

with baseball, works just as well for soccer in Europe, but the search for soccer fiction in the United States would be virtually futile.

Imagining Baseball is a remarkable and indeed valuable addition to the study of baseball and culture because it brings together so many fictional and non-fictional forms in ways not previously done. The use of television and film adds to the power of the analysis giving this work a popular culture flavor as well as a literary cultural dimension.

The effort is successful primarily because McGimpsey has an eye for popular cultural analysis which matches his professional training in literature, and it works because he has the kind of mind that can run across the cultural landscape to draw parallels and comparisons others never see. Combine these strengths with McGimpsey's marvelous sense of irony, his writing skills, and his sharp wit and this becomes both a significant work on baseball and a delight to read. And perhaps best of all, *Imagining Baseball* is accessible to those untrained in the occult arts of literary analysis.

McGimpsey demonstrates once again why historians have much to learn from literature and can ignore literature only at their own peril.

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FINN, GERRY P.T., AND RICHARD GIULIANOTTI, EDs. *Football Culture: Local Contests, Global Visions*. Cass Series. Sport in the Global Society. Portland, Ore.: Frank Cass & Company Publishers, 2000. Pp. x + 306. Notes, index, select bibliography, and chapter abstracts. \$59.50 cb.

Nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize or serving as a catalyst for a violent riot, soccer achieves an international impact far beyond newspaper sport sections. Editors Gerry Finn and Richard Giulianotti's interdisciplinary collection of essays underscores soccer's academic value of examination. The contributing scholars illuminate the relationship between soccer and ethnic identity, mass media, nationalization, and global economics.

The first three essays employ soccer to investigate social structure in Australia, the United States, and Scotland. John Hughson's essay on Australian fandom examines the "subterranean values" of two fan groups as expressions of ethnic identity. David Andrews concludes that U.S. soccer excludes the economically disadvantaged and remains a sport for the financially empowered white middle class. Gerry Finn demonstrates how allegiance to rival clubs, Glasgow Bangers and Celtic, fosters ethnic and religious division in Scotland, underestimated by the media and academia.

The next four essays focus on aspects of national identity. Bea Vidacs posits that local Cameroon matches reflect regional differences, but Cameroon World Cup play creates a pan-African pride and consciousness. Two essays on South America explore soccer's influence on nationalism. Pablo Alabarces *et al.* suggest Argentine soccer first represented the country's elite, then its working class, until emerging onto the international scene. Yet for contemporary Argentines, soccer remains factionalized and divided like the nation. Richard Giulianotti sees a decline of national pride in Uruguayan soccer as well. He notes that

despite the nation's impressive soccer accomplishments, Uruguay's best players elect to play abroad rather than in the financially challenged Uruguayan soccer leagues. Nicola Porro *et al.*'s essay on three Germany versus Italy soccer matches examines how the media capitalize on the trappings of national identities to boost ratings. They conclude these contests allow for promulgation of stereotypes, such as supposed national styles of play, and create national prejudices.

Essays concerning fandom constitute the next cluster. Gary Armstrong *et al.*'s examination of British soccer chants notes how corporate owners solicit new fans to come and experience the game's "passion" but simultaneously dissuade their spontaneous chanting through increased security, specific seating, and high-ticket prices. Such measures demonstrate how increasingly liberalized speech is curtailed in the soccer stadium. John Horne explores the fan base of Japanese soccer. He concludes the J-League depends on a usable soccer past, national and international soccer successes, and the intermingling of native-born and international coaches and players to ensure success. Patrick Mignon's study of French soccer notes the departure of many talented French players to better paying European soccer clubs. However, because state funds largely support French stadiums and security, relations between soccer clubs and public funding remain problematic for modern French soccer.

The editors collaborate on the final essay. They reaffirm several of the findings and expand on the issues of globalized soccer. For example, the transnational following of Catholic Glasgow Celtic demonstrates religious and national identity on a global scale. But more importantly, the authors note how globalization transforms poorer clubs into feeder programs for richer clubs. They reason this diminishes the creativity of the game, as soccer becomes more exclusive in terms of structured recruitment of talent.

Separately, the authors present many intriguing arguments. However, a contradiction appears in their collected work. Both essays on Uruguayan and French soccer note how the exodus of top caliber players cost their respective national leagues in terms of cohesiveness and international competitiveness. Nevertheless, France won the 1998 World Cup. Clearly playing abroad was not totally destructive to the French national team.

David Andrews' North American contribution suggests U.S. soccer flourishes in the suburbs because of competing economic lifestyles. That is, by striving to surpass the Joneses rather than merely keep up with them, the U.S. turns soccer into a suburban status symbol, which excludes the economically disadvantaged. While contributing much needed academic research to U.S. soccer and correctly identifying the substantial draw of suburban soccer in terms of numbers and talent, Andrews ignores long-established soccer-playing cities such as Chicago, Detroit, and St. Louis which have maintained city leagues and clubs for nearly a century. Additionally, many inner-city public schools and junior colleges sustain successful programs by relying on young immigrants to augment native city-born talent. Furthermore, outfitting a soccer team is less expensive than many other team sports, which financially conscious inner-city school boards increasingly notice.

Football Culture demonstrates how soccer both transcends and reaffirms boundaries of nations and class, as well as behaviors of players and fans. It is an excellent scholarly examination of the beautiful game.

—GABE LOGAN
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