

III. International Sport

III-1 Cross, Gary S. "The Quest of Leisure: Reassessing the Eight-Hour Day in France," *Journal of Social History*, 18, No. 2 (Winter 1984) 195-216.

The French workers' struggle for the eight-hour work day, won in 1919, has been greatly overlooked by social historians, except for some work on economic motivations. The desire for increased time away from the control of the employer, i.e. leisure, has been often overlooked as a motivating factor. The article documented the struggle between the workers and their employers for this free time. The traditional 19th century conception of rational leisure, increased time spent with family, and increased opportunities for personal development was assumed. The actual use of this time by the workers has been left for future empirical studies. Based on primary and secondary sources; 86 notes; 1 illustration; 1 table.

—John Neville

III-2 Gowdy, Curt. "Curt Gowdy Talks about Olympic Gold," *The American West*, 21, No. 4 (July/August 1984), 39-46.

The 1932 Los Angeles Olympics, held in the midst of the Great Depression, proved to be a great morale booster. Heroine of the games was track and field athlete Mildred

“Babe” Didrikson, winner of two gold medals and one silver medal. As in 1932, the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics will be held in existing facilities scattered about Southern California, but the innocence of the 1932 games has been replaced by big business, television contracts, drug testing, and heavy security. Nonetheless, being one of the best athletes in the world after years of preparation is what the Olympics are all about. Based on secondary sources and personal experience; no notes.

—Mary Lou LeCompte

III-3 Hardman, Ken. “The Development, Structure and Promotion of Sport in the Federal Republic of Germany,” *Physical Education Review*, 5, No. 1 (1982) 45-61.

This descriptive work charts the development of organized sport in the Federal Republic of Germany from the aftermath of World War II to the present. Hardman chronicles the development of national sport organizations from the origin of the Lander (local) level sports organizations in the three Allied Zones: Britain, France, and the United States. This extensive work gives detailed statistics of governmental bodies, membership rolls, organizational structures, and historical development of community, Lander, state, and Olympic sport organizations. Based on German primary and secondary sources; 42 notes.

—Sharon Kay Stall

III-4 Wagner, Eric. “Baseball in Cuba,” *Journal of Popular Culture*, 18, No. 1 (Summer 1984) 111-120.

After a bat and an “official” ball were brought to Cuba in the 1860s the game of baseball spread quickly. By the turn of the century, teams, leagues, and a Cuban Championship had been organized. Cuba’s break from capitalism did not affect baseball’s popularity and, in fact, “baseball for all” became a socialist precept as Cubans earned and maintained a reputation as an international amateur power. Contemporary baseball in Cuba is played informally by males in the streets and empty lots, by industrial and school teams, by teams formed in villages, as part of occupational therapy at psychiatric hospitals, and in an extensive network governed by the Cuban Baseball Federation. Virtually all accounts indicate that baseball is the most popular sport in Cuba. Based on interviews, primary sources, and secondary works; 14 notes.

—Cathy Buell

III-5 Tyler, Ronnie C. “The Greatest Show in Mexico,” *The American West*, 19, No. 3 (May 1972). 42-47.

In 1908, the 101 Ranch Wild West Show toured Mexico. The headliner was black Texas cowboy Bill Pickett, originator of the modern rodeo contest of steer wrestling, then known as steer bulldogging. The name derived from Pickett’s method of biting the steers’ upper lips to subdue them before wrestling them to the ground by the horns. For publicity, owners Joe and Zack Miller dared any Mexican *torero* to throw a bull Pickett’s way, but none accepted. Joe Miller then bet his show against twenty-five thousand dollars in gold that Pickett could bulldog a Mexican fighting bull. Although unable to throw the beast, Pickett did stay with him long enough to win the bet and cause a riot. The Mexican audience was outraged, feeling Pickett’s courageous feat denigrated the matadors and their sport of bullfighting. *Rurales* were required to

protect the performers for the remainder of the tour. Based on newspapers, archives, and secondary sources; no notes.

—Mary Lou LeCompte

III-6 Witt, Gunter. "Mass Participation and Top Performance in One: Physical Culture and Sport in the German Democratic Republic," *Journal of Popular Culture*, 18, No. 3 (Winter 1983), 159-174.

People in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) believe that physical culture and sport improve general well-being, health, and physical capabilities and are essential parts of personality development. Without financial obligation or hardship on citizens, the socialist government offers sports for all, trains athletes and coaches, and supports research in cooperation with sport organizations and the educational system. Sports reporting and promotion, sports broadcasting, and sport art expositions are other examples indicative of its high status. No notes.

—Cathy Buell