

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA
The Reflective Practitioner:
Guts, Grit, & Gold

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Department of Arts and Communication
College of Arts and Sciences
University of the Philippines Manila

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The Reflective Practitioner:
Guts, Grit, & Gold

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Editor's Note

“Philippines! The wait is over.”

As Hidilyn Diaz lifted a whole nation during the 2021 Olympics, a fractured country became one. Virtually unknown to millions of Filipinos before that monumental triumph, Hidilyn's name will now be forever etched in the collective memory of a country woefully in need of glory. Future athletes will hear her name told in awe and sometimes in tears as an inspiration: that through guts and grit, gold can be won; that Filipinos have what it takes to be the best.

A field long neglected in government decision making, sports has always been left in the margins. Save for a few companies sponsoring athletes, support was usually an alien term for athletes often orphaned and left to fend for themselves. Stories about athletes malnourished by poor nutrition, equipment that have seen their best days, and funds pocketed by sports officials who know nothing about honor abound when people talk about Philippine sports.

That is why the value of Hidilyn's feat can never be overly emphasized. Hers is a story that parallels every Filipino who yearned to go beyond the reach of their grasp. Never letting the deplorable condition of Philippine sports weigh her dreams down, she took every obstacle and lifted all of them up and entered into legend.

It is in the spirit of Hidilyn's victory that this anthology was conceptualized. Just as sports has been neglected by previous governments, sports has also been neglected as a theme by the local literati. While there are a number of writings, usually essays, about sports, the amount has never been enough to medal in the competition to be the choice subject for Filipino writers. It is often love, oppression, and sex that would stand on the podium of top topics or themes.

“Guts, Grit, and Gold: a literary anthology on sports” is our institution's attempt to lift sports into a more prominent place in the Philippine literary world. While we know that love and the usual themes will always be dominating, we aim to give sports a little push so that the muse can be given a little work out.

The number of pieces submitted was a pleasant surprise. The number showed that sports as a topic truly has untapped potential. I thank all those authors who contributed to this project. They made this endeavor a success.

Dr. Leonardo Estacio, our former dean, deserves our gratitude for supporting this publication. He was a valuable ally who provided us with the push and energy to vault over the humps we encountered as our project progressed. With him on board, we knew that we would be able to see this publication through.

Our current Dean, Dr. Maria Constancia Carillo, gave this project the much needed second breath as this project crossed over into her term. We are heartened by her support for this anthology that we are confident that similar project will follow.

Prof. Alice Adeva's constant reminders and encouragement gave us the stamina to overcome whatever doubt we felt when we encountered difficulties. Her insights have been valuable. Without her, this project would be nothing more than an airball attempt in the literary world.

I thank all the referees for lending their expertise. Their perspectives and suggestions provided us with the sense that this project is worth pursuing. I can't really thank them enough for their time and contributions to this publication.

Lastly, the biggest thanks will go to Ms. Rozhie Hilario, this project's co-editor for being a source of stability. Her work ethic and professionalism were crucial in making us hit our targets. She will always have my gratitude for her massive contributions.

Jose Velando Ogatis-I
Editor-in-Chief