

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 Hopefully, Donnelly will continue to update the material in future editions, because the material will become rapidly outdated.

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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-

atory work indicates that the issues are quite complex because professional leagues are not subject to traditional market forces, and therefore they urge members of their profession to develop new hypotheses that “may imply some compromise with the emphasis upon [standard] economic methodology” (238).

Although they base their tentative conclusions upon a wealth of complex equations presented in the specialized argot of the research economist, Downward and Dawson essentially confirm conventional interpretations about professional sport that the casual fan can find in the daily newspaper or that the sport historian can readily locate in such standard texts as those by Rader, Roberts and Olsen, Gorn and Goldstein, and myself. For example, the motivations of owners of professional teams vary and can seldom be explained exclusively in economic terms. While some owners operate their teams with the first principle being to make a profit, others are motivated by a powerful desire to win championships. There are even a few community-spirited individuals, such as Walter Haas, the blue jeans magnate who purchased and operated the Oakland Athletics for over a decade out of a deep sense of obligation to the baseball fans of the East Bay, but suffered huge personal losses. However, in the same city and same multi-purpose coliseum, the senior general partner of the Oakland Raiders, Al Davis, after returning the itinerant football team from Los Angeles, ruthlessly and relentlessly pursued another Super Bowl ring all the while using every conceivable legal and political means to squeeze additional revenues out of the City of Oakland, Alameda County, and Raider fans.

Downward and Dawson must confront the reality that owners come in all shapes and colors and their actions are not readily reducible to free market economic principles. On one hand there are the tight-fisted likes of former Cincinnati Reds owner Marge Schott, but on the other such free spenders as Edward DeBartolo, whose willingness to engage in serious deficit financing to buy a bevy of high quality players enabled the San Francisco 49ers to win five Super Bowls in fifteen years. His reward, of course, was the salary cap imposed by a majority of owners that relegated the once dominant Niners to the basement of the NFL.

As has long been evident, professional sport leagues in both the UK and USA have been ruled by capitalistic owners determined to prevent the operation of free market principles. Mechanisms such as baseball’s reserve clause and football’s salary cap do not easily fit free market theories. Television as a force not only dramatically changed the economic realities of American professional leagues, but it now is beginning to do the same in the UK. Television increased league and team revenues and created a demand for more product that has resulted in both league expansion and the creation of new leagues. Within the past few decades in the United States we have witnessed such new television-inspired entries as the American Football League, World Football League, United States Football League, American Basketball Association, the World Hockey League, and most recently, the World Wrestling Federation’s new venture into football with the eight-team XFL. None of these entities would have been conceived were it not for the driving force of television revenues.

What to make of this curious book? For the sport historian, and even the economic historian doing research on professional sports issues, *The Economics of Professional Sports*

Teams will have little appeal. However, for the quantitative research economist interested in pursuing advanced work in an area that “has generated a preoccupation with Institutional arrangements... that lie outside the economists’ usual emphasis on free markets” (235), this will prove to be a useful and stimulating monograph.

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MANGAN, J.A. *Athleticism in the Victorian and Edwardian Public School*. London: Frank Cass, 2000. Pp. lvi + 346. \$29.50 pb.

When this book appeared in 1981, I read the book and typed six pages of single-spaced notes, concluding with “Marvelous book!” *Athleticism* was the product of prodigious research into archival and published materials; it was balanced in its assessments; and it was written with a novelist’s concern for three-dimensional characterization, dramatic narration, and lapidary statement.

The book has achieved such an important place in the historiography of sports that detailed summary is unnecessary. Suffice it to say that Mangan documented (and carefully explained) the emergence, development, positive and negative consequences, and gradual decline of athleticism at six public schools typical of six somewhat different educational categories. There was ample attention paid to the experiences of the boys as recorded in their letters, schoolboy publications, and subsequent recollections, but Mangan’s focus was on the masters: C.J. Vaughan, Edward Bowen, and J.E.C. Wellton at Harrow; C.E.L. Cotton at Marlborough; Edward Thring at Uppingham; Henry Walford at Lancing; and Hely Hutchinson Almond at Loretto. (At Stonyhurst—a Jesuit school—athleticism was less rampant than at the other schools, and no master seems to have been as dominant a personality as his counterparts elsewhere.)

Mangan’s eye for persuasive bits of evidence was remarkable. From Thring’s diary, for instance, he quoted this memorable entry: “On the tenth of September, 1853, I entered on my Headmastership with the very appropriate initiation of a whole holiday and a cricket match in which I recall I got 15 by some good swinging hits to the great delight of my pupils” (47). The evidence was not simply verbal. Mangan paid careful attention, for example, to the nonverbal symbolism of caps, badges, ties, belts, blazers, and banners. In fact the cover of the paperback reissue features “athletic millinery”—caps and jerseys from six different schools (162).

While demonstrating that athleticism was an antidote to the brutal disorder that characterized the public schools before the era of “muscular Christianity,” Mangan was quite clear about the anti-intellectualism that poisoned the educational atmosphere: “Some studied; others studied and played; many simply played” (125). And many of the “old boys” were no more able than the alumni of American colleges to put their adolescent passions behind them. Edward Lytton, a graduate of Eton, recalled in his memoirs the sight of a Cabinet Minister celebrating a cricket victory by publicly “weeping, laughing and dancing on a Harrovian flag” (140).