

Ballem, H. Charles. *Abegweit Dynasty. The Story of the Abegweit Amateur Athletic Association, 1899-1954*. Charlottetown, P.E.I.: Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation, 1986. \$13.95 (paper).

Abegweit Dynasty is a nicely written chronicle about the early growth, rejuvenation, and ultimate *but graceful* decline of a lesser known Amateur Athletic Association from Canada's smallest maritime province. This descriptive sport history is firmly rooted in the local history of a small place. It has no footnotes, but Association records, newspapers, and interviews are listed in a note on sources. Well chosen and well placed photographs conjure images that speak volumes about Association athletes and teams. With the exception of a shot of the Abegweit *Sisters* 1926 Hockey team, for example, the photographs visually reinforce the notion that the Abegweits' story, like much about late nineteenth century amateur sport, is particularly male.

This book affords a tremendous glimpse into the inner mechanics of late nineteenth and early twentieth century amateur multi-sport associations. Chapters on rugby, hockey, track and field, baseball, and basketball form the bulk of the narrative in Part One. They cover the early history of the Association from the last few decades of the century, when virtually nothing was in place to administer sport on an ongoing basis. The Association successfully filled this local and regional void. By the First World War *Abbie* athletes were renowned for their strong individual and team competition. Part Two of the book focuses on the Post-war era. It identifies the booms, slumps, and tensions felt by the Association in an era in which the administration of amateur sport became much more sport-specific; in which professional sport gained new legitimacy in Canadian sporting culture; and in which public schools, churches, and other social organizations increasingly ran their own sports programs using their own facilities. The Association repeatedly recharted its course to survive: yet the battle was ultimately in vain.

This book's great strength is in its local focus and its attention to detailing the evolution of amateurism as a sport organizing and regulatory system. In many respects Ballem's work complements Morrow's 1982 treatment of the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association quite nicely; they afford macro and micro level institutional analyses of the same phenomenon. At the same time, one nev-

ertheless must turn elsewhere for a critical analysis of the ideology behind multi-sport institutions, or the people behind the powerful amateur ideology.

Kansas State University

Nancy B. Bouchier