



The session on the rodeo in North America included John Dewar, Kristine Fredrickson, and Mary Lou LeCompte as speakers.

Sport and Ethnicity in Urban America

GEORGE EISEN

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Those who have chronicled life in America have made note of the mixture of unity and diversity as a cornerstone of American culture and the importance of ethnicity in forming it. The sheer magnitude of American ethnic communities makes them almost autonomous cultures with lives of their own - neither copies of some mainstream model nor a mere overseas extension of some other country's culture. Traditionally, sport, as a social institution, was always considered as one of the most effective socializing agent in bringing various ethnic groups, into mainstream America. Assimilationist experiences of ethnic groups however, varied as their socio-economic development and geographical location. One may hypothesize, therefore, that sport's effectiveness in bringing together various racial and national groups and exerting as similationist pressures differs in diverse environments.

Since sport has often been regarded as an important ingredient in the "melting pot," sport was to play an important socially integrating role in American culture in general and urban America in particular. The objective of this paper is the study of ethnicity as a socio-psychological force which may enhance or impede assimilation or sport participation in urban setting. The analysis of these issues will be conducted on the cultural, economic, and geographical levels.