
Early Colonization and Sport Evolution: A Comparison of Australia and Canada

TREVOR WILLIAMS
Department of Physical Education
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2J8

Change occurs as original presumptions are modified and depurated by experience. In the latter half of the eighteenth and into the early part of the nineteenth centuries, British standardized sports were transplanted to Canada and Australia. They form a baseline for a comparison of the evolution of sports in both countries.

At a time when technology had not overcome the problems associated with inclement weather, the physical environment of both countries affected the subsequent evolution of those standardized sports and, in the case of Canada, prompted the adoption of indigenous utilitarian equipment for sport. This paper examines the evolution of some sport forms during early colonization in Australia and Canada, as affected by the physical environment. Similarities and differences in adaptations are highlighted and their influences on contemporary sport forms are discussed.