

Review Symposium

Assessing the State of Australian Sports History: A Discussion of Adair and Vamplew's Sport in Australian History

Daryl Adair and Wray Vamplew, *Sport in Australian History*. Oxford University Press, Australian Retrospectives Series, Melbourne, 1997. Index. pp. 169. \$24.95.

Preface by the Reviews Editor

Assessing Themes in Recent Surveys of Australian Sports History

John Nauright

In this issue we launch a new concept in reviews with the review symposium. This approach was taken in reviews of the *Oxford Companion to Australian Sport* and can be valuable in raising discussion, debate and further research.

In this issue Douglas Booth and Tara Magdalinski review the recently-released book *Sport in Australian History* by Daryl Adair and Wray Vamplew. This book is the third synthetic publication on Australian sports history in the past three years following Wray Vamplew and Brian Stoddart, eds., *Sport in Australia: A Social History* (Cambridge University Press, 1994) and Richard Cashman, *Paradise of Sport: The Rise of Organised Sport in Australia* (Oxford University Press, 1995). These works are the first attempts by historians at synthetic treatment in broad accessible volumes since Brian Stoddart's *Saturday Afternoon Fever* (1986) and as such provide an opportunity to assess the state of the field a decade on from Stoddart's volume. Both the Vamplew and Stoddart and Cashman volumes have received treatment in review articles in previous issues of *Sporting Traditions* and we launch the review symposium concept in which two to three views on major texts in Australasian and international

sports history will be presented. In the same or following issue, authors will be given the right of reply and comment on the points made in reviews. Suggestions for volumes to be reviewed in subsequent issues should be made to the Reviews Editor.

The three recent volumes all are written with a popular audience in mind as well as for use in the academic environment. Given the appearance of these works and the thirteen volumes of *Sporting Traditions* it is appropriate to step back and examine the developments, improvements and problems in the writing of Australian sports history. Let us hope that the appearance of these three volumes will spark debate and a revitalisation of historical analyses of sport in Australia at local, regional, national and comparative levels.

Reviews Policy

Would all reviewers for *Sporting Traditions* please adhere to the following guidelines. Reviews should be sent on disk with a hard copy or via e-mail in IBM compatible MS Word or Text files to John Nauright, Department of Human Movement Studies, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Qld 4072. Review articles, thematic reviews, review symposium material and book reviews for the November issue should reach John Nauright **no later than 15 September**; for the May issue **15 March**. Book reviews should normally be between 500 and 800 words; thematic reviews 1200-2000 words and review articles 2500-4000 words. All review articles and thematic reviews should be cleared with the Reviews Editor in advance. We hope to have at least one review article or review symposium in each issue as well as thematic reviews and book reviews.