

**Paul D Standohar and James A Mangan, *The Business of Professional Sports*. University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago, 1991. pp.306.**

This book, one of University of Illinois' *Sport in Society* series, looks at the action off the field, at the interaction between labour, management and the government of the day. It is aimed at a tripartite audience: academics, students and sports fans. However, it is highly unlikely that the complicated statistical formulae and economic theory will appeal to the man or woman in the bleachers and certainly they will be beyond the intellectual grasp of most undergraduate students. This is not to infer that this is a bad book, merely to point out that its market will be more limited than claimed.

Although all the writers contribute to the theme of the volume, methodologies vary. In particular two chapters utilise sophisticated statistical cum econometric models. Dennis Ahlburg and James Dworkin look at factors which influence comparative salaries of football players while Lawrence Kahn and Peter Sherer examine differences in the salaries of white and black basketballers. Yet to what avail? Eventually we learn that *both performance-related and non performance-related factors... matter* in explaining football earnings. More specifically, race is shown to influence both salaries and attendances in basketball but no solutions are proffered as to overcoming this discrimination. To this reviewer far more can be derived from the non-quantitative chapters written by two visitors to recent Sporting Traditions conferences. Joan Chandler provides a critique of Monday Night Football as a social institution whereas Chuck Korr looks at the influence of one individual, Marvin Miller, on unionism in baseball.

Society members might also note that *Sporting Traditions* does not rate a guernsey in the recommended journal reading. A further complaint is that, despite a claim by the editors that sport binds people together regardless of race, sex, age, education or income, there is only one female contributor and no mention whatsoever of women's sport.

Finally it can be suggested that the editors should have issued more specific instructions so as to standardise references.

The foreword by the distinguished journalist, Leonard Koppett, argues that the value of this collection of essays lay in its stimulus to further investigation. Let us hope that the studies lead to work on other sporting economies which can put the North American emphasis of this volume into perspective.

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