

Arbena, Joseph L., ed. *An Annotated Bibliography of Latin American Sport*, Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1989. Pp. xiii, 324. Bibliography, notes, index. \$49.95.

For scholars interested in Latin American sport history, Joseph L. Arbena's *An Annotated Bibliography of Latin American Sport* is a real gem. This unique

collection contains over 1300 citations of books, documents, journal articles, and unpublished theses. Following a section called "Theory and History," the editor's subsequent chapters are as follows: "Indigenous Traditions," "Iberian Background," "Colonial Era," "National Period," and "Hispanic Sports and Sportsmen in the United States," "Current Latin American Sports Periodicals," and an "Addendum." Also, the "National Period" is subdivided into contemporary countries. While most citations are written in English, articles in the Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, and German languages also appear.

Like an earlier collection of articles entitled *Latin American Sport and Society: Diffusion and Diversity*, Arbena weaves together his listings to reveal "a major interconnection among sport, physical fitness, and recreation in terms" into the larger historical context. Each selection portrays sport as an invaluable ingredient that, in large part, characterizes the Latin people. Furthermore, Arbena reveals the wealth of materials that, heretofore, have often been overlooked. Articles such as Celso Enriquez's "Jose Marti y los deportes," and David Russell's piece entitled, "Baseball, Hollywood, and Nicaragua," focus attention on Latin America's sporting heritage and its impact on national values. Likewise, Janet Lever's "Soccer As a Brazilian Way of Life," paints soccer in terms of its importance as a national institution. These, among other articles, illustrate Arbena's quest to establish important ties between sport and society at-large. "The result for the reader," claims Arbena, "should be a sense of not only how much is available, but also what it means (p. xi)."

Arbena's section entitled "Indigenous Traditions" is especially impressive. Until recently, scholars dealt very little with the recreational activities of Pre-Columbian Native Americans. As well, conventional scholarship depicted dancing and painting as the primary cultural activities of the indigenous people. Sporting contests, however, often involved matters of state and were always entwined with spiritual meaning. Indeed, there always existed a sense of purpose in athletic contests well beyond that of simple recreational enjoyment. "These games," according to Arbena's interpretation of one article "served functions as communal cohesion, ritualization and symbolism, prestige, peaceful redistribution of wealth, and acculturation." Arbena's intuitive probing has, indeed, shed new light on this period. Neary fifty citations scrutinize every aspect on indigenous sporting activities. Articles and books that include such topics as the long-distance running of the Tarahumaras Indians, the Mayan game called Pok-ta-pok, and even sport gambling provide important insight into these communities and enhance the historical interpretation of Meso-america. Finally, these articles also solidify the notion that institutionalized sport existed well before the European encroachment.

"Iberian Background," is a brief, albeit important, chapter that deals with both the European influence and the miscegenation of Old and New World sport. These articles whose primary focus is Spanish recreation, focus on sport that accompanied the explorers, conquistadors, and eventual emigrants to be embedded into the Americas. Activities such as soccer, fencing, and bullfighting, among others, played important roles in colonial and contemporary Latin

American heritage. This section, it should be noted, contains twenty-eight of its thirty-two citations written in the Spanish language.

Arbena's section on the "Colonial Era" is quite concise. Only eight citations appear and all but two of them are in Spanish. The persistent scholar, however, will see potential for further study and, undoubtedly, discover abundant information for research. Among the citations there is a nineteenth century poem which, according to Arbena, criticizes the institution of bullfighting. Indeed, of the eight citations, five feature bullfighting which, some writers argued, characterized the nature of the common colonial.

"Hispanic Sports and Sportsmen in the United States" is another fascinating section. Like his "Iberian Background," Arbena moves beyond the realm of Latin America and portrays research indicative of the Latin sporting influence outside of its geographical boundaries. In this age of increasing global and intercultural exchanges, investigation into any of these listings, to be sure, testify to the impact of Latin sport and sportsmen in the United States. While this section is largely made up of the Latino influence and achievements in professional baseball, other interesting articles include studies of the rodeo, indoor soccer, and cockfighting (affectionately entitled "The Frontier Chicken"). The contents in this chapter offer readers an opportunity to analyze and magnify the Hispanic impact in the United States from the perspective of sport.

Finally, *Annotated Bibliographies* ends with two brief sections of selected research data. The first, entitled "Current Periodicals," is self-descriptive and accompanied by an annotated description of the various pieces. The editor's "Addendum" offers a conglomeration of materials that a fledgling scholar might find useful.

Historians, especially, will find *Annotated Bibliographies* extremely useful. Indeed, this collection serves as a guide to the many articles, books, and relevant materials that tie sport to Latin culture throughout the Western Hemisphere. Arbena's inclusion of juvenile literature (of which there are thirteen citations), however, is a slight drawback to the book. If the editor's designs are to critically analyze Latin American culture, literature aimed at youngsters undermines this quest. Juvenile books can be entertaining and provide descriptive insight into the subject-matter. Moreover, much of the information is trite and often creates larger-than-life characters. Arbena, however, does remind his readers as to the sometimes simplistic nature of the texts in his overviews.

*Annotated Bibliographies*, to be sure, is a great service to scholars and students of Latin American history. Indeed, the study of Latin America's sporting heritage remains relatively new territory. Arbena's book, consequently, provides quick access to information that reveals important themes imperative to understanding Latin culture. Finally, this very handy book will, in days to come, help spawn new and important interpretations of Latin America's relationship with sport.