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DAUB, MERV. *Gael Force: A Century of Football at Queen's University*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's Press, 1996. Pp. xiii, 282. Notes, tables, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$22.95 pb., \$49.95 cb.

Queen's University's football program has been in existence since 1881. However, from Daub's perspective there is much more to this story than the won-loss record. For the author the question is, What makes Queen's University and, in particular, its football program, so special?

Daub attempts to help give readers not familiar with Gael's football, or Canadian university football in general, a reference point from which to start. He believes that football's role in Queen's reputation and myth has its closest parallel with the role of football at the University of Notre Dame. The author sees a similarity "in the peculiar social psychology which sport addresses in the two institutions" (p. 4). Both schools are located in small communities, have strong religious traditions, struggled early to establish academic recognition and respectability, and have similar student body demographics. In addition to establishing this comparative counterpoint with American football, Daub also provides a concise yet comprehensive overview of the evolution of rugby football, including the game's institutionalization and its development as a significant focal point for university students.

The connection of football to the larger society is significant for Daub, as this represents the context within which he attempts to address his thesis. In the

process of illuminating Queen's football history, other parallel histories emerge. Each chapter leads with a brief history of the particular time period, and Daub discusses a range of issues from circumstances in the 1920s and 1930s to the effects of feminism and the Free Trade agreement, in an attempt to situate the activities of the football program in the context of those periods. In essence, Daub suggests that there is much to be considered other than the outcomes of games and seasons. However, the transition from general to specific history is not always smooth, nor are the connections always evident.

The book is structured in chronological order, with the introduction laying out the author's thesis (pp. 5-6), a brief overview of the nature of the game, consideration of the significance of parallel histories, a synopsis of the program's record, and finally a review of his methodology and organization. From there, the chapters break down according to significant time periods, such as "The Early Days: 1882-1914" to "Over the Century Mark 1980-1994," closing with a conclusion and epilogue. Each chapter details the struggles and successes of the team during the various periods and highlights key events, players, and other personnel.

Sources are drawn from the *Queen's Journal*, the *Kingston Whig-Standard*, interviews with various persons associated with the program in a variety of capacities (i.e., players, former players, and coaches), as well as student theses. While the author uses endnotes fairly extensively, there are some instances of material not being cited or not cited fully (e.g., direct quotes from newspapers that lack citations). Daub also employs approximately a hundred footnotes throughout the course of the book. While some of these seem necessary to illuminate certain points, most would have been better suited to the endnotes. Numerous tables are included regarding team records during the various time periods, revenues and expenditures, and employment comparisons of football alumni versus alumni in general. These all add to the texture of this history, as do the numerous illustrations.

Daub appears to be qualified to write this history, as he has had a long involvement with both Queen's football and the university. Overall, he has presented a fairly detailed slice of Canadian sporting and academic history. Queen's has a rich tradition in terms of its sport and academic reputation. However, Daub, at times, comes up short in convincing the reader of the uniqueness of this university and its football program. His discussion of the early years is solid, and he has done well to situate football's role within the university as a whole. Yet, similar discussion of the later years (e.g., post-1960s), does not do justice to the subject matter. Worthy of further consideration is how the football program enjoyed such relative levels of success considering that the university has some of the highest academic entrance requirements of any university in Canada. While the author touches on this area, deeper examination would surely further his argument. Examination of the nonfootball student's perspective on the program would also be illuminating.

The shortcomings are not necessarily the result of lack of effort, as the sources will attest. Rather, they seem to evolve out of assumptions made by the author.

Too often, the author assumes that the reader is intimate with Queen's football. In other words, much of this book, especially the latter chapters, appears to be targeted at an already converted audience.

Despite its limitations, this work does contribute to our understanding of Canadian sport history. Queen's is an outstanding academic institute that has enjoyed athletic excellence almost since its inception. Many of the football graduates have gone on to contribute substantially to Canada as teachers, doctors, lawyers, politicians, and diplomats. Daub's work gives us a glimpse of the mystique that surrounds Queen's. However, more notably, it raises important issues worthy of further research, such as the decline of university football and the impact of changing student body demographics on university sports.

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