
MANGAN, J. A. AND LAMARTINE P. DACOSTA, EDs. *Sport in Latin American Society: Past and Present*. London: Frank Cass, 2002. Pp. 210. \$24.95.

In the prologue to *Sport in Latin America: Past and Present*, principal editor J.A. Mangan portrays the collection as having a two-fold purpose. First, it seeks to "consider modern sport in Latin America as a derivative of European sport" (p. 5). Second, and more importantly, it examines how imported *deportes* (or *esporte*) has been adapted to fit local "cultural needs, inclinations and imperatives" (p. 5). These are fairly ambitious goals and the editors quickly (and rightly) acknowledge the limitations (both spatial and in research) of such an endeavor. Still, the effort is worthwhile and in this case quite successful.

The seven essays included scrutinize a wide range of topics: the role of the English middle-class in the development of modern Argentine sport, North America's influence on Latin American sport, the early Olympic movement in Argentina, the relationship between politics and *fútbol* in Argentina, baseball arguments and *Cubanidad*, the crisis in Brazilian football, and a European-based scrutiny of sporting programs in Latin America.

All of the articles are well written, extensively footnoted and support the overarching thematic thrust of the collection. Many examples could be provided, but one will suffice. In the piece on Cubans and *beisbol*, author Thomas Carter examines how *Cubanos* have used this imported *deporte*, first as a political symbol of modernity during the years of revolution against Spain, later as an articulation of national pride against the United States, and always, baseball (both prowess on the field and knowledge of the game's history and records) has served as a mark of "*disciplina* (discipline) (and) *lucha* (struggle)" (p. 118). Both traits, Carter asserts, are central "core aspects of Cuban masculinity" (p. 118). Reading this chapter brought back childhood memories of my father *discutiendo* (arguing) the merits of the Havana *Leones* versus the shortcomings of the Almendares *Alacranes* (of the Cuban League) with his friends and coworkers in the Little Havana section of Miami. Such conversations often became heated arguments in which Carter's contention of the significance of the connection between social identity and one's loyalty to a specific team were clearly depicted, even in the eyes of an innocent youth.

A final, and major, contribution of this collection is the epilogue by editor DaCosta wherein he argues that scholars must always take into account not just the contributions of Europeans to the development of sport in Latin America but also keep in mind the

fact that *deporte* in this region also embodies "libertarian and communal impulses" as well. DaCosta, in particular, takes contributors Joseph L. Arbena and Robert Chappell to task for such faults.

In sum, *Sport in Latin American Society: Past and Present* provides the reader with a valuable overview of some of the current trends and topics of concern to scholars examining the role of sport in this dynamic region. It is a welcome and valued addition to the Sport in the Global Society series.

—JORGE IBER
Texas Tech University