

CORRIGENDA

The following three abstracts were not included in the 1989 *NASSH Proceedings*. We regret this error and apologize to the authors.

A Summary of the Putnam Museum's Project and Exhibit, "From Knickers to High Fives: The History of Fitness and Sport in the Quad Cities Region"

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In October 1988 the Putnam Museum opened the exhibit, "From Knickers to High Fives: The History of Fitness and Sport in the Quad Cities Region". This exhibit was designed to explore a new area of the region's social history, to establish ties with individuals and organizations (athletes, sportswriters, etc.) who had not previously been involved with the Putnam, and to attract new audiences.

The Museum established a time period for the project—from the 1830s when the Native Americans left the region, to the present. Geographically, the subject area was to cover a 50 mile radius around the Quad Cities, this taking in wide parts of both Iowa and Illinois. Aided by an advisory committee of secondary school athletic directors, college faculty and media sports writers and sportscasters, the Museum's researchers, funded by a grant from the Federal Institute of Museum Services, explored the written records and sought out the artifacts that would map out the story in this region. Out of many homes, schools, bars, etc. came over 600 photographs, about 300 artifacts and the stories of many people. As the exhibit took shape, there appeared a chronological story from lacrosse and the other Indian games through the founding of the local Turner Societies in the 1850s, the growth of baseball and the emergence of rowing, bicycling and various team sports in the late 19th century, to an ever-increasing number of sports, teams and leagues in the 20th century.

Also interesting, but much more difficult to depict in the exhibit were the differing philosophies for participation found in the various communities/school districts in the middle and later years of the 20th century. Those philosophies varied from “all should play” to ‘high school athletics are only for the gifted.’”

The role of government was also an important part of this history from WPA projects which built swimming pools and municipal baseball stadiums to the passage of Title IX in 1972.

When the 2,500 square foot exhibit opened, it was filled with over 250 photographs and an equal number of artifacts. From a Mesquakie Indian snow snake to an 1868 Turner Society award belt, to Jim Thorpe’s helmet and Michael Nunn’s boxing warmup robe, the history was set forth for exploration and personal learning. Museum operating funds plus major financial support from the Davenport Bank and Trust Company and assistance from the *Quad-City Times* made the exhibit possible.

The results can be summarized by saying that the Putnam did indeed open its doors to new audiences and it collected much, from an 1870s rowing scull to 1970s gym suits as well as copy negatives of those 600 photographs. As a result, the Quad Cities has one of the better documented sports histories in the nation and the Putnam Museum has advanced its work in community social history.