

A Chromosome in Canadian Sport History

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Myth is the system of basic metaphors, images and stories that in-forms the perceptions, memories and aspirations of a people. Furthermore, myth provides the rationale for the institutions, rituals and power structures of a people. Building upon my earlier work on the functional importance of male archetypes underlying sport, and on the myth of the hero in Canadian sport, this paper examines the basic structures-as-myths that have shaped sport in this country from 1807 to 1939. Instead of describing and analyzing significant events or contributors and athletes in the development of sport, this paper discusses the function of myth as a template that has shaped both Canadian sport and Canadian sport history (that history written by historians). The paper analyzes the role of sport symbols, advertising images, festivals, and the media in the creation of Canada's sport Chromosome.