
International Sports and Games Research Collection

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Sports and games fill a large place in public consciousness throughout all ages of society. They are a basic part of all cultures, racial groups and all historical ages because they are a fundamental form of human expression. Contemporary public consciousness of sports and games, dynamically expanded by the communication arts, including television by satellite, transcends regional, national and hemispheric horizons. A wide-world popularity explosion has stimulated an unprecedented surge of intellectual sensitivity and curiosity. The inevitable consequence is a rapidly rising and enveloping emphasis on the significance as well as the news and history of sports and games.

Responding to this manifest and accelerant cultural challenge, the University of Notre Dame established in 1966 an International Sports and Games Research Collection, with a basic commitment to provide resources of serious and scholarly sport research. Housed in its 14-story Memorial Library, the collection is unlimited in scope, either geographically or categorically. Memorabilia of sports and games, amateur and professional, athletic and non

athletic, going back at least to the early Olympics, is included. It is intended to provide an internationally oriented source of research for student, scholars, historians, philosophers and sociologists, as well as all those engaged in the study of sport-related disciplines.

Recent acquisitions, including fifty-six tons of sporting books and publications from around the world, many of them rare and irreplaceable, added to an already fine and extensive collection, amount to what is probably the largest and most comprehensive concentration of sport research data to be found in the world.

Sport in all its many diverse and challenging variations is covered in the International Sports and Games Research Collection. It contains introductions to most active sports and games that are played in international or national competition. It can help researchers understand a specific sport, its nature, structure, techniques, development, traditions, personalities, its historical and statistical background. It contains information on games that are historically important ancestors of major modern sports and others of some antiquity. Information is also included on topics such as the selection, planning and conducting of all kinds of sport tournaments; sports medicine; the mechanics of athletics; sport sociology; the construction of sports stadia; legal aspects of foreign sports policy; and much, much more. A spokesman for the U.S. Olympic Committee has referred to the Olympic portion of this vast collection as "a mecca for the many young men and women who are working on doctoral theses in this area."

The development of the study of sport during the last decade into an international branch of scholarship with various disciplines has been phenomenal, but was to be expected in a world in which sport plays such a prominent part. In-depth studies on all sports, particularly with a world perspective, are vitally needed. It is hoped the International Sports and Games Research Collection will be the catalyst for a research and dialogue center dealing with contemporary problems in the world of sport and serving the progress of sport. We aim to co-operate with national and international organizations having the same purposes. Serious researchers from anywhere in the world are invited, free of charge, to utilize our facilities.



Larry Larson told us how he teaches Sport History in Racine, Wisconsin.