

Finally, I comment on the residual effects that Gretzky's 1996 trade away from the Kings has had on the city of Los Angeles. Most notably, I focus on the capitalization by Philip Anschutz and Joe Roski on the now 'visible' Los Angeles hockey community in order to construct the Staples Center, the new Kings arena. Situated among the shimmering skyscrapers, swaying palm trees, and open expanse of Los Angeles, the \$350 million Staples Center has come to be viewed as the premiere new-wave sporting venue in all of professional sports and, although built during the post-Gretzky era, is part of Anschutz and Roski's plan to rebuild and revitalize the downtown Los Angeles area. Coming to signify not only the opulence of L.A.'s sport scene in general, but also the overall image of Los Angeles as a "global" city, this final piece of the post-Gretzky imaginary raises salient questions as to public-private investment in local identity construction.

Charles Kupfer

Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg

Crabs in the Grey Cup: Baltimore's Canadian Football Sojourn

The National Football League (NFL) bestrides American professional sports like a pebble-grained colossus. From humble origins, the NFL charted a strategic corporate course, rising to its present state: unquestioned master of fall Sundays and Monday nights; sine qua non of sportswriters, networks, and fans; ecclesiarch of that holy Romanized American ritual, the Super Bowl. If there is one strategic imperative that underpins a half-century of NFL growth, it is the necessity to prevent, destroy, or assimilate any rival football league. Despite its mammoth stature, however, the NFL is not the only professional gridiron circuit, nor is it oldest professional football league. The evaporation of the rival United States Football League (USFL) heightened cities' fears that their fans would be left out in the game of football musical chairs. Perhaps it was inevitable that the Canadian Football League (CFL) would attract new scrutiny, even behind its Canadian curtain.

For their part, CFL leaders fretted over low attendance, poor television revenue, and waning Canadian interest. Several franchises made "Save The Team" ticket-selling drives into annual events. CFL directors wanted a change, and grew excited about

shaking up their mom-and-pop-league image. Siren calls were heard in the CFL's Toronto offices. The decision was made: expansion into US cities without NFL teams would make the CFL a truly major league. The international aspect of the new CFL would give Canadian fans long accustomed to grumbling about – and paying attention to – American influences a new angle of appreciation for an old, stale product.

This paper examines Baltimore's position within the CFL, not just as host of a winning team – the franchise led the league in attendance and played for the championship during both years of its existence – but as a political entity with heavily parochial impulses. Baltimore played in the "Maple Leaf Bowl" every time the team traveled north. Egged on by marketing experts and local media, Canadian fans treated games against Baltimore as matches against the US. They waved the Maple Leaf, booed the Stars & Stripes, and complained about overbearing Americans.

Philip C. Suchma
Ohio State University

**“The City of Champions” to the “Mistake by the Lake”:
Sport During Cleveland’s Rustbelt Transformation**

Sport historians have recognized the importance of studying the developing city to further the understanding of the development of sport. Various scholarly studies on nineteenth and early twentieth century American cities have argued this link and shown the relationship in vivid detail. While studies of New York City, Boston, New Orleans, and Chicago have focused on sport in the emerging metropolis, this paper concentrates on the position of sport within the declining city. The larger, traditional centers of culture and commerce have been ideal stages for showcasing sport as a means of dealing with urban tensions and vices, and as a byproduct of the emerging leisure/consumer class. These studies do not, however, ask the questions pertaining to the demise of the twentieth century city. What happens within the relationship between the city and sport once a city has completed its development or begun a decline? Furthermore, when a city is in decline, what physical and social impacts can be traced within its sports culture? What meaning is created in this context?