

C. United States

I-C-1

Dewing, Rolland. "History of American Sports: Academic Featherbedding or Neglected Area?," *The Social Science Journal*, 14 No. 3 (October 1977), 73-82.

Traditional collegiate history courses have neglected and even expressed hostility toward the social and economic impact sports have asserted on American society. Such has been the case because of an elitist, exclusive approach to historical writings, a lack of enthusiasm for and thus specialization in sports history, and the absence of an interdisciplinary interest in sports. Yet, the history of American sports has great potential for academic inquiry. Based on secondary sources; 21 notes.

Angela Lumpkin

I-C-2

Guttmann, Allen. "Commentary: Who's on First? or, Books on the History of American Sports," *Journal of American History*, 66, No. 2 (September 1979), 348-354.

The interest in sports which has been exhibited by twentieth century historians

“was all but inevitable,” concluded Allen Guttman. Presumably it was also inevitable that a renowned scholar of American Studies, Dr. Guttman, should describe and critique the state of the art, or less than art, that is the field of American sport history as portrayed in books written by American sport historians. Guttman analyzed the purported “themes” of the development of American sport argued by sport historians from Stuart Culin to John Lucas and Ronald Smith. His assessment was quite simple: American sport historians have demonstrated a progressively broader knowledge of sport in its cultural context; yet as a whole, American sport historians suffer three severe limitations which prevent a flowering of the art. They have failed to achieve a “definitional rigor;” they suffer “a kind of intellectual isolationism;” and many have generally ignored the works of European sport historians and American sport sociologists. In sum the book literature about American sport has fallen short in the effort to analyze the “maddeningly complicated relationship between modern sports and the social context in which they occur.” Based on secondary works; 31 reference notes.

Nancy L. Struna

I-C-3

Detweiler, Robert. “Games and Play in modern American Fiction,” *Contemporary Literature*, 17, No. 1 (Winter 1976), 44-62.

The dominant theme of games and play in American culture, such as war strategy, business models, educational settings, and religious rites, has lacked a definitive analysis of its role in fictional literature since 1965. A proposed eclectic theory for games and play was divided into three categories as follows: a self-consciousness connected with the author playing a game with the reader to produce a fictive *agon*, a self-consciousness related to playing a game with an established sport symbol system to produce the fictive *mimesis*, and a self-consciousness joined in a playful game with one’s own imagination to produce the fictive *alea*. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 15 notes.

Angela Lumpkin

I-C-4

Rosenzweig, Roy. “Middle-Class Parks and Working-Class Play: The Struggle Over Recreational Space in Worcester, Massachusetts, 1870-1910,” *Radical History Review*, 21 (Fall 1979), 31-46.

Worcester’s park system from 1870 to 1896 was directed by Edward W. Lincoln, an elite Yankee, who sought to use it to promote social cohesion and order. He believed the land should be used for aesthetic contemplation. By the 1880s, industrialists wanted to expand the system for such purposes as fire

protection, health, and civic pride. But the growing working-class wanted more active, play-centered facilities which would be located near their homes. In the mid-1880s a working-class coalition achieved a compromise which set up playgrounds in their neighborhoods. These parks provided a place for workers to express and preserve their ethnic culture. Based on primary sources, newspapers, and secondary works; 3 illustrations; 43 notes.

Steven A. Riess

I-C-5

Holt, Glen E. "Private Plans for Public Spaces; the Origins of Chicago's Park System," *Chicago History*, 8 (Fall 1979), 173-84.

Even before Bumham's famous 1909 Plan of Chicago, the city's park system owed a great deal to its private citizens. Its earliest large parks, for the most part, were privately built cemeteries. Businessmen, civic leaders, and realtors in responding to the public's needs that public officials could not satisfy led to the development of a park system in 1869. Three park commissions were established with extensive powers to secure land, levy taxes and operate the parks. The recreational areas in the nation's second largest system were built by professional landscapers, especially Olmsted and Vaux who sought to combine the natural beauty of the lake front with varied landscaping. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 10 illustrations; no notes.

Steven A. Riess

I-C-6

Bain, Kenneth R., Phillips, Bob and Travis, Paul D. "Benson Park: Shawnee Citizens at Leisure in the Early Twentieth Century," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 57 (Summer 1979), 164-170.

Benson Park was created in Shawnee, Oklahoma in 1908 and was a center for social, leisure, and political activity for the next twenty-four years. The park was elaborate, ornate, and lush perhaps to indicate that the supposedly barren prairie could yield up a new Eden. The thirty-two acre site had an indoor pool (with 500 swimming suits for rent), canoe rides, picnic areas, an opera house (later a skating rink), and a special trolley line. The park is now abandoned with an automobile junkyard at its former entrance. Based on primary sources and secondary works; no notes; 8 photographs.

Richard Keller

I-C-7

Edwards, Harry. "The Olympic Project For Human Rights: An Assessment Ten Years later," *The Black Scholar*, 10, Nos. 6, 7 (March/April 1979), 2-8.

Harry Edwards, the man whose leadership spawned nationwide protests by black athletes a decade ago, assessed the advancements in human rights that resulted from this movement. He charges that American society in general and athletics in particular are still replete with racism. The aspect Edwards finds most insidious is that millions of black youths fail to develop career aspirations in other fields because they believe developing skill in athletics will someday make their dreams come true. He calls upon his readers to act boldly in accepting the challenge to defeat racism and advance the cause of human rights in current American society. Based upon primary source material; no notes.

John Behee

I-C-8

Moore, N. Webster. "The Black YMCA of St. Louis," *Bulletin Missouri Historical Society*, 36, No. 1 (October 1979), 35-40.

Although the Anthony Bowen Branch of the YMCA had been founded for Negroes in Washington, D.C. in 1853, it was not until 1877 that an attempt was made to establish a colored branch in St. Louis. Due to lack of financial and community support, it was not until 1912 that the organization, under the name of the Afro-American Young Men's Christian Home Association, gained enough strength to be accepted as a full-fledged branch of the St. Louis YMCA. Through continued involvement of local churches, philanthropists and dedicated people, this branch of the St. Louis YMCA flourished, organizing camps, theatrical productions, and youth in government projects. By the 1950s, girls had become a significant part of the program. Though struggling during its early years, St. Louis' Black YMCA gained recognition locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Based on primary sources, newspapers and secondary works; 9 notes.

Bonnie Slatton

I-C-9

Spivy, Don and Jones, Tom. "Intercollegiate Athletic Servitude: A Case Study of the Black Illini Student-Athletes, 1931- 1967," *Social Science Quarterly*, 55, No. 4 (March 1975), 939-947.

Spivy and Jones collected data on 227 black athletes who played at Illinois during the years 1937-1967. It showed these athletes had a higher academic attrition rate than their white counterparts. The authors attribute this to an interaction between the racial climate of the University and the background of the black athletes recruited. Most of these athletes were grossly deficient in preparation for college. Racial prejudice within the University's academic, athletic, and social environments further diminished the probability of a black

student-athlete graduating. The study concluded that the athletic scholarship was of minor benefit to the vast majority of black Illini recipients since 65 percent failed to earn a degree and only 14 advanced to a career in professional sports. Based upon primary sources (academic records and personal interviews) and secondary works: 31 notes.

John Behee

I-C-10

Little, Monroe H. "The Extracurricular Activities of Black College Students 1868-1940," *The Journal of Negro History*, 45, No. 2 (April 1980), 135-145.

This article examines the various types of extracurricular activities in which black undergraduates took part, how these changed over time, and to what extent they benefited from such activities. A brief description of early activity in baseball and football is given. The value of this article to sport historians lies mostly in its footnotes which identify student newspapers and published histories of several black universities. These may be very useful for those wishing to focus their research more directly on intramural and intercollegiate sports. Based upon primary sources (student newspapers) and secondary works; 43 notes.

John Behee

I-C-11

DeMartini, Joseph R. "Student Culture as a Change Agent in American Higher Education," *Journal of Social History*, 9, No. 4 (1976), 526-41.

The University of Illinois was established as an agrarian oriented institution which promoted traditional values. Extracurricular activities supported elitism (e.g. literary societies). However, as the student body became more oriented towards securing social mobility, such activities were supplanted by fraternities and athletics which promoted more modern values. Athletics supported such values as sacrifice and glory which were far more appropriate for a business oriented society. Athletics became legitimized in 1891 and rapidly grew in importance. Within a year standards of eligibility were developed and the first athletic director was hired. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 46 notes.

Steven A. Riess

I-C-12

Weaver, Bill L. "The Black Press and the Assault on Professional Baseball's 'Color Line,' October 1945-April 1947," *Phylon*, 40, No. 4 (Winter 1979), 303-17.

The signing of Jackie Robinson by Branch Rickey to a Brooklyn Dodger baseball contract and his subsequent rise to major league success was treated extensively in the black press. Robinson's success in baseball was equated with Joe Louis' achievements in gaining black acceptance. The Negro newspapers' five themes were: (1) significance of the breakthrough, (2) appreciation to Rickey, (3) expression of racial hopes pinned on Robinson, (4) analysis of the pressure on Robinson, and (5) cautious optimism for success. Throughout the period, the black press editorialized every aspect of the case extensively. As Robinson achieved major league success, the newspapers cautioned the Negro fan that his conduct could influence, to some extent, the success or failure of blacks entering major league baseball. Based on primary sources, newspapers, and secondary works; 69 notes.

Robert T. Bowen

I-C-13

Grella, George, "Baseball and the American Dream," *Massachusetts Review*, 16 (Summer 1975), 550-567.

Baseball always will be the National Game since it clearly reflects America's identity. Ballgames originated in Egypt as religious and seasonal celebrations. Baseball holds sway because it begins in spring and is life-centered, bringing with it sun and rain to create life. Football, in contrast, is autumnal and destructive. Baseball exemplifies small town America and the fallibility of the American hero. Cooperstown, New York, site of the Hall of Fame, is discussed as an example of the small town influence. Meanwhile the hero in baseball is successful only 30 percent of the time and winning teams rarely win more than 65 percent of their games.

Harry Jebson Jr.

I-C-14

McGuire, Bonnie. "Babe Ruth," *New York Folklore*, 1, Nos. 1 & 2 (1975), 97-107.

Americans who have never witnessed the Babe perform as well as the throngs who followed his career, have testified to the legend of Babe Ruth, hero of American baseball. The dimensions of Babe Ruth's personality encompassed a super star's athletic ability, an opportunist's timing and luck, the ability to cover up questionable personal habits with admirable traits, and a true love of humanity, especially those less fortunate. Despite all his scrapes with the law and his futile attempts at reform, George Herman "Babe" Ruth remains the All-American hero. Based on primary sources, secondary works, newspapers; 37 notes.

Patricia H. Miller

I-C-15

Smith, Duane A. "A Strike Did Not Always Mean Gold," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, 20, No. 3 (July 1970), 76-81.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, mining camps of the American far west exhibited a genuine enthusiasm for the game of baseball. California, the oldest and most populous territory, had the most number of teams; but such regions as Montana and Colorado, also showed a particular fondness for the game. Wherever the miners traveled they took with them the love for the sport and as soon as circumstances allowed, "played ball." Baseball was particularly popular among the miners because it helped break the monotony of their toilsome life, allowed them an opportunity to relax and enjoy the company of friends and neighbors, and was an activity ideally suited for their gambling propensities. No notes.

David K. Wiggins

I-C-16

Rothe, Emil H. "Fielding Feats," *Baseball Research Journal*, (1978), 22-28.

Once highly publicized, baseball fielding feats have come to be overshadowed by batting and baserunning performances. In an attempt to restore fielding achievements to a proper place in baseball statistics, the author focuses on the importance of double plays, triple plays and errors in determining the outcome of games. Based on primary sources and secondary works; no notes.

David Q. Voigt

I-C-17

James, Bill. "The Trading Record," *Baseball Research Journal*, (1978), 28-32.

Using techniques of statistical analysis the author has devised a system for evaluating baseball player trades. The best and worst deals from the years 1963-1972 are assayed. Based on secondary works; no notes.

David Q. Voigt

I-C-18

Doherty, Paul F. "The Why and Wherefore of Forfeit Games," *Baseball Research Journal*, (1978), 76-82.

Since the turn of the century 36 forfeited games have been recorded in major league baseball, but only five of these have occurred since the post World War

II era. The circumstances surrounding forfeited games are reviewed. Based on secondary works; no notes.

David Q. Voigt

I-C-19

Hinden, Rick, "Take Me Back to the Ball Park," *Historic Preservation*, 31, No. 3 (July-August 1979), 42-50.

The beauty of the old stadia personify the rich heritage that is baseball. Only five of the early baseball stadia, which have become an endangered species, survive today. The stadia of baseball's early years were constructed of wood and were claimed by fire and timber rot. Concrete structures of baseball's golden era have given way to gargantuan multi-sport complexes. However, the charm of Fenway Park and Wrigley Field have continued to challenge the test of time and contemporary city planners. Based on primary sources, newspapers, and secondary works; 9 notes; illustrations.

Patricia H. Miller

I-C-20

Swift, E. M., "No Place Like an Old Place," *Sports Illustrated*, 53, No. 2 (July 7, 1980), 46-60.

Chicago's Wrigley Field has a charm belonging to an earlier era in baseball's history. Credit for the natural turf, the vine covered walls, and the lack of lighting preventing night games is given to Philip K. Wrigley. The truth, however, is perhaps better attributed to economic matters as well as Wrigley's ego. The old field has had a Peter Pan effect on the true fan. They return each year to cheer the Cubs, though oft times losing; to buy peanuts from the Andy Frain's; and to chase batting-practice home runs in Waveland Avenue. Based on interviews; 7 illustrations.

Maxine G. Hunter

I-C-21

McDade, Thomas. "Death in the Afternoon," *York State Tradition*, 25 (Winter 1971), 8-15.

The prize fight of September 1842 in Hastings, New York on the Hudson River produced the first recorded boxing death in the United States. Conducted in the semi-illicit atmosphere and with the loose rules of the period, the fight was between Christopher Lilly and Tom McCoy. The fight lasted 119 rounds resulting in McCoy's death. The pre-match, fight activity, and resultant legal actions against the fighters and promoters are discussed through

newspapers, as are the backgrounds of the participants. No photographs or footnotes.

John Schleppe

I-C-22

Croak, Thomas M. "The Professionalization of Prizefighting: Pittsburgh at the Turn of the Century," *The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, 62, No. 2 (October 1979), 332-343.

Even though prizefighting was illegal in Pennsylvania, it was popular in Pittsburgh in the 1890-1910 period. Adoption of the Marquess of Queensbury rules, local sponsorship by athletic clubs, promotion by Pittsburgh daily newspapers, and lax law enforcement were key factors. Prizefighting was seen as being in harmony with the values of individualism, competition, and social mobility. In the archetypical American industrial city it reflected and dramatized those ideals. Prizefighting's later decline reflected the decline of these very ideals. Based on government documents, secondary works, and newspapers; 20 notes.

Michael Kupersanin

I-C-23

Chinello, James. "The Great Goldfield Foul," *Westways*, 68, No. 9 (September 1976), 27-30; 88.

Founded in 1902 when gold was discovered, Goldfield, Nevada, was the site of the world's lightweight boxing championship in 1906. Promoted by George Lewis "Tex" Rickard, a Goldfield saloonkeeper, the match featured Oscar Matthew Nelson or "Battling Nelson" and Joe Gans. Ten thousand fans gathered in Goldfield to view this fight to the finish which saw Nelson continuously warned about butting. Gans was declared world champion in the forty-second round because Nelson delivered a disqualifying blow to his "groin. Based on secondary sources; no notes.

Lynne Emery

I-C-24

Dalich, Tony. "Shelby's Fabled Day in the Sun: Dempsey vs. Gibbons, Fourth of July 1923," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*, 15, No. 3 (July 1965), 2-23.

The world's heavyweight boxing championship fight between Jack Dempsey and Tommy Gibbons was held in 1923 at Shelby, Montana. It was a landmark in Montana history. It was also one of the most remarkable promotions of a

sports event ever undertaken. One seldom mentioned fact about the fight was that Gibbons gave Dempsey a very creditable battle. Until Gene Tunney came on the heavyweight boxing scene in 1926, Gibbons was the only man to go the "distance" with Dempsey in a title fight. More significant than the fight itself, however, was the bizarre financial arrangements of the unique promotion. Monetarily, Dempsey profited handsomely from the fight while Gibbons profited little, if at all, except in terms of popularity. 24 illustrations; no notes.
David K. Wiggins

I-C-25

Del Sesto, Steven L. "Roles, Rules and Organization: A Descriptive Account of Cockfighting in Rural Louisiana," *Southern Folklore Quarterly*, 39, No. 1 (March 1975), 1-14.

Cockfighting in rural South Louisiana is a prestigious sport conducted from October to June each year. Most owners are wealthy farmers who employ a number of individuals to perform different roles in the training process. Rules governing the sport include: (1) code of ethics involving fair play, sportsmanship and gentlemanly conduct; (2) match rules which may vary but are carefully agreed upon before fighting begins; and (3) spectator and betting rules. The fight itself is both a social and sporting occasion. Gambling is the essence of the sport. The sport is, and will remain, "sub rosa" because of its nature. Based on personal observations, primary sources and secondary works; 16 notes.

Robert T. Bowen

I-C-26

Herzog, Harold and Cheek, Pauline B. "Grit and Steel: The Anatomy of Cockfighting," *Southern Exposure*, No. 2 (Fall 1979), 36-40.

Although almost universally outlawed, cockfighting has continued to be a popular "sport" throughout the world and particularly in the Southern United States. Descriptions are given of breeding techniques, training methods, procedures during the match, and of the cocks' injuries and deaths in the pit. Gambling, alcohol, and even weapons are usually on the scene, but the activity of the "cockers" is comparable to the behavior of "a 'Big Orange' or 'Fighting Gamecocks' football fan on a Saturday afternoon." Based on empirical evidence; no notes.

Joan Paul

I-C-27

MacLeod, Duncan. "Racing to War: Antebellum Match Races Between the North and the South," *Southern Exposure*, 7, No. 2 (Fall 1979), 7-10.

Antebellum horseracing reflected and intensified the growing antagonism between the North and South. The most famous in a series of intersectional rivalries pitted Eclipse against Sir Henry in 1823. More than 50,000 spectators from the North and South attended the New York race for which there was a purse of \$20,000. Though not billed with political overtones, the races held between 1820 and 1845 were promoted as North versus South contests. Bibliographic notes.

June A. Kennard

I-C-28

“Horseracing Was Everyman’s Sport,” *Wisconsin Then and Now*, 24, No. 10 (May 1978), 2, 3, 7.

Short, introductory remarks concerning the propriety of “speed contests” at fairs are followed by particular descriptions of races and horses during the nineteenth century in Wisconsin. Examples include a horse race between owners James R. Vineyard (member of Territorial legislature) and Jacob Hoosier as well as trotting races when Milwaukee had become a part of the Midwest harness circuit. Several Wisconsin-bred trotters, “Johnston,” “Jay Eye See” and “The Harvester” set national records. No notes; 2 illustrations.

Phyllis Ocker

I-C-29

Williams, Randall. “The Hulk vs. Ox Baker,” *Southern Exposure*, 7, No. 2 (Fall 1979), 30-35.

The Houston County Farm Center, Dothan, Alabama, is a prototype setting for professional wrestling. Attracting mainly a Southern blue collar, rural audience weekly, wrestling matches have been held in small town areas since the 1930s. The National Wrestling Association claims 219 million fans paid to watch wrestling between 1972 and 1977. Pro football drew 83 million in the same period. Part sport and part entertainment, matches are carefully arranged by promoters who pit the “bad” against the “good” guys. There are an estimated 3000 professional wrestlers in the United States and they rely on a combination of training, consistent winning, and gimmicks to maintain popularity. Based on author’s experiences and interviews; no notes, 5 pictures.

Helen Fant

I-C-30

Nolte, Linda M. Pearce. “Yachting: Its History in San Diego,” *Journal of San Diego History*, 20 (Fall 1974), 1-24.

With the founding in 1852 of the Pacific Pioneer Yacht Club, the city and

surrounding area of San Diego has been active in yachting. Beginning modestly with a fishing boat used for Sunday pleasure sailing, pleasure boating grew to a total of 24,193 vessels in 1972. The history of nine yacht clubs, founded between 1886 and 1972, was traced. Their clubhouses, social life, assistance in the war effort, and regattas were examined. Also covered were such clubs as the San Diego Rowing Club (1888), the Zlac Rowing Club (1892), and the State Normal School crews, Based on primary sources, newspapers, and secondary works; 61 notes; illustrations; biblio.

Lynne Emery