

Cleveland, during the second half of the twentieth century, provides an ideal scenario for studying the plight of the declining city in the latter half of the twentieth century. This paper will look at Cleveland to examine sport within the declining city and how the performances of sports teams have contributed to the city's self-image and outside perception. Post-World War II Cleveland distinguished itself through a failure to adequately prepare or adapt for the future. The flight of population and industry into the city's growing suburbs and to the Sun Belt was not sufficiently dealt with by politicians, which in turn opened a Pandora's Box of subsequent problems. The decline Cleveland felt was shared by fellow midwestern cities, both large and small, but the magnitude of Cleveland's decline separates the city from its peers during this period. A brief overview of this decline will be provided, but specifics will be omitted from the paper in the interest of length.

The turmoil and transition of this period also affected sports in Cleveland. Stephan Hardy argued that the city possesses three qualities: structure, community, and state of mind. The decline in respectability among Cleveland's professional teams during this time, adding to the already dismal condition of the city, challenged the city's state of mind most of all. In 1948 the city's three professional teams; baseball's Indians, football's Browns, and hockey's Barons, each captured their respective league championship. These teams enjoyed varying levels of success in the following decades, but their overall performance did not project Cleveland as a "city of champions." The shift from success to decline and the connection between performance and perception will be examined by briefly looking at the Indians and Browns.

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The Intersection of Racial Equity and Unionism in the Construction of Three Rivers Stadium

Construction of Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium in the late 1960s took place at a time when the civil rights movement was unfolding on a national scale. Because of this, the civil rights movement was integrated into the construction process of Three Rivers Stadium, even though city leaders and construction officials may not have anticipated this as initial construction plans were made. Before groundbreaking took place, these leaders responded

quickly to minority concerns in symbolic ways, but were slower to implement real labor- related policy changes. Race became an issue as a result of union-oriented hiring practices at construction sites throughout the city of Pittsburgh. These practices tended to exclude minority workers unless they were willing to submit to long-term apprenticeships at low pay scales as a precondition to union membership. The stadium construction site became an important civic symbol that was used by the area's minority community to bring attention to inequitable hiring practices in Pittsburgh. This paper examines how the public became involved in this issue by exploring media coverage in Pittsburgh during this period. Civil rights marches were held at and near the Three Rivers Stadium construction site during this time while an emotional debate unfolded in the opinion pages of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Pittsburgh Courier, a minority publication. Although Pittsburgh is often portrayed as a city that is not sympathetic to minority issues, this case study offers evidence of community sensitivity to racial injustice.



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