



IRON GAME HISTORY



VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 1990

A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE



adies and gentlemen, this is the inaugural issue of a modest journal we have chosen to call *Iron Game History*. For several years, we have felt that a publication of some sort should be available to people who want to write, read about or formally research the history of physical culture. In past days, magazines such as *Strength & Health* and *Iron Man* carried material

of this sort on a regular basis in either an article or a news format but *S & H* is no longer being published and *Iron Man* has become almost altogether devoted to the current bigtime bodybuilding scene. Among academic publications, the *Journal of Sport History* carries articles in this general field from time to time but the main thrust of that journal is, as its name implies, directed at competitive sports.

Because of this almost complete vacuum of information, it seemed an appropriate time to ask some of the leaders in the field about the idea of producing a small, bi-monthly publication that would interest both academics and people who, for one reason or another, enjoy reading about the days before anabolic steroids changed the field of physical culture so dramatically. We have discussed such a publication for some time with Vic Boff, the founder and president of the Association of Oldtime Barbell and Strongmen, and this year at the Association's annual reunion dinner in New York City, we talked about it with many of those present and even distributed a questionnaire to determine what sorts of articles and information would be of most interest.

The reception given to the idea of such a publication was so positive that we decided to do what was necessary to organize, produce and distribute it. So when we returned to Texas, we immediately began calling people and asking them if they would help us by submitting articles and news. And with only one exception (a physician with a large practice), every

one we called agreed to help us. It should be clearly understood that *Iron Game History* is totally non-profit and will be published under the auspices of the McLean Fellowship in Sport History at the University of Texas (see page 10 for details about the McLean Fellowship). No-one will be paid for articles or artwork and no-one will be paid for editorial work. We will, of course, have to pay to have *IGH* printed and mailed but we have the necessary word processor-computers to allow us to do most of the production through a method that has come to be known as "desk-top publishing". In other words, we can type in the material we receive and, with the computers' help, do the "layout" of the pages.

The money we receive from subscriptions to *IGH* will be used to pay for printing and mailing and we will use surplus monies, should there be any, to increase the size and quality of the journal. It should go without saying that if too few people subscribe, we will be unable to continue producing and distributing *IGH*. We have chosen to personally bear the initial financial burden of getting the inaugural issue in your hands, but future issues will be sent only to subscribers.

It might be of interest to you to know that this first issue—Volume One, Number One—is being sent to current and past members of the Association of Oldtime Barbell and Strongmen, people who have attended one of the past seven reunion dinners of the Association, past subscribers to *The Roark Report*, members of the North American Society of Sport History, managing editors of various magazines and newsletters in the field and people, for whom we had addresses, who might be interested.

Obviously, if you believe we have made a reasonable first step by launching *IGH*, we want you to subscribe and to either buy subscriptions for your friends or tell them about it. And for those of you who have the inclination and financial wherewithal to give a bit of extra help, we would be grateful for it. (Information about the various subscription options can be

found on the last page.)

We also want you to provide us with direction for future issues. We need your help and, quite literally, cannot be successful without it. You'll notice that we have used a few photographs and drawings this time. The line drawings are reproductions from our physical culture archives here at the University of Texas and we would appreciate knowing whether you find them of interest. Remember, we don't have unlimited space and so the more photos and artwork we include, the less text we can use. Our plans call for either a 12 or a 16 page format for the first year, although we may increase the number of pages sooner if subscriptions and interest allow us to do so. We would also like to know if you prefer for us to continue with the same size type in future issues. Naturally, smaller type allows us to use more words, and we would like to have your input as we try to strike the correct balance.

Finally, we want to say that our main objective, as we begin what we hope will be a journal which outlives everyone who receives this first issue, is to provide accurate information about the fascinating world of physical culture. One of the ways we will do this will be to include, by the second or third issue, several articles which are written in an "academic" or footnoted style and which pass through a "refereeing" procedure which involves the article being checked for factual errors by several specialists in the field. It is our hope that these "academic" articles will be of as much interest and help to our "non-academic" readers as the articles by people like Joe Roark and Dave Webster will be to our academic readers.

Physical culture writing has been plagued since the beginning by exaggerated and hyperbolic stories about how much someone lifted or how big a certain strongman's arms were or how effective a certain exercise program was and we intend to do as much as we can to separate hard fact from soft fiction. In that spirit, we would like to dedicate this first issue to the memory of a man we miss more the longer he's gone—David P. Willoughby.

Terry and Jan Todd
The University of Texas
February 1990

