

Cashman, Richard and McKernan, Michael. eds. *Sport in History—The Making of Modern Sporting History*. St. Lucia, Queensland: University of Queensland Press, 1979. Pp.x, 368. Bibliography, notes. \$20.00.

Books dealing with the history of sport in Australia are rare, and those based on sound historical research methods are few and far between. Anthologies seem to be the simplest method of examining a large number of issues and areas but are often disjointed and “grocery list” in their final presentation. Cashman and McKernan’s editorial work in *Sport in History* does not appear to add significantly to its quality. Although they do give a very brief summary of the book’s organization in their Preface, an introductory chapter explaining their reasons for selection and positioning of the papers, as they do not appear to have any chronological or social development, would have been appreciated.

It is here that the constructive criticism ends (with one small exception to be mentioned later). The book is a collection of well researched papers using, almost exclusively, primary sources, from seventeen prominent, Australian scholars. It is a pity that space will not allow a detailed list of these contributors and their backgrounds. But suffice to say, all but four are teaching some aspect of history, while the others teach Australian literature, industrial relations and liberal studies in Australian Universities or Colleges of Advanced Education. The remaining author is a research fellow for the Australian Dictionary of Biography. Six have previously published in the area of sports history and almost all have published in their area of specialization.

*Sport History* “began as papers delivered at a conference of historians and representatives of other disciplines, held at the University of New South Wales in July 1977” (p.xi). Furthermore it was stated that “the participants were conscious that they were entering a new field of Australian historical endeavour—sports history (p.xi). It is strange that no physical educators appear as presentors since the stated focus was on “the making of sporting traditions” (p.xi). This may very well point out one of the academic, and it appears persisting, biases against the “jock” in scholarly circles, as there are a number of physical educators in Australia researching this area.

Generally, the book is divided into four sections. The first, delves into a number of areas associated with sport and society. Politics is the main area and papers are presented on the place of women in Australian sport in sexual politics, the Gaelic Athletic Association's growth where "if any two purposes should go together they ought to be politics and athletics," (p.101) and the example of how sport is used in the German Democratic Republic. The final three papers in this section deal with the role of sport in Australia during the First World War, the effect of technology on American spectator sport (and its spread to Australian sport), and the important place of sport in Australian society as depicted in its literature. In this final paper Barry Andrews wrote "Australians became interested because sport was democratized very early, it gave them a chance to express their national identity, it became a substitute for religion, it offered them a harmless and socially acceptable outlet for the aggressive instincts of a country untroubled by civil war" (p.44).

The second section consists of three papers devoted to cricket, and, for some unexplained reason, a paper dealing with the rise of American baseball. The inclusion of three cricket papers is understandable as it is the most popular sport in Australia and two of the papers deal with important periods in its development and its British ties. The third deals with Indian cricket and parallels its development along class lines in the two countries.

The third area studied, and rightly so, is football. These four papers portray the diversity of Australian sport. Two deal with the historical development of Australian National Football (better known as "Aussie Rules") and the development of Rugby League from Rugby Union Football. The fourth football code played in Australia (Soccer) is unfortunately not mentioned and a paper on its development would have added to this section. The remaining two football papers deal with the development of the Professional Footballers Association (Soccer) in England and the political ramifications of the South African Springbok tour to New Zealand in 1956.

The final section deals with three individual sports and gives an indication of Australians mania for gambling. The first paper deals with British horse racing and explains its importance in an Australian heritage. The second paper deals with the rise of bicycle racing in Australia, while the final, and one of the best papers, deals with the Australian reaction to Jack Johnson in 1907-9.

One of the real strengths of this book is that most of the authors, like R. Tait McKenzie in his sculptures, have been able to capture the critical moment in their area of research which had profound effects not only on sport but on society as a whole. If anyone is interested in gaining an insight into the Australian "sporting scene", this book (with its nine directly related chapters) will be an excellent place to start.