
BAILEY, STEVE. *Science in the Service of Physical Education and Sport: The Story of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education, 1956-1996*. New York: Wiley and Sons, 1997. Pp. 342. Forwards, list of acronyms, photographs, appendices. \$96.00 cb.

Happily, publications that examine the history of the “exercise sciences,” and of the organizations that have helped make many developments possible, are now available. Jack Berryman’s *Out of Many-One: The History of the American*

College of Sports Medicine (1995); *The Creative Side of Experimentation* (1992), edited by Conrad Snyder and Bruce Abernethy; and *The History of Exercise Science and Sport* (1996), edited by Richard Swanson and John Massengale, are three examples. For the scholar interested in international events—and much of this story transcends national boundaries—there is *Sportmedizin: Gestern-Heute-Morgen*, a 1993 monograph that examines eighty years of sports medicine in Germany. In a different, but equally important way, John Hoberman's *Mortal Engines: The Science of Performance and the Depersonalization of Sport* (1992) provides an intriguing multinationally informed investigation of wider issues that have shaped both the “science” of sport and our perceptions of human potentiality.

Science in the Service of Physical Education and Sport, a work that the organization commissioned to celebrate its fortieth anniversary, is a welcome addition to the growing literature. Steve Bailey has succeeded admirably with the difficult task of writing an institutional history and, at the same time, placing events in broader contexts. Moreover, he treats complex and sensitive matters in an eminently even-handed manner. This is no easy task, as anyone who has been involved with an international organization knows. A great deal of diplomacy, skill, and downright luck is needed to balance the conflicting interests and demands of different nations, groups, and individuals.

Over the last four decades, the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE), an organization far better known in Europe than in America, has become a “worldwide promoter of research and communication in the broad areas of sport science and physical education” (p. 2), seeking to encourage cooperation among governmental organizations and national/international bodies concerned with these activities. (The magnitude of such a task is reflected, in part, by the list at the beginning of the text of more than seventy organizations with which ICSSPE has interacted.) Closely associated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) during its formative years, ICSSPE recently has forged important links to the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the bases for what we now call the “sport sciences” were laid down in several countries. These decades witnessed advances in relevant sciences (e.g., physiology, psychology) and the founding of various organizations concerned with advancing the cause of health, exercise, and physical education. International congresses (often held in conjunction with international expositions) discussed these matters. IOC congresses, although far more dedicated to advancing Baron Coubertin's ideals of “Olympism” than to anything scientific (a concept the baron abhorred in spite of his occasional use of that term), occasionally were venues for debates about a “scientific” approach to exercise and sport. The International Congress of Hygiene and Demography discussed “Physiology of Exercise” in 1912—as did the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1908. The first organization specifically dedicated to “sports medicine” was established in 1912: the German Imperial Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Physical Training. Following World War I, research efforts in various sciences relative to

sport and physical training intensified in several countries. Membership of the Federation Internationale de Medicine Sportive (FIMS) (founded in 1928 at the time of the St. Moritz Olympics), however, remained largely confined to physicians and to residents of continental Europe.

An informative account of such early events is presented in chapter 2, "The Evolution of International Organizations in Physical Education and Sport Science." Chapter 3, "Steps Toward the Establishment of ICSSPE," which covers the term of office of honorary president Fritz Duras (1956-1960), continues the story with particular emphasis on the Melbourne Olympics, the World Congress on Physical Education (which immediately preceded the 1956 Games), and the four years leading to the formation of the International Council of Sport and Physical Education at Rome in 1960. ("Science" was added to the organization's name in 1982). The next chapters detail significant events during the terms of each of the four elected presidents.

During his term of office (1960-1976), Philip Noel-Baker's diplomatic skills were repeatedly called upon to address a "depressing degree" of divisiveness between the Eastern Bloc and the West with regard to "sporting, cultural, and scientific aspects of life" (p. 76). There was also a need to try to resolve profound differences between those who saw themselves largely as "practitioners," with strong affiliations to physical education, and those who conceived of themselves as "researchers or academics" (p. 83), whose goal was advancing the "sport sciences." (The same issues, it should be remembered, were creating dislocating factions within American physical education—a field that once had seen its mission in comprehensive terms.) During the 1960s, ICSSPE endeavored to reach out to developing countries. A tripartite agreement in 1967 brought about a level of rapprochement between ICSSPE; FIMS; and the International Council on Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (ICHPER), each of which had its own agenda. At Moscow in 1974, ICSSPE declared its desire to "become a World Scientific Council" (p. 126).

During Sir Roger Bannister's presidency (1976-1982); scientific considerations received greater attention; relations with the IOC (which harbored certain apprehensions regarding the intentions of UNESCO and ICSSPE) were improved, and some of the earlier tensions among the many international groups involved with sport and physical education were modulated, all of which brought greater "stability and confidence" (p. 205). August Krisch (1983-1990) was well positioned to lead an international organization, as he served as president of the German Track and Field Federation, vice president of the German National Olympic Committee, and a member of a number of other influential organizations. Longstanding differences between the International Committee on the History of Physical Education and Sport (ICOSH) and the International Association for the History of Physical Education and Sport (HISPA)—purportedly over "ideological" approaches to the writing of history, although personality conflicts cannot be entirely discounted—were finally resolved in 1989 when the International Society for the History of Sport and Physical Education (ISHPES) was formed. This action enabled history to at last attain Category B (international organization) representation in ICSSPE.

In 1983, ICSSPE had been accorded “recognized organization” status by the IOC. (At the time, only FIMS enjoyed this designation.) ICSSPE’s desire to become the coordinator of the International Sport Science Congresses held during Olympic years (beginning with Tokyo in 1964) were thwarted by the “ambition of the IOC Medical Commission” (p. 256), which initiated its own World Congress on Sport Sciences (limited to medicine and the physiological sciences). During Paavo Komi’s presidency (1991-1996), the status of “sport science” within ICSSPE was further advanced and relationships with the IOC were considerably strengthened. To counter criticisms that the standards of the International Congress of Sport Sciences—which included researchers and practitioners in the psychological, social, and biological sciences—were inferior, extensive efforts were made to ensure that papers selected for the program of the 1992 Malaga Pre-Olympic Scientific Congress would be of a high technical standard (p. 284). Nonetheless, the IOC Medical Commission insisted upon holding its Second World Congress on Sport Science in Barcelona. Although dual congresses continued with the 1996 Atlanta Games (a fall 1995 World Congress of Sport Science at Atlanta and a July 1996 Pre-Olympic Scientific Congress at Dallas), relations between the two groups improved considerably. On the threshold of the twenty-first century, ICSSPE may take pride in helping to ensure that the subdisciplines that compose the sport sciences “could successfully withstand the scrutiny of the highly competitive academic world” (p. 311), fostering broad-based programs such as “Sport for All” and numerous other achievements.

While a comprehensive history of sport science “has still to be written” (p. 1), we now know a great deal more about the wider arenas in which these human endeavors have been carried out. Certainly, much more work will need to be done by scholars diligently investigating the many details of this fascinating and complex subject. *Science in the Service of Physical Education and Sport* has moved us considerably closer to achieving this goal.

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