

# The Role of Italian Sports Societies in Trenton, New Jersey

by

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Recent urban studies of ethnic communities in Chicago and St. Louis have said little or nothing about the role of sports in community life. This, I feel, is a great oversight, and has left blank an important dimension of urban and social history. My paper will study the history of Sport Societies, in particular, the Kent Athletic Association, in the Chambersburg ("The Burg") section of Trenton, New Jersey. The population of this large "neighborhood" has been, and still is, very heavily Italian and the geographic boundaries of "The Burg" have remained essentially the same since the 1920s. Sports have been, in all ethnic communities, an important element of structured community life. There were ties between the Church (the Catholic Church, especially) and organized sports, and between industry and the development of community sports organizations. The role that the Kent A.A., one of the earliest and largest of the Italian "social clubs" played in the process of assimilation and acculturation for immigrants, and for first generation Italians, will be examined, and speculations on the degree, if any, that sports contributed to the "melting pot" of American Society will be offered.

The reasons for the founding of the Kent A.A., its goals and programs, and the change over a period of time, from its emphasis on sponsoring semiprofessional caliber teams, in the industrial leagues of Trenton and surrounding Mercer County, to its more recent policy of supporting Little League and other "young adult" sports programs, will be examined. Finally, the paper will offer an over-view of the role and place of ethnic sports organizations within the framework of the large sports community of a northern city.



# Observations on the Use of Sport as a Diplomatic Tool in the Cold War

by

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International Sport is a form of direct competition between nations, yet the mass public does not expect its leaders to go to war to redress either athletic defeats or disputed rulings by sporting officials. Sport is, therefore, *peripheral* to global intergovernmental (political, economic, military) relations.