

# Contents

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <i>Acknowledgements</i>                                   | x   |
| Introduction  | 1   |
| 1 Public portrayals of elite athletes                     | 6   |
| 2 Life story research and the contribution of the insider | 25  |
| 3 Our research journey                                    | 50  |
| 4 The performance narrative                               | 73  |
| 5 The discovery narrative                                 | 88  |
| 6 The relational narrative                                | 102 |
| 7 Learning the story: enculturation of young athletes     | 115 |
| 8 Living, playing or resisting the part of 'athlete'      | 134 |
| 9 The consequences of stories at retirement               | 148 |
| 10 Asylum and the conditions for story change             | 164 |
| 11 Reflections  | 180 |
| <i>References</i>   | 191 |
| <i>Index</i>  | 200 |