

intertwined is especially important as so few Indian historians take sport seriously enough to build it into their wider histories of the region.

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Patronage, Politics, and Folk Football: the Case of Alnwick Northumberland

The nineteenth century saw the Shrove Tuesday folk football match in the Northumberland town of Alnwick change fundamentally. The game shifted location, the competitors changed their nature, the entities represented were transformed, and the game even lapsed for a decade. However, the game survived and is continued in a modified form today. This paper will concentrate on the conduct of the game between 1788 and 1914, delineating the changes that took place, and outlining the complex social and political transformations that underlay the conduct of the game. Using the local press and relevant manuscript material including the records of the local guilds and “football committee,” it will be suggested that the Freemen of the town took the opportunity of the football match to demonstrate their political convictions, while the local landowner used it to form alliances with the various factions.

At the same time, it will be demonstrated that the continuance and revival of the game were only possible due to aristocratic patronage of the event. While the game itself and its host community were modernized, the match remained a feudal rite. It was, however, an event which all the contributing parties found useful. This paper sheds important light on the decline of popular sports in nineteenth century England, the “modernization” of leisure, as well as the vital importance of patronage and paternalism in these contexts.

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Chicago Soccer in the Golden Age of Sport

The few professional historians that examined United States soccer mostly concluded that the sport remained a “foreign game” relegated to ethnic enclaves and crowded out of US sport space. This paper refutes that conclusion. Rather than relegating

soccer to an obscure ethnic club domain, Chicago soccer attracted a diverse and fervent, often violent following that brought ethnic communities into competition and interaction with native born players, professional industrial sponsored teams, and other immigrant groups. These Chicago soccer enthusiasts tenaciously, maintained and developed a sphere of Chicago sport space dating from 1883. This paper examines and highlights the leagues, teams, movers and shakers, social classes, immigrant groups, and native born players that advanced Chicago soccer in the “Golden Age of Sport.”

The foremost primary sources are from the Chicago Tribune’s sport pages. Other newspapers that confirm the Tribune are found in the Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey. Two Chicago soccer specific pamphlets, the Illinois Soccer Commission and National Soccer League’s 25th anniversary programs provide excellent local insight. To compare Chicago’s soccer scene to the rest of the United States, Spalding’s Soccer-Football Guide proved invaluable. For native born players, the Lane Technical High School yearbooks feature the school’s proud soccer achievements over other Chicago schools. Many of the local players graduated into the amateur and professional ranks, while others furthered their academic and soccer education learning and playing varsity soccer for the University of Illinois. Another indication of the native influence comes from the Cermak Tournament. Beginning in 1924, future Chicago mayor and local soccer enthusiast Anthony Cermak sponsored an ethnic tournament that frequently included an all-American team competing against the all-Slavic, all-British, and other immigrant sides.

By the late 1920s Chicago soccer maintained up to five adult leagues that played two seasons per-year. The city contributed players, coaches, and directors to national and international competition. Thousands of fans supported favorite sides or came together to support local aggregations against visiting clubs. As soccer continues to grow in the United States, this paper presents regional roots that nurtured today’s program.
