

Noverr, Douglas and Ziewacz, Lawrence E., eds. *Sport History* (Selected Reading Lists and Course Outlines from American Colleges and Universities). New York, Markus Wiener Publishing, Inc., 1987. Pp. 255.

*The* stated purpose of *Sport History* (Selected Readings Lists and Course Outlines from American Colleges and Universities) was to compile a representative sample of course outlines for those who teach or are interested in teaching courses in sport history. The authors, Douglas A. Noverr and Lawrence E. Ziewacz from Michigan State University, also are co-authors of *The Games They Played: Sports in American History, 1865-1980* (1983) and other sports writings in edited volumes. Their present compilation of a few essays, many course outlines, some examination questions, several reading lists and student project assignments is a general potpourri of information that has no real order, and if based on a selective basis, gives no criteria for selection. The material included runs the gamut from exceptionally good to basically useless. The print is eye-testingly small and is off-set duplications from the authors' original copies (some dot matrix) with occasional misspelled words, word omissions, and poor sentence structure left as submitted. Although the course outlines included in the book that honestly deal with sport history show great variance in completeness and quality, stated course requirements, and student expectations, the outlines do provide those who teach with many different approaches to attacking the subject. Because the editors chose the work of many excellent teachers and scholars in the field, there is material in the book that can and will be used by experienced as well as beginning teachers of sport history.

In an attempt to give the book order, or in trying to give order to chaos, the authors divided the book into eight parts: teaching, ancient sport, sport history, physical education and sport, American sport history, sport literature/films, sport and sociology, and thematic and topical courses in sport history. The section on history includes four essays and a bibliography from three well-known and respected sport historians. As an example of the many problems with the book, the first two essays by the same author are at times repetitive in their philosophic themes, and although not dated, it is assumed because of the statements in the opening paragraph that the first essay is at least six years old. Rather than including both similar essays, it would have strengthened the book to have had one essay that included the writer's philosophic ideas along with his approach to teaching. There are other inclusions in the book that are questionable. Why was an essay on Hispanic sports included with the topical "course outlines"? Why was one of eight divisions in the book given entirely to one

course outline in sport sociology? The sport literature and film division, although useful for that but not necessarily history, comes across as primarily “filler” material. It also appears that the topical course outlines were included to guarantee that every gamut for sport study had been touched. None of the course outlines on children and sport, women and sport, and the black athlete had more than one of the six to eight units in each outline that was historical. The book could have been improved immeasurably if the editors had first identified their topics for inclusion and then identified the scholars and teachers in those areas. For example, rather than include an outline on blacks and sport that has only one introductory unit on history, the authors should have identified scholars such as David Wiggins and others who have black sport history as a special teaching and research interest area. The same is true with women and sport and other topical areas in the book.

In spite of some major criticisms, the book has a number of excellent course outlines with creative and indepth research topic ideas for students and several good reading lists that will be helpful for teachers. If one will take the time to search through the finite print, there is material that can be found that is worth the time and effort.

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