

Vanderwerken, David L., and Spencer Wertz, eds. *Sport Inside Out: Readings in Literature and Philosophy*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1985. Pp. ix, 782. Bibliography, index of authors and titles. \$34.50.

Sport Inside Out is an anthology on the literature and philosophy of American sport. The editors, David L. Vanderwerken and Spencer K. Wertz of Texas Christian University, put together the volume from their experience in teaching a course entitled Modern American Literature and Thinking About Sport. The collection includes selections from professional journals, popular magazines, noteworthy books, and some poetry on the nature of sport from the perspective of literature and philosophy. A few of the essays were written especially for this volume. The selections range from an excerpt from Dan Jenkins', *Semi-Tough* to an esoteric essay by Michael Martin entitled "Philosophical Analysis at Work: In Search of the Elusive Clutch Hitter." Some of the selections such as those by Ring Lardner, Philip Roth, and Bernard Malamud will be familiar to sports historians, but many of the essays especially in the area of philosophy of sport cannot be found conveniently in any other single source.

The book is divided into four sections, Sports and the Individual, Sport and Society, The Meanings of Sport, and The Dimensions of Sport, all with appropriate subheadings. Although the editors state in the preface that the categories are arbitrary and that "instructors will likely wish to add and delete or skip around" (p. x), the various groupings are useful in delineating the meanings of sport in society.

While the editors apparently did not intend to provide an overall theme in making their selections, one might divide the readings into two general categories. One set of readings, by far the more numerous, tend to portray sport as uplifting, inspirational, and in harmony with man's place in the universe. The other selections focus on the seamier side of sport with its violence, greed, corruption, and exploitation. Whether intended or not, the editors through their selections emphasize the former view of sport in American society.

Sport Inside Out will be a valuable book for sport historians, especially for those involved in interdisciplinary courses or who emphasize the cultural impact of sport. At minimum, the volume will be a useful source for hard to find journal articles and other readings. The book is somewhat limited because of its emphasis on American team sports, namely baseball, football, and basketball. It also lacks a historical perspective with almost all of the readings coming from and relating to the post-Depression era. It might have been useful had the editors provided a section on the earlier writings on sport in American life to serve as a standard of comparison for the heavy dose of modern literature and philosophy. Despite these limitations, *Sport Inside Out* is a useful compendium of recent writings on American sport from the perspective of literature and philosophy which will interest sport historians.