

English Sport History as an Undergraduate Elective

WILLIAM H. FREEMAN

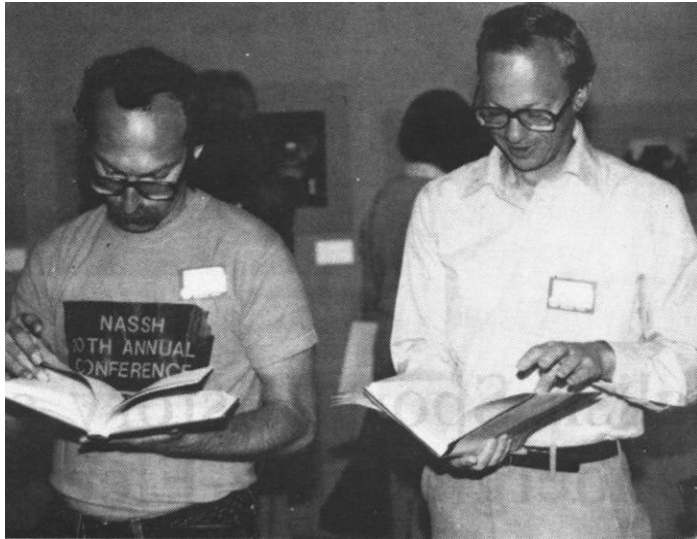
University of Oregon

During the 1979-1980 academic year an elective physical education course was offered to students at Brockport State College in New York, SET 328, English Sport History. A three hour elective with no prerequisites, it was offered to stand alone for students simply interested in aspects of English or sport history or available as a lead-in or parallel to a similar course offered by the History Department, HST 329, American Sport History.

For the first year an extensive reading list was prepared to guide the students, but no specific textbooks were required. The instructor presented an overview of

history as a process and field of study, then led into the study of sport history using Guttman's discussion of the characteristics of modern sport as a model to which the development of sport in England could be compared. Through lectures and class discussions the basic traits of the development of English sport history were traced, while the students elected outside readings to provide further details in periods or topics in which they were particularly interested. Each student was required to read at least three books in the field, preparing brief written critiques of each and answering further questions designed to put each reading into a larger context during the written mid-term and final examinations. The students were also assigned several sporting activities of the English past or present, which they were to study using Arlott's work as a starting point, preparing brief historical descriptions of the development of each activity. These studies were prepared and shared with the other class members, so the class was exposed to over fifty different English sporting activities. Initial response to the course was quite good.

A copy of the course outline, objectives, and bibliography was distributed.



Jules Tygiel, William Freeman