

Unusual New Book Just in Time for National Recreation and Parks Month

Soccer-Playing Horse Will Enthrall Young Travelers

NORRIS, MT – July 5 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – Raven Publishing, Inc., which specializes in children's issues and fiction that features life in the western United States, introduces "FERGUS, THE SOCCER-PLAYING COLT" (ISBN 0-9714161-7-6) coinciding with National Recreation and Parks Month. This witty, tongue-in-cheek novel about a very unusual young colt will encourage children to dare to be different and follow their dreams. By launching the book mid-summer, FERGUS offers children vivid characterizations and page-turning adventures while away from classroom pressures and free to explore and expand their identities.



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Photo Caption: Book jacket "Fergus, The Soccer-Playing Colt."

Author Dan A. Peterson emphasizes teamwork in his debut novel, "FERGUS, THE SOCCER-PLAYING COLT" (Raven Publishing, Inc., \$9.00, 178 pgs., ISBN 0-9714161-7-6). Portraying many points of view including those of the horse and his twelve-year-old master, Dan brings to life a unique colt who finds his talents as a soccer goalkeeper. Fergus's nationwide tour to promote soccer brings instant fame, but not without peril. The greedy designs of a modern western outlaw and his colorful sidekicks lend humor, suspense, and cowboy mystique, as Fergus is "horse-napped." Forlorn, he finds an unlikely

friend in a dog, Bouncer, showing that companionship can work wonders. "Fergus can be an object lesson in maintaining your identity in the most difficult of times," says Mr. Peterson.

"I think a horse possesses something akin to self-worth. I know a horse can become depressed. My gelding went through a state of depression when orphaned as a foal and later when he lost his stable mate. Yet he maintained his identity and self-worth, allowing him to survive. Likewise, through a bad situation, Fergus managed to stay true to his core values as evidenced by his affection for and protection of Bouncer during their journey towards the Sierra Diablo Mountains. Once the protector and nurturer, Bouncer becomes the protected and nurtured. So not only did Fergus retain his identity of basic goodness, he expanded it," Mr. Peterson explains.

"FERGUS THE SOCCER-PLAYING COLT reflects the author's impressive expertise and experience, offering interesting information about some of the most famous ball parks and stadiums in the United States along the way," says Carla L. Verderame of ForeWord Magazine.

With a degree in Journalism and a minor in English, Peterson has served as editor for three trade publications, evaluated curricula for Behavioral Research Laboratories and the Dallas Independent School District, and developed curricula for Thiokol Chemical Corporation. He currently serves as a representative for various educational publishers and, with his wife Birdeen, is co-owner of Alphabet Station educational supply stores in Salt Lake City and Orem, Utah. Dan and Birdeen reside in Sandy, Utah.

National Recreation and Parks Month (July) has been celebrated since 1985 to invite participation in quality leisure activities and to showcase parks and recreation.

For more information on the author, please visit:
www.ravenpublishing.net/Dan_A_Peterson.html.

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