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RIESS, STEVEN A. *Sport in Industrial America 1850-1920*. The American History Series. Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1995. Pp. 178. Bibliographical essay, index. Price: \$11.95.

*Sport in Industrial America 1850-1920* is a compact, readable, and poignant synopsis of sport in American history during a period when the United States underwent enormous growth and transformation. Its economic support changed from agrarian and commercial to industrial, its population base shifted from rural to urban; its social structure expanded primarily at its midsection as newly found and newly created wealth spawned an upper middle class that pressed upward to join the ranks of America's highest class. As American society changed, so too did sport. It passed from a spontaneous, unstructured local activity to an organized, bureaucratic entity with widespread interest. Although technological developments and social changes were largely responsible for the modernization of sport, the transformation could not have been instituted without a middle class in search of mechanisms to inculcate values and reinforce its ideology. Sport served as one such mechanism. Not only did sport respond to industrial America's sweeping physical, social, and economic changes, but at times it stimulated advancements in technology and triggered changes to America's urban fiber. And that is what this book is all about.

Well-schooled in urban history, Steven A. Riess, author of *Touching Base, Professional Baseball and American Culture in the Progressive Era* (1980) and *City*

*Games, the Evolution of American Urban Society and the Rise of Sport* (1989), extracts and synthesizes prominent trends, issues, and developments in urban sport over the 70-year period covered by this petite text. For it was in the city, Riess argues, where sport, by and large, developed into its modern form.

The work consists of five well-developed chapters dealing with the relation of sport to urbanization and technology; social class; ethnicity and race; educational components; and professionalism and commercialism. Riess is at his best in describing the evolution of modern sport within the urban milieu. His explanation of the impact of the industrial radial city, an outgrowth of the antebellum commercial walking city, on the rise of sport is well crafted. Integrating the use of urban space, the role of civic pride, and the contribution of technology (railroad, penny newspaper, sports equipment) in the first chapter, he convinces the reader of modern sport's urban genesis.

His chapters on social class and the rise of professional sport are well-constructed, too. Like the first, they are based on his own research as well as that of several noted sport historians, namely Mel Adelman, Elliott Gorn, and Ben Rader. In the chapter on class, Riess takes the reader on a journey through each social stratum, covering sporting preferences from top to bottom. He incorporates effectively the role of women at each level of society.

His concluding chapter on baseball and professionalism analyzes the conversion of baseball, prizefighting, and horse racing to professional sports. The course of baseball from neighborhood game to professional sport is the clearest transition. Although Riess presents sufficient evidence to mark the onset of and conversion to professionalism of the other two, his explanations of these transitions are less convincing and less developed than that of baseball.

Riess's chapters on ethnicity and race and the educational process are informative and helpful for understanding sport's transformation in industrial America. In the former, he exposes the reader to several waves of immigration to America and how each group viewed and contributed to the growth of sport, whether they be British, Irish, German, Czech, Poles, Italians, or Jews. His segments on Native Americans and African Americans are brief, but useful. The latter chapter focuses chiefly on collegiate athletics with limited information on secondary school sports and adult-directed youth programs (YMCA and Playground Movement). High school athletics and youth sports programs, when combined with the Progressive movement, social reform, social gospel, and the emergence of physical education, might well have stood alone in a separate chapter. As a capstone, Riess leaves the reader with an excellent comprehensive bibliographical essay. Sport historians will find it informative; graduate students will find it invaluable.

As one of 35 works that currently make up "The American History Series," *Sport in Industrial America 1850-1900* represents a significant breakthrough for sport history as it takes its place along side standard political, social, diplomatic, and intellectual histories. But with 27 more new titles to follow, this work apparently will remain the only one in the series with a sporting motif. With the maturation of sport history over the past 25 years, perhaps it's time for sport

historians to consider their own series in American history. Riess's text combined with Randy Roberts and James Olson's *Winning Is the Only Thing: Sports in America since 1945* (1989) provide a good start. What still is needed are synthetic pieces on the period between the two world wars and American society before 1850, but that goes beyond the realm of this review.

The merits of Riess's work far outweigh its defect, but several items, however, need clarification. Riess tends to lump the nouveau riche with the upper class almost immediately upon their emergence. From a monetary standpoint, they were among the elite, but socially they were not. Some first-generation nouveaux were fortunate enough to be accepted by the upper class, but for the most part, it was the second and third generation that made it into society's highest stratum. On another front, Riess labeled Catharine Beecher a feminist. As an advocate of education and exercise for women, Beecher was far ahead of her time, but she did this as a proponent of domesticity, not as a feminist. Then the author glosses over Cap Anson's role in baseball's drawing of the color line in 1887. Though Anson has received more credit than perhaps is warranted for the exclusion of blacks, his opposition was notorious and influential. Surely, more than a phrase linking Anson to "racist spectators and ballplayers" is in order.

Overall, though, Riess, former editor of the *Journal of Sport History*, has written a useful summary of the transformation of sport as it reflected the transformation of American society during the industrial age. This concise text should be required reading for courses on the History of American Sport, and, at the very least, supplemental reading for general courses in American history.

—J. THOMAS JABLE  
*William Paterson College*