

CISCO, DAN. *Hawaii Sports: History, Facts, and Statistics*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. 1999. Pp. xii + 651. Appendices, bibliography. \$24.95 pb.

Dan Cisco has attempted the monumental, if impossible, task of creating a historical and statistical survey of every sport and quasi-sport (24 major sports and 35 others) ever played regularly, or even sporadically, in Hawaii. The major sports' entries consist of a three-part structure divided into high school, college, and professional records. Each section begins with a survey of the history of the sport on that level, which is then followed by statistics for winning teams and stellar performers and performances. Cisco also provides informative short profiles of famous athletes from Hawaii like Wally Yonamine, who was inducted into the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame; Jackie Pung, "Hawaii's First Lady of Golf;" and Bobo Olson, world middleweight boxing champion from 1953 to 1955.

In the miscellaneous sections, Cisco includes some sports like arm wrestling and underwater hockey, which I would characterize as gilding the lily. But, on the other hand, his discussion of bullfighting, a sport not usually associated with Hawaii, does furnish some interesting insights into the 1956 exhibition of bullfighting at Honolulu Stadium, which caused protest from the Hawaiian Humane Society, and the career of Jacob Keliikipi, who chose the nickname of "El Hawaiian" when he worked as a matador in Mexico in 1961.

Cisco's book constitutes the first comprehensive survey of the history of sport in Hawaii. Anyone who has done research in this area knows how hard it is to find detailed and accurate records. Cisco has taken a giant step toward creating a sport history of Hawaii by zealously combining data from all possible archival sources in Hawaii and the mainland. He has demonstrated that Hawaii has had a rich and important sports history, which includes many athletic heroes, not only the justly celebrated swimmer and surfer Duke Kahanamoku.

While I am not qualified to comment on the accuracy of the statistics and the historical surveys for most of the sports, I have done enough research in the history of baseball in Hawaii to evaluate Cisco's accuracy. In most instances, he is accurate enough, but in other places his details and assessments are suspect. For example, Cisco traces the career of Wally Yonamine, who is the only athlete to have played American professional football and to have been inducted into the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame. He appeared as a running back for the San Francisco 49ers in 1947. For the next three years he played minor league baseball, and, in 1951, on the advice of Lefty O'Doul, Yonamine became the first foreigner to play professional baseball in postwar Japan. Mistakenly, Cisco has him playing for the 49ers until 1951 when Yonamine became the "first foreigner to play Japanese professional baseball" (32). But, as Robert Whiting notes in *The Chrysanthemum and the Bat: Baseball Samurai Style* (142), Yonamine was preceded in Japan by pitcher Victor Starfin (1936-1953); catcher Bucky Harris (late 1930s); and Go Sho Shei of Taiwan, who in 1942 became the first foreigner to win a batting title. It is more accurate to say that Yonamine was the first foreigner to play in postwar Japan.

Similarly, Cisco maintains that in 1994 Yonamine "became the first American to be inducted into the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame" (32). Again, it is more accurate to say

that he was the first foreigner to be inducted after World War II. Yonamine was preceded by another Nisei from Hawaii, Henry Tadashi “Bozo” Wakabayashi, who in his sixteen-year pitching career won 243 games and was inducted in 1964.

More substantial and distressing errors occur in Cisco’s account of major league junkets to Hawaii in the 1930s. He states that a team composed of major league all-stars visited Hawaii in 1931 (“The all-stars featured the immortal Yankee duo of Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig” (30)). Cisco maintains that after playing a game in Honolulu, the team went to Hilo on the island of Hawaii for another exhibition game. But, in fact, the 1931 all-stars played only one game in Honolulu and twelve in Japan, and Ruth was not with the team at all. Babe Ruth did not come to Hawaii until 1933, when he arrived with his wife Claire and daughter Julia for a two-week solo barnstorming tour of Honolulu and Hilo. Thus, Gehrig was not with Ruth on this trip, as Cisco has it; but the “Iron Horse” did accompany Ruth and another all-star contingent to the Islands and Japan in 1934.

It is difficult to determine what sources Cisco used to obtain information on these junkets. The book concludes with a comprehensive bibliography, but it is impossible to place specific entries with their related chapters. In a future edition, it would be better to list or discuss the pertinent bibliographic sources at the end of each chapter, so that the readers could pursue further information on sports of particular interest.

—FRANK ARDOLINO  
*University of Hawaii*

---

BOOTH, DOUGLAS, AND COLIN TATZ. *One-Eyed A View of Australian Sport*. St. Leonards, NSW, Australia: Allen & Unwin, 2000. Pp xvi, 262. Illustrated. Notes, index. A\$24.95 pb.

“One-eyed’ in an Australian sporting context implies bias in support of one particular team and, in this book, prejudice for a particular point of view or interpretation. This Booth and Tatz supply in abundance. They eschew any claim to producing a “neutral, objective history” (xv). What they have delivered is a contribution to what they label the genre of *sporting criticism*, a form that “examines, assesses, questions, debates, praises quality, denigrates the shoddy” (xiii).

The book is a social and political history of sport in Australia from the European invasion to Sydney 2000. The approach is chronological, though with repeated themes, especially race, class, gender, and other aspects of exclusion. Some perceptive points are made about Australia’s history. Are many outside the nation aware how the continual immigration from changing sources has brought constant social flux? They emphasize that sport should not be seen in isolation and that, although national success at sport contributed to the development of nationalism in the late nineteenth century, there were other factors at work, including economic development, political confrontations with the outside world, and the establishment of nationwide labor and employer institutions.

Let me start my sporting criticism with the pedantic bits. As a protest against the rampant commercialism and associated corruption of the modern Olympics, the authors, unlike spellchecks worldwide, refuse to endorse the word Olympics by the use of an initial capital letter. This is schoolyard stuff. Why then do they not put [*sic*] after the normal