

EDITORIAL

Upon the publication of this extra *Journal of Sport History* it is deemed an appropriate occasion to make some comments as to the experiences of the past two years and some prognostications for the future. The need to issue this extra edition reflects the growing interest in sport history among a wide variety of scholars; sociologists, historians, and scholars in departments of English, Theatre, and Popular Culture have all contributed articles. In fact the backlog of articles was great enough to publish this issue in order to make some inroads into the articles accepted for publication. This is one of the most positive signs of the growing interest in sport history.

Perhaps more important in terms of the *Journal*, is the emergence of a distinctive format — articles, journal surveys, and book reviews. Each section reflects a particular objective in terms of the development of sport history. The book reviews fulfill their traditional role to introduce the readers to books relevant to sport history and to give some critical comments pertaining to the books. In the first five issues 32 books have been reviewed.

The second section, the Journal surveys, is innovative in approach. Although the system of surveying and abstracting has changed the basic long term goals have remained the same. First the surveys attempt to cover *all* current articles of interest to sport historians. This task by definition is immense and most likely impossible to fulfill — however the ultimate aim remains the same. The second objective is to survey *all* articles written in the past that are considered pertinent to sport history. It is envisaged that this process will take several years. The end result will be that the *Journal of Sport History* will become the basic repository of information pertaining to articles written on sport history in North America. Indeed a most valuable starting point for numerous researchers and students. It is anticipated that in the future the same service may be expanded to include theses and dissertations.

It is hoped that the articles in the first five issues have served to define the boundaries in terms of the focus of the *Journal*. The published articles reflect a view of history that is somewhat broader than that used by many of the more traditional historical journals. First, the focus in terms of content is on North American sport history, although five of the fifteen articles have

dealt with other subjects. It is proposed to maintain this central focus. Secondly the methodological boundaries are clearly defined in two articles representing the two ends of the spectrum ; “L. E. Myers, “World’s Greatest Runner.’ ” at one end and “Generalizations on Play in Primitive Societies” at the other. (Both in Vol. 2, No. 2). Hopefully these serve as guidance as to the scope of the *Journal*.

The *Journal of Sport History* will continue to encourage both the innovative and more traditional approaches to sport history. We do not wish to get embroiled in a discussion of ‘What is History’ but rather give support to the presentation of material and ideas which achieve a high scholastic level. Hopefully the first five issues fulfill this requirement and serve as a guide to future directions.