

# President's Report

Since its inception in 1972, the North American Society for Sport History has been concerned with the promotion of, the stimulation of, and the encouragement of the study, the research, and the writing of sport history. All of the efforts of your elected officers have been to support these stated purposes.

As we look to the future and as we combine our efforts for a successful Society, I would hope that as members we will be professionals and that we will be dedicated to the attainable purposes of the Society. Something important has happened in the birth of NASSH. It is that a Society has formed itself to study sport from a historical view and, in so doing, the Society should be producing significant and scholarly papers which will provide important understandings of the human experience.

I do not view NASSH as a significantly scholarly extension of the profession of physical education. It is much more — perhaps even of a different order. Admittedly, NASSH identifies an area of concern and perhaps a sense of identity, but it is much more. It is an opportunity for a community of scholars — a collegium — to study an important and pervasive element of society as an avenue to understanding the human experience. Admittedly, such historical inquiry takes on a singular approach to sport, but its base is broadly conceived, perhaps more so than other recently identified sub-disciplines studying sport.

This community of scholars is not without problems. There are several. However, only three will be mentioned at the moment. The strength of the Society will be maintained in direct proportion to our ability to attract and maintain a working group of scholars. The source of professional preparation is not an important issue. The Society will be blessed with professional historians as well as physical educators with a keen knowledge of sport and some training in history. What matters is whether we can attract scholars who can produce and scholars who can write quality papers. Positions of leadership in NASSH will come naturally to such scholars regardless of background.

A second concern is the sex and race issue. I fervently hope that NASSH as a Society of scholars can escape the sex and race concerns for involvement and leadership. It matters not the sex or race of either the participants or the leadership. What does matter is that NASSH be truly a Society for scholarly endeavor — not a platform for any of our so-called “movements”.

The third concern is that we focus on the study, the research, and the writing of the history of sport. There are other well known national organizations where the history of physical education and allied concerns can be reported. I do not say this in any demeaning sense, but if we want to capture the interest and the potential scholarship of professional historians, of state and national archivists, and of non-university writers and scholars, we should focus our main effort on that for which we were organized.

I should now like to turn your attention to some of the accomplishments of the year. Our second annual international convention will be held at the University of Western Ontario, May 10-12, 1974. The Chairman of the Program Committee, Professor Guy Lewis, reports that some 37 papers have been accepted covering the history of sport under such subject headings as social mobility and stratification of sport, place of sport in university life, classroom method and material, sport and politics, sport and the race issue, ancients at play, professional and amateur sports, sports of the colonials, childhood and sports, and heroes of the twenties. The membership owes a debt to Professors Lewis, Murdock, and Woodhouse for their fine work on the Program Committee.

I am most pleased to announce Vol. 1, No. 1 of the *Journal of Sport History* will be published in May 1974. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Professor Alan Metcalfe, Editor, and to a host of other competent and enthusiastic persons whose dedicated efforts have produced this *Journal*. Besides the members of the Editorial Review Board, I commend the work of Professors Woodhouse and Johnson of Radford College, and the

printer, Mr. John Veith of the Southern Publishing Company. A joint agreement concerning Radford College and NASSH regarding the *Journal of Sport History* was drawn up and signed by Vice President Charles M. Belt of Radford College and by your President. Two important aspects of this Journal will be a Book Review Section with Professor Gerald Redmond as the editor, and a Journal Survey Section with Mr. Thomas Jable as the editor. In addition, Mr. Tiff E. Cook, Art Editor, and Mr. Jack Berryman, Advertising and Publicity Manager, round out your *Journal* staff and have been hard at work. I can report that these members are a most cooperative, able, and professional group of people I've had the pleasure to work with.

I acknowledge the debt of NASSH to Professor John Lucas for the fine *Proceedings*, and to Professor Ronald Smith for his three excellent Newsletters, for the publicity flier concerning our new *Journal*, and as Secretary and Treasurer. Dr. Smith reports membership in excess of 300 which exceeds our original projections.

NASSH was invited to attend a one-day meeting called by the American Historical Association and held at the Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C., March 30, 1974. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the topic affiliation in the annual AHA meetings. Some 38 groups were represented. Your Council will be studying the report of Jack Berryman who represented NASSH at this meeting with possible recommendations for your consideration by the 1975 convention.

Three NASSH members attended and two read papers at the Seminaire International d'Histoire, 11-14 of July, 1973 in Zurich, Switzerland. Your President represented NASSH with voice and vote at the fifth meeting of the Presidium of the Committee on History of Physical Education and Sport of the International Council of Sport and Physical Education.

Professor John Lucas, Chairman of the Time and Site Committee, reports that preliminary arrangements for our 1975 convention have been made with Dr. Richard Kirkendall, Executive Secretary of the Organization of American Historians, for simultaneous meetings with some joint sessions. The time and site of the convention will be Boston, April 16-19, 1975.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marvin H. Eyler, President