

You Say Football, I Call It Soccer



As we continue our semi-isolation, we are ever vigilant for some new, engaging television shows on which to binge. My wife and I just recently finished the six episode mini-series from Downton Abbey creator Julian Fellowes. It's called The English Game and it is currently streaming on Netflix. It is an excellent depiction of the early years of the game the English call football. For some reason we, in the United States, call it soccer.

Based very loosely on historical events, the series follows the lives of its two main characters: Arthur Kinnard, an upper class gentleman and founding member of the Football Association (FA) which sought to provide rules and structure to a fledgling sport; and Fergus Suter, a working-class man who made his living as a stone mason who dared dream of a life

playing the game he grew to love. These two individuals, who actually existed, did more than most to build the game of football/soccer into a global obsession.

Excellent character development, interesting historical elements, and dramatic pacing and flow make this a must-see show for those of us starved for entertainment diversions. I heartily recommend it.

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