

### III. Sport in the United States

III- 1

Howell, Reet. "Recreational Activities of Women in the Colonial Period," *ARENA Review*, 4 (May 1980), 3-10.

To the degree permitted by generally restrictive cultural mores, colonial American women did recreate (i.e., sport, play). Dancing, skating, horseback

riding, and swimming, among other activities, warranted participation and spectatorship. Health, socialization, and fun appeared as common motives. These and other activities, as well as the frequency of occurrence and the degree of social acceptability, varied among the colonies and the social classes therein. Literary references revealed very little information about the recreational activities of the “lesser folk” and frontier women. Based upon primary sources and secondary works.

—Nancy L. Struna

### III-2

Berryman, Jack W. “John S. Skinner’s *American Farmer*: Breeding and Racing the Maryland ‘Blood Horse,’ 1819-1829,” *Maryland Historical Magazine* 76, No. 2 (June 1981), 159-73.

John S. Skinner, through his editorship of his Baltimore publication, the *American Farmer*, helped to popularize the idea that breeding true “blood horses” would aid American agriculture and transportation. Believing that the only “true test” of blood horses was racing, Skinner also became the leading race promoter in the Maryland-Virginia region in the 1820s and 1830s. Skinner added columns to the *American Farmer* specifically to encourage the breeding of blood horses. He later pioneered related journals (notably, *The American Turf Register & Sporting Magazine* in 1829) which were designed to represent the equivalent of an “American Stud Book.” John S. Skinner’s efforts thus eventually aided agriculture, transportation, sport, and veterinary science. Based on primary sources, newspapers, and secondary works; 89 notes.

—William A. Gudelunas

### III-3

Havig, Alan. “Mass Commercial Amusements in Kansas City Before World War I,” *Missouri Historical Review*, 75, No. 3 (April 1981), 316-45.

Mass commercial amusements were popular and extensive in Kansas City from 1911 to 1915. Attending movies was, by far, the most popular; however, dance halls, amusement parks, bowling, and other activities were well-patronized. Reformers and civic leaders, believing those activities were “immoral” for the populace, took steps to censor motion pictures and to upgrade the quality of experiences one should have in the form of recreation. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 38 notes; 14 photographs; 5 tables.

—Aimee M. Loftin

### III-4

Richard C. Crepeau. "Pearl Harbor: A Failure of Baseball?" *Journal of Popular Culture*, 15, No. 4 (Spring 1982), 67-74.

Between 1920 and the mid-1930s American college and professional baseball teams frequently toured Japan, and Japanese teams came to the United States. American sportswriters and politicians hoped that nations that played games together would not go to war. Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth-led tours of Japan in 1931 and 1934, respectively, drew overflow crowds. "To these little almond-eyed fans he is some kind of demigod who dwells in a distant land," wrote Frederic Lieb about Ruth's impact on Japan. An assassination attempt on the Japanese publisher who arranged the Ruth tour curtailed further trips by the Americans. By the time of Pearl Harbor, the American baseball community was ready to turn against its onetime Japanese brethren. Umpire Bill Klem called them "constitutional kleptomaniacs." The *Sporting News* editorialized that while the Japanese had picked up some baseball skills, "Had the spirit of the game ever penetrated their yellow hides," they would not have perpetrated the "infamous deed" on Pearl Harbor. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 40 notes.

—Lee E. Lowenfish

### III-5

Grundman, Adolph H. "The Image of Intercollegiate Sports and the Civil Rights Movement: An Historian's View," *ARENA Review*, 3 (October 1979), 17-24.

In the late 1960s critics of the American sports scene condemned racism in sport, but they failed to explore "the reasons for the failure of racial integration in sport." Grundman argues that the immediate roots of this failure lay in the immediate post World War II era, the late 1940s and 1950s, when romanticized images of sport, selective recruiting of black student athletes by white colleges, and the expectations of the white liberal "Establishment" that "successful" blacks would accommodate to white middle class standards did in fact retard integration. Tokenism sufficed as integration. Not until the mid-1960s when blacks dominated the civil rights movements and expected results rather than simply avenues to equal opportunity did this tokenism in intercollegiate athletics fade. Based upon newspaper accounts; 26 notes.

—Nancy L. Struna

### III-6

Brown, Sara Shallenberger. "The Kentucky Thoroughbred," *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, 25, No. 1 (January 1951), 3-23.

The success of Kentucky as a producer of thoroughbred horses is due to the

characteristics of its land and water and to the traditional devotion of its people to developing excellent bloodlines. Non-thoroughbreds were first brought to Kentucky by Daniel Boone and later by George Rogers Clark. By 1788, nine years after it received a town charter, Lexington was a thriving race horse breeding center. At least eight established racetracks were active in the 1790s. With the importation of English horses, Kentucky preempted Virginia, Maryland, and the Carolinas as the leader in producing race horses. Formal documentation of American pedigrees was established in 1893. The “most historically significant” American thoroughbred was “Lexington” who raced during the 1850s. Though he raced only seven times, winning six, he sired 600 progenies of whom one-third were winners. Based on secondary works and newspapers; no notes; two illustrations.

—Helen Fant

### III-7

Woodhouse, Margaret K. “A History of Amateur Club Rowing in the New York Metropolitan Area, 1830-1870,” *Canadian Journal of History of Sport and Physical Education*, 11, No. 2 (December 1980), 73-92.

Opening with a brief discussion of the prerequisites for rowing, water-technology, and crews in the city, the author provides a chronological account of boat clubs in Manhattan, Staten Island, and New Jersey from 1811 to 1885. Only sparse information is available regarding the structure and function (social and competitive) of the early and shortlived Castle Garden Association and some of the twenty-one “mature clubs” which included the Atlanta (1848), Atlantic (1858), and Ariel (1885) boat clubs. Although conflict existed between amateur and professional exponents of the sport, The Hudson Amateur Rowing Association and The Empire City Regatta Association attempted to assuage these differences by organizing and promoting competition for each group. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 58 notes.

—Ralph C. Wilcox

### III-8

Lowrey, Burling. “Prose Style, Tennis, and Social Change,” *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, 58, No. 2 (Spring 1982), 300-16.

Tennis writing was analyzed upon the principle that prose style is the most accurate gauge of manners, morals, and the direction in which society seems to be going. Over the past sixty years three tennis eras—Romantic (1930-1945), Transition (1945-1965), and Open Tennis (1965-today)—were matched in their characteristics to the men who wrote about the game. The writers of the Romantic school, although at times stylistically and temperamentally excessive, knew tennis and approached it with an intensity bordering

on obsessiveness. Social transition in the post-war years stripped away the facades of amateurism, heroism, and gentility. The grande passion had matured into a relationship. Amidst the scramble for prize money by the players in Open Tennis, a new breed of sportswriters tried to humanize athletes, but their coverage frequently lapsed into mere sequences and quoted banalities from the participants. While tennis play had improved, there had been a corresponding decline in the prose of those who have written about the game. Based upon secondary sources; no notes.

—Angela Lumpkin

### III-9

Andrew, Peter. "The Tennis Racket," *American Heritage*, 32, No. 5 (August-September 1981), 65-73.

Changes in the game of tennis from the "utopian amateur" game of Major Wingfield through its alteration to big business of the 1970s are depicted. Tennis as polite recreation for the socially elite was somewhat changed by talents and personalities of Suzanne Lenglen and Bill Tilden. Following successful amateur careers, they were able to capitalize on professional exhibitions. However, the amateur-professional dichotomy continued to plague tennis until Wimbledon's acceptance of open tennis in the 1960s. The players' quest of financial rewards eroded genteel behavior. No notes; illustrated.

—June A. Kennard

### III-10

Stegner, Wallace. "Xanadu by the Salt Flats," *American Heritage*, 32, No. 4 (June-July 1981), 81-87.

"Saltair," the pleasure dome that rose from the Great Salt Lake, thrived for sixty years from 1898 to 1958. Originally built by the Mormons, the resort offered food, bathing, a 4,000-foot causeway, and a hippodrome which accommodated 9,000 dancers. Constant clashes between recreational principles and Mormon scruples encouraged the Mormons to sell Saltair. Abrasive salt air and water, economic hard times, and increasing use of the automobile contributed to Saltair's demise. No notes; illustrated.

—June A. Kennard

### III- 11

Yagoda, Ben. "The True Story of Bemarr MacFadden: Life and Loves of the Father of the Confession Magazine," *American Heritage*, 33, No. 1 (December 1981), 22-29.

MacFadden's "cause" for health and his passion for publicity helped initiate *Physical Culture*, but his brilliance as a magazine publisher came to fruition

with his launching of *True Story*, the original confession magazine. MacFadden's many ventures included opening physical culture restaurants, patronizing spas, and marrying four times. His peculiar personality, which included bellowing during speeches, performing unexpected handstands, and resorting to malapropisms, made him a laughing stock. Obsessed with his health mission and publicity, MacFadden made several unsuccessful attempts to enter politics. Twenty-five years after his death in 1955, his ideas regarding diet and jogging are commonplace, while his confession magazines endure. No notes, illustrations.

—June A. Kennard