The history of football goes back almost as far as that of cricket. Here is a quotation from a set of rules: do you recognize the game?

"The players form two sides, and the game is started by throwing the ball into the air from a half-way line separating the teams. As soon as the ball is in the air, the players make a dash for it, the aim being to run with the ball and touch it to the ground upon a line behind the opponents."

Rugby Union, you think? The game which resulted from an afternoon at Rugby School in the early part of last century, when William Ellis picked up a football and ran with it. The story of British football's journey from public school diversion to mass media entertainment is a remarkable one. The Association Game traces British football from the establishment of the earliest clubs in the nineteenth century to its place as one of the prominent and commercialised leisure industries at the beginning of the twenty first century. It covers supporters' The story of British football's journey from public school diversion to mass media entertainment is a remarkable one. This is the only up to date book on the history of British football, covering the twentieth century shift from amateur to professional and whole of the British Isles, not just England. ...more. Get A Copy. Amazon.