

In addition to anti-intellectualism and the frequently sadistic treatment of “aesthetes” and others who showed insufficient interest in sports, there was also militarism. “The contribution that the internecine house struggles and the ‘foreign’ [i.e., interscholastic] matches made to military prowess continued to be expounded through the Great War with simple certainty by soldier, teacher and pupil” (195). This is a theme that Mangan has ably developed in his more recent work. He also expands upon “the rhetoric of militaristic masculinity” (xlvii) in the 30-page introduction to the reissued book (with ample endnote references to his own and other relevant publications).

The introduction serves also as a valuable survey of historical research done by Mangan and others since the first publication of *Athleticism*. Mangan is generous in his praise of work that meets his strict historiographical standards and scathing about work that does not. I cannot pretend to expertise, but I confess to puzzled qualms in one instance. Richard Holt is repeatedly and harshly attacked for—among other faults—“trawling a shallow catch of sources instead of hauling out a deep catch of books and articles” (xl). What makes this comment especially bothersome is that it is quoted from a previous attack on Holt. Unless I have misread Mangan’s text, there is even a paragraph-long denigration of an article by Holt that appeared in a collection edited by none other than Mangan himself.

It is a foolish academic ritual (in which I have in the past participated) to conclude a review by remarking that a handful of negative remarks do not diminish the value of the work reviewed. I see no reason to alter my first impression of *Athleticism*—“Marvelous book”—and I stand by my published praise of Mangan’s subsequent books and articles, but I do regret the acerbic tone of this new introduction. It diminishes a great achievement.

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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. Illustrated. 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 the book does discuss champions and national icons, its greatest strength is that stellar athletes and coaches are located within a narrative framework with a nicely thematic focus. *From Side-*

lines 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 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 protégé 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 sport 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 quotations from swim coach Don Talbot (134) and three-time Olympic gold medallist 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. The major irony is that neither Great Britain nor the United States has produced a similar publication. That said, the book is not without some minor problems. First, the index seems inconsistent. For example, Herb Elliot and Dawn Fraser, already referred to in this review, 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 Michelle 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 Phillips's 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; see, for example, Gary Smith's essay "Gotta Catch'em All" in the September 18, 2000 *Sports Illustrated*, 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.

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SPERBER, MURRAY. *Beer and Circus: How Big-Time College Sports Is Crippling Undergraduate Education*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2000. Pp. xvii + 322. Notes, index. \$26.00 cb.

Murray Sperber is once again back upon his familiar soapbox preaching against the evils of major college athletics. To those who have read his jeremiadic *College Sports, Inc.* (1990) and *Onward...to Victory* (1998), as well as his comparatively laudatory study of Notre Dame football (*Shake Down the Thunder*, 1993), his latest book will ring familiar. In his most recent outburst, however, Sperber presents a new and complex, if somewhat convoluted, hypothesis that deserves serious examination. Using the example of Julius Caesar, who drew the attention of Romans away from the corruption and decay in their society by providing "bread and circus," Sperber contends that administrators at universities have callously diverted substantial chunks of academic budgets away from undergraduate academic programs in order to bolster the pursuit of national sport rankings and championships. In return for this heinous scam, they have bought off would-be student protesters by providing big-time college sport as a diversion, complete with the cultural ambience of the all-night kegger and the pregame tailgate party.

Sperber is hardly a stranger to the ongoing debate about the proper role of athletics on a college campus. In the autumn of 2000 he received national attention when he took an unpaid leave of absence from Indiana University, where he is a professor of English and American Studies, because of the death threats he received in the wake of the firing of basketball coach Bob Knight. He had been an outspoken critic of what he considered to be Knight's autocratic and demeaning coaching methods. Those familiar with Sperber's work will not be surprised to learn that he has been a leader in the recent establishment of the "Drake Group"—formally the National Alliance for College Athletic Reform—which has as its goal the fundamental restructuring of intercollegiate athletics.

There are plenty of villains in Murray Sperber's world. For example, there are inept and timorous campus presidents who either do not understand the nature of intercollegiate athletics and/or who are afraid of running afoul of influential boosters, trustees, alumni, legislators, athletic directors, and coaches. There are also the great majority of faculty, who not only are indifferent to the role of athletics on their campus but are committed to seeking national rankings of another type with the wholehearted support of