

Journal Surveys

I. Sports and Games of the North American Indians

I-1

Salter, Michael A. "Play in Ritual. An Ethnohistorical Overview of Native North America," *Stadion*, 3, No. 2 (1977), 230-243.

In sacred and quasi-sacred rituals among seventeenth and eighteenth century eastern North American Indians, games assumed a prominent role and sometimes became the cardinal element. In four types of rituals—mortuary services, fertility-based ceremonies, medicinal rites, and rituals projected to influence climate—the Indians employed virtually all social games to influence the forces which they believed directed their lives. The relationship of these games to the Diety or other sacred forces gave them a serious rather than a "fun" focus. In these rituals a highly competitive, winning, athletic orientation overcame the natural ludic spirit of the participants and the event. Based on secondary works; 18 notes; figures; tables.

Nancy L. Struna

I-2

Bushnell, Amy. " 'That Demonic Game': The Campaign to Stop Indian Pelota Playing in Spanish Florida, 1675-1684," *The Americas*, 35 (July 1978), 1-19.

Pelota was a game steeped in the history and legends of the Florida Indian tribes of the Apalache province when the Spanish initiated their conquest. The game involved mass mayhem, not unlike the football of the middle ages. The ball, however, was hard and solid, barely larger than a musket ball. In 1675 Catholic missionaries started a campaign to outlaw the game because of its brutality. The government joined in because of its adverse effect on the Indians' agricultural work. The attack on the game was ultimately based on the premise of wiping out "heathenism." By 1684 the church decreed that the Indians should not play ball games. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 44 notes.

Robert T. Bowen

I-3

Eisen, George. "Games and Sporting Diversions of the North American Indians as Reflected in American Historical Writings of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries," *Canadian Journal of History of Sport and Physical Education*, 9, No. 1 (May 1978), 58-85.

Accounts by early voyagers, colonial officials and missionaries are utilized as early historical sources to focus on the games and physical pursuits of the North American Indians. There are similarities among games and pursuits of Indian tribes all over the continent. Diversions, such as football, baggatiway, gambling games, footracing, swimming and target shooting with bow and arrow, were integral parts of their mode of living, medical practices, and rituals such as burial ceremonies. Participation by different tribe members, male and female, young and old, is discussed and the reasons for participation in each activity are dealt with. The nature of the source material is questioned. Based upon primary sources; 127 notes.

Dave Brown

I-4

Churchill, Ward, Hill, Norbert S. and Barlow, Mary Jo. "An Historical Overview of Twentieth Century Native American Athletics," *The Indian Historian*, 12, No. 4 (1979), 22-32.

The impact of native American athletes on twentieth century American sport is far greater than their numbers in the total population suggest. The first well known Indian athletes were "Chiefs" Bender and Meyers, and Jim Thorpe. Since then, many have achieved stardom representing Indian communities and schools, colleges and universities. Others have received recognition in professional baseball and football and the Olympic Games. Since 1930 Indian participation in major sports has steadily declined, although there continues to be such superstars as "Pepper" Martin, Johnny Bench, Danny Lopez, and Billy Mills. Loss of interest in big-time sports may be the result of continued media manipulation of Indian sport heroes. Sources not given, no notes. References supplied on request for \$1.00.

Mary Lou LeCompte