

Journal Surveys

I. Sport in the United States to 1915

I-1 Bulger, Margery A. "American Sportswomen in the 19th Century," *Journal of Popular Culture*, 16, No. 2 (Fall 1981), 1-16.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, American women's place was clearly in the home. At most, Victorian society allowed for a little exercise, dancing, and tightly-corsetted horseback riding. But as spectator sports like baseball democratized after the Civil War, so did opportunities for participant sports for women. Women's archery and tennis clubs were founded in the 1870s and 1880s; the first national tennis tournament for women began in 1888. Men commentators warned, however, that the women could not and should not play a serve-and-volley game, but rather a "refined and unprofessional" type of play. Some educators like Harvard's Dudley Sargent did speak out against the restrictive clothing women athletes were expected to wear. American May Sutton won Wimbledon in 1905, fifteen years before Bill Tilden's first triumph, "wearing less clothing than was considered appropriate." The bicycle craze of the 1890s also played an important role in liberating women from the traditional strictures. Based on secondary works; 63 notes.

—Lee Lowenfish

I-2 Mirel, Jeffrey. "From Student Control to Institutional Control of High School Athletes: Three Michigan Cities, 1883-1905," *Journal of Social History*, 16 (Winter 1982), 83-100.

This essay tempers the perspectives that high school sport was either a source of social control (Spring) or a safety valve (Mitchell). Between 1883 and 1892, athletic associations were formed by students in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Grand Rapids. Teams had no formal ties to the school. They travelled extensively and encountered such problems as ringers, finances, and poor playing fields. The three organizations joined the newly formed Michigan High School Athletic Association in 1895. It was established by school administrators for practical rather than ideological reasons. They wanted to correct abuses and protect the reputations of their schools. The students supported these goals as a means of securing fairer competition. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 113 notes.

—Steven A. Riess

I-3 Lamb, Julia. "'The Commodore' Enjoyed Live—But N.Y. Society Wincned," *Smithsonian Magazine*, 9, (November 1978), 132-141.

As the *New York Herald*, founded by his father, provided James Gordon Bennett a lavish income and opened the doors to Fifth Avenue drawing rooms, his eccentric and often boorish behavior offset his preeminent status and eventually resulted in his living abroad the last forty-two years of his life. Throughout his life (late 1800s-early 1900s), Bennett actively engaged in several sports, but especially yachting, initially as the youngest member of the New York Yacht Club and later as its Commodore. Bennett became the leading American sportsman through his financial promotion of yachting; coaching; polo; lawn tennis; bicycling; walking; and races for automobiles, balloons, motorboats, and airplanes. No notes.

—Angela Lumpkin

I-4 Brestensky, Dennis. "Pastimes and Festive Customs in Early Mine Patches," *Pennsylvania Heritage*, 8, No. 1 (Winter 1982), 15-19.

Articles written about "pre-mechanical" mine life generally focused on unhappy events such as strikes and disasters. Brestensky's article points out that the miners of southwestern Pennsylvania also enjoyed happy moments through recreational events. These included wedding celebrations that often lasted a week or longer. Christenings and first communions also were reasons for long social gatherings. Coal companies sponsored baseball teams to promote fellowship. Prize ballplayers were rewarded with higher pay and easier jobs. Older citizens enjoyed card playing (mostly pinochle) and quilting bees. Based upon newspaper accounts and personal interviews; 4 photographs; no notes.

—William A. Gudelunas

I-5 Madsen, Brigham D. "Frolics and Free Schools for the Youthful Gentiles of Corinne," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 48, No. 3 (Summer 1980), 220-33.

Corinne was a "raw, western, end-of-the-trail town" near Promontory Point, Utah built to serve the transcontinental railroad. Its population, never more than 1,000, was mainly non-Mormon. For recreation, particularly on holidays like July 4th, townspeople enjoyed swimming, footraces, horseracing, roller skating, billiards, cockfighting, hunting, and baseball. Intercity baseball rivalry spiced with religious differences occurred in 1870 when the gentile Corinne team beat the Mormons of Salt Lake City two games out of three. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 40 notes; 2 photographs.

—David McComb

I-6 Burt, Olive W., ed. "Bicycle Racing and the Salt Palace: Two Letters," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 50, No. 2 (Spring 1982), 160-67.

Completed in 1898 the Salt Palace, a community resort in Salt Lake City, attracted revenue through an open-air bicycle track built nearby. Contractors built the one-eighth mile track in the shape of an oval with a forty-five degree slant on the ends. Constructed of hard wood three inches thick, the track left

splinters with those who fell. Cloyd F. Woolley, when he was eight years old, sold food at the track. He described the track, several races, and the personalities of some racers in two letters to his sister written in 1947. 10 explanatory footnotes; 3 photographs.

—David McComb

I-7 McGinty, Brian. "The Old Ball Game," *Pacific Historian*, 25, No. 1 (Spring 1981), 13-25.

In all probability, the first baseball game in California was played in 1849, the year in which Alexander Cartwright spent five days in San Francisco on his way to Hawaii. Interest in baseball as a gentleman's game continued; by the late 1860's, there were more than twelve clubs in San Francisco alone. In 1869 the Cincinnati Red Stockings came to San Francisco for a series of exhibition games with local amateur teams. Arriving in September, 1869, the Red Stockings met the San Francisco Eagles and outscored the locals 35-4, and 58-4. Cincinnati totaled 66-4 and 54-5 against the San Francisco Pacifics and 76-9 against the Atlantics in a game called because of darkness after the fifth inning. Even though the Red Stockings outscored the locals 289 to 22, their skill and sportsmanship inspired California players to adopt their style. A short time later a professional association, the California Base Ball League, was organized. Based on newspapers and secondary works; no notes; 11 illustrations; biblio.

—Lynne Emery

I-8 Shay, Anthony. "Fandangos and Bailes: Dancing and Dance Events in Early California," *Southern California Quarterly*, 64, No. 2 (Summer 1982), 99-113.

Early California (1800-1840) was populated by the Spanish or their descendants, and, consequently, social life followed the customs of traditional Spanish society. Life on the ranchos was predominately a male-oriented equestrian society. The only physical activity open to women was dancing; therefore it became popular. The two basic categories of dance events prevalent during this era were the informal and the formal. In California's earliest days the informal event was for the entertainment of its participants, and social class had little bearing. The formal event or *fandango* was a prearranged affair with strict etiquette and eventually far-reaching social ramifications. As the territory's population increased and social classes stratified, the formal event became one by invitation only and changed its name to *bailes*. *Fandangos* by the 1830s were relegated to the lower classes and became increasingly unruly with injury and sometimes death the result. Based on primary and secondary works; 26 notes.

—Lynne Emery

I-9 Bamett, Robert C. "The Development of Wrestling in the United States: 1607-1865," *The Physical Educator*, 35, No. 2 (May 1978), 87-90.

Wrestling is a sport that dates back to primitive man. Early American colonists brought different wrestling styles with them. These immigrants from England used the "west-county" style, the "Cumberland-style," and the "catch as catch can" style. This last style was the one Americans adopted most readily. The Irish also influenced early American wrestling with the "collar and elbow" style which is incorporated today as a method in the catch as catch can style. As wrestling moved westward, it became a rough, almost brutal sport with few restrictions. The sport was called "rough and tumble" and the participants tried to employ psychology along with their skill. Some of our early leaders reported to be wrestlers were Sir Francis Nicholson (royal Governor of Virginia), George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 27 notes.

—Joan Paul

I-10 Bulger, Margery A. "Character Development Through Play: A Historical Perspective," *The Physical Educator*, 39, No. 3 (October 1982), 156-58.

A number of books on play from the mid-eighteenth century to the twentieth century were examined for their perspective on play's relationship to character development. From the earliest period moral lessons were closely aligned to play activities by the authors. As play became a part of modern physical education, the social values relative to developing desirable character remained as an important objective. Today the trend of writers is more toward an existentialist view of play. Play's contribution to our social development is still being debated. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 11 notes.

—Joan Paul

I-11 Macleod, David I. "Act Your Age: Boyhood, Adolescence, and the Rise of the Boy Scouts of America," *Journal of Social History*, 16 (Winter 1982), 3-20.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) along with the junior department of the YMCA were important Progressive responses to the need for social control of middle class boys in the dangerous urban centers. These organizations sought to build character, strengthen boys, and control them in a dependent, yet manly state. The main success of the BSA was with boys ages 12-14, rather than the older boys it had sought to influence because its uniforms, outdoor adventures, and achievement awards were regarded as too juvenile. Teenagers sought autonomy and self-assertion through their recreations. The YMCA was more successful with the older age-group because it offered athletic programs which emphasized gymnastics and team sports. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 58 notes.

—Steven A. Riess

I-12 Cavallo, Dom. "Social Reform and the Movement to Organize Children's Play During the Progressive Era," *History of Childhood Quarterly*, 3, No. 4 (Spring 1976), 509-22.

The "child saving" movement of the Progressive Era emphasized the way it advocates perceived the role of play in both the developmental process and the achievement of their reform aspirations. Through play children learned to adapt to the conditions of the world, while filling the disciplinary void created by the dislocations of urban life. The socialization of instincts through specially designed play-forms, and especially the team experience, would lead, according to reformers, to three results; namely, healthy children, adaptations to social situations, and fostering moral ideals. Based on primary sources and secondary works; 40 notes.

—Angela Lumpkin

I-13 Mergen, Bernard. "Children's Playgrounds in the District of Columbia, 1902-1942," *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, 50 (1980), 383-97.

The development of the District of Columbia's modern playgrounds began in the Progressive Era. The eminent progressive playground authority, Henry S. Curtis, served as Washington's first supervisor of Playgrounds. The development of these areas was not always smooth. Problems involving bureaucratic controls, finance, and segregation by race and age and sex had to be overcome. The 1930s saw rapid growth as congressional monies became more readily available. Mergen believes the playgrounds provided "sanctuaries" where children could "be themselves." They also represented an ideal model for the study of culture. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 27 notes.

—William A. Gudelunas

I-14 Kirschner, Don S. "The Perils of Pleasure: Commercial Recreation, Social Disorder and Moral Reform in the Progressive Era," *American Studies*, 21 (Fall 1980), 27-42.

Progressive reformers saw the "commercialization of recreation" as one of the great evils of the early twentieth century. They attempted to regulate such activities as contemporary dances, movies, games, and sports, and they used professionalism to give democracy an urban meaning in order to preserve the values of the past "village culture." In the eyes of the reformers the recreation center of the new century replaced the hearth of the old one. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 34 notes.

—William A. Gudelunas

I-15 Leckie, Shirley. "Sylvanus P. Jermain and the Establishment of Toledo's Park System," *Northwest Ohio Quarterly*, 53, No. 4 (Fall 1981), 103-16.

Sylvanus Jermain, progressive Toledo businessman, was a driving force in

developing Toledo's public parks in the 1890s. His concern for the environment stemmed from a life-long asthma affliction. Initial efforts included his private donations of facilities to public lands in order to spur interest and legislation for parks. Jermain borrowed thoughts and ideas from such park theorists as Downing and Olmsted to expand city-wide development. That parks are democratic, civilized, healthful, and a good economic investment for a city were Jermain's continual justifications to city government. Based upon primary sources and secondary works; 59 notes; 3 illustrations.

—John Schleppe