

OLYMPIC ISSUES

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Verve and Conscience: The Formation of the First United States Olympic Basketball Team

Like most decisions surrounding American participation in the 1936 Olympic Games, commitment of the initial United States basketball team was ceremonial. Little attention was paid to the protracted debate in the United States on the merit of committing an American team to Nazi Germany. Seemingly, composition of this basketball team was isolated from the substantive dialogue of the day, and devoid of rising concerns. The accession of basketball to a medal sport was constructed by men in a political and social vacuum, and clearly ignored the larger moral questions of the time. Those in the United States, who pushed basketball as a medal sport, were driven by four concerns. The issue of a uniform set of rules, resolving differences between the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) the quest for international approval from significant countries to assure a full roster of teams for the Games, and the actual construction of the United States team itself represented the major issues. The greater moral concerns of sending the 1936 American team to a rapidly developing totalitarian state were subordinated to accommodate athletic and national expediency.

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Female Olympians in the Red, White, and Blue: The Emergence of a National Media Hero in the Games of Los Angeles and Seoul

On the opening day of the 1896 Olympic Games, the Baron Pierre de Coubertin's dream of a modern revival was fulfilled. Athletes and spectators alike watched in anticipation as the streets of Athens lay quiet and vacant. The Baron created these Modern Games as a tribute to the ancient Greeks and as a way to bring nations together in the name of amateur sport and peace. Perhaps these immediate goals were the only concern of the organizers and