

Hashim Khan, son of Abdullah, was sent over to England in 1948 by the new Pakistani government, where he became his country's first world champion. On his return, he was welcomed by the Governor-General at Karachi airport and a public holiday was declared in Peshawar, where he was driven through the city in an open-topped car. Most of the crowds who lined the route had certainly never played squash nor even known anything about it but they could share in the excitement of the moment.

The role of the government and the Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan International Airlines proved crucial in both the administration and investment in sport in Pakistan. Indeed, Air Marshall Nur Khan was president of the Cricket, Hockey and Squash Federations at different times. Rutnagar's book is a celebration of Pakistani sporting triumphs and squash being the game it is the focus is on the great players; although not all the stories have happy endings. But he does not neglect the context and the book is fluently written with good pictures. It was a pity that there were neither notes nor index and that my copy had pages 157-72 missing.

I wouldn't have minded some missing pages in *Going for Gold*. Unfortunately, it was just one hockey match after another. Again, there is a fascinating story to be told—but we never get past the goals and short corners. Pakistan has won three Olympic gold medals, four world championships, and three other championship trophies. The rivalry with India is one of the most turbulent in sport. What a background to all this there must be! But the hockey correspondent of the London Times magisterially ignores it all. He does complain of the apathy, hostility and neglect suffered by the women's game in Pakistan. When will we see *them* at the Olympics?

—TONY MASON

*De Montfort University*

---

PHILLIPS, MURRAY. *From Sidelines to Centre Field: A History of Sports Coaching in Australia*. Sydney: University of New South Wales Press, 2000. Pp. xv + 194. Photographs, notes, bibliography. \$29.95 cb.

I finished reading *From Sidelines To Centre Field* just as the first week of the 2000 Olympics came to a conclusion (Friday, 22 September 2000). Not surprisingly, on that date, the United States led the medal tally with a total of 32 medals (13 gold, 9 silver and 10 bronze). In second place, with a total of 26 medals (8 gold, 10 silver and 8 bronze), was Australia. When one considers the population discrepancy—the population of the United States is more than ten times larger than that of Australia—and the US collegiate structure's spawning of a legion of budding Olympians, one realizes that Australia's athletic successes are extraordinary. Why? Happily, this book provides a comprehensive sociocultural examination of just why Aussies are so good at a wide variety of sports. Phillips should be commended for his lively prose and keen insights. While champions and national icons are discussed, the book's greatest strength is that stellar athletes and coaches are located within a narrative framework that is nicely thematic in focus. *From Sidelines to Centre Field* explores the changing roles and techniques of coaching in Australia, from its emergence and growing importance to its professionalization. Phillips lectures in the history and sociology of sport at the University of South Australia and ably uses the twin disciplines (history and sociology) to throw light on complex issues such as ethics, sportsmanship, and professionalism and amateurism over the past 150 years. This book is an excellent exposition of the beginnings of coaching education in Australia and the development of the Australian Coaching Council.

In 1963, I was a freshman student at Loughborough College, England. The two influential track and field texts that we studied were diametrically different. Geoff Dyson's *The Mechanics of Athletes* was full of sound reasoning and a marvelous objective study of human motion and physics. On the other hand, Percy Cerutti's *How to Become a Champion* was full of subjective philosophizing from a man whose eccentricities knew no bounds. One of the many joys of reading *From Sidelines to Centre Field* is that the reader is allowed to revisit the Cerutti legend and persona. The cover reproduces one of Australia's most famous and celebrated photographs, in which Coach Cerutti drives his body up the sandy beach at Portsea closely followed by his protegee Herb Elliot. Elliot's victory margin in the Rome Olympics 1,500 meters was unprecedented—he was twenty meters in front of the rest of the field at the finish. Cerutti's colorful personality and his magical relationship with Elliot makes for glorious sports history and Phillips's ability to juxtapose athlete/coach relationships (such as Cerutti/Elliot, Harry Gallagher/Dawn Fraser, Harry Hopman/Lew Hoad, Ashley Cooper/Neale Fraser) reveals that Phillips is both a good historian and a fine story teller.

Historians frequently became acrimonious about the size and scale of the primary source interview. One school of thought holds dearly to the view that such material should be kept to a minimum and reserved for a key word or phrase. Others—and happily Phillips belongs in this category—embrace the ethos of giving free rein to the spoken word. Two wonderful examples by Phillips are long quotes from swim coach Don Talbat (134), and three-time Olympic swim gold medalist Dawn Fraser. Fraser is quoted as saying: "I swore like a wharfie, drank beer like water, threw bottles, broke windows, stole bikes and went over fences like a scalded cat. I hated school, when I went. No one could tell me anything or make me do things I didn't want to do. I knew it all. I was the greatest" (67).

*From Sidelines to Centre Field* is a wonderful addition to the history of Australian sport and the surprise is that neither Great Britain nor the United States has produced a similar publication. That being said the book is not without some minor problems. First, the index seems inconsistent. For example, Herb Elliot and Dawn Fraser, while suitably discussed in the text, are not under E and F in the index. Second, the first event of the 2000 Olympics was the women's triathlon and in the final running stage of that event a massive world television audience saw three Australian athletes, including pre-race favorite Michellie Jones, pressing for the lead. It would have been useful to get some sense of why Australian women have won so many world championships in that event during the 1990s. Third, while the Australian Institute of Sports is mentioned, its importance and arguably singular role in Australian sport seems underexploited in the Phillips narrative. And finally, in a similar vein, despite some discussion of drugs (141–45) there is a sense of a missed opportunity to fully develop this theme; by comparison, see Gary Smith's essay "Gotta Catch'em All" in *Sports Illustrated* (September 18, 2000), which gives an extensive overview of Graham Trout and his colleagues at Australia's Sports Drug Testing lab.

These are, however, minor criticisms. Murray Phillips has written a fascinating history of Australian sports coaching. I very much hope that Phillips, buoyed up by the success of this volume, will think it worthwhile to develop a subsequent volume which expands and develops the themes so expertly explored by him in this pioneering study.

—SCOTT A.G.M. CRAWFORD  
*Eastern Illinois University*