Athenian democracy may have opened up politics to every citizen, but it had no impact on participation in sport. The city's sportsmen continued to be drawn from the elite, and so it comes as a surprise that sport was very popular with non-elite citizens of the classical period, who rewarded victorious sportsmen lavishly and created an unrivalled programme of local sporting festivals, on which they spent staggering sums of money. They also shielded sportsmen from the public criticism which was otherwise normally directed towards the elite and its conspicuous activities. This book is a bold and novel exploration of this apparent contradiction, which examines three of the fundamental aspects of Athens in the classical period—democratic politics, public commitment to sport, and constant warfare—and is essential reading for all of those who are interested in Greek sport, Athenian democracy and its waging of war.

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SPORT, DEMOCRACY AND WAR IN CLASSICAL ATHENS

BY

DAVID M. PRITCHARD
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Preface

This book accounts for the anomalously high standing of elite sport in democratic Athens. In writing it I have been supported by many institutions and individuals. I completed the first draft of this book on consecutive postdoctoral research fellowships at Macquarie University and the University of Sydney. I revised this draft for publication while a senior lecturer at the University of Queensland. I completed most of this revision away from my university. In the first half of 2011 I was a research fellow at the University of Copenhagen. I am indebted to Vincent Gabrielsen, who, along with his colleagues in the SAXO Institute, supported my application, regularly discussed the book with me, and integrated me fully into their seminars and classes. This long stay was made possible by the generosity of the Danish Central Bank, which gave me one of the apartments which it maintains for overseas scholars in the city’s historic quarter of Nyhavn (‘New Harbour’). Before I took up this fellowship and, again, in early 2012 I was a visiting scholar at the University of Sydney’s Centre for Classical and Near Eastern Studies of Australia. Sincere thanks go, for both visits, to Eric Csapo and Peter Wilson, who supported my application and invited me to deliver one of the book’s chapters as a seminar to the members of their ARC-funded theatre project, and to John Keane, who, while away in Berlin, generously lent me his house. When I returned from Copenhagen, in the second half of 2011, I took up a faculty fellowship in the University of Queensland’s Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies. I thank Graeme Turner, this centre’s director, for this fellowship, which provided, as I was trying to finish this book, invaluable teaching relief and a supportive and stimulating environment in which to work.

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Unless it is otherwise indicated, all of the book’s translations are my own.
Abbreviations


Collard, Cropp and Lee  

Diels and Kranz  

Giannantoni  

*IG*  
*Iscriptiones Graecae*. Berlin, 1873–.

*IVO*  

Jensen  

Kassel and Austin  

Leone  

Lloyd-Jones  

Race  
List of abbreviations

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