

A REPORT OF THE 1987 NASSH AND HISPA CONFERENCES

Brian Stoddart

In the ridiculously short space of fourteen days over late May and early June, I was able to attend both NASSH and HISPA conferences and it was a worthwhile experience.

NASSH was staged very ably by Harry Jebsen at Capital University, a small Lutheran school in Columbus, Ohio, the state capital which is also home to Ohio State. It was among the most stimulating gatherings I have been to in recent years, both professionally and socially. All sessions were very well attended, all social functions produced great discussions, and the range of colleagues both old and new produced plenty of new ideas.

Of course, each individual will have different highlights so far as papers go, but these were mine: Ron Smith's on the 1951 William and Mary scandal; Michael Poliakoff's on the will to win in ancient and modern times; Bob Barnett's hilarious presentation on writing sports history for the popular market; and Rob Ruck's magnificent paper on Caribbean baseball.

For me, the only disappointing aspect of what was too quick a visit was that the conference was scheduled one week ahead of the Memorial golf tournament at Jack Nicklaus' Muirfield Village a few miles from Columbus. Could not a sports history conference be better attuned to a major sports event? (At the prices they charge in Ohio golf circles, maybe not!)

But as the attached list of papers show, it was a great professional experience and next year's at Arizona State (21-3 May, 1988) should be as good.

Then via New York to Rome, trains and buses to Gubbio, next stop HISPA. Spread over a week with a multitude of papers, this was not so stimulating in the professional forums, but there was plenty of time to meet people informally, but it was still sad to see many of the sessions very poorly attended.

The organisers and town officials did magnificently in arranging banquets, receptions and attendance at the annual crossbow festival which is a spectacular occasion. Gubbio is one of the finest of European medievaltowns - the main conference venue was the town hall which is more like an opera theatre and there is something special about listening to a paper while seated in a private box high above the speaker.

The next HISPA conference will be in Zagreb, Yugoslavia during 1989 [Editor's note: My sources now say it is Ancient Olympia.]

Perhaps the lesson for me is that in the Australian context the perfect conference is: run over no more than three days; carefully controlled for quality input; has a centralised accommodation; has access to major sports events; provides good opportunity for informal discussion, and sends people away wanting more. NASSH did that, almost, and Sporting Traditions does very well in most regards. For that reason, we in Australia need to make big efforts to publicise ourselves at these big events, because we have a great deal to offer.

Editor's Note: The program of the HISPA Conference was outlined in the previous Bulletin (pp.22-26). Although the titles of the abstracts which appear in the published proceedings of NASSH are included when it is received, Brian Stoddart has forwarded a copy of the program so speakers and titles of papers can be included in this edition.

1987 Convention Program

SPORT IN THE ANCIENT WORLD I

Anthony J. Papalas. Xenophon and Greek Athletics

Synthia S. Slowikowsky. Alexander the Great and Sport History. A Reinterpretation.

Ren Hai. Soccer in Ancient China

Carmelo Bazzano. Roman Gladiators, Victims or Athletes?

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Williams Simons. Brandeis: Intercollegiate Athletics at a Jewish Sponsored University

Ronald A. Smith. The 1951 Athletic Scandal at William and Mary

Al Figone. The 1961 Gambling Scandals: The Failure of the Four-Year Institutions and Legal System in Preventing Social Corruption in College Athletics

SPORT HEROES IN CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Earle F. Zeigler. The Sport Hero(ine): Lessons from History and Sociology

John Douglas Bloom. Joe Namath and Super Bowl III: An Interpretation of Style

Stew Estes. Rocky IcIV: A Heroic Odyssey of Muscular Thespianism

COWGIRLS AND INDIANS

John Dewar. Canadian Indian Cowboys

Mary Lou LeCompte. Rodeo Cowgirls: The First Successful Women Professional Athletes

Betty Spears. Commentary and Reaction

SPORTS MEDICINE

Jack Berryman. Exercise, Medicine and the Six Things Non-Natural

Nancy Dosch. Exercise in American Homeopathic Medicine, 1840-1870

John D. Fair. Olympic Weightlifting and the Introduction of Steroids: A Statistical Analysis of World Championship Results, 1948-1972.

JOHN R. BETTS ADDRESS AND LUNCHEON

Steven A. Riess. Sport and Urban Space, 1870-1950

SPORT IN WESTERN CANADA

Professor M. Mott. Curlers' Mecca. Winnipeg at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century

Patrick H. Lamb. The Northwest Mounted Police Force and the Development of Rugby Football in Western Canada, 1873-1908

Dwight H. Zakus. A History of the Vancouver Meraloma Club: 1923-1973.

SPORT BIOGRAPHY

J. Edmund Welch. Paul Malone Grist-Molder of Men Through Sport

Betty Spears. Sunday Bullies

Joanna Davenport. Maureen Connolly - A Tale Half Told

CHALLENGES TO THE PRESENTATION OF SPORT HISTORY

Linda Borish. American Sport History, Anthropology and the Culture Concept: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

Sharon Kay Stoll. How to Teach History Philosophically

Vicky Paraschak, The Native Presence in Sport History: Frozen in Time?

OPEN PAPERS I

James D. Banks. Black Baseball Wives: The Ladies in the Dugout.

Brian Pronger. Gay Jocks: A Social History of Gay Men in Athletics

Howard F. Stidwell. Postage Stamps: A Teaching Device for the Sport Historian.

Terry Todd and Jan Todd. George Hackenschmidt: The Russian Lion

REEL HISTORY: THE MAKING OF SPORT HISTORY FILMS

E. John B. Allen. Legends of American Skiing, 1849c1940

William Baker. The Jesse Owens Story

OPEN PAPERS II

Leverett T. Smith. Baseball and Poetry

Alexander Young, Jr. Maritime Athletics and Upper Canadian Chauvinism

THE ART OF THE MANLY ART: A CRITIQUE

Critique: Jeffery Sammons

Response: Elliott Gorn

ALTERNATIVE VIEWS OF LEISURE; AN HISTORICAL EXPLANATION

Nancy Struna. Leisure in Colonial America

Alan Metcalfe. Leisure in the Mining Districts of Northeastern England in the 19th Century

Stephen Hardy. Critique and Discussion

THE MODERN OLYMPICS

Donna L. Pastore and Donald G. Ross. From Amateurism to Non-Professionalism in the Olympic Games

Ambrose Alexandrakis. Historical and Dialectical Materialism and the Democratization of the Olympic Movement

SPORT IN THE ANCIENT WORLD II

Michael Poliakoff. The Will to Win - Ancient and Modern

David Matz. Multi-Sport Athletics in the Ancient Games

Russell L. Sturzebecker. Photo-Atlas of Athletic, Cultural, Archaeological Sites in the Greco-Roman World

SPORT IN NINETEENTH CENTURY AMERICA

Peter Berg. Amos Alonzo Stagg. Promoter of College Football

Ralph C. Wilcox. The Greening of American Sport: Sport and the Nineteenth-Century Irish Immigrant

Kevin Walmsley. Galveston, Texas Turners in Antebellum and Civil War America

Jan Todd and Terry Todd. A Legacy of Strength: The Cultural Phenomenon of the Professional Strongwomen

OPEN PAPERS III

Christopher Egbunike. Organization and Administration of University Sports in Africa and Nigeria.

Ella Shannon and Allan Hall. A History of Ashland College Women's Athletics

L. David Hams. Jess Willard: The Kansas Years

Don Romminger. Negro Sport During World War II

BRITISH SPORT AT HOME AND ABROAD

T.J.L.Chandler. Keeping 'Contexting' in Context: The Role of Boys in the Development of Organized Games in the Nineteenth Century English Public School.

Mary McElroy, Kent Cartwright. Aborted Attempts at Organized Sport in Jacobean England: The Case of the English Popular Theatre.

Scott A.G.M. Crawford. A Study in Cultural Diffusion. British Rugby in Victorian New Zealand.

Brian Stoddart. Caribbean Cricket Culture: The Historical Literature Reconsidered.

THE SOUTHERN SPORTSWOMAN; PHASE TWO

Paula Welch. The First Decade of Women's Golf in St. Augustine, Florida, 1895-1905.

Angela Lumpkin. Arkansas Leads in Professional Women's Basketball.

Miriam Sheldon. Textile Leagues and Early Competition for Women in South Carolina.

Peggy Stanaland. Some Unacclaimed Champions of Kentucky Sportswomen

Joanna Davenport. An Historical Overview of the Growth of Women's Athletics at Four Year Institutions in Alabama and Georgia

BASEBALL THRU THE YEARS, ALWAYS AN EDUCATION

Nancy Bouchier and Robert Knight. Before Doubleday and Cartwright: The Reminiscences of Adam E. Ford and a Canadian Claim for Baseball's Earliest Documentation.

Phillip A. Grant, Jr. Manager Billy Southworth of the St. Louis Cardinals, 1942-1944.

James E. Odenkirk. Bill Veeck, the Press and the Glory Days in Cleveland

Rob Briley. Baseball as a Symbol of American Values in the 1960's

David Q. Voight. Illustrating Baseball . . . History

SPORT AND THE MEDIA

Richard A. Preiss. Boston Newspaper Coverage of Jackie Robinson's First Season.

Joan Chandler. Monday Night Football: A Cultural Paradigm

C. Robert Barnett. Writing Sport History for the Popular Market

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

Stephen Hardy. The Sporting Goods Industry and the Rise of Sport, 1800-1900

Nancy Breen. A History of Athletic Apparel

Brenda Pitts and Lawrence Fielding. From Schlager to Louisville Slugger: Notes on the Early History of Sport Marketing

Harold L. Ray. What a Turtle Can Do in a Century or Two for Sport

GRADUATE ESSAY WINNER

James Coates. The Radical Segregation of the Baltimore Public Parks System, 1890-1917.

THE WESTERN SPORTING WOMAN

Lynne Emery. Athletic Club Olympians: Southern California Women in Track and Field

D. Margaret Toohey-Costa. It Was No Slam Dunk, But It Was Loads of Fun: Women's Basketball in Southern California, 1900c1910

BASEBALL IN LATIN AMERICA

Rob Ruck. The Caribbean and the Major Leagues

Bill Beezley. U.S. Baseball and the First Pan American Games

BLACKS IN SPORT

Linda D. Williams. The Coverage of Women in Sports in the Negro Press

David K. Wiggins. The Quest for Identity: The Defiance of Double-consciousness and the Black Athlete in American Sport, 1865-1968.

Jan Beran. Diamonds in Iowa - Blacks, Baseball and Buxton

SPORT IN CANADA

H. Charles Bellem. Elite Micmac Indian Athletes: Maritime Provinces of Canada, 1900-1930

Stephen Wenn. A Call to Arms: The Conflict and Resulting Autonomy of the Canadian Olympic Association

Tony Joyce. Crazy Sport: The London Asylum Cricket Club, 1877c1902

Glynn Leyshon and Don Morrow. George Goulding: A Case Study in Sporting Excellence

SEWARD STALEY ADDRESS AND BANQUET

Melvin L. Adelman. All Endings Are New Beginnings: Modernization and Continuity in Sport History.