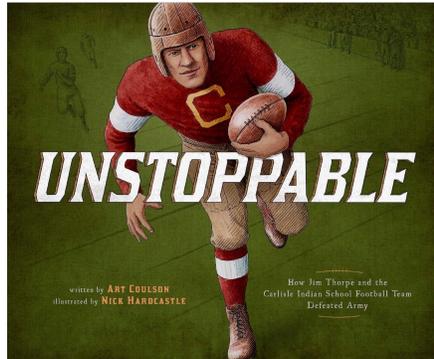




**“Unstoppable: How Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team Defeated Army” by Art Coulson, illustrated by Nick Hardcastle**

**About**

***Unstoppable:***  
In the autumn of 1912, the football team from Carlisle Indian Industrial School took the field at the U.S. Military Academy, home to the better-equipped West Points Cadets. Sportswriters billed the game as a sort of rematch, pitting against each other the descendants of U.S. soldiers and American Indians who fought on the battlefield only 20 years earlier. But for lightning-fast Jim Thorpe and the other Carlisle players, that day’s game was about skill, strategy, and determination. Known for unusual formations and innovative plays, the Carlisle squad was out to prove just one thing—that it was the best football team in all the land. Ages 6–10.



**About The Author:** Art Coulson, Cherokee, was an award-winning journalist and the first executive director of the Wilma Mankiller Foundation in Oklahoma. His first children’s book, *The Creator’s Game: A Story of Baaga’adowe/Lacrosse* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2013), told of the deep spiritual and cultural connections of American Indian people to the sport of lacrosse. Art still plays traditional Cherokee stickball, an original version of lacrosse, when he is visiting friends and family in the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Art lives in Apple Valley, Minnesota, with his wife and two daughters.



**Read Aloud Tips:**

- Introduce the book, author and illustrations.
- Be creative in ways to read this book aloud as it ties into our culture, history & social studies (and of course brings out issues of social justice).
- Set the tone for classroom discourse surrounding civil rights and social justice.
- Think about ways that issues could be debated as a class (use the debate centers).

**Additional Resources:**

Find more information on other books that can be used in your class library at [literacy.roosevel.edu](http://literacy.roosevel.edu).

“Coulson’s straightforward account informs readers that it was at Carlisle where Jim turned his talent for running to track, encouraged by coach Glenn “Pop” Warner. Though Jim was small for his age, he excelled in baseball, lacrosse, and hockey—and his ability to dodge bigger players landed him on Carlisle’s varsity football team. . . .Hardcastle’s fine-lined ink-and-watercolor illustrations project an appropriately bygone air, depicting Thorpe in motion more often than not. . . .the book is a welcome celebration of this Native American sports hero. . . .Coulson (Cherokee) does mention a more personal family history in the backmatter, as well as the stripping of Thorpe’s Olympic medals (and their posthumous restoration). . . .”

- *Kirkus Reviews*