

come to light. This paper will examine the life and career of Col. W. T. Johnson, as well as differing accounts of the 1936 strike, in an effort to ascertain nature and significance of his contributions to rodeo, and why a man who had done so much for the sport and its participants was ultimately the object of their wrath. It also seeks to determine whether he has been unduly vilified on the basis of a single incident and really deserves to be honored as a major figure in the history of the sport. The thesis is that while the prize money was the "official" explanation for the 1936 strike, the real target was Col. Johnson himself. Several things including his wealth and background, his response to a romance between his daughter and a rodeo champion, and his apparent aloofness, created the animosity between the Colonel and the cowboys. Because he owned his rodeo company and personally reaped the profits of its success, the cowboys also perceived that Johnson was getting rich at their expense.

He certainly contributed much more to the sport than merely having been the target of the strike that launched the PRCA. He introduced many modern features which streamlined production and also helped increase the sport's popularity. As a consequence of his success, rodeo enjoyed its greatest geographical distribution. When all of his accomplishments are evaluated, it is evident that he did far more for the sport than such Hall of Fame producers as Everett Colburn and C. B. Irwin. After fifty-six years, it is time for Col. William Taylor Johnson to be recognized for his contributions as one of the leading producers in the business, and to be honored by a rodeo hall of fame.

Germany and Sports in World War II

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The story of sports in Germany during world war II has not been written yet. Although there are many common features on a national level, the local conditions started to vary considerably depending on the amount and intensity of local bombings, the degree of destruction, and the experience of the men and women still available to run the local sports organizations. Although the Reichssportleader demanded business as usual and the amount of international dual meets was higher from 1939 through 1942 than in the years prior to the Nazi takeover, the structure and the meaning of sports changed at the basis in the sports clubs. While the club leadership still talked about how sweet it is to die for the fatherland in their official letters written to the young sportsmen fighting at the fronts, the newsletters to the club members at home clearly showed the difficulties through which clublife was reduced to a bare minimum. In the city of Hannover normal life was disrupted by air warning 814 times between August 1940 and the end of the war. The city was hit 88 times by air raids. In 1943 much of the city was destroyed, the rest went up in flames 3 weeks before the end of the war. While city statistics for 1942 showed 1128 hours of club training on city facilities, at the end of 1943 there were only 50 hours left. Of the 67 gym halls 27 were destroyed, 37 used for different purposes, and only 3 stiff used for sports.

Still much of sports went on as usual. There were 75,000 spectators attending the German championship final match in soccer in the Berlin Olympic Stadium in 1944. The Maschsee relays in Hannover, a cross country meet only of regional importance, attracted over 2,000 runners in 1943. Professional and amateur track bicycle races in Hannover went on as usual. The only difference was that the organizers had to provide one air raid helper per 50 spectators, i.e. 160 for the usual crowd.

The gradual disintegration of the formal structure of Nazi sports started with the declaration of

total warfare, but even then clublife continued with women taking over many of the charges of men. Although the cities continued to pay subsidies to the clubs as late as spring 1945, there was a split in the significance of sports: On the one hand there was propaganda, military preparedness, and newly invented symbols pretending tradition-on the other there was friendship above party politics, the bonding and stability that goes with the ritual of training and competition. The clubs remained an oasis of comradeship at a time when formal relations were hindered by distrust and the threat of Gestapo and concentration camps. The sports of the prisoners of war and the concentration camps in the city of Hannover is also dealt with, the leadership of the sports clubs knowing most of the details. The “invented traditions” of Nazi sports were thrown out when Nazism collapsed, but sports continued. The first post-war professional bicycle track race took place on July 22, 1945 drawing the usual crowd of 8,000.

“Bear Bryant: Symbol for an Embattled South”

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This paper covered the period from 1961 until 1966 in the career of University of Alabama football coach Paul “Bear” Bryant. College football had long been a source of collective pride and self-respect to many Alabamians. The southern legacy of poverty, defeat and outsider status within the larger American polity left the state with a powerful longing for a symbol of success and virility. There is abundant evidence that the University of Alabama football team had played this symbolic role since the 1920’s. The bitter but futile struggle to preserve segregation had exponentially increased these feelings of rage and powerlessness felt by most white Alabamians. The overwhelming success of Bear Bryant and his all-white teams of the early 1960’s proved to be a powerful symbolic counterpoint to people who considered themselves hounded and harassed by unsympathetic outsiders.

This paper focused on how most white Alabamians saw Bryant as a virtual demigod who was able to salvage the honor of a society that was being forced to alter many of its most cherished traditions. Alabamians and other southerners saw Bryant’s championship teams of 1961, 1964 and 1965 as a vindication of white supremacy and a victory that they were unable to duplicate in the political arena. When Bryant was accused by the *Saturday Evening Post* of conspiring to fix a game, whites of all classes and backgrounds reacted with absolutely rabid defensiveness. This paper thus analyzed Bryant’s role as a cultural icon in a society that was being shaken to its foundations.