to explore the stories of engineers who work in the sports industry to design products for athletes and spectators. "This is for the kid who is into sports, but may not see him or herself becoming an athlete and has a strong interest in math and science," she says. The meshing of classical engineering and sports science can be found when engineers of various disciplines use technology to design equipment that will improve an athlete's performance or enhance safety, build a new and improved scoreboard, or a build stadium for the next Olympics. Baine, an NSPE member who has also authored *Is There an Engineer Inside You?* and *The Fantastical Engineer*, found herself drifting into almost undiscovered territory as she conducted research for the book. "There was so little information about this industry, but about every single sports company hires engineers," she says. She offers details on the ins and outs of working in the industry in the areas of skateboarding, bowling, golf, inline skating, baseball, football, tennis, fishing, skiing, snowboarding, skeleton racing,

bicycling, swimming, and more. Baine, who received a degree in electronic engineering technology from Heald Institute of Technology and a B.S. in biomedical engineering from Louisiana Tech University, says that readers of the book can benefit both professionally and personally when they get involved with a company that specializes in a sport that they know and love. High Tech Hot Shots offers many resources that, with some effort, could result in the opportunity to meet engineers willing to discuss their careers or possibly even an internship or shadowing opportunity. Although this book is geared toward young people, engineers already in the prime of their careers can also find many uses for the book. Perhaps they can take that love of football or golfing and transition into a sports-related position or use it as a tool to mentor future engineers. "The more ways that we can show what engineers do, the better our profession can be," says Baine

This is just the thing for anyone who wants to stimulate an interest in engineering in a teenager. Our 13 y.o. loves this book and is already thinking about things he can invent.

I'm an odd person to be writing this review, being that this is essentially a book about careers in sports. I mean, I have a high school varsity letter...in math. This being said, here is where I think that this book is an important read for many students. Everybody knows the old quote about doing what you love, and you'll never have to work a day in your whole life, right? I work with, jeez, it could be a thousand students a year, and many of the students I work with do not come from what many would call privileged backgrounds, but so many have their hearts set on being sports stars -- hot shots. I would never want to shatter that dream, but by reading this book, they begin to get a glimpse that there are more ways to be in the sports world than as a pro level athlete. I mean, I LOVE climbing things and always have, and I am very happy that climbing is a major component of my work. Here are examples of the baseball bat designer who spends hours a day in batting cages, or the young woman scaling buildings, or the woman bicyclist who designs specialty women's bikes -- perfect examples that can really broaden a kid's vision while not exploding their dream. Books like this one -- buy it not only for you, but make sure it is in your schools and libraries. This book could be a turning point in a student's life.

I read this book for a research project I was doing at school. This gave excellent insight into the sports engineering industry. I had no idea how many opportunities there are in sports for engineers. The list of Web sites in the "Getting Started" chapter was very helpful and provided me with many outlets in the industry. I would definitely recommend this book to any student wanting to explore a

sports or engineering career.

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