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## SPORTS

### 'Why is Everyone Cheering?'

A new book by longtime Northeast Ohio resident, Lauri Gross

By JACOB HANSEN

Lauri Gross, a long-time Northeast Ohio resident, has spent the past 40 plus years being a sports fan.

She has cheered, watched and even wrote about sports for other publications. In fact, she even wrote for the Chagrin Valley Times for nearly two decades, when she lived in Auburn Township for 20 years.

Gross has spent 20 plus years writing feature stories, columns and essays for fifteen local and regional newspapers and magazines in Ohio and Maryland, but it was a scenario in her personal life that sparked the idea which led to her newly released book: "Why is Everyone Cheering?"

Her son works as a sports anchor in Austin, Texas. His whole life is sports, but for his now fiancé Farrah, sports was an unfamiliar topic.

"I wanted to help her learn and she seemed willing," Gross said. "I started to send her bits of information about sports and I sent her a little folder to keep it all in and I would watch TV and would think, 'oh, I have to tell this to Farrah,' and then I watched a game and would think, 'Oh, Farrah needs to know this.' I kept writing it down and sending it to Farrah and soon she had a fat stack pretty much like a book of stuff that I was sending her. Then it occurred to me that I didn't used to know anything about sports like Farrah and now I love them and I compiled all the info, and I thought there must be others out there."

On Monday, the book was released and can be found on Amazon at the link: [www.amazon.com/dp/B0H9LV53F2](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0H9LV53F2).

The book is described and as shown on the front page as: "a fun and practical primer on watching baseball, basketball and football for wannabe sports fans who

have a lot to learn," and readers can become familiarized with what were once unfamiliar topics and leave with knowledge and understanding about the three sports.

"You don't have to read it cover-to-cover," Gross said. "You can kind of flip through and there are quizzes and whatnot, and I think people will have a lot of aha moments. Some laughs, some fun with the quizzes, and there are movie recommendations in there. So just a lot of fun and then people can enjoy feeling more like they're part of the community of sports fans and so if they walk into a sports bar or a sporting event, they won't feel like people are speaking a different language to those people around them who know sports."

The book features plenty of visuals through pictures and graphs to help the reader understand the topic easier or what Gross is talking about.

It isn't just understanding the game when watching on TV but understanding it while going in-person. Gross covers things such as the players' uniforms, mascots on the field, the scoreboard, why fans sing certain songs and much more.

Gross admitted she is not a sports expert and even admits so in the book. She wants readers to know that, saying, "the point is you don't have to be an expert to enjoy the game," which is one of the biggest takeaways from the book.

She remembers when she first started



getting into sports and how it felt. The confusion and intimidation. Now she goes to sports games and hears so many people asking questions about the games, where she would think to herself, 'that person needs my book.'

"It definitely will make them not feel intimidated, and I guess one of the core other questions that new fans want to know is like the book title is: why is everyone cheering?" Gross said. "In fact, that was inspired by my daughter who is now 30, but when she was in high school, she would be at high school football games and she knew what she was watching, but her friends around her would



Lauri Gross

Photos courtesy of Lauri Gross

say, tell me when I'm supposed to cheer. Why is everybody cheering?"

Gross wants readers to leave with the belief they can go to a sports event and enjoy the experience.

For now, Gross will spend the time promoting the book. She said she might have another book if people like her current book, but after four years of putting the book together, she is excited to see its release.