

DONNELLY, PETER, ED. *Taking Sport Seriously: Social Issues in Canadian Sport* (2d ed.). Toronto: Thompson Educational Publishing, Inc., 2000. Pp. 232. Illustrated. Notes, index, tables, additional sources, biographical sketches. \$21.95 pb.

This book is comprised of a collection of 59 articles gleaned predominantly from newspapers, magazines and journals on current issues in Canadian sport, and is intended as a resource to supplement textbooks used in Canadian Sociology of Sport courses. The first edition (1997) has been updated with 41 new readings which, along with 18 “oldies but goodies” (7), are categorized under twelve headings: The Significance of Sport; Drugs and Sport; Olympics; Health, Fitness, and Injury; Violence and Masculinity; Women; Sexual Orientation; Youth; Heritage; Economics of Sport; Sport and the Media; and The Crisis in Hockey. The editor faced the formidable task of fitting each article under one of the above headings, even though some could also fall under other sections. For example, one could argue that McClelland’s article “The Lure of the Body Image” (73-75) should be placed in the section on “Drugs and Sport” rather than “Violence and Masculinity,” or that Robinson’s article “Games Boys Play” (79-83) should appear in the “The Crisis in Hockey” instead of “Women.” However, as Donnelly points out, “... there is no particular sequence to the topics in the collection—they represent a variety of current issues in Canadian sport, and the sections may be read in any order” (7). The index will guide the reader to articles where overlap does occur.

In selecting the material, the editor has recognized the dominance of the American media and has attempted to provide a collection of Canadian readings that will generate class discussion. Although some of the articles have come from American sources and relate to sport or fitness in the USA, such as “Let Them Eat Fat” (60-66), “The Jock Culture: Time to Debate the Questions” (71-73), and “A Miami Fish Story” (132-34), the majority of the material has been written and published in Canada and therefore will be relevant to Canadian students. In addition to the selected articles, lists of supplementary sources (video and printed resources) are provided at the beginning of each section.

Donnelly recognizes that there are some limitations to his book. Due to his location in Toronto, the readings tend to be Toronto/Ontario-centric, with less attention to materials representing sport in other parts of Canada. Further, the collection overemphasizes corporate-professional sport rather than sport for the common person, and a disproportionate share of articles relates to men’s sport. Both of these shortcomings are likely related to the nature of the sources used, as newspapers and magazines usually focus on elite and male-dominated sports. Donnelly also acknowledges that there is a wealth of insightful writing on sport in Canada which has been published in French and consequently is “... beyond the means of this collection” (9). Yet another limitation of this book is the fact that the material inevitably will become rapidly dated, requiring regular revised editions.

Approximately half of the articles have been written by academics who teach and conduct research at universities and colleges throughout Canada, the USA, and other parts of the world, while the other half have been published by sports writers, sports administrators, journalists, authors of sports-related books, and former athletes and coaches.

This heterogeneous group of writers has provided a variety of points of view on contemporary issues in Canadian sport that should generate vigorous classroom discussion.

The new section on the "Crisis in Hockey" might be of particular interest to students in Canadian Sociology of Sport courses. The poor performance of Canada's men's national hockey team in recent years, the player development system, violence and injury in hockey, and the globalization and Americanization of the game are discussed in the ten articles in this section of the book. Other controversies related to hockey such as women in hockey, sexual abuse and harassment, racial discrimination, and government assistance to professional hockey are also discussed in other sections of this book, and indicate the editor's efforts to provide material relevant to Canadian students.

This book is recommended to instructors of Sociology of Sport courses as a source of supplementary readings to stimulate class discussion on contemporary issues in Canadian sport. Hopefully, Donnelly will continue to update the material in future editions, because the material will become rapidly outdated.

—RONALD S. LAPPAGE
Lakehead University

DOWNWARD, PAUL, AND ALISTAIR DAWSON. *The Economics of Professional Team Sports*. New York: Routledge, 2000. Pp. viii + 247. Notes, bibliography. \$29.99 cb.

This exploratory text seeks to apply advanced economic theory and research methodologies to a series of economic and business issues related to the world of professional sport. Written by two members of the economics faculty at Staffordshire University, this monograph draws most of its examples from professional sports located in the United Kingdom, but also explores a few high profile issues drawn from recent American professional sport. Among the economic factors it addresses are the variable structure of markets, competitive balance, demand for teams and leagues, the impact of television, and variable labor markets from reserve clauses to free agency. This is a solid academic achievement, but because several of the topics explored are of only marginal importance to the historian, particularly the authors' emphasis upon testing advanced research methodologies, this book will be of limited utility to most historians.

The authors argue that the major economic issues revolving around the world of professional sport are proper subjects for the rigorous application of the tools of the professional economist. They contend that theirs is the first such effort. Because this is an exploratory monograph, not surprisingly, most of their conclusions are presented rather tentatively. They typically surround even the most obvious conclusions with a series of caveats suggesting a need for additional research. The basic problem they encounter is that the highly structured world of professional sport leagues precludes rigorous application of economic principles normally applied to free market systems. Because the structure and operation of professional sporting leagues in the UK and USA are designed to inhibit the free working of competitive market forces, the authors suggest that future researchers will need to develop new analytical tools. The authors ultimately conclude that their explor-