

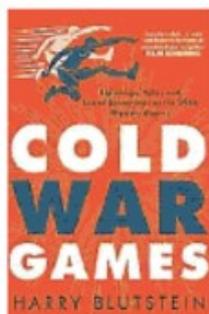
SATURDAY

THE AGE



IN SHORT NON-FICTION

REVIEWS BY STEVEN CARROLL



**PICK OF
THE WEEK**

Cold War Games

HARRY BLUSTEIN
ECHO, \$32.99

The so-called “friendly games” of the 1956 Melbourne Olympiad were, in fact, intensely political and Machiavellian, coming hot on the heels of the Hungarian uprising. The Cold War politics, East against West, revealed itself in public demonstrations of animosity when fights infamously broke out between Hungary and Russia in the water polo, with shots of a bloodied Hungarian player going round the world. But there were also intrigues in the shadows. The Russians were petrified of defections, the US encouraged them: all best exemplified in the story of gold-medal discus throwers, Czech Olga Fikotova and American Hal Connolly, who eventually married in Prague and settled in the US after twists and turns worthy of John le Carre. Highly informed and entertaining, capturing the subterranean tensions running through the Games.