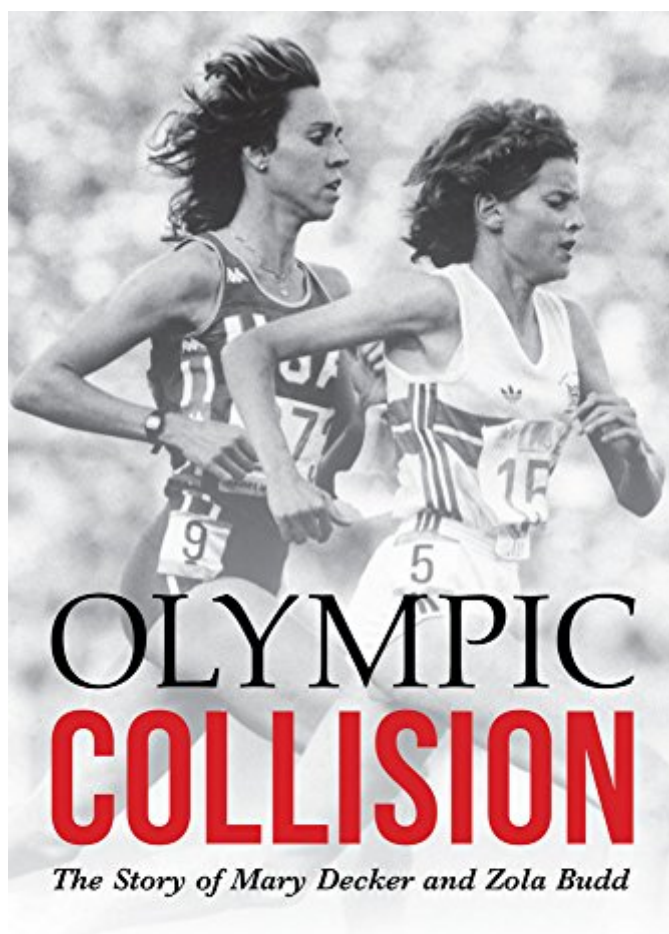


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# Olympic Collision: The Story Of Mary Decker And Zola Budd



## Synopsis

It remains one of the most memorable moments in modern Olympic history. At the 1984 summer games in Los Angeles, a raucous crowd of ninety thousand saw their favorite in the women's 3,000-meter race, Mary Decker, go down. An audience of two billion around the world witnessed the mishap and listened to the instantaneous accusations against the suspected culprit, Zola Budd. Just seventeen, the South African Budd had already been the target of a vicious and vocal campaign by the antiapartheid lobby after she transferred to the British team in order to compete at the games. Decker, at twenty-six, was America's golden girl, ready to overcome years of bad luck and injuries to rightfully take the Olympic gold for which she had waited so long. With three laps to go, Decker and Budd's feet became tangled. Decker went down and didn't get up, wailing in primal agony as her gold medal hopes vanished. Decker's stumbles continued in the race's aftermath when she refused Budd's apology and race officials found her, not Budd, at fault for the collision. Although both women found success after the Olympics, neither could escape the long shadow of the infamous event that forever changed both of their lives and defines them in popular culture to this day. Olympic Collision follows Decker and Budd through their lives and careers, telling the story behind the controversy; the account that emerges is certain to revise the view Americans, in particular, have held since that fateful day in Los Angeles more than thirty years ago. Olympic Collision relives one of the most famous incidents in Olympic history, its legacy, and what has happened to both athletes since.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Great book providing an in depth bio on both world class runners from the challenges of their youth that had more personal challenges than athletic challenges. Two totally different personalities are studied, the highly successful Decker whose confidence reins supreme up to the fall that exposes a harsh side in contrast to the very young, quiet and bookish Budd who is a world record holder at barely 17 caught up in geopolitics that haunt her and issues with a domineering parent manager and coach. Truly amazing accomplishments by both and one has to wonder if young Budd would have had a longer successful career if not for an unfortunate collision where, spiked, she was not at fault. Surprising amount details such as Decker's endless injuries with frequent surgeries in contrast to Budd who seemed to get inadequate attention for a simple hamstring injury.

Terrific book, well researched and written. It will grab and hold your attention. Most people having any interest in the Olympics recall the collision of Decker and Budd in the 84 Games. However most didn't know of, or knew and forgot the drama in which the runners were involved before and after the incident. This book really lays it out. The author in an easy, readable style follows the principals from childhood to present, highlights their different personalities and touches on the world of performance enhancing drugs, South African Apartheid and other relevant issues. On a scale of 1 to 10, I give this book a 20. Alexander F. Keating, Jr.

This gripping and well-crafted book tells the poignant story of two gifted middle-distance runners whose athletic careers and fortunes intersected with momentous consequences for both during the 1984 Olympics. Kyle Keiderling eloquently fills in the back story leading to the dramatic collision between Mary Decker and Zola Budd nearing the end of the women's 3,000-meter race; and his moment-by-moment description of the race leading to its inevitable climax is a must-read and unforgettable. If you think you know the full story, you probably don't and this book will fill in many details you may not have known about the race itself, the aftermath and the star-crossed careers of

both runners following the '84 Olympics.

This new book gives you a great insight of what really happened behind the scenes of what became a disastrous 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games for both Zola Budd and Mary Decker. It just goes to show that when money, greed, politics and personal glory mixes, nothing good comes out of that. Great read and worth your while.

Great book, great service, great job!

OLYMPIC COLLISION by Kyle Keiderling chronicles the lives of Mary Decker and Zola Budd from birth, through growing up and finding running each in their own way, to their infamous encounter at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, to their careers post-encounter and how that moment forever impacted their lives as athletes and people. Keiderling jumps back and forth between the two women as they grow into elite athletes, often reminding us of the political climate around each of them, Decker with banned drug use and how different athletic associations deal (and don't deal) with it and Budd's challenges with the apartheid issue in South Africa putting limits on Budd excelling as a public figure in the world of running. Keiderling is careful to detail the important events in each woman's lives, from their romantic relationships, to their families, to their coaches over the years. It does shine through that Keiderling carries a clear opinion on certain issues, but he still does a good job of considering both sides. It's a little slow and a bit dry towards the middle of the book, when Keiderling is narrating each woman's life after the 1984 incident, but in the end the reader learns to appreciate Decker and Budd for who they became. As a recreational runner myself, I really enjoyed reading about these women and I learned so much about them and what it means to be a professional runner. I think OLYMPIC COLLISION provides not just a history of these women and women's middle distance running in the 1980's, but also takes a closer look at how politics and drug use clouded the purity of the sport in that time. Thank you to University of Nebraska Press, Kyle Keiderling, and Netgalley for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest opinion!

Seems slanted towards Budd. Good detail & interesting read

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