

Journal Editor's Report

General Comments:

The Journal of Sport History received thirty-seven (37) manuscripts from May 1, 1984 to April 30, 1985 (including two resubmissions from earlier base years). Four were immediately accepted with minor revisions and will presently be in print. Eight (8) submissions were of sufficient quality to merit a request for a revised manuscript. Three (3) were revised and resubmitted, and one was accepted, and a second was asked for a second rewrite. Two "older" revisions were received, and one was accepted and the other was not. Seventeen (17) articles were rejected by the editorial board and three were returned to the authors as inappropriate for the journal. The remaining articles have not completed the review process.

We have tried to maintain the standard six to eight week review process, and have generally been successful, even after adding new people to the editorial board from overseas. Sometimes the process has taken longer, partly because of slow mail and also **because** of the need to locate outside referees for certain specialized pieces. I wish to thank Profs. Sue Walker, Duke Frederick, June Sochen, Robin Oggins, Thomas Hendricks, Ron Smith, and Joachim Ruhl for assisting the journal in this way.

The editors of the "Journal Survey" and "Book Review" sections continue to operate independently and efficiently. Tom Jable will be stepping down after the summer issue, and we all owe him a great debt of thanks. Similarly Stephen Hardy will be retiring his position as editor, having markedly improved that section. However, we still are having a problem in getting all the books we want to review from leading publishers, and we are still somewhat slow in getting the "major" books reviewed quickly.

Having benefited from the years of excellent leadership under Jack Berryman, the **Journal** is not about to move in any radical new direction. Our format will remain pretty much the same. There will probably be about three articles in each issue. One slight change will be in the size of type allocated to the survey section. We are continuing to use the printing facilities of the University of Washington which turns out to be cheaper than what is available in the Chicago area, and has the great advantage of being of top quality. For example, we are getting superb copy editing, and the product is both accurate and attractive. All too few journals can still claim to produce monographs that truly have "footnotes." This is not say we are not considering alternate options. The University of Illinois Press has expressed interest in publishing the **Journal**; and we have received an excellent bid by Ag Press, publisher of **The Journal of the West** and publications of the Society of American Baseball Researchers. One major concern we hope to address is the matter of advertising. We have been quite negligent in that area. I would recommend producing an ad rate card with reasonable rates, and requesting the advertising manager to mail these cards to university presses and commercial presses that produce books that would merit ads in our journal. Incidentally, one way to **cut** costs by 10-33% would **be** to computerize. The U of Washington would process materials typed in a pc and shipped via a modem-but that is a future matter - and considering the editor's secretarial assistance - unlikely at the present.

In regards to the high quality of the **Journal**, let me point out that the 1983 ranking of leading historical journals by the **SSCI Journal Citation Reports** placed the **JSH** in **seventh** place, after **AGR, J. of Historical Geography, P and P, JAH, Journal of Modern History, and Journal of African History**. Journals are ranked by the number of citations and by "IMPACT," the number of times articles are cited. (See **AHA Perspectives, 23** (April 1985): 12-13).

We have made some important changes in the editorial board and the editors. We have added four new members of the board and four have relinquished their positions. We have tried to alter the composition to reflect the areas of scholarship that submissions have been

made in, and also to encourage neglected areas to become developed. Three members of the board review each submission and critically evaluate the essays. Their suggestions continue to assist authors to improve their manuscripts, both those that we eventually publish, and those that make their way elsewhere. There will be a resumption of the section on recently completed dissertations, organized so well for several years by John Behee. Lynne Emery of California Poly, Pomona will resume this important service for us and her first efforts will appear in the summer 1985 issue. We have been fortunate to retain Jack Berryman in a leadership position as managing editor, an essential task with the **Journal** being printed at his home base, 2,000 miles from the editor. We will have an assistant editor for the first time. Don Mrozek of KSU has given us years of devoted and exceptional service on the editorial board, and as an experienced editor in his own right. His strong shoulders will provide much needed support. Finally, we welcome Angela Lumpkin as the new editor of the "Journal Survey" section and Randy Roberts as editor of the "The Book Review" section. They are already involved in their respective tasks, and the products of their labors will first appear in the next winter issue. I wish them all good luck and thank them for taking on their onerous tasks.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven A. Reiss
Journal Editor