

common genetically. Their body types and ancestries are very different. What they do have in common is that each has a body that generally fits his chosen sport (O'Neal may be an exception), each was marked early for participation in that sport and given few other options, and each has an incredible drive to achieve. Although virtually everyone has rejected *The Bell Curve's* assertion that intelligence has a clear racial basis, Entine fails to appreciate that success in athletic competition depends as much upon mental as upon physical factors.

In an earlier era, I recall sport publications explaining why blacks were physiologically incapable of running long distances; that was before Kenyans joined Koreans, Japanese, and North Africans at the elite level in distance running. I have also heard (Entine asserts it on page 272) that "white men can't jump." I have a 1961 picture of Russian track star Valerie Brumel kicking a basketball hoop. I am a 5' 11" white guy; at 50 I can't jump or run fast anymore, but at 18 I could stuff a basketball and run 100 yards in 9.9 seconds. My point is not that white guys can jump as well as black guys or run as fast, on the average. It is just that there is so much variation within the populations we call "races" that it is impossible to say that a person's performance is based on his or her race, or that "races" are predisposed to achievement in any particular physical activity.

I will not contend that there is no genetic element in athletic performance; surely there is. Different individuals' bodies are differently suited to different physical activities. Does genetic fitness for a particular sport follow what some people call "racial" lines? It might, in some small degree, although there are so many counter-examples to any rule that one can hardly place much faith in such an interpretation. Does Jon Entine know what that genetic element might be or how it might work? Neither he nor anyone else has a clue.

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BROOKS, DANA, AND RONALD ALTHOUSE, EDS. *Racism In College Athletics: The African American Athlete's Experience*, 2d ed. Morgantown, WV: Fitness Information Technology, 2000. Pp. xx + 323. Illustrated. Notes, index. \$41.00 cb.

Racism in College Athletics is a revised and expanded version of an important textbook that first appeared in 1993. The anthology contains fifteen essays that explore various aspects of the African American athlete's experiences with racism in intercollegiate sport. The overriding theme is that racism still persists. Generally, equal opportunity to participate in college sports has been achieved in the second half of the twentieth century, but equal access to head coaching and administrative positions has been denied. The editors have divided the essays into four thematic categories: a historical review of racism; recruitment, retention, and life after college; gender and college athletics; and analysis of racism and prospects for the future. Each essay begins with an abstract of the topic at hand and concludes with a list of study questions and references.

As a historian, I was drawn to the articles that featured the efforts of black male and female athletes who broke down racial barriers in college and professional sports. The essays on females who had to overcome both racism and sexism were especially enlightening and a significant contribution to the field of sport studies. But the major thrust of the

collection is more sociological than historical. It covers such diverse topics as gender and sport, the application of stereotypes to African American athletes by the media and society, the effect of civil rights laws in overcoming oppression in sport, and stacking (relegating blacks to certain playing positions because they are presumed to have greater running and jumping gifts than thinking ability).

Many issues raised in this work lend themselves to lively classroom discussion. Why do blacks dominate certain sports? Do they possess inherent physical talent, or is that an argument advanced by racists who maximize the physical and minimize the intellectual gifts of African American players? Should student-athletes in big-time college sports programs be paid? Why are the graduation rates of African American athletes so low? Are Propositions 42 and 48, established by the NCAA as minimal academic standards for first-year students to play intercollegiate sports, examples of racism? Why are there so few African American head coaches and athletic directors? Is there a glass ceiling, or perhaps more appropriately, a figurative domed stadium roof, that rarely retracts for people of color seeking coaching and administrative posts? This volume raises these and many other important and controversial issues relating to racism in college sports. It also recommends plans of action to temper or even abolish those factors contributing to racism toward the Black college athlete.

On the whole, *Racism in College Athletics* is informative, even-handed, well documented, and thought-provoking. But, like any textbook, it is chock-full of detail and not readable quickly. Moreover, there are few illustrations, and the narrative is interrupted by parenthetical citations that occasionally run to four or more lines. As with most collections containing the work of several authors, the writing is uneven. Most essays are concise and clearly written, but a few are downright dreary. And there is repetition. How many times do we need to be told that Jackie Robinson broke the racial barrier in major league baseball, that rowing was the first intercollegiate contest, or that Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder and Al Campanis made racist statements to the media? The issue of stacking also seems overworked. These caveats aside, this book is a worthy contribution that will appeal mainly to physical educators and upper-level undergraduate and graduate students in sport studies courses. The works cited sections alone make it a valuable reference tool for specialists in sport studies.

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ROSS, CHARLES K. *Outside the Lines: African Americans and the Integration of the National Football League*. New York: New York University Press, 1999. Pp. 201. Illustrated. Notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cb.

Black athletes today are an essential part of the National Football League. At the start of the 1999 season, for example, slightly over two-thirds of all NFL players were African Americans. This extensive black presence on the gridiron is a relatively recent phenomenon, however. During the first three decades of the twentieth century, racial discrimination prevented all but a few African Americans from participating in professional football.