

The authors see promise in the events of the last decade, but here again it appears that reality will conspire against soccer. Twenty-five years ago rival leagues were formed to compete with those of the “Big Three and One-Half.” Today that seems impossible. Big league sports particularly in the last decade have entered an economic realm which makes start-up costs prohibitive.

Their public role as well has changed. “Football in the contemporary United States more resembles the cultural icons of entertainment than of sports,” the authors argue (p. 145).

The above applies to world soccer as well as America’s games, suggesting that only a successful national league on the level of the English Premier or Italian Series A could elevate the game in the United States to a level comparable in status to that of the NBA, NFL, or Major League Baseball?

The prospects for this are highly improbable, unless one can ever imagine American sports fans paying up to \$100 for a single regular season game, or television interests handing out multi-billion dollar contracts. Without such commitment, however, the American game will forever be locked out of the superior level of competition.

Nevertheless, soccer’s play by millions of American youth, its success among American women, and the ability of the United States to compete internationally at least on the level of a middle level soccer power, is not to be dismissed.

Sports is going through a transition every bit as significant as that experienced in the early years of the 20th century. As the Big Three and One-Half become the cultural preserve of a narrower elite much in the manner of classical theatre and opera, the general public’s appetite for sports may provide openings for new enthusiasms, such as minor league variations of the majors, women’s sports, and new games. It will be interesting to see if soccer enters this emerging niche, and if so what the implications will be for its future success in the United States.

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Daniels, Stephanie, and Anita Tedder. *‘A Proper Spectacle’: Women Olympians 1900-1936*. Australia: Walla Walla Press in conjunction with ZeNaNa Press and the Centre for Olympic Studies, 2000. Pp. 170. Contents, foreword, appendix, references, bibliography, index, photographs. Aus\$34.95 pb.

This book is an outgrowth of Daniel’s Master’s thesis “Women and the Olympics” written in 1997. Realizing that the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 was the 100th anniversary of women competing in the Olympic Games she decided to expand her project. She asked her colleague at the Bedford College of Physical Education in England, Anita Tedder, to collaborate with her, resulting in *‘A Proper Spectacle.’*

Even though the authors’ subtitle is *Women Olympians 1900-1936*, the front cover has at the bottom “Celebrating 100 Years of Women in the Olympics.” They emphasize that they concentrated on the women who were Olympians in the 1928, 1932, and 1936

Games. However, they never really explain why they did not continue with the women in the later Games. Perhaps it is because, and they do imply this fact, that during the years 1928-1936 it was still not considered acceptable behavior for females to be in sports. The women Daniels and Tedder feature were the "bold spirits who have enabled women athletes of today to excel" (p. 6). Or to express it differently, Betty Robinson's gold medal in track in the 1928 Games "was won when it was still being debated whether or not she should even be there!" (p. 6).

The title of the book is clever as it is a humorous attack on a speech made by Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games. As all those familiar with the history of the Olympic Games know, the baron was vehemently opposed to women being in the Olympics from the very first modern Games in 1896 until his death in 1937. In 1912 he declared:

Tomorrow, there will probably be women runners, or even women football players? If such sports are played by women, would they constitute a proper spectacle (emphasized, I presume, by the authors) to offer the audience that an Olympiad brings together? We do not think this may be claimed to be so (p.5).

As they undertook their research, the authors main premise was what made the early women Olympians defy the usual convention that their main role in life was to marry and have children instead of training and practicing for the Olympics. They decided to seek out these women and ask the relevant questions about their Olympic experience(s). With the cooperation of many Olympic organizations and others they found the names of the oldest living female Olympians and sent them questionnaires. As a result of their search, they profile the lives of thirty-two women (many of whom were personally interviewed) who competed in the aforementioned Games and accompanying each sketch is a picture(s) of the athlete. Even though it is indicated that 32 women were featured, the index lists thirty-three.

The Olympic motto is "*Citius, Alius, Fortius* (Faster, Higher, Stronger)." An additional part of it is "the most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part." True to this adage most of the women portrayed were not medal winners, but who "took part" and regardless of accomplishments were/are Olympians. It is unfortunate that details were not given about the distribution and results of the questionnaire requests, such as, how many were mailed, number of replies, reasons for choosing the respective women featured and so forth.

The book is arranged in sequence from a cursory treatment of the Ancient Olympics to more details about each Olympic Games through the 1936 Games. Interspersed in these descriptions are historical facts about women in sports plus important and interesting quotations from the women competitors who gave accounts of their experiences at the respective Games. The last part of this work are lengthy remembrances by some of these athletes. Each of the respondents felt their lives were enhanced by the Games and most had wonderful memories of their participation. Most of the contestants, after the Olympics, left sports, married and had a family. Only one, Australian high jumper Doris Carter of the 1936 Games, did not marry but continued her link to sports, playing hockey for Australia and being General Manager of the women's team at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

The authors are to be commended for the photographs in this book. There are black and white prints of the women while competing and colored pictures of the women today. There is no doubt that Daniels and Tedder must have spent considerable time collecting the photographs and obtaining permission and other documentation. The acknowledgments for the photographs list Olympic Associations as well as individuals.

As a sport historian, there are some omissions and incorrect facts that must be mentioned. For example, there is an excellent overview of the Eleanor Holm affair, but it ends with her expulsion from the U.S.A. team. More elaborate follow up would have enhanced the episode. The same lack of elaboration concerns the International Olympic Committee and the role of Monique Berlioux, at one time the most powerful woman in sport. Her achievements are succinctly and briefly noted, but there is no follow-up after her resignation. No mention is ever made of the Winter Games and an explanation of this omission is never given.

In describing the 1928 opening ceremony it is stated that “the Standard Bearer from each nation dipped the national flag” (p. 65). As Olympic scholars know the U.S.A. has not dipped the flag since the 1908 London Games when the British allegedly forgot to raise the American flag. It is more editorial, probably, than incorrect but on page 136 Helen Carroll’s home town was listed as Melford, Massachusetts, but correctly it is Medford.

This publication is an easy read with many interesting facts about women in the Olympic Games. The responses from the competitors were very revealing and as the authors state their stories either “moved or interested us” (p. 6). Highly recommended for all those interested in women’s sport history and for those who want to know the stories of female competitors who participated in the early Olympic Games.

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Vincent, David, with Lyle Spatz and David W. Smith. *The Midsummer Chic: The Complete History of Baseball’s All-Star Game*. Lincoln: Bison Books, University of Nebraska Press, 2001. Pp. xiii + 612. Photographs, statistical appendix, and note on sources. \$35.00 pb.

This well-written and information-laden volume’s appearance is appropriate in a year when Commissioner Alan “Bud” Selig has suggested that the outcome of the All-Star game might be used to determine homefield advantage in the World Series. The authors examine all seventy-one All-Star games from 1933 through 2000. Each contest receives a narrative of the event and its setting. The disruption of World War, the arrival of African Americans, the movement and expansion of franchises, television, and labor disputes all influenced the Midsummer Classic. Each game story is followed by a list of all players selected (including replacements); a RetroSheet extended box score; and a Retrosheet play by play account.

The second section includes an alphabetical listing of all All-Star players, managers, coaches, umpires. This is followed by the statistics for all players who have played. Yes,