

BOOK REVIEWS

Daryl Adair and Wray Vamplew, *Sport in Australian History* Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1997, Pp. xiv + 169. £15.20. ISBN 0-19-553590-1.

This book is part of the *Australian Retrospectives* series published by Oxford University Press which aims to examine major themes in Australian history 'in a brisk and intelligently speculative manner' and 'in a style accessible to non-specialists' (p. v). Adair and Vamplew satisfy this briefly by combining a detailed synthesis of existing research with a clear exposition of the major academic and popular debates concerning Australian sport. One of their main intentions is to debunk the notion of the uniqueness or peculiarity of Australian sporting culture. They do this firstly by emphasising the way in which Australian settlers not only borrowed and replicated British sports but continued to maintain close sporting links with the 'mother' country well into the twentieth century, when Australia's political, economic and constitutional relationship with Britain had been significantly altered. Secondly, the authors challenge the assumption that Australians are, and have been, unusually obsessed with sport. As participants and spectators, Australians have certainly gained a reputation for their obsession with sport, but Adair and Vamplew maintain that there is insufficient statistical evidence to support such a claim. Their argument provides a convincing refutation of Richard Cashman's recent 'Paradise of Sport' thesis, though in truth the differences are more of perspective than of fundamentals, and indeed the influence of Cashman's work on the authors' own judgements are acknowledged throughout the text and notes.

Adair and Vamplew tackle their subject in concise thematic chapters, dealing in the first half of the book with the well-trodden issues of myth and historical evidence, the economics and commercialisation of sport, the politics of sport and the place of women in sporting activity. The most innovative chapters, however, are those which deal with the experiences of minority groups in Australian sport - Aborigines and 'ethnic' minorities of course but also homosexuals, the disabled and veterans - and with the role of coaching, medicine, technology and science in the advancement of

elite sporting performance. Although issues of this kind are hardly peculiar to the Australian context, it makes a change to see them subjected to prolonged and serious academic debate and provides the book with a refreshingly contemporary feel. The authors should also be applauded for incorporating the full range of sporting activities in their discussion - from recreational to competitive and minor to major sports - rather than relying on examples from the dominant male team sports of cricket, Aussie Rules and the rugby codes.

A small book on such a vast subject is bound to leave the reader with more questions than answers. The authors acknowledge this problem and draw attention in their conclusion to a number of topics which warrant further investigation. Even so, there are several issues which might have been given greater attention. While the imperial framework of nineteenth and early twentieth century Australian sport is outlined, the changing international context of Australia's sporting development is considered too briefly. The recent growth in popularity of American sports is mentioned in passing, but what of sporting relations with south-east Asia, Japan and even New Zealand? A European reader might also welcome more sustained discussion of the organisation of sporting competition on a city-wide or state, rather than national, basis and the implications of Australia's internal 'tyranny of distance' on the development of a national sporting culture. That many of Australia's sports clubs were organised by electoral districts, for instance, seems to be a fascinating point worthy of considerable exploration but one which the authors mention in just one sentence in their conclusion.

For the serious enthusiast of Australian sport, there is little new on offer here but Adair and Vamplew have produced an intelligent and incisive overview of the subject which achieves the important task of forcing readers to question established mythology and popular assumptions. For this reason alone, *Sport in Australian History* deserves an audience beyond the confines of the academic community.

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Norman Barrett (ed), *The Daily Telegraph Chronicle of Rugby*, London: Guinness Publishing, 1996, Pp. 192. £16.95. ISBN 0-85112-626-X.

Successful newspapers come in many shapes, but invariably share one characteristic - an innate insight into the enthusiasms of their potential readership. The remarkable achievement of the *Daily Telegraph* for much of its history has been, in a highly class-polarised national daily market, to have captured a readership on a scale more usually associated with the popular press while retaining the outward shape of a 'heavy'. It has been quintessentially the paper read by the besuited man on the 8.21 from Esher.

There have been several consistent elements in this. One has been the unswerving true blue orthodoxy that has earned it the alternative label of 'Torygraph'. Another is unrivalled courage of crime and sex stories - not with the shrieking headlines, giant pictures and lurid adjectives beloved of the 'pops', but in full, unvarnished detail. If you wanted to know *everything* that happened, you forgot the more obviously sensational papers and went for the *Telegraph*, 'a dirty book in a brown paper cover' to many in the trade. And there was sport, lots of it, with particular strength on those games the man on the 8.21 was likely to regard as the particular property of himself and those like him - cricket and rugby union.

Inevitably this is a work of distillation and evocation rather than a complete historical record - and it makes no claim to the contrary. It is not a book to be read sequentially from cover to cover, but a dipper-in which like old volumes of *Wisden* is liable to capture and detain the browser, set off on associative trains of thought which land him or her a blissful hour later, reading the report of a match 30 years and 60 pages from the one originally looked for. Even so the general reader who knows little of the game's history will find this an informative, attractive and generally reliable introduction. Researchers will be grateful for a volume that, along with a year-by-year chronology of the game and a selection of the most significant reports for each year, also includes the table for every Five Nations championship.

The final items, for 1996, are for the Wigan v Bath league v union challenge match and Sky Television's threat to the Five Nations. As such

it encompasses union's entire history as an amateur game. And if it fails one historical test by being a little too uncritical of the Webb Ellis legend, it passes another by at least glancing back to the folk and street games from which the different versions of football eventually evolved.

What emerges most clearly is a continuity of reporting style, greatly assisted by a remarkable continuity of personnel. Half a dozen names - Colonel Philip Trevor, JP Jordan, EW Swanton, Michael Melford, John Reason and John Mason - cover the entire period from the introduction of by-lines in 1908 to the end of the 1995-6 season. The style these men defined and practised was one emphasising detail, highly competent technical analysis and accuracy well ahead of colour or polished writing.

There are factual errors - inevitable when reporters are writing under deadline pressure on a sport never oversupplied with reliable reference works. Zinzan Brooke's drop goal for New Zealand against England in the 1995 World Cup semi-final was not the first in an international by a forward - turn back to 1951 and you can read of Peter Kinninmonth's effort for Scotland against Wales. Cardiff's victory over New Zealand in 1953 to follow wins in earlier years over South African and Australia was remarkable enough, but E.W.Swanton was wrong in writing that 'No country, let alone any other club or combination, can point to such a trinity of victories' - Swansea had been able to do so since 1935.

The selection of items from the paper, mostly match reports, catches the mix of the wildly different and the unchanging to be seen in looking back at any sport. A brief glance at the years just before the First World War finds tourists complaining of hostile crowds at Neath and a report on the first match at Twickenham opening with the dry reflection that 'It has been rather unkindly said of the old-time Rugby Unionist that never in his playing days did he hug an opponent with the effectiveness which he now shows in hugging a grievance'. The language may have changed, but any rugby follower still recognises the personality outlined here.

Yet within a page or two one can read of Swansea and Wales scrum-half Dicky Owen declining international caps to go on his club's tour of Devon. The historian would almost certainly like more of this detail, and less of well-remembered modern events. From this point of view it is frustrating

that half of the book covers events since 1970, reflecting an emphasis on the general readers curious to be reminded of what the *Telegraph* made of the games they remember, rather than looking further back to the less-known. It would also have helped to have had just a little more on the paper itself - to know for instance that it was first published in 1855 and enjoyed spectacular sales growth in the 1930s would have added something to the picture. Space constraints also mean that the match reports reproduced are heavily skewed to international rather than club games.

Huw Richards,
Times Higher Education Supplement, also **Rugby Correspondent,**
Financial Times.

Jack Berryman, *Out of Many, One: A History of the American College of Sports Medicine*, Champaign: Human Kinetics, 1995, Pp. x + 414. £20.50. ISBN 0-87322-815-4.

The language of bureaucracy is traditionally dull, and to write an account of any number of years of administration takes great skill if the reader is to be coaxed through the whole story. This author has proved that the minutiae can be interesting. *Out of Many, One* records the birth and development of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) in such a way that not only the serious researcher, but also someone otherwise unconnected with the organisation, will derive great pleasure from reading it.

The American College of Sports Medicine has fulfilled an important coordinating function since its foundation in 1954, but an organisation was not established without strenuous exertions on the part of the founders. In a world of seemingly unending diversity the burgeoning specialist areas of medical and sports-related professionals needed to have a forum for sharing the common ground and for learning from each other. Berryman accurately describes the account of ACSM's rise as '...a story of adaptability in an age of specialization and subspecialization.'(pvii) It is also true to say that ACSM has had a significant influence both nationally and beyond on what people think about exercise; the consistency of its research profile, publications and position statements has ensured that it has been more than a facilitator of meetings.

The book recounts the complex relationship between the areas of cardiology, physical education and physiology, lighting upon the people who were to come together to build ACSM - first proposed as the American Association of Sportsmedicine, then the Federation of Sports Medicine, before becoming the American College of Sports Medicine. Attempts to use the American Heart Association and then the American College of Cardiology as a means of bringing together the professionals from physical education, physiology, and medicine had failed. The pedigrees of the founders are traced through their early mentors and influences: key names include Dudley Sargent and Luther Gulick. To recite the list of founders is to invoke the memory of a most important group of scientists and practitioners - Dorothy Ainsworth, Louis Bishop, Clifford Brownell,

Albert Hyman, Ernst Jokl (as controversial as ever), Peter Karpovich, Leonard Larson, Niels Nielson, Josephine Rathbone, Arthur Steinhaus, Grover Mueller and Joseph Wolffe. The earliest days of sports medicine itself are well examined in the book, Berryman giving appropriate credit to the essential early developments in Germany. The author carefully pieces together the relationship of ACSM to the Fédération Internationale de Medecine Sportive - ACSM quickly becomes more than an American Chapter of the international body, but it always retains a very North American locus. Other American professional associations clearly had an input. The structure first adopted for the new organisation was influenced by the American Association for Health and Physical Education, the Society of Directors of Physical Education in Colleges, and the American Academy of Physical Education. The progress of ACSM seems to have followed logical stages, turning to concentrate for a time on areas most closely associated with the specialisations of its principal officers.

The concern with post-war rehabilitation, fitness and military training may have brought the organisation together, but the cardiologists and physiologists among the founders then took the lead for the first years. Support of a more unusual sort was forthcoming from influential circles: President Eisenhower's heart attack in 1955 helping to push up ACSM membership (p. 51). The physical educators saw their first ACSM President in Henry Montoye, in 1962. Early debates show how important the organisation was going to be - Wolffe called for a move away from study of the sick: '...virtually all our medical knowledge to date has been gleaned from the sick-bed and the autopsy table,' but the organisation needed to relate their norms to their relevance in dealing with athletes. Another great advance of this sort was in Bruno Balke's call, in 1967, for emphasis on the prevention of injury and the maintenance of good health, rather than a concern for the treatment 'of any pathological damage done' (p. 96).

The events of the next 30 years are clearly recorded, with insight into the recurrent themes of concern to ACSM: the balance of membership; certification and professionalisation; the establishment of a permanent national centre versus the fear of centralisation. The fitness boom of the 1970s, with its jogging craze and the 'aerobics' of Kenneth Cooper, had its effect on ACSM, as did the surge in interest in sports medicine itself in the 1980s. A measure of ACSM's influence is the fact that its first opinion

statement (1979), entitled 'The Part of the Female Athlete in Long-Distance Running', helped persuade the International Olympic Committee to include women's 3000m and marathon in the 1984 Olympic Games (p.166).

As is common in many professional associations there seems to have been the dependence in the ACSM on the almost superhuman commitment and strength of a few individuals. An appropriate example is the resignation of Grover Mueller, aged 71, as Executive Secretary in 1964. The ACSM President of the time wrote to Mueller '...(we) never really understood how you and Mrs Mueller have been able to carry the burden of work which you have done up until this time.'(p. 79) Mueller was then offered more 'funds and assistance' if he would continue!

There is the inevitable reliance on official documents, and a good deal of systematic recounting of minutes and conference programme titles. More than a third of the 414 pages consist of appendices, and this is where an additional wealth of reference material lies. It is likely that scholars examining any aspect of physical education and sports science, particularly focussed on the USA after 1950, will need this information to hand for names, dates and events. Perhaps the long lists of presentation titles at the annual conventions could have been suppressed in the main text; being more appropriately gathered in an appendix.

Some opportunities have been missed in the writing of this book, such as the debate behind changing the word 'sport' to 'sports' in the title of the *Journal of Sport Medicine and Physical Fitness* – a small point? I was disappointed to have no information about the suggestion in 1967 that ACSM's structure should be expanded to include sociology, psychology and history. We are left with the bland statement: 'A motion to this end was made and defeated' (p. 93). Not such a small point?

Out of Many, One is a thoroughly readable and useful institutional history. It has been well produced by Human Kinetics (although I thought the camouflage-style dust cover was more suited to a regimental history), with only a couple of blips by the proofreader (p. 128 and p. 408). A truly significant contribution to sports history.

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Mihir Bose, *The Sporting Alien: English Sport's Lost Camelot*, Edinburgh: Mainstream, 1996, Pp. 340. £14.99 h/b. ISBN 1-85158-745-4.

Mihir Bose is a prolific author and journalist. He has over 16 books to his name, ranging from Indian cricket through *Sport and Politics in South Africa* to *How to Invest in the Bear Market*. He has a reputation as an expert on Indian football.

Bose has two aims with his latest effort: to analyse, as both friend and outsider the enclosed, inward looking world of 'English' sport; and to suggest ways in which an English sporting patriotism can be created which is not xenophobic and exclusive of those with the wrong skin colour.

Much is autobiography, Bose explaining how he was captured by 'English' sports at Jesuit school in India. And how the glamour of professional football - the most high profile feature on the landscape of Camelot - sparkled and entranced the young schoolboy when the *Times of India* carried a photograph of the triumphant Spurs double team of 1961.

The now avid practitioner and student of 'English' sport could not wait to enter the Promised Land via Heathrow. And this he did, ambition in hand. Only to find the official and unappointed gatekeepers of 'England's' sporting realm were reluctant to accept the outsider. Here lies the driving force behind his crusade in ink: how does one-of-brown-skin enter territory that can find no place or space for his kind?

My immediate reaction to his description of racist assault and abuse - he recounts some horrific experiences - was to feel angry. If sport, watching or playing, is about anything it is about equality of opportunity, comradeship and acceptance. It should be open to all to participate and observe. Though we know sport at the professional level does not operate with such democracy, the insularity and intolerance of 'English' sport made Bose the acolyte feel unwanted.

In an effort to understand the inner-workings of those who are burdened with the legacy of this cultural invention - 'English' sport - but have not been gifted with the vision of the primogenitors of modern football, cricket and athletics, Bose interviews players and coaches, Black and White.

Some of the harshest words - for the sake of balance? - are thrown at Linford Christie and John Fashanu, for being a whinger and over-sensitive to criticism, respectively. In this latter portion of the book Bose transports his lay-psychiatrist's couch around the country for a psycho-analytical survey. He reduces problems and issues - the public treatment of the Pakistan cricket team during the 1987 Test Series; Christie's anger at tabloid caricaturisation of his concerns - to corporate and personal paranoia. (And Bose the journalist has little to say about the sales-figure values of the tabloids which drives such sensationalism). He appears to be as preoccupied with deconstructing images of Black sports stars as with reaching Camelot.

The author has no clear analysis of the causes of racism in sport or how it can be extinguished. He uses concepts - 'race', 'The English' - that he does not explain. At a time when 'race' is being thrown to the furnace, and where there is acknowledgement of a number of 'England's' and 'English' - Working-Class, Caribbean, Middle, etc - Bose seems at ease in using analytical tools that are misleading and ambiguous. He frequently interchanges 'English' and British. This approach undermines the importance of the core issue - racism in sport - and betrays a casual attitude. The numerous copy-editing errors do not help: a sentence is missing, pp175-6; a sentence is repeated pp173-4, 177-8.

Bose's thinking is riddled with class snobbery:

“Within weeks of arriving at Loughborough I was asked to help with some Bangladeshi workers who, despite living here for many years, did not speak English and were not following management instructions. I spoke to them in Bengali but when they invited me home for dinner I shrank from the invitation and was glad to leave the factory, thinking how little I had in common with them.” (98)

Here lies the answer to Bose's conundrum. Until he can see a commonality with their cause, rather than imposing the guillotine of class distinction, his struggle against racism will be beset by internal divisions of his own making.

Is there a need for an 'English Sporting Patriotism? Aren't there enough Union Jack underpants sold and worn, builder's-bum style? Under Thatcher

I hated the political ripples of triumphalism that were created by the victory of an English/British representative team in any sport. Is it really 'my country' right or wrong? Or is the important task, if Bose is serious about creating an alternative, colour-blind sporting culture, to appreciate the quality and excellence in a performance irrespective of the provenance of the participant or team? Listening to John Motson or Barry Davies commentating on England football matches is tiresome *because* of their sporting patriotism which *is* colour blind but also abjectly biased. Good and bad is interpreted with symbolic reference to national pride rather than objectively, through the intrinsic quality of the football. Extending the boundaries of knowledge of sport as sport is the loser in this approach. Maradona is forever castigated for using the 'hand of God' to score against England while Ian Wright is a streetwise south Londoner for using his hand in scoring for England.

There is useful material on the detail of racism in this book but not how to fight it. By the close it tails-off into lay psychoanalysis. At heart Bose seems to be more concerned to find out why the privileges of his bourgeois background, so accessible in India, are partly denied to him through racism in 'England'.

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John Bromhead, *Droitwich Golf Club, 1897-1997*, Droitwich: Worcestershire, Grant Books, 1996, Pp. xiii + 130, limited edition of 700. £20.00. ISBN 0-907-186-90-4.

The end of the twentieth century, not to mention the second millennium A.D., is producing a flood of books, looking back, looking forward, some with bizarre prophecies. A minor trickle in this deluge is being provided by the centenary histories of sporting clubs, as the successors of the great late Victorian sporting boom take stock and pride in having kept going for so long. For many sports historians, particularly those with academic pretensions, these books are an uneasy genre to come to grips with, since they reflect a populism with which so many of us feel uneasy at being associated. After almost two decades of trying to establish the respectability of our sub-discipline we are often happier in analysing fanzines and tradition-boosting publications as separate entities in popular culture than in recognising some of them as distant working cousins, such is the social Darwinism of much 'professional' sports history. The arguments over the loss of status involved in 'popularising' remain as strong as they did when many scholars turned up their noses at G.M.Trevelyan's *Social History of England* and have possibly even regressed. It is a singular irony that recent work in 'post-modernist' history writing, of which the growth of sports history is surely one part, has been heralded as 'democratizing' our discipline; instead it has largely removed the comprehensibility of much of its publication into a specialised world of academic oligarchies whose language and debates often seem far removed from their subjects' perceptions and own discourse. It is still, sadly, more often characterised by a process of looking down at the 'lower orders', even when these are prosperous midlands business men, rather than engaging them in an understanding of their own past.

It is against such a background of involvement that such histories as this study of *Droitwich Golf Club* need to be evaluated. This book has been written by a member of the club, as is so often the case, and it centres on the club's perception of itself. But it goes much further than that, because John Bromhead has long been an active member of the British Society of Sports History, a giver of papers and a moving force in the collection of archives as librarian of the National Centre for Athletics Literature at the

University of Birmingham. He has now retired from that and is spending more time on the course of the club he joined over thirty years ago and is now celebrating in this book. For the book he has a good model which he acknowledges readily, Richard Holt's Stanmore Golf Club, 1893-1993, but he has one great advantage over Holt, namely his own playing membership of his subject. He may lack some of Holt's detached irony but there are other advantages to be gained, not least in the extensive use of oral history he has been able to draw on as a trusted member of the club; he smiles out from a recent photograph of the club committee. It is not only Holt who is acknowledged; other scholars are given their due and primary sources are listed properly, with adequate referencing which make this work's scholarship so distinctive from many similar works.

And yet it does have many of the features of an ordinary club history. The relatively short text has 13 chapters, so that the attention span of the average golfer is not likely to be overstretched at any one sitting. There are plenty of well-produced photographs whose subjects are likely to be mainly of interest to club members looking for old friends and heroes. Its sense of purpose is reinforced by its production in a limited edition. We learn of the role of doctors in this former spa town in setting up the club and of the key place of the Corbett family, major Droitwich benefactors, in fostering its early fortunes. Thenceforward we follow its vicissitudes as the town shifted from its spa role to being a dormitory suburb of Birmingham, arguments over Sunday play and so on, in straight forward narrative history. But that is broken up by chapters of appreciation of individuals, most noticeably 'Brackie', the club secretary from 1946-72. Changes in the course layout, important reminders of the combination of social ambition and shifts in playing styles resultant from growing skills and new technologies, mingle with the careers of various employed professionals. Bromhead's wife, Margaret, has contributed a short but incisive chapter on the club's business history, something frequently glossed over elsewhere; she hints at some shenanigans with some rapid land sales and one would have wished for more.

We find the usual, somewhat ironic, gender discrimination common to most such histories with the separate chapter on 'Ladies Golf at Droitwich' - they are almost never described publicly as women. Bromhead tells us that this was largely selfwritten by the Ladies Committee. There is little,

however, of the usual semiconcealed resentment at separate spheres; there were seven women amongst the first members and their well-heeled successors look a jolly lot in their various photographs, although they are outnumbered four to one by male members in a firm quota system. When the club incorporated in the mid 1950s, one woman's becoming a director was seen as 'another example of Droitwich Golf Club's enlightened approach'. If this book is mined by historians with a wider purpose, as it deserves to be, that chapter may receive less sympathy than some of the others but it will do much to reinforce the sense of being special amongst those members for whom it is designed.

I return to my original theme. Books which seek to span the apparent divergence between professional historians and their subjects' needs are few. This is one of them and there are times when the strain shows, but very slightly. Most of its 700 copies have probably been snatched up by club members; one does hope, however, that some will enjoy a wider readership.

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John Burnett, *Sporting Scotland*, Edinburgh: National Museums of Scotland, 1995, Pp. 80. £4.99. ISBN 0-948636-66-1.

While France, England, Canada, Australia, U.S.A., etc. have their national histories of sport the same, sadly, cannot be said for Scotland. Indeed, Burnett reveals in his bibliography that there is a paucity of material on Scottish sport history. Burnett is only able to come up with twenty significant titles and, while some sources have been omitted, the message is clear, Scotland's sport history is revealed as a relatively unexplored terrain.

In his introduction, Burnett shows that his focus is upon the narrative of social history, rather than a chronological collection of dates, feats and athletic associations.

'This book is about the history of sport in Scotland, but it is not merely about sport. Its subject is sport as a part of the life of the people, not as isolated experience but an activity which was shaped by patterns of wealth, poverty, leisure and communication, patterns which changed with time. It is concerned also with the memory, for the events which we remember and the ways that traditions are created and live, are all part of sport.'

Sporting Scotland is divided into 15 thematic episodes. The word episode is used as chapters are clearly out of the question in a slim volume that, had it been a work of fiction, would be categorized as neither novel nor novella but rather novelette. The episodes are (i) Kings, queens, burghers, people; (ii) Decline and revival; (iii) The eighteenth century; (iv) Clubs; (v) The medieval revival; (vi) The community and the sportsman; (vii) Sports for Victorian men; (viii) Curling and bowling; (ix) Patronage and competition; (x) Professionals and spectators; (xi) Victorian field sports; (xii) Games in the Highlands and Highland games; (xiii) Sport for all; (xiv) Scotland and the world; (xv) Town and country.

In one of a series of stirring opening scenes to the 1996 Oscar winning movie *Braveheart*, young William Wallace (Mel Gibson) takes on a rival clansman in a stone lifting/tossing feat. The role of this 'clach-neart', literally stone of strength, is described in J. Logan's *The Scottish Gael* (London 1831). Burnett devotes a little over two pages to Scottish

Highland Games, and while Scottish Highland Games stand as minor social celebrations of the nineteenth and twentieth century, they surely demand and deserve a fuller accounting.

The very real sadness of *Sporting Scotland* is its brevity. The need to compress and shorten *Sporting Scotland* to locate the story within 80 pages creates a fragmented kaleidoscope rather than a well trawled sea of social history. For example, in the material on Scottish Highland Games, Queen Victoria's impact on Braemar is noted as is the role of the athletic folk legend Donald Dinnie. However, many other aspects are ignored. What of shot putter Arthur Rowe's influence in the 1960s and the 1970s? An analysis of the interpenetration of modern Highland Games and tourism would have been invaluable. It is fascinating to read that stellar Highland Games athlete A.A. Cameron (1875-1951) is commemorated in a piece of bagpipe music called 'A.A. Cameron's Strathspey.' Burnett notes that Cameron 'is one of the few sportsmen to have been commemorated in music.' Is this the actual case or would sustained research within Scottish locales not show that there are a number of sports persons and sporting events that have been captured in musical lyrics? In the sphere of American country and western music, there are a significant number of songs that feature or refer to stock car (NASCAR), and auto racing.

Now that *Sporting Scotland* has been roundly berated for being too short, it is time to acknowledge that Burnett's long essay is lovingly written. It is richly invested with all manner of literate illustrations. Take Burnett's episode on 'the eighteenth century'. This is built around eight stanzas of poetry, the majority of which were written in "braid Scots", and Burnett helpfully provides translations ('sark-tail keeks' as shirt-tail peeps out). There are stanzas from John Mayne (1759-1836) on a shooting competition at Dumfries, Robert Fergusson (1750-1774) on the Leith Horse Races and bowling, Allan Ramsay (c. 1652-1758) on archery and bowling, Alexander Pennecuik (1652-1772) on curling, John Skinner (1721-1807) on ancient primitive football, and Scotland's most famous bard Robert Burns (1759-1796), who eulogised the sporting accomplishments of Kilmarnock companion Tam Samson.

In his treatment of modern sport Burnett again is poorly served by having to be so circumscribed. He charts the rise of football popularity with icons

called 'the King of Scotland' and 'the Wee Prime Minister' and continues on - 'Adulation and alcohol turned the hero's feet to clay...' Never a truer word has been spoken and it would be compelling sports history to read about such falls from grace. In Scotland, in the 1950s and 1960s it was standard practice for successful football players to sink their savings into a public house and plan on a post athlete role as landlord. Were these ventures happy, healthful and economically viable? What do they reveal about the vagaries of life for the (Scottish) professional athlete?

Of course there are times when conciseness helps to emphasize aspects of *Sporting Scotland*. In Burnett's round-up of the contemporary contribution of Scots to global sport one short paragraph testifies to the colossal achievements of a small country. Burnett mentions Sandy Lyle's success in the 1988 US Masters. Had he been writing today (*Sporting Scotland* was published in 1995) he would have spoken of Colin Montgomerie who came within one shot of winning the 1997 U.S. Open. Burnett in this paragraph mentions auto-racing.

'Perhaps the most surprising achievement for a small country has been in Formula 1 motor racing. Jim Clark, a Berwickshire farmer, was world champion in 1963 and 1965, and Jackie Stewart in 1969, 1971 and 1973.'

This writer was working recently on a research project (May 1997) at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum and felt powerfully moved by the Hall of Fame portrait gallery, for there, looking so very boyish, is a pen and ink sketch of Jim Clark who won the Indy 500 race in 1965. He endeared himself then to the nearly 400,000 Indy fans with his shy smile and unextravagant demeanour. Clark later was killed in Belgium in an auto race crash.

Sporting Scotland deserves unstinting praise for a magnificent series of black and white photographs as well as 15 centre-book colour illustrations. It is not common knowledge that the Scottish football team sometimes used Lord Rosebery's colours, primrose and rose hoops, for their sweaters. The reader is treated to a superb photograph of Walter White's primrose and rose top that he wore in a game against England in 1907. The opening and closing book illustrations ('Maryhill Magyars' by Farquhar McKechnie and 'Bicycle Polo' by Ian Hossack) are brilliantly evocative statements about sport, place and community.

John Burnett should be bullied and badgered until he expands and develops his 80 page *Sporting Scotland* into the 500 page volume on sports history that Scotland needs and deserves.

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Richard Cashman, Jim Maxwell, Brian Stoddart, Amanda Weaver and Ray Webster, *The Oxford Companion to Australian Cricket*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996. £30.00. ISBN 0-19-553575-8.

This is surely the most definitive volume ever written on cricket in Australia. This Companion has been assembled in conjunction with the Australian Society for Sports History, and no stone has been left unturned by the six specialist editors in compiling this 640 page reference work on Australian cricket. The 1250 entries, special features and thematic articles written by 102 authors provide a mouth watering selection for the historians to get their teeth into. Statisticians can wallow in the data on Sheffield Shield, Test and Limited Overs cricket, whilst general cricket lovers can browse with relish through the thousand biographies of every male and female Test cricketer from Ted A'Beckett to Tim Zoehrer. For those whose appetite is only whetted, there is a full bibliography, directing the way to further delights published during the 1990's.

From an academic angle, it is the longer essays which make this handsome book a rich diet for the historian, as the editors, led by Richard Cashman, have identified a number of key events, milestones in Australian cricketing history and topics such as ethnicity, commercialisation and the church for longer discursive treatment by notable writers and academics. These most readable features also help to prevent the book from becoming a rather stereotyped and daunting encyclopaedia or Who's Who. Following the lead of *The Oxford Companion to Australian Sport*, the analytical sections also highlight the wider role of cricket in the country's sporting tradition, as well as its impact on literature, television, theatre, art, and language.

As one would expect, the 1932-33 Bodyline series is one of many milestones to receive detailed analysis, and there is an interesting range of views from the contributors, reflecting the many and perverse views held within each country about leg theory. In his essay on Anglo-Australian relations, David Frith refers to the series when "the icy, laconic Douglas Jardine almost drove Australia from the Commonwealth and Empire with his malodorous Bodyline." Elsewhere there are different views, with perhaps the most perceptive coming from Richard Cashman and Warwick Franks who believe that Douglas Jardine employed tactics "whose mark-

edly functional aim was victory, an attitude which has been usually assigned to the pragmatic Australians”.

There are some further interesting comments on fast bowling in Geoff Lawson’s essay, where he pays lengthy tribute to the raw terror of Dennis Lillee, and the way Lillee inspired a whole generation of budding fast bowlers. “Lillee set records on the Ashes tour of 1972. Now every kid in the street wanted to be Dennis Lillee, not Max Walker or Gary Gilmour or Dave Colley. They weren’t quick enough at all. Anyone who made Geoffrey Boycott duck, bob, weave and get his hair out of place was to be admired.”

Few will be surprised to find Richie Benaud making informed comments on the art of leg spin and its current practitioner, Shane Warne, who Benaud believes “is the first slow bowler to produce a buzz around the ground merely by handing his cap to the umpire.” Mike Whitney will bring a smile to the faces of many through his comments on batting at number eleven, whilst budding captains can muse over Ian Chappell’s writings on captaincy - “one certain way to gain the players’ respect on the field is to ensure that the game is played in a manner that is hard but fair. Any captain who encourages or condones cheating on the field will quickly lose the respect of the bulk of his team-mates and those whose confidence she retains won’t be worth having. It’s not a popularity contest. It’s about being respected.”

The Packer Revolution and World Series Cricket are sympathetically treated by Gideon Haigh, who concludes that “cricket’s current popular appeal owes much to the changes WSC brought.....authorities were awakened to the possibilities of one-day international cricket, to the efficacy of marketing in attracting sponsorship and sustaining the game’s public prestige.” Due respect is also paid to those beyond the boundary in the Press Box and commentary box in helping to popularise cricket in Australia, with entries on many media personnel including the late Alan McGilvray and Neville Oliver, the A.B.C.’s Head of Sport and a popular voice last summer on Test Match Special.

A range of famous cricket supporters, such as politicians Bob Hawke and Robert Menzies, cricket collectors, manufacturers as well as the notorious

larrikins and barriackers are also included as the editors cover every facet of Australian cricket. But the 640 pages are not a sanitised glorification of the country's summer heroes, the Bradman Years, the Chappell's, Lillee and Thomson, or the Ashes winning series. The editors have adopted a "warts and all" approach by including some of the less glamorous days in Australian cricket history, with entries covering the underarm delivery by Trevor Chappell, John Snow's altercation with "an inebriated middle-aged patron" at Sydney in 1971, Dennis Lillee's fracas with Javed Miandad and the aluminium bat, as well as Terry Alderman's tackle on a spectator in 1982 and the recent allegations that Salim Malik tried to bribe Shane Warne and Tim May. As Richard Cashman writes in the Preface "while the book is informative and even entertaining, there are thoughtful, provocative and occasionally disturbing essays. A well-rounded history of Australian cricket would want to do nothing less." This is exemplified in Colin Tatz' powerful entry on Aboriginal cricket. He begins by pointing out that of the 7076 Australian first-class cricketers between 1850 and 1987, only nine have been Aboriginal. "The statistics tell us nothing of the blatant racism, the harshness of cricket for men of colour and of 'lower class', the tragedy and the pathos for the few.....In the earlier eras, there were more career prospects, a greater chance for fame, money, social acceptance and celebrity status in professional running and boxing. Today, Aborigines and Islanders find social mobility and all these other values more readily in rugby league and Australian Rules."

For the first time, this book integrates men's and women's cricket. Indeed, it is this which has drawn criticism from reviewers in *The Cricketer* and *Wisden Cricket Monthly*, who have suggested instead that women's cricket should have had a separate section. But such a chauvinistic approach is outdated, and if one disagrees with the treatment of Aboriginal cricketers (and as a race as a whole), then one cannot equally support a separatist stance. This volume is, after all, about all aspects of Australian cricket. Following the success of the Australian ladies team, and the recent feats of Zoe Goss, they fully deserve integration within the text, rather than being paid scant lip service. With the winds of change starting to blow from the offices of the England and Wales Cricket Board at Lord's, one can only but hope that they permeate the men-only Pavilion and Long Room, and eradicate these old fashioned views about the role of women's cricket.

For much of the 1997 season, the cricketing public of Britain has been told that it would be better if English cricket could follow the Australian model. Whether one agrees or disagrees with these sentiments, this book is a good starting point for those whose knowledge of Australian cricket is scant. It is also a splendid publication for those who have a better awareness of the country's fine cricketing heritage, and this Companion will surely join other volumes such as Barclay's World of Cricket alongside the rows of Wisdens, Lillywhites and Scores and Biographies as essential reference works needed by any serious cricket historian.

Dr. Andrew Hignell
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Mary Jo Festle, *Playing Nice: Politics and Apologies in Women's Sports*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1996, Pp. xv + 379. £21.50. ISBN 0-231-10162-7. Hardback.

Women's sports history in the United States has taken off recently with a slew of books published in the last few years. Much of this new work originates as a doctoral dissertation in history or women's studies. Such is the case with *Playing Nice* and author Mary Jo Festle who now teaches women's history and African-American history at Elon College in North Carolina. The tomboy daughter of two physical education teachers, she played and competed in a wide variety of sports in high school and college, and eventually went on to study history and her sporting heritage.

Historically, argues Festle, women athletes have battle two perceptions: that their physical differences with males make them incapable of performing sports competently, and that sports masculinize females and make them abnormal (even lesbian) women. To counter the latter perception, the strategy of apologizing has been adopted by everyone from PE teachers to world-class athletes over the past decades. Many of them have bent over backwards to display perfect (i.e., modest, feminine, and 'nice') behaviour — what the sociological literature calls 'the apologetic' — in order to compensate for and counter the image that has been forced upon them. Festle also argues that gender combines with social class as well as race and sexuality to help determine not only who participates but also which sports become socially acceptable for women.

She tells the tale chronologically in four sections beginning with the conservative 1950s, then to the transitional years between 1955 and 1967, next to the era of politicization from 1968 to 1979, and finally the most recent decade of 1980 to 1990 marked by considerable backsliding and change. Her focus is entirely the United States. Within each of the eras, she concentrates on the struggles over women's college sports as well as the growth of two specific sports, tennis and basketball.

Women's college sports in the United States have seen massive changes since the early 1950s when a small, tightly knit community of women physical educators carefully controlled what kind of sports young women should participate in and under what circumstances. Instead of competi-

tors, they tried to mould sportswomen who embodied the cooperative values and feminine deportment necessary for their future role as wives and mothers. Their ambivalent philosophies were challenged in the late 1950s and early 1960s as the US government moved on a number of fronts to broaden female participation in fitness, exercise, and in sport competition especially at the international level leading the women in PE to cautiously increase opportunities for college women. The period from 1968 to 1979, marked by increasing concerns over the lack of equality, politicized the PE women as they fought with the men (and won) over a new law, Title IX, whose promise was equity in college sports. The question for the 1980s was whether women could build on these gains. As it turned out, they lost their self-determination because the governance of women's college sports is no longer under the control of women, and equality is still a long way off. The movement for change, argues Festle, has stalled. Although the 1990s have brought unprecedented opportunities in sport and fitness, and participation is at the highest levels ever, there is also a dark side in the form of eating disorders and increasing revelations of sexual abuse, as well as the ever present resistance to Title IX.

Her choice of tennis and basketball allows Festle to develop the class and race themes. Traditionally an upper-middle-class, white, individual sport, women's tennis has changed dramatically from the amateur days of the 1950s, through the turbulent period of the 1970s, leading to its present status as one of the success stories in women's sports where players can aspire to notoriety and wealth as professional athletes. Basketball, on the other hand, has a much broader base of working, middle, and upper-class participants, both white and African-American. It is also a team sport and perceived as more aggressive and less feminine. Festle traces basketball's path from the days of the restrictive six-player, three-dribble, two-thirds court 'girls' rules' to the several failed attempts (two are in progress now) to provide professional opportunities for women in the United States.

Throughout it all, the author returns time and again to her central theme: how generation after generation of women athletes and sport leaders have tried various forms of apologetic behaviour to combat restrictive definitions of femininity and accusations of lesbianism. However, in the end, these strategies do not work because they have not made sports any more widely accepted for women as group, and the lesbian label will not

go away. Without self acceptance, pride, and a sense of entitlement, argues Festle, female athletes did not and could not challenge their oppression.

The sources used are numerous and include original archival material (especially for the sections on college sport), organizational and government documents, newspaper sports columns and journal articles, autobiographies and a few oral histories, as well as a legion of secondary sources. This is a meticulously researched, well documented book, and the footnotes are worth a read in themselves. It is a reasonably well written one although not without a few clumsy passages.

Festle is an historian, and her history is mostly descriptive although on occasion she provides a clear and insightful analysis. When she tries to be a sociologist, however, she fails. She constantly has 'society' doing this, or saying that, or expecting something else, when every first-year sociology student knows that 'society' is an abstract concept and should not be reified. She also has a penchant for the term 'hegemony' with little understanding as to its meaning or usage. Finally, she has paid no attention to the wealth of sociological literature and research that critiques (and enhances) the 'apologetic' concept at the heart of her book.

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University of Alberta

Gerald Lawson, *World Record Breakers in Track & Field Athletics*, Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics, 1997, Pp. xii + 468. £19.95. ISBN O-88011-679-X.

Born in 1948, the author is a medical practitioner in Australia, for whom athletics is described as a major interest. In his Preface, Lawson claims that.. ‘For those interested in athletic records, sports personalities, or sports history, [the work] is a complete and comprehensive guide.’

The events selected for detailed examination are those on the current Olympic schedule, plus the 1 mile (1609.34m), but excluding the walks. These last, together with two new women’s events (pole vault and hammer throw) appear with summaries of progressive records only. (It is curious that, though the IAAF only recognizes walking records set on standard 400m tracks, the summaries shown are for road events.)

The Introduction is entitled ‘A Short History of Track and Field Athletics’ (pp. 1-6), and indicates factors which have contributed to the improvements in world records in the present century.

Within the two main sections for men’s and women’s events, a chapter is devoted to each event. A short description and history of the event is followed by a listing of all performances which have been recognized by the IAAF since its formation in 1912. Brief biographies of the individual record holders are then given. For each event, the top 5 or 6 performers at the end of 1996 are given; least valuable perhaps are the predictions for the year 2015 and the selection of the three best ever.

Whilst there is a measure of cross-referencing between entries relating to the same athlete appearing in different events, thus avoiding excessive duplication of material, there is a good deal of repetition between entries for different individuals in the same event, suggesting that the reader might be expected to merely consult a single entry, rather than carry out a continuous reading of the text.

As might be predicted, the length of entries varies widely, but it should nonetheless have proved possible to achieve a greater consistency of treatment. For example, of the 41 men who have held the 100m record, the height and weight of all but one are known; this work, however, includes

this data only for Percy Williams, plus the heights of Morrow and Murchison.

The early difficulties of Wilma Rudolph are described (born the 20th of 22 children to an impoverished family in Tennessee, she contracted polio at the age of four and wore a brace for 6 years), but not the serious injury sustained by Rafer Johnson at the age of twelve, when he caught his left foot in a cannery conveyor belt.

Just occasionally, reference is made to a memoir or autobiography, e.g. David Hemery's *Another Hurdle*, but strangely one of the most celebrated titles in this genre, Roger Bannister's *First Four Minutes*, is not (though two of his medical works are listed).

The year of birth, and death, if known, are given. Richard Chelimo is shown with a birth year of 1973, though it has appeared in recent editions of the ATFS Annual as 1972. The birth year of Dave Tork was 1934, not 1939, and that for Lisa Gelius was 1909, not 1917. The death year of Gisela Mauermayer (1995) should appear in discus and pentathlon. Five places have been incorrectly located.

Rather more severe criticism could be levelled at the lack of uniformity in the presentation of names, the cavalier treatment of foreign accents, and the cursory descriptions of many world records.

The following examples illustrate these shortcomings: Blankers-Koen, who appears in five events, is shown as 'Fanny'; even though this is the name by which she is popularly known, her given names, Francina Elsje, are omitted. Lillak appears as Ilse 'Tiina'; her second given name is Kristiina, hence the contraction. Elzbieta Krzesinska appears incorrectly throughout as Krzensinska (both accents also missing). Whilst Dana Zátopková appears correctly, her husband, Emil, lacks the essential accent, and should thus appear as Zátopak. There is no detailed account of the remarkable hammer series by Yuriy Sedykh in which he set the current record in 1986.

The author also missed the opportunity to provide comparative intermediate times (possibly in tabular form) for middle- and long-distance events.

The work is marred by a rather large number of errors and omissions, of which the following are the more significant:

100m: Paul Nash was born in London, not South Africa.

200m: Otis Paul Drayton; he was always known by his second given name. Joe DeLoach.

400m: Otis Davis and Carl Kaufmann 44.9; e-times of 45.07 and 45.09 not given.

800m: Otto Peltzer achieved his mark over 880y (804.67m).

Alberto Juantorena did not fall heavily during 1983 WC heat, but sustained an injury after finishing.

1500m: Steve Ovett; e-time in first WR (3:32.09) was inferior to Coe.

3000mSt: Tapio Kantanen, Finland not Sweden.

Pole vault: Pierre Quinon's record came after, not before, the World Championships.

Long jump: Jesse Owens was married at 18 (not 16) in July 1932, according to sworn affidavits to the FBI in 1956.

Discus: Harald Andersson's 2nd round throw (his first record improvement) was 52.20, not 52.23.

Yuriy Dumchev's 3rd round throw in his record series was 66.22, not 66.27.

Hammer: Reinhard Theimer did, in fact, take two throws after his record (73.62, 73.28).

Javelin: More details could usefully have been included of the performances made with the modified Németh implement in 1990 and 1991, which were subsequently deleted by the IAAF (only Steve Backley's 90.98 is mentioned).

Women's Introduction: There is some fairly solid evidence that women did participate in athletics in ancient Greece; this is cited in Harris (1964)

and Sweet (1987). Whilst the author mentions the absence of organized women's athletics in Victorian England, it could have been noted that the USA provided competition before 1900.

3000m:8:27.2 Lyudmila Bragina was recognized as 8:27.12 from 1 January 1981 by the IAAF.

5000m:Gabriela Szabo, Romania not Portugal.

High jump: The sister of Thelma Hopkins (born 1936), Moira, was not a twin, having been born in 1935.

Long jump: Mary Rand set her record in the fifth, not fourth, round.

Heptathlon: Sabine Paetz 100mH 12.64, not 13.42.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey SP 15.20, not 15.19 in August 1986.

20km walk: 1:28:39 Valentin Guk

1:23:12 Roland Wieser

1:19:35 Domingo Colin

50km walk: 3:52:45 Bernd Kannenberg

Considerable efforts were obviously made to trace suitable black and white illustrations; there are, though, some surprising omissions, e.g. William Sefton and Earle Meadows ("The Heavenly Twins").

The inclusion of a select bibliography would have been of value.

Andrew Huxtable
ATFS

D. Levinson and K. Christensen (Eds), *Encyclopaedia of World Sport: from ancient times to the present*, Santa Barbara, California: ABC Clio, 1997. £125.00. ISBN. 0-87436-819-7, 3 vols.

It is claimed on the dust cover that the *Encyclopaedia of World Sport* is 'the most comprehensive historical and cross-cultural survey of sport ever published' - It is.

Perhaps this is not surprising given the fact that it was compiled with the help of an advisory board of such renowned scholars as John Bale, Allen Guttmann, Richard Holt, Donald Kyle, John Loy and Roberta Park, and written by a team of 150 experts from around the world.

The three-volumed, 1300 pp+., set provides coverage of nearly 300 sports including mainstream and traditional activities, national games and lesser-known sports such as air racing, barrel racing and kite flying. In addition, this work examines the events and influences shaping the contemporary world of sport and covers such issues as the media, commercialisation, politics and sports medicine.

In total, more than 250 entries, ranging in length from 500 to 8,000 words, have been organised in an easy-to-use alphabetical format. Hundreds of illustrations and samples from historical and contemporary documents add colour and detail to the entries, while bibliographic citations, cross-references, and multiple indexes ensure that students, scholars, sports lovers and general readers can easily find the information they need to customise their research or supplement their knowledge. Typical of such an entry is the one for 'Exercise'. Following a couple of paragraphs defining the term and distinguishing the concept are two columns of A4 outlining the history of exercise, another two columns on the health benefits of exercise, two columns on the components of exercise, reference to three 'see also' (aerobics, conditioning, medicine), and a bibliography of 12 publications.

So far, I have been quoting largely from the publishers' own publicity and there is little I would dispute. The *Encyclopaedia of World Sport* was a much needed publication.

In 1804, D. P. Blaine published *An Encyclopaedia of Rural Sport or a Complete Account, Historical, Practical and Descriptive of Hunting, Shooting, Fishing, Racing and other Field Sports and Athletic Amusement of the Present Day* this was followed in 1897 by the Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire and F. C. Aflalo's *Encyclopaedia of Sport* (2nd edition, 1911) and there has been little to update or supercede these publications since. The nearest such publication this side of the Atlantic Ocean in the English language is probably Marshall Cavendish's *The Game* published in the 1970s.

This publication, like so many of the similar North American reference works, however, is more of a who's who, chronicle of results, listings of winners and records, stadia and competitions, etc.

The editors of this publication have given little attention to detailed rules of specific sports, accounts of performances etc, but instead concentrated on the history and evolution of sport as a societal institution. There are over 15 different articles on the sport-society relationship covering topics from drug use, through spectators, technology and umpiring.

There are large single entries for all major sports, but minor sports are included in the sections dealing with the sports from which they were derived (eg bowling) or in which category they fall (danger sports). Some of these entries do provide information on world records, athletes and other individuals who played a pivotal role on the development of a sport. They also include an overview of the basic rules of the sport, diagrams of playing surfaces, descriptions of how the sport is played.

There are also entries on major interested competitions such as the Gay Games and Olympics and articles on the major scholarly disciplines such as anthropology, psychology, sociology, etc.

Reviewing such an immense publication as this, deserves more than the space permitted in *The Sports Historian*. To do it fairly would also take me several months but this would prevent doing a service to the publisher who is keen to make the readership aware of the publication as soon as possible.

However, within these limitations I would like to draw the reader's attention to a few important points, the first of which is the scope of the

publication.

In terms of content it has tried to be all-embracing and to some extent be all things to all men. No encyclopaedia, of course, ever can be and so it is down to the editors to make a national, acceptable selection of what should and shouldn't be included, what promises should be given to those which are included, etc.

My first quick trawl through the content was disappointing since it appeared to say a lot about relatively little. Following more detailed examination, the choice grew on me and I particularly admired the inclusion of such sections as aggression, animal rights, art, diffusion, environment, ethics, ethnicity, law, literature, masculinity, modernisation, movies, mythology, ritual, spectators, traditional sports, women's sports, water sport, etc.

I still question the inclusion of such topics as barrell jumping, flying disk, roffing and the omission of computers, Eton Fives, museums, etc. Perhaps some of these decisions are reflective of a North American bias in the editorial team. Overall, however, I think that the editors have done a very good job and the publishers are to be congratulated on their faith in them. It would have been so much easier to produce a 'typical' sporting encyclopaedia as described above, but the academic would have lost out on what is a valuable asset to any sporting library.

The quality of individual entries does vary both in scope and authority. I rather suspect it was often a case of whether an entry had been written out of choice (with enthusiasm) or simply to fill the gaps.

Cricket, which the editors categorise for some strange reason as a minority sport, comprises six and a half A4 sides, with sections on the origins of the game, development in the 18th century, 19th century and 20th century, a section on the spread of the game and a bibliography of 19 publications. Attempting to condense such a massive topic into so few pages must have been a daunting task but Cashman (in this instance) does it very well. Whilst the cricket historian might not pick up anything new in reading this digest, the general/naive reader will get a good idea of what the game is about and made aware of all the salient points and stages in its development globally. The bibliography is a lead to useful publications. My only

criticism would be that the bibliography, like most of the others, does not mention any bibliographies of related works. Padwick's seminal work with its supplements would have been so useful in this respect.

Some sports such as pigeon racing were sufficiently comprehensive but did not include a bibliography of citations or suggestions for further reading.

Finally, in terms of layout and presentation it was not exactly to my personal taste. Whilst I loved the dust cover, binding and illustrations, I thought the font size was far too large.

The fact that ABC-Clio have recently commissioned more specialist encyclopaedias such as the *Encyclopaedia of Horse Racing* (to be edited by D. Levinson) and one of British sport (to be edited by Grant Jarvie, Wray Vamplew and yours truly) is a reflection both of the success of this particular publication and the awareness this has brought about of more detailed important material.

Richard William Cox
UMIST

Michael A. Malec, ed. *The Social Roles of Sport in Caribbean Societies*, Amsterdam B.V: Gordon and Breach Publishers, 1995, Pp. xiv + 251. ISBN 2-88449-134-1.

This book is a very interesting and wide-ranging collection of essays, many of which had previously appeared in the May 1990 issue of *The Arena Revue* (vol. 14, no.1). It is thoughtfully edited by Michael Malec who has contributed the first chapter, entitled 'Neglected Fields: Sports in the Caribbean'. Here he laments the shortage of studies in this area and makes a plea for social scientists to pay more attention to the sociology of sport in general and of sport in the Caribbean in particular. He is right, of course, in observing that the field has been somewhat neglected, but the various bibliographies presented by the contributors would seem to indicate that rather more has been done here than Malec himself has realised.

Cricket naturally occupies the greatest space and there are three very good essays on this subject by Christine Cummings, Maurice St. Pierre and Kevin A. Yelvington. While Cummings deals with the shifting ideologies of cricket in the region from the days of colonialism to the period of Independence, St. Pierre and Yelvington present a critical assessment of the role of cricket in developing post-colonial nationalism in the Caribbean territories. These are useful essays, but it is a pity that they were written before the publication in 1995 of *Liberation Cricket: West Indies Cricket Culture* by the Manchester University Press. This collection of papers (including excellent pieces from St. Pierre and Yelvington) was edited by Hilary McD. Beckles and Brian Stoddart, the two leading sociologists of Caribbean cricket. Cummings, St. Pierre and Yelvington would all have profited enormously from a careful study of it. They would also have found *An Area of Conquest: Popular Democracy and West Indies Cricket Supremacy*, edited by Beckles (1994), of considerable value.

Since much of the limited literature on Caribbean sport has thus far been confined largely to the cricket-playing British West Indies, it is most refreshing to find seminal papers here on sports other than cricket and on territories other than the English-speaking. There is a very good piece on horse-racing in St. Croix, in which John R. Mitrano and Robin E. Smith

examine and explain the very positive Crucian response to hurricane *Hugo* in 1989. In the face of that disaster, the Crucians revived horse-racing almost miraculously long, before they were able to repair the more critical damage inflicted by that calamity.

The Mandles, Jay R. and Joan D., examine the rapid growth of basketball throughout the English-speaking Caribbean, noting that it has attracted mainly poor and/or unemployed young black males because it is pleasurable, inexpensive and accessible. It is thus a unique form of cultural imperialism - if it can so be described at all - because it has never really been imposed from above or even adequately encouraged by local governments and élites. The Mandles are therefore able to conclude that Marxist hypotheses are almost irrelevant in any analysis of this Caribbean basketball phenomenon.

John Sugden, Alan Tomlinson and Eamon McCartan are to be commended on their balanced portrayal of Cuban sport during the first thirty years of Fidel Castro's administration. Their 'Making and Remaking of White Lightning in Cuba' is one of the most interesting essays in this collection. They clearly show how close is the relationship among sport, culture, politics and economics in Communist Cuban life, highlighting the enormous influence of the Cuban dictator in establishing the tradition there of athletic excellence, notwithstanding all the pitfalls by which Cuba has been bedevilled since 1959.

Alan M. Klein has also presented us with an interesting study of baseball in the Dominican Republic by looking very closely at Dominican rookies who travel annually to the USA seeking an escape from poverty and destitution. There is a useful discussion here of North American racism in its various forms and a very careful study of the 'academies' established in the Dominican Republic by such major-league teams as the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Toronto Blue Jays for the purpose of unearthing and assessing 'inexpensive talent'. Klein shows how the North American scouts divide the Latino players into three major categories: the 'Headcase', 'Headstrong', and 'Head-of-the-Class'. The 'headcase' is doomed virtually from the start; the 'headstrong' has a chance to succeed, only if he is exceptionally gifted; while the 'head-of-the-class' is the rookie who quickly learns how to perform his assignments without fuss or fanfare while complying meekly with organizational norms and forms.

Caribbean anthropologists will no doubt be delighted to see two fine case studies here: Roy L. Austin, 'A Park Boy Remembers Colts, Products of a Subculture of Sport' and Roy Derek McCree, 'Conflict, Continuity and Change in the Organization of Sport in a Trinidad Community'. Austin intelligently examines the fortunes of a soccer team in Victoria Park near Kingstown, St. Vincent, where the disadvantaged youth honed their soccer skills without any hope of material reward for such ability; and McCree throws a revealing ray of light on sports in Point Fortin in southwestern Trinidad during the 1970s and 1980s when the national politics and economy underwent violent swings. These two essays demonstrate admirably the close but complex relationships among culture, politics, economics and sport.

While the majority of these papers deal with male sports, Beverley J. Anderson has contributed a useful piece on 'Gender Inequality, Sport, and Achievement in Jamaica'. She has discovered that Jamaican women participate successfully in most areas even though it sometimes takes them a longer period than it does men to reach the top of their professions. On the basis of her research, however, Anderson boldly concludes that "In the case of Jamaican girls and boys, sports socialization, or the lack of it, does not appear to be a factor in adult occupational success or economic inequality. Compared to men, women are able to achieve occupational successes in spite of established gender-bias" (p. 121).

There are a few minor disappointments. The value of the work would have been enhanced, for instance, with a general and 'Select Bibliography' at the end. An Index would also have been helpful. A short note, too, about the contributors would have done no harm. But these are all niggling matters.

Altogether, this is a book well worth reading. It brings together a wide range of ideas, theories and facts that should hopefully inspire anthropologists, economists, historians and sociologists to pay more serious attention to Caribbean sports.

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J. D. Massengale and R. A. Swanson, *The History of Exercise and Sports Science*, Leeds: Human Kinetics, 1997, Pp. xi + 472. £40.00. ISBN 0-8722-524-6.

The purpose of this book is ‘to record and analyse for the first time in depth, the historical development of sub disciplines within the field of exercise and sports science’. In this way it is hoped we shall ‘better understand the entire profession/discipline’.

The idea was conceived and commissioned by the National Association for Physical Education in Higher Education (NAPEHE).

The authors were selected for their potential to work with, or actually serve some as primary sources.

An introductory chapter by the editors chronicles the development of exercise and sports science from 1885 to the present. This is followed by chapters on sport pedagogy (Linda Bain), adapted physical activity and education (Claudine Sherill and Karen De Pauw), sports sociology (George Sage), sports history (Nancy Struna), philosophy of sport (R. Scott Kretchma), motor behaviour, sport and exercise psychology (Diane Gill), biomechanics (Jenny Witherson), exercise physiology (Charles Tipton) and a final chapter by the editors outlining current and future directions in exercise and sports science.

Also included are extensive author and subject indexes.

Each chapter has a similar structure which includes a chronology of the subject, a section on early foundations, organisation of the sub discipline and development of the sub-discipline. All chapters are referenced providing a bibliography of all key works.

As someone professionally engaged in physical education for over 25 years, I found the volume provided a wonderful trip in nostalgia. Physical education as most readers of this review will know, has gone through an unprecedented period of development during the last quarter of the 20th Century. The body of literature has grown in leaps and bounds and it is interesting to reflect upon what has gone down in history as significant turning points, key individuals and major innovations. The sad part of it is

that in reading this account of history you would be led to believe that Australians, Europeans and for that matter anyone else outside the United States played no part in any of these developments. In the chapter on sports history you will find no mention of Richard Holt's influential cultural history of *Sport and the British*, Tony Mangan's works on public school athleticism and imperialism, Tony Mason's social history of association football, Wray Vamplew's seminal work on the economic history of sport. Even the pioneering works of Denis Brailsford and Peter McIntosh go unmentioned. The same applies to most of the other chapters. Professor Alexander of Leeds University was responsible for moving the field of biomechanics forward in the 1970s but he receives no mention. John Whiting pushed back the boundaries in our understanding of perceptual motor skills but receives nothing more than a name in a list. Whilst Struna does draw the reader's attention to such limitations in her introductory paragraphs, I still question the merits of a history which is so ethnocentric.

Undoubtedly, we will all have our own favourites and will feel disappointed if these departments, individuals, texts are not mentioned, proud and elated if they are. This is the way I found myself reacting when reading the book which I have to admit added to its enjoyment or annoyance.

Another shortcoming of the history chapter in my view is the absence of discussions on biographical works. Whilst the vast majority of such works have progressed beyond the descriptive narrative, note could have been made of Bill Baker's superb analysis of the life of Jesse Owens and Allen Guttman's study of Avery Brundage to mention but a few.

The rest of the chapter is difficult to fault, Struna does exceptionally well to bring together in a coherent manner a synthesis of all the different trends and influences that come to bear on these and the development of sports history as a whole.

Unfortunately, space does not permit a more detailed review of the other sections.

The book as a whole was also enlightening because of the way in which it illustrated that whilst we have come a long way in the last two decades and a half, we have still a long way to go. What some of our foresighted forefathers were telling us and raising as issues 30 and more years ago have

still not been addressed or answered. Sad, really, that it is only through the passing of time that we begin to appreciate the significance of what such pioneers as Franklin Henry were saying in their time. Satisfactory that they are now taking their rightful place in history.

Having perhaps sounded largely critical of the book so far, I would not want the reader to get the idea that it is not worth its salt. Yes, it is North American biased and yes it does miss out certain sub disciplines like comparative sport and physical education, but this is not unusual in a history commissioned to reflect well on itself and its members. It nevertheless has produced a much needed history of the subject area, is well structured and enjoyable to read chronicling an interesting story of struggles, conflicts and progress as it does.

It has stimulated me to get back to writing a history of sports history in Britain which has been on the back burner for a while and I hope it does the same for others too. This volume has itself pushed back a historical frontier about our own subject area. Now the ball is rolling it is up to us to set the record straight through further research, adding to our knowledge and setting the record straight.

The editors end on a very optimistic note, that ‘with creative, imaginative leadership, what has been achieved to date will provide the springboard required to create a bigger, better and brighter future for exercise and sports science in the 21st Century’. I too endorse that view and recommend all physical educationists within higher education to read this book.

Richard William Cox
UMIST

Geoff Milburn, Derek Walker and Ken Wilson (eds), *The First Fifty Years of the British Mountaineering Council, The British Mountaineering Council 1997*, Pp. 321. £16.99. ISBN 0-903908-07-7.

The dust jacket of this book has a black on white sub-title "A Political History". This claim is not repeated on the title page or on the cover. But the blurb makes much of the political nature of this account of the first 50 years of the BMC. This doubt about what the book is and what is about runs through from beginning to end. The main text has 30 acknowledged authors and there are another two for the Foreword and Preface.

This makes for a great variety of styles and intentions. Twelve of the chapters are articles taken from the old BMC magazine, *Mountaineering*. These alone almost make the book worth the £16.99 price tag. They are a mixture of the fine writing and uptight haute bourgeois self-regard that used to characterise the magazine, and much of the writing that was traditionally associated with mountaineering. They therefore provide a real insight into the zeitgeist of the time - largely the 1950s - when the magazine flourished.

Equally revelatory is the section on the Alpine Club involvement in the foundation of the British Mountaineering Club. A letter from Leo Amery addressed from the India Office on 2 February 1945 and the photographs on the accompanying page reveal as much as the text (which concerns an Alpine Club rearguard action against the upstart and doubtless populist BMC). The oleaginous Amery with his monocle dominates a page of middle-aged and elderly men, most of whom look as if they have been photographed whilst on an audition to play Dr Watson in a film of the Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. Of the 13 dramatis personae, 10 sport classic British Empire military moustaches.

One could find enough similar vignettes from the 316 page text to provide an entirely laudatory review, but this would be to judge the book by its parts not by the way it is put together. Because of the ramshackle structure it is hard to trace any kind of themes or the sweep of changes which have taken place in the British Mountaineering Council. In the first 100 pages, four different writers "go through" in chronological order, each of the decades in a way which is dominated by the Minutes of the BMC which have been

cherry-picked by authors for interesting issues. This is not good history. It is certainly not political history.

What does emerge from this book is that there have been a number of issues which are fundamentally about politics which have been at the heart of the BMC. Climbing has always been riven by ideological disputes about its nature. It is not a sport: it is an outdoor pastime with no rules but plenty of “ethics”. There have always been, on the one hand, a generally left-leaning, environmentally-oriented, crypto-anarchic rabble of fun seekers who form the bulk of climbers (this reviewer included). On the other, there has been a militaristic element in the ideology of those who see climbing and “adventure” as part of a system of training for toughness and leadership. During the thirties, this characterised the German push to conquer the North Wall of the Eiger for the glory of the Fuhrer and the Fatherland. (This sort of thinking now dominates a number of management training courses run by demented ex-military men).

A similar but less extreme ideology was also part of the motive force for the foundation of the BMC in the 1940s. The role rock climbing and mountaineering in the training of the armed forces during the war made the idea of mountaineering popular with the military and with the government. For instance, referring to training, Geoffrey Winthrop Young, the first President of the BMC and “a doyen of Alpinists, Her Majesty’s Inspector of Schools, President of the Alpine Club....poet, visionary and education-ist”, is quoted as saying “it had to be accepted that boys and young men first and young women later, must spend some part of their year at least under conditions which encourage them to realise themselves physically and as individuals, in forms of adventure, demanding resource, courage and endurance and to realise themselves socially by service for and in the community”. A passage which relates this to the improvement of the British “Race” argues that, in the past, “the sea had been the school of the race (sic), the first school of the British people, which had produced their historic quality.....mountaineering afforded like conditions for discipline and adventure”. (p. 317)

This flirting with such ideas and the relation with the state during the 1940s is recounted in the text but not in anyway dealt with as an issue. The idea of ideology goes generally unacknowledged. It is not immediately

apparent, for instance, that Leo Amery of the Alpine Club was a Right Wing Tory Cabinet Minister and that Jack Longland, an inspirational rock climber in the 1930s and a President of the BMC from 1962 to 1965, was a Left-Wing socialist. Similarly, the debate about sports climbing and bolting in the 1980s is recounted, but the politics of the issues - namely the generally Thatcherite business-orientation of competition organisers and the communal green leanings of their opponents, which were loudly proclaimed by the combatants at the time, is muted.

The cognate issue of social class which was a key factor in the battle for access to open country and in many of the changes in rock climbing in the 1950s and 1960s is also ignored. During that period, most of the advances in rock climbing in this country were generated by young skilled workers, who, coming from the back streets of Salford, Glasgow and Sheffield, had no need of being toughened up on outward bound courses. They advanced technical standards in climbing and in safety devices which they made at work - for instance by reaming out hexagonal engineering nuts for use as running belays. During the period the Presidency and the Committee of the BMC remained in the hands of the Lord Chorleys, Dr G G MacPhees and the Sir John Hunts. Certainly, up until the 1970s it seems that the politics of the BMC were the politics of the Establishment.

Since the early 1980s this has not been the case. Perhaps the headquarters' move to Manchester was emblematic of a shift towards a more oppositional form of politics. But there is now no doubt that the BMC, when it is involved in politics, is more likely to be lining up with Friends of the Earth than the advocates of muscular Christianity, let alone racial improvement through discipline and adventure.

The issue of gender and climbing is not ignored, but it is not explicitly dealt with as a focus. An unconscious pictorial essay on sexual politics is an array of photographs of professional staff since the 1970s. The top three ranks are of men, all either national officers, training or other officers, while the bottom two ranks are women - all of them secretaries. There is no overlap. The BMC position appears to be men on top.

This book is aimed at readers who know about climbing and about the BMC. It is not a history in the sense of a book by a professional historian

who has looked at the evidence and assessed it and created a narrative around a number of themes or issues. Like climbing, it is undisciplined but full of interest. It would be a good source book for an historian who was interested in writing a history of the BMC or climbing in the UK - except for the fact that it lacks any bibliography, index or proper referencing system. It is a book by a committee - fortunately one made up of individualists.

Dr David Murphy
UMIST

David Miller, *Our Sporting Times*, London, Pavilion Books, 1996, Pp. 288. £16.99. ISBN 1-85793-880-1.

Any evaluation of a book like this must take account of the circumstances under which its raw material was prepared. David Miller may have been able to make his selection of pieces at a certain amount of leisure and in comfort at home or in the office. Few, if any of the 116 articles covering 13 (1983-95) years of top-class sport, will have been written under similar circumstances.

A high proportion of what appears on sports pages is written in conditions of discomfort - cramped, overcrowded, often exposed to the elements and at the mercy of bad telephone connections, temperamental portable computers, office-bound executives who - particularly now that little major sport goes untelevised - are convinced that they know better.

The memory remains of the 1995 Rugby Union World Cup semi-final, played after 7 inches of rain had fallen in 24 hours. Conventional wisdom holds that it doesn't rain in winter in Durban, so the press box is uncovered. Delayed by an edition-disrupting 90 minutes, a hugely-tense, chaotic and often controversial match was played as the rain continued to fall. At the end, grateful that my own paper did not publish on the following day, I watched a drenched colleague, surrounded by the pile of pulp that had once been his notes, doing his best to put all of this into lucid order as he phoned his report to the London office.

The format does the author no favours. Read singly in the day's paper, the columnist represents a change of pace from the furious news-based activity around him, a reflective view of around 1,000 words against the match report of perhaps 450. Not the least of Miller's achievements is that, while many of these pieces will have been written in the conditions described above and in a tearing hurry dictated by brutal deadlines, there is no sense of rush. The tone is invariably measured, unhurried and judicious. But to gather together 116 pieces of roughly the same length is to create a monotony of form and pace which is no fault of the author.

Miller is a veteran of the analytical colour piece, in recent years counterpointed admirably in the pages of *The Times* by the more flamboyant

ant, idiosyncratic style of Simon Barnes. The relatively low-key style serves him well. When flashier writers have run out of acid one-liners the perception of a range of sports displayed here or by the best of Fleet Street's current crop, Kevin Mitchell of *The Observer*, is likelier to provide consistent long-term results.

That veteran status forms an important element in the context to this book. Far from being the 'joyful celebration of the perennial appeal of sport' promised by the notes on the dustjacket, it is underpinned by a sense of disillusion with modern sport and its values, analysed in the introductory essay and recurring throughout the book, notably in the reflection that a day's test cricket in the West Indies had shown that 'What I have lived a part of my life believing in, no longer exists'. He argues that 'The last thirty years of sport has seen the establishment of an eleventh commandment : no sportsman shall be denied the right to earn his living by any moral consideration implicit in the other ten', and, looking back to a youth when he campaigned against the hierarchy, hypocrisy and shamateurism of older orders suggests that the replacement for them has been infinitely worse.

What this analysis perhaps lacks is the thought that it might also be because he himself is older - a personal element recently recognised by Ken Jones of the *Independent* as he put his own current distaste for boxer Naseem Hamed's antics in the context of his disagreements as a young writer in 1960s with older commentators who disliked Muhammad Ali .

And it is flawed by the class element implicit in his statement that 'Without education, culture or experience, the professionals, granted self-determination, quickly learnt the price of everything, but little understood the older traditional values'. When it comes to short-sighted rapacity, the gentlemen of the Rugby Football Union have shown that they have nothing to learn from the less socially exalted rulers of other games

But Miller never falls victim to what might be termed the 'Trueman doctrine', that 'things aren't as good as in my day and I don't understand what's going on any more'. Any nostalgia is tempered by a sense of realism - while admiring Matt Busby enough to have written a good biography of him, his valedictory notice recognises that Busby failed to curb some of his more violent players.

Factually reliable - the only obvious error is relocating sociologist John Williams from Leicester to London University - he is particularly good, both perceptive and balanced, on football, the game in which he won a Cambridge blue. Popular legend holds that England were cheated in the 1986 World Cup and unlucky in 1990. Miller's final-whistle analyses show that in the heat of the moment he recognised the reality that, 'Hand of God' or not, Argentina, and particularly Diego Maradona, were the superior team in 1986 and that the Germans had an edge in 1990. Similar balance holds elsewhere. While BBC radio commentators foresake their normal balance for shameless flagwaving during golf's Ryder Cup - and win awards for it - Miller's equal enthusiasm does not blind him to the fact that, like yachting's Americas Cup 'It only mattered once America lost'.

The historian concerned with the development of sport between 1983 and 1995 may still get better value from going back to the original papers and seeing these pieces in their proper context. There is an inevitable lack of real continuity in a selection averaging nine pieces a year and ranging across almost the whole of sport. But those who want a sense of what a sensitive, slightly but far from unthinkingly conservative, somewhat troubled observer has made of these complex times will find much of value.

Huw Richards,
*Financial Times (Rugby Correspondent), Times Higher Education
Supplement*

Jeremy MacClancy (ed.), *Sport, Identity and Ethnicity*, Oxford: Berg, 1996, Pp. viii + 203. £14.95. ISBN 1-85973-145-7.

This interesting anthology emerged from meetings organized as part of an ongoing 'Identity and Ethnicity' seminar at the Institute of Social Anthropology, Oxford University. While conducting fieldwork in the Basque region of northern Spain, editor Jeremy MacClancy had observed the local community actively engaged in revitalizing and adapting traditional sports - and inventing new ones - as a means of expressing 'ethnic identity'. If, as many of us believe, sport has been a significant contributor in such matters, it is important to ask 'whose community, ethnicity (or nation)'? (p. 15) The papers included in *Sport, Identity and Ethnicity* help to shed light on this complex, important, and as yet insufficiently studied question.

The economic and political salience of sport in our contemporary world can no longer be denied; hence, it is intriguing that 'prejudices against [its] academic investigation...as an integral part of social and cultural life' (p. 1) persist. Such study receives scant attention at institutions of higher learning; in fact, it is often ridiculed. Moreover, on those rare occasions when the popular press - which devotes extensive attention to winning teams and athletic heroes (rarely heroines) - comments upon a scholarly work dealing with sport, the treatment is likely to be jocular, disdainful, or both (cf., pp. 17-18). Should we attribute this to a belief that things having to do with the physical body - 'viewed as 'natural' and 'unchangeable' - are not worthy of scholarly attention (p. 1)? Or to an alienation from our corporeal selves that some scholars suggest has been growing since the 1700s? (Much the recent work on the body produced under the rubric 'cultural studies' or 'cultural theory' is suggestive, even if not conclusive, on the latter point.) Might the compelling reason be that 'sport cannot be comprehended without reference to relations of power' (p. 2); and that as embodied practices, sports are a major arena 'within which the social struggle for the control of the physical body occurs'. (p. 15). Clifford Geertz, Victor Turner, and John MacAloon - to note only three individuals whose writings are profoundly influenced by an anthropological orientation - have argued that as 'cultural performances' embedded in layers of symbols, sports condense and convey 'stories about ourselves' that are so profound that we are reluctant to probe deeply. If this is the case, just what are these messages and how do they operate? Efforts to address such

questions have appeared since *The Fortnightly Review* published E. B. Tylor's 'The History of Games' in 1879. However, when compared to the numbers of sociological and historical studies of games, sports, and organized physical activities that are now available, the anthropological literature remains surprisingly slim.

In addition to a useful opening chapter that establishes the framework for the ensuing papers, *Sport, Identity and Ethnicity* consists of eight chapters whose themes are: power relationships in Turkish wrestling; politics and polo in Northern India; female bullfighters; cricket and the contested terrain of 'public space' within Britain's Pakistani population; angling, Britain's 'most popular' sport; the interface of ritual, drama, and sport in the Venice regatta; soccer and social change in Colonial Zimbabwe; and football and the promotion of nationalist ideology among the Basque population of Northern Spain. Some of the contributions are grounded in fieldwork (i.e., participant observation); others rely upon published sources. The following are illustrative (and by no means exhaustive) of the various papers that comprise the anthology.

'Nationalism at Play: The Basques of Vizcaya and Athletic Club de Bilbao' combines an historical account with recent developments. Following the introduction of football by British sailors and engineers in the 1890s, soccer - football emerged as the team game of Vizcaya and 'Athletic' became the team of the Basques, with its characteristic style - *la furia vasca*. It was 'owned' (financially - and emotionally - supported) by a large segment of the community; its players were born in the region. Symbolically and metaphorically, as in the phrase una gran familia rojiblanca (red and white are the team's colors), the team served as a focal point for identity and solidarity among Vizcayanans; games provided occasions when the politically banned ikurriña (Basque flag) was displayed. (Such matters invoke images of Victor Turner's normative communitas wherein 'a subculture or group attempts to foster and maintain relationships of spontaneous communitas'.) By adopting - and adapting - a prestigious import, 'bilbainos were being both very Basque and very modern' (p. 197). Beginning in the early s, prompted by escalating salaries and other pressures caused by the free movement of players among teams all over Europe, players from 'Athletic' began to transfer to non - Basque teams - a move that would have been unthinkable

during the Franco regime. Nevertheless, within the local community maintaining 'cherished traditions' has continued to be viewed as more important than importing non-Basque players in an effort to achieve contest victories.

Peter Parkes chapter on polo in Northern Pakistan evokes certain images of G. Whitney Azoy's *Buzkashi: Game and Power in Afghanistan*, a work which the author characterizes as exemplary. It, too, draws upon both historical accounts and fieldwork to compare and contrast : (1) traditional polo, which by Western standards lacked defined boundaries and rules; (2) the game as it was transformed by British officers beginning in the 1890s; (3) the 'modern' game that emerged around 1974 following the introduction of Punjabi horses; and (4) the Shandur Tournament, which is televised throughout Upper Chitral and Gilgit and 'touted as the supreme tourist attraction of Pakistan' (p. 58).. While neither the British nor the more recent Punjabi administrators probably intended to change the game by seizing claim to it, this is precisely what occurred. As formerly autonomous principalities increasingly came under annexation, British officers rapidly made the indigenous game safer for their horses and themselves - and more subject to codified rules. They also out rivaled local rulers in establishing polo grounds in villages throughout Northern India. The Pakistani civil administrators who replaced British Political Agents after Partition in 1947 continued the tradition of military sponsorship in spite of occasional Islamic protests about the game's frivolity. Parkes concludes with an interesting account based upon fieldwork conducted in Chitral during the 1970s. Polo-playing Deputy Commissioners encouraged the 'safer and tactically more civilized' (p. 53) form. Increasing costs - and especially the introduction of 15-hand Punjabi horses (Badakshi horses being 12-13 hands) - soon rendered tournament play with locals 'a pointlessly handicapped exercise' (p. 55). The once widely upheld beliefs that local polo epitomized participatory democracy have been seriously challenged by separate elite and rural village forms of the game. This, the author asserts, is but one instance (albeit a powerful one) of differences in recreational pursuits (e.g., film, music) that now divide the 'elite from their barely literate relatives' (p. 62).

Lidia Sciama's paper on the evolution and present conduct of the Venice regatta - and its salience in the recurring search for local identity - provides

a compact, useful example for those who wish to become more familiar with the cultural (i.e., anthropological) study of games, sports, and organized physical activity. It considers its subject from the perspectives of sport, ritual, and drama; and takes up, in order: the environment (i.e., the lagoon upon which the regatta is rowed; issues of 'the two Venices' (i.e., maritime and terrestrial orientations); an historical overview of the fiesta in which the regatta is embedded; the event itself, with attention to the perspectives of the spectators and the rowers. Some attention is also given to the active participation of females, who in comparatively quite small numbers have participated since 1493.

The lagoon upon which regattas have been held for over a thousand years has been seen as 'the great mediator between sea and land'; hence, between city dwellers (whose physical separation from the mainland has tended to define Venice as 'a world apart') and farmers on the mainland, which has become increasingly industrialized. At times when there has been particular need to 'affirm a local identity', Venetians have emphasized the Regatta Storica as spectacle, rowers as a class, and individual champions. The revival of regattas in the 1970s, the author maintains, was part of such a 'collective identity crisis' that began as a protest against industrial pollution and urban decay. Although rowers (and others) are now prone to depict the event as a 'competitive sport', core traditions are repeatedly invoked bringing together 'sporting and ritual aspects of the Regatta...united by the common desire for identity' (p. 161).

Taken as a whole *Sport, Identity and Ethnicity* offers valuable and suggestive insights regarding a variety of sporting forms that have received relatively little attention from historians and sociologists. It also serves the academic community well by drawing our attention to the possibilities that exist within an approach to studying play, games, and sports that has yet to receive the attention it merits - the anthropological. Hopefully, several of the contributors will expand their contributions into a full length monographs such as Joseph S. Alter's detailed *The Wrestler's Body: Identity and Ideology in Northern India* (1992). The scholarly community has great need of such works!

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Henry W. Pardoel, *A Complete Bibliography of the Art and Sport of Fencing* (Commemorative Edition), Kingston, ON: School of Physical and Health Education Queen's University, 1996, Pp. xxii + 506. ISBN 016-79686.

Frequent readers of *The Sports Historian* will recall that it was only last year that I reviewed Pardoel's *A Bibliography of the Art and Sport of Fencing*. In that review, I mentioned that Pardoel was working on a second, international (as opposed to Canadian) edition for publication later that year. To his credit, Pardoel has achieved that ambition and published a limited edition (1,000 copies), hard-backed bibliography to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the publication of Carl Thimm's famous *Complete Bibliography of Fencing and Duelling*.

For me this is an example of bibliographical scholarship at its best, providing the most complete, single sports bibliography to date. Elsewhere, I have sometimes been critical of sports bibliographies and bibliographers either because of their limited scope, failure to systematically research their subject, poor layout, gross overlap with previous publications, etc. No such criticisms could be fairly levelled at Pardoel's work. He has chosen an interesting subject with a long and important history, the literature of which needed documenting and updated from previous efforts.

An introductory chapter traces the history of fencing in its various forms and outlines the background to the bibliography. This is followed by a description of Pardoel's research methodology, a bibliographic key and then the main sections of the compilation - Reference works, manuals, histories, fencing masters, biographies, acquiring skill, factors affecting performance, tactics and strategies, sports medicine, fencing standards, fencing competitions and tournaments, fencing in contemporary society, fencing and sociology, oriental fencing, fencing as an art form, fencing and the movies. These are followed by a list of fencing offices, listing of fencing magazines, journal series and other source addresses, list of source abbreviations and an author index.

The scope of the bibliography is immense, virtually anything and everything written on the art and sport of fencing, published anywhere in the world in any language, for children as well as adults. Pardoel rather modestly shies away from any grandiose claims to his work being the most

complete compilation of material produced on fencing, pointing out a number of publications received too late to be included and the fact that duelling is only included in the sense of involving fencing.

All in all, there are 3,725 individual book and article entries, approximately 250 fencing action films and videos.

Pardoel's starting pint was the *National Union Catalogue* followed by the *British Library Catalogue* and the *Bibliothèque Nationale*. These were supplemented by numerous other sources including bibliographies, sports libraries databases and individuals.

Each book entry within the sections outlined above is numbered in sequential order, followed by author's name (surname first), title of publication (English translation if appropriate), edition, place of publication, publisher, number of pages, illustrations, book size, date of publication, language, Canadian Location/United States Location/European Location/Southern Hemisphere Location, ISBN (if known), citation services.

Obviously the format differs slightly for periodical articles, author's name followed by title of article (English translation if appropriate), journal name (country of origin), volume, number, date of issue, pages, illustration, references, original language.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to identify the individual responsible for designing the layout of the bibliography but whoever is, and for the time being I will assume it is the compiler, is to be congratulated for his efforts. Using an A4 format, entries are generously spaced, making use of several formatting styles (fonts), and exceptionally sharp in focus.

Not all bibliographies would subscribe to the inclusion of illustrations, but I liked them. Black and white photographs, drawings, paintings, prints, depicting the many facets, styles and contexts of fencing, are included throughout the whole publication. Credit for these goes to Shawn Postoff.

Pardoel has plans to update this bibliography annually and to publish a CD-ROM version sometime next century. His ambition then is to also include an interactive art library as part of the bibliography. I wish him success in achieving these goals.

Richard William Cox
UMIST

Josna Pankhania, *Liberating the National History Curriculum*, London: Falmer Press, 1994, Pp. ix + 167, p/b. £35.00. ISBN 0-7507-0209-5.

This is a bold book. Josna Pankhania takes on two enemies of progressive history - History From Above and the National Curriculum. Both have worked against the understanding of people's history by denying ordinary men and women a place in the record. Bertolt Brecht's famous questions of long ago, posed by the intelligent worker reading his 'great men' history, have more than an echo in Pankhania's study. Brecht's point - that history is written by the winners, both to record their past achievements and by so doing to reproduce their power into the future - alerted many to the ideological role of the discipline. The point was not lost on later historians of the socialist and labour movements in particular. In contesting ruling class versions of the past with their own people's history, a whole new canon of historical record and practice was created. Some began to feel that by the 1960s this had resulted in more than enough workers' history, and too little attention to other groups whose activities had been hidden from history. Thus began a second wave of people's history, bringing to the fore issues of gender and, as in Pankhania's book, race.

Her purpose, however, is different from that of historians who have previously pursued this aim. To be sure, she investigates the power of the educational curriculum to subordinate black people by excluding them from serious historical attention. But she takes a further step by giving this project a practical dimension. She tackles the difficult question of how history might be taught to black (and, indeed, any other) schoolchildren in British education now.

Coping with the demands of the National Curriculum is a thorny issue in any subject, but in history it is doubly problematical. Not only has the discipline become ludicrously marginalised in favour of more 'relevant' areas of enquiry, but its curriculum has been the target of ideological challenges from those who feel that its function should be the creating of a sense of national community through a focus on heroes and traditions. Those oft-assailed 'trendy' teachers and their methods have perhaps been most keenly perceived in history, their 'crime' being their neglect of those processes that contributed to the formation of the nation. The 1991

National History Curriculum for England and Wales (1991) is, says Pankhania, partly a product of this discourse. It disregards 'the history of British racism, sexism and class oppression ... [and] attempts to teach students a limited history, a history that does not threaten the British social order with its unequal race, gender and class relations.' [p.3]

Teachers persuaded by this approach are likely to find Chapter 5 - 'Weaving a People's History into the National Curriculum' - the most rewarding part of the book. Seizing the opportunities within the National Curriculum for teachers to devise their own classroom materials through which to achieve the aims of the various key stages, Pankhania fashions a series of lesson plans which encourage pupils to think critically about historical development. Colonialism and race are favoured themes. These are worked into topics such as The Beginnings of the British Empire (Key Stage 2: Core Study Unit 2) and British imperial expansion (Key Stage 3: Core Study Unit 4). More interestingly, however, they find a place in areas less commonly associated with issues of race: the Legacy of the First World War (Key Stage 3: Core Study Unit 5), for example, or, more imaginatively still, Culture and Society in Ireland (Key Stage 3: Supplementary Unit A). Here, an attempt is made to bring an Irish-centred approach to bear on the subject, which is also invested with a gender perspective: issues of divorce, contraception and abortion are introduced, and explained in relation to the economic development of Ireland as a colony. Ultimately 'it was in Ireland', says Pankhania, 'that Britain perfected the art of conquest and domination prior to the expansion into the countries further away.' [p.74] Similarly, the favourite old topic of the First World War is given a refreshingly new slant by being tackled from the perspective of colonised peoples, and seen as an instrument for preserving imperial unity, much in the way that historians have discussed the involvement of Russia in the Great War.

This, then, is a robust and challenging book that raises important questions about the nature and purpose of history, in addition to offering innovative ideas for curriculum development. The discussion is hampered at times by a rather polemical tone, notably over the interpretation of colonialism, which takes a prominent place in the book. British colonialism is too often rendered as an exploitative system which made Britain rich and deprived subject peoples of their resources and identity. There is room for greater

subtlety of analysis here. But generally the study would amply repay close attention from all those keen to explore new ways of teaching and learning history.

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Doris H. Pieroth, *Their Day In the Sun. Women of the 1932 Olympics*, Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1996. Pp. 208. US\$1.95. ISBN 0-295-97554-7.

Although the title implies a global overview, this book is, in fact, the story of the US women's team at the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Seventeen track and field athletes, seventeen swimmers and divers and three fencers made up the American team and with 11 victories in 13 events this was the most successful team in Olympic history. The only events the US failed to win were the 100 metres which went to the American-based Stanisława Walasiewicz (Stella Walsh) who chose to represent her native Poland and the foil fencing event where Ellen Preis of Austria took the gold medal.

The life stories of the members of this outstanding team have been thoroughly researched and presented in an entertaining and informative manner. From interviews with the surviving 1932 Olympians or their families and by judicious use of the oral history collection in the library at the Amateur Athletic Foundation Ziphron Resource Center in Los Angeles a revealing insight into female sports in America in the early 1930s emerges.

The book is aptly titled. Swimmers, Eleanor Holm, Helen Madison and Josephine McKim went on to enjoy limited success in Hollywood and Mildred Didrikson later achieved lasting fame as a golfer but the majority of the thirty-seven strong US team returned to an uneventful life after their 'Day in the Sun'.

At the time, Collegiate sports for women were still in their infancy and activity centred mainly around local neighbourhood clubs. Pieroth captures the atmosphere well and with quotes from such astute observers of the contemporary scene as Paul Gallico, Westbrook Pegler and Damon Runyon an absorbing picture of mid-America during the Depression years emerges. Of particular interest are the comments on why competitive swimming for women was considered socially acceptable but track and field was not.

While performances at the Los Angeles Olympic Games are well documented in other sources, the book provides some fascinating details of the

US Olympic Trials which, in the track and field events, doubled as the AAU Championships.

In the heats of the 100 metres, Ethel Harrington pulled up after 80 metres but in order to give her a chance of still making the Olympic team she was allowed to start in the final as an unofficial entrant. She duly breasted the tape first and is recorded as having won the Olympic Trials but is not listed as the AAU champion even though both titles were decided in the same race.

It has been said that the omission of the black sprinters, Louise Stokes and Tidye Pickett, from the relay team was the result of racial prejudice but the author is right not to make too much of this. The relay team was selected after a series of completely separate trials. The four fastest were chosen and Stokes and Pickett were not among them but neither were the white athletes, Ethel Harrington and Elizabeth Wilde, both of whom, based on the results of the individual 100 metres, had a better claim for inclusion in the relay team. It was not until 1936, when Pickett competed in the 80 metres hurdles, that the first black woman appeared on a US Olympic team.

This particular incident provides an excellent example of the depth of material to be found in this work .

While Ms. Pieroth rightly concludes that the 1932 Games were a major factor in dispelling the antipathy of the International Olympic Committee towards womens' sports she wisely refrains from the pretentious theorizing which is so often a feature of books of this type.

Ian Buchanan
President, International Society of Olympic Historians
Stephen W. Pope (ed.), *The New American Sports History: Recent*

***Approaches and Perspectives*, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, Champaign, 1997, Pp. xv + 423. US\$42.50 cloth, US\$19.95 paper.**

With the exception of Pope's introductory essay and a contribution by Mark Dyreson, all the chapters presented here are reprinted (occasionally with slight revisions the nature of which is not fully specified) mainly from the *Journal of Sport History* or the *International Journal of the History of Sport*. Hence, with the exception of the introduction, my critical focus will not be upon the articles themselves but on Pope's editorial prowess.

He has brought together works by fifteen other historians, many of them leading practitioners, to illustrate four major themes of the new American sports history. For the emergence of a national culture he utilises Elliott Gorn's encyclopaedia entry on sports (plural) in the nineteenth century before looking at specific sports with Mel Adelman on baseball and Michael Oriard on football. This section concludes with Mark Dyreson analysing the role of middle-class spokesmen in articulating a particular sporting ideology. Gender and the body features contributions by Nancy Struna, Steve Riess, Donald Mrozek and Allen Guttman. These venture away from the now traditional 'gender equates with women' approach to discuss the making of masculinity and the relationship between sport and the erotic. Then comes class, race and ethnicity which is perhaps too broad an issue to be covered in only five essays by Elliott Gorn, Peter Levine, Bill Baker, Gerald Gems and Dave Wiggins. The final section covers markets and audiences with essays by Allen Guttman, Pamela Cooper, Ben Rader and Stephen Hardy's seminal work on entrepreneurs and the sports marketplace.

His introductory essay provides an excellent historiography of American sports history which also charts the state of academic play before the new historians came on to the scene. In the space of a few pages he also succinctly outlines the theoretical baggage which sports historians have taken on board as they travelled new paths. Pope possesses a rare scholarly skill - the ability to synthesise without losing the rigour of an argument. Like most of his contributors he is primarily a good historian who has chosen to work in the field of sports history; hence he is aware of the primacy of historical context into which to set developments in sport. He

also shows that sports historians have ‘borrowed liberally’ from other disciplines though he did not attempt to assess whether we were parasitic or symbiotic in our relationship.

My criticisms are minor. On checking how ‘new’ were these exemplars of the new sports history, it was noteworthy that all were originally published in 1986 or later with the exception of Nancy Struna’s ‘Gender and Sporting Practice in Early America’ which allegedly first saw the light of day in the *Journal of Sport History* in 1911! Either Nancy was a pre-embryonic prodigy or this is a rare typographical error in an otherwise almost flawless production. I also have a personal aversion to editorial processes which allow an author to have two footnotes which run for almost two and a half pages. Moreover in reproducing extant articles the system of referencing within the various contributions was not standardised. The index is sound but sparse for a book of over four hundred pages; it consists mainly of names with relatively little mention of topics apart from major themes. Finally there is no overall bibliography but perhaps this is not required given the historiography of the introduction and the generally well-footnoted chapters.

Overall this is an impressive collection which is ideal for teaching seminar purposes, both in the American domain or to give British students a comparative perspective.

Wray Vamplew
International Centre for Sports History and Culture
De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.

J. R. Thomas and J. K. Nelson, *Research Methods in Physical Activity* (3rd edition), Leeds: Human Kinetics, 1996, Pp. xv + 485. £40.00. ISBN 0-88011-481-9.

Building on the success and reaction to the first edition published in 1985 and the second edition published in 1990, *Research Methods in Physical Activity* provides a course text aimed primarily at Master's degree students following a module in research methods.

Part I provides a complete review of the research process including developing the problem using the library, preparing a prospectus (or research proposal as we would be more inclined to call it in Britain) and understanding ethical issues in research and scholarship.

Part II covers statistical and measurement concepts in research: descriptive, correlational, differences amongst groups, multivariate techniques, non-parametric procedures and measurement issues associated with dependent variables.

Part III presents various types of research: historical, philosophical, research synthesis, descriptive, experimental and qualitative.

Finally, Part IV provides information on preparing the report.

The chapter on historical research in Part III is written by Nancy Struna. In it she attempts to provide an overview of what historical research is all about, pointing out similarities and then differences between historical and scientific research. She then guides the reader through the historical process of defining research paradigms, exploring lines of inquiry and topics, investigating secondary sources and developing 'good questions'. This is followed by a discussion of research design and in particular the two main approaches - discipline and analytical. This leads onto a section dealing with the locating of primary sources and their examination, a section on placing the evidence in its context and some final thoughts on making sense of the whole process. All this is followed by a summary, exercises to check your understanding, endnotes and two appendices, the first of which is a listing of record collections, the second an extract from the *American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine* (June 1835) to use as part of an exercise in analysing primary evidence.

For me this is an excellent publication for the purpose for which it was designed. The structure is logical and it covers just about everything one might include on a Master's course in research method. As to whether it would satisfy the more specific needs of students about to embark on graduate research in biomechanics or exercise physiology, etc I cannot say, but certainly the chapter by Struna is sufficient to prepare the history student. If one follows up some of the recommended readings and references cited then one will be, without doubt, at the forefront of historiographical debate.

Although I have described the chapter on historical methodology in more detail because of the audience likely to be reading this review, it would be wrong to judge it separately from the rest of the book. The reader would be advised to first read the more general sections in Parts I and II to get a feel for what the authors are trying to achieve through this publication and where later chapters fit into this structure. Certainly, having more specific, focused chapters like the one on history leads to some overlap and repetition that is usually no bad thing with students.

Whilst not feeling under any obligation to make the token criticism, I would say, rather churlishly, that it is very 'North American'. Perhaps it is a case of what I am used to, but I doubt that purple footnotes and numerous graphic symbols to denote major concepts, key words, further reading, questions to ask yourself, etc would go down well with a British audience. Perhaps these are criticisms best levelled at the design team employed by Human Kinetics.

The decision of the authors to include humorous anecdotes as letters at the foot of each section and many amusing photographs with apt captions might also grate with a British academic audience, it is something I personally enjoyed and believe useful in driving home crucial points.

Richard William Cox
UMIST

DeeAnne Westbrook, *Ground Rules: Baseball and Myth*, Champaign, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1996, Pp. 348. US\$19.95. ISBN 0-252-06529-8.

In the United States, authors of fiction have long devoted special attention to the sport of baseball, even as the game has dwindled in popularity over the past two decades. DeeAnne Westbrook interprets this vast body of literature, its conventions, tropes, and cultural meanings, in her book titled *Ground Rules: Baseball and Myth*. Westbrook argues that baseball's fictional texts comprise an important source of serious "modern mythology." Drawing from her own love of baseball and baseball fiction, as well as her scholarly background in mythology and literature, Westbrook presents a thoroughly researched and detailed volume that explores how baseball mythologies render the complexities and conflicts of human experience in ways that are ordered and comprehensible.

Westbrook is a professor of English at Portland State University in Oregon, and teaches a course on the mythology and literature of baseball. In addition, the dust jacket of her book identifies her as an avid baseball fan, and a particularly strong supporter of the Chicago Cubs (a team that is so famous for its misfortunes that Westbrook identifies herself as a "fan in the tragic mode"). Her open identification as a fan importantly positions her as someone who understands her topic from multiple perspectives and who is passionately engaged in her writing about it.

Westbrook argues that baseball's fictional texts reveal something she calls, borrowing from the work of Eric Gould, "mythicness," or the linguistic structure of myth. Her linguistic orientation leads her to resist understanding particular mythologies as essentially generated within the human psyche. Rather, drawing from Lacanian analysis of literature, she sees myth as revealing important relationships between language and the unconscious, and in so doing, ask why certain narrative plots insist on being retold, why certain conventions and details render themselves comforting and pleasurable to readers, and how baseball has become a location for the creation of mythic storytelling.(36) She not only asserts that baseball authors evoke myth in their writing about the game, but also writes that the game itself, its rules, pacing, and even the dimensions of its field of play, is particularly mythic and hospitable to interpretation.(53) As

Westbrook understands myth in linguistic terms, she does not see the game as allowing authors to transport older mythic constructs into present contexts unchanged and in tact. Rather, drawing from the work of Claude Levi-Strauss, she argues that baseball myth makers are bricoleurs, reconstructing shards of the mythic past in ways that render contemporary circumstances meaningful.

Central to Westbrook's thesis is what she calls the "myth of the gap," which is a "spacial metaphor" for the way that ideas and reality are structured around language. Above the gap, she argues, lies the conscious, the known, the empirical world that we can touch and feel. Below it rests the unconscious and unseen. The author writes, "the gap of myth is a great void of nonmeaning, nonsense, or contradiction in which the mythic purpose operates within the medium of language, attempting to fill that emptiness with meaning, to render experience intelligible, to create narrative bridges across the abyss." (17) Unlike Roland Barthes, who is interested in the way such mythmaking renders power relations natural and inevitable, Westbrook does not make the ideological significance of myth a core part of her book. Although she does explore the misogyny within baseball texts like William Kennedy's *Ironweed* and W.P. Kinsella's *The Iowa Baseball Confederacy*, she is more concerned with the effectiveness of baseball as a mythological construct than its political and ideological implications.

Westbrook focuses entirely on literature, exploring the baseball mythology among a body of fiction that includes August Wilson's play *Fences*, Mark Harris's books *Bang the Drum Slowly* and *The Southpaw*, W.P. Kinsella's novels *The Iowa Baseball Confederacy* and *Shoeless Joe*, William Kennedy's *Ironweed*, Eric Rolfe Greenberg's *The Celebrant*, Bernard Malamud's *The Natural*, and Robert Coover's *The Universal Baseball Association, Inc, J. Henry Waugh, Prop.*. Her method of analysis lends her to draw original and complex conclusions in her readings of these texts.

In her reading of Malamud's *The Natural*, for example, she recognizes, as have many other literary critics, how the novel offers endless references and allusions to Grail legends explored by Jessie Weston, Sir James Frazer, and T.S. Elliott. However, she strongly asserts that Malamud does not provide readers with only a "sedimented" myth, that is an old story told

in new ways that conveys its original meanings. Rather, she sees *The Natural* as an example of a text where the sedimented and innovative aspects of myth meet one another, and out of this interplay “meaning arises.”(183) She writes that through the “creative reinterpretation” of myths from the past, and ironic juxtapositions of mythic archetypes in contemporary contexts, new possibilities might emerge for understanding the present in relation to history. Westbrook sees *The Natural* as a profoundly intertextual novel, one that resists any universal interpretation, but instead is equivocal and confounding.

Westbrook provides an extremely impressive volume of research and interpretation. She structures her arguments clearly, and provides a wealth of evidence to support her assertions about the ways that baseball myths express emotions and ideas about the relation between fathers and sons, childhood and adulthood, life and death. However, as a work focusing only on literary fiction, her book also raises questions about the extent to which the mythic dimensions that she describes are a general part of how people experience the game. In addition, although she limits her study to writing about baseball in the United States, she does not problematize this fact. Baseball today is a game played in Latin America, Asia, Europe, and Australia as well as in North America. Does the sport of baseball achieve the same stature as myth in Japan or the Dominican Republic as it does among authors of fiction in the United States? Westbrook’s linguistic methodology provides us with some answers. As someone who clearly understand context as central to cultural meaning, her book would suggest that she would see the meaning of baseball in other countries in the same intertextual ways that she does in the United States.

Ultimately, Westbrook is most concerned with the degree to which baseball mythology is “good myth.” Her question is primarily an aesthetic one. She argues that baseball myths can be good myths if they address contradictions that people face in their lives which cannot be resolved, and in this way resonate deeply with people on a linguistic and psychological level. However, her book also raises questions and provokes thought that has even broader implications. For example, if baseball has become a game that is a significant well for myth among some fiction writers, how did this come into being? What historical, social, commercial, and political contexts contributed to the creation of baseball as a modern myth?

What are the implications of this? And, finally, are there ways that more marginalized populations in the United States - inner city minority youths, immigrants, single mothers - understand the game, or other sports, in mythic terms that might be different from those Westbrook describes - that might provide expression for concerns they have? Westbrook attempts to avoid a political analysis of myth, but I would suggest that the identification of any one set of contradictions as "human concerns" is a fundamentally political decision. Such critical remarks notwithstanding, Westbrook makes a significant contribution to the study of sports and culture in this book, providing, to my mind, the most thorough, serious, and thought provoking analysis of baseball and myth to date.

John Bloom
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Neil Wigglesworth, *The Evolution of English Sport*, London: Frank Cass, 1996, Pp.ix + 181. £32.50, hardback, ISBN 0-7146-4219-3; £15.00, paperback, ISBN 0-7146-4685-7.

This book is crammed with facts about the development of sport in England since the later middle ages. It concentrates upon the origins of sport in England, the forms and extent of commercialisation in English sport, professionalism, recreationalism, amateurism, the factors influencing the viability of sports clubs and developments in English sport since the Second World War. In addition to the examples provided to support its general points about half of the fifty or so endnotes to each chapter include commentaries and further details of points made in the main text. The range of Wigglesworth's archival research is impressive. The records of more than 120 sport clubs and organisations are listed in the bibliography. A great strength of the book is that unlike so many studies of sport, it considers the recreational as well as the first-class variants of sport. It does extend our understanding of sport in the still largely under-researched early modern period.

Perhaps because the book is so full of factual material it is not always easy to see the wood for the trees. This is especially so with the factors which have shaped the nature of sport in England. Discussion of such decisive influences such as industrialisation and urbanisation are so scattered throughout the book that any appraisal of their effects becomes fragmented and submerged in the detail. Wigglesworth contends that the evolution of sport in England 'and by extension much of English society, has been a story full of petty snobberies, class selfishness, hypocrisy, religious bigotry, racism and sexism, the constant theme of which has been the exclusion of all those groups identified as socially undesirable by the contemporary customs of succeeding generations.' Wigglesworth provides many examples to support these claims and does mention that other factors have influenced the nature of sport in England, but tends to brush to one side evidence which shows how sports have also been important in reflecting and promoting harmony and co-operation between groups often in conflict in other areas of social activity. In a book with less than 150 pages of text it is probably inevitable that some facets of sport receive less attention than many would expect. Women's sport is discussed but there

is little about how sport has helped to fashion notions of masculinity. The rise of bureaucratic structures within sport and the effects of government policy, or lack of policy, upon sport receive little more than passing comment. Little is included about how sport has helped to shape national identity or loyalties to towns and regions.

One great virtue of this book is that it discusses a very wide range of sports and particularly some, such as yachting, bowls and swimming about which relatively little has been published. The only major sport to be overlooked is speedway, which by the late 1930s had become a major spectator sport. There are some factual errors but this is perhaps not altogether surprising in work covering so many sports over such a long sweep of time. Tyldesley Cricket Club is said to have been competing in a local cricket league in 1884, but no cricket leagues had been formed at that date. The statement that football attendances have been ‘on the downward trend ever since’ reaching a peak in the late 1940s overlooks the rise for a few seasons in attendances after England’s won the World Cup in 1966. Whilst it is true that the Northern Union changed its title to the Rugby League in 1922, the statement that ‘rugby football which split into amateur and professional producing the Rugby League in 1922’ ought to have the date 1895. In another section of the book it is made clear that the rugby split occurred in 1895. As Mrs Beeton died in 1865, the remark quoted on page 87 should have been attributed to *Mrs Beeton’s Book of Household Management* rather than to Mrs Beeton herself.

Jack Williams
Liverpool John Moores University

William J. Morgan, *Leftist Theories of Sport: A Critique and Reconstruction*, University of Illinois Press, 1994, Pp. 267.

The aim of this book is to provide a critical social theory whose practical intent is to purge sport of its current social ills. This is a brave attempt to gain the high ground of social theory through an assault from the left on that which, according to the writer has been the political leftist theoretical terrain of sport. Inherent in the argument is the proposition that theory in and of itself is incapable of legitimizing a particular political programme. The abstract approach to the book is legitimated on the grounds of the history of knowledge or more specifically that there are good historical reasons why the critical theory of sport assumes a necessary abstract approach to the study of sport (p. 2). The argument is that the left has lost the critical capacity to transform sport and society in that it has jettisoned the logical integrity of sport itself.

Such an argument is developed over six chapters; the New Left theory of sport; hegemony theory of sport; the corruption of sport and its ideological distortion; the path to a critical theory of sport: transcendent or immanent; a reconstructed critical theory of sport with a liberal twist and a postscript on sport in the larger scheme of things. The approach that is adopted is essentially two-fold; a deconstruction of a perceived version of hegemony theory and a reconstruction to that which is deemed capable of taking its place, namely a model that invokes sports own internal logic within the broader sphere of social theory; one that evokes a materialist disguise but is not materialist; one that invokes a support of sport but is critical - a model that might simply be labelled a 'critical supporter of sport' model. It is an attack on the unprincipled world of the sociology of sport from an eclectic position which draws on a number of key terms; pluralist; the liberal tradition, civil society, rational logic, practice and setting. The message is that local control of sport will promote pluralism and autonomy. A Blairite message in a pre-Blairite era.

It is a thesis in the vein of a social democratic intervention which attempts to steer a steady course between right and left. This is clearly evident in the crucial postscript to this text where in the words of the writer it is argued that 'the immanent and synoptic backing I provide is meant to disarm the right-wing sceptic.....and the left-wing sceptic who is inclined to reject all

liberally tinged proposals for social change (p. 263). This is a text that invites dialogue and yet sits on a number of fences. A clarity of political stance is not a hallmark of this book although it does raise a series of potentially polemical style questions such as What is the logic of sport and what is the rationale practice that lies at the core of sporting practice? Neither of these questions are answered in full and yet the text provides a useful summary and critique of various positions in the sociology of sport. This is a text in the same style as *Class, Sports and Social Development*, 1993 and yet it does not really speak with the same authority in relative terms. It would be unfair to comment on any substantive shortcomings for this is not the purpose of the exercise in this book.

It is a good solid, abstract synthesis of theory which should be read by sociological and philosophical scholars alike. It should be compulsory for graduate students in the sociology and philosophy of sport. It should be read alongside abstracted empiricism in the spirit of *The Sociological Imagination* and be avoided by the historical empiricist. The inherent critique is hard-hitting, cogent and clearly put. It may not produce the transformative moment that the logic of the book demands but it will be appreciated for its provocative and at times stimulating passages. It certainly has something to say about the 'degradation of modern sport' and is theoretically detailed in its preparation, range practice. It considers the role of sport in society.

Grant Jarvie
University of Stirling

Suzanne Wize, *Social Issues in Contemporary Sport. A Resource Guide*, Garland Reference Library of Social Science, Vol. 595, New York: Garland, 1994, Pp. 789. US\$130.00. ISBN 0-8240-6046-6.

In a relatively brief preface, Wise describes the purpose, scope and structure of this resource guide as providing a starting point for undergraduate and graduate students and for scholars working in a discipline unfamiliar to them, identifying key publications 'written for a variety of audiences and includes new stories, surveys, scholarly research and provocative points of view'.

Coverage is limited to 13 major social issues as they relate to sport - race relations, women, youth, education, politics, mass media, violence, gambling, law, drugs, economics, spectators and labour relations. Other sections identify noteworthy biographies and describe publications which provide a general overview of sport and society. The focus is on people and events since the end of World War II with emphasis on post 1970 publications although earlier works of special note are included. Only English language publications are included. Appendices list major periodicals and organisations, providing contact addresses and telephone numbers.

Even within the constraints outlined above, no attempt has been made to achieve comprehensive coverage although a wide variety of what are deemed 'noteworthy sources' have been included. These include books, articles from magazines, journals and newspapers, conference proceedings and government publications. Unpublished theses and dissertations and audio/video sources have not been included.

The guide was compiled from a survey of a number of general and specialised bibliographical indexes, consultation a number of mainstream journals such as the *Journal of Sport and Social Issues and Sports Illustrated*, and a number of specialist library collections. All entries, unless indicated otherwise, were personally examined by the compiler.

All in all, there are 2,420 individual entries providing basic bibliographical details such as author, title, place of publication, publisher and date for books; author, title, journal, volume, issue, date and pagination for

periodical titles. Brief but helpful annotations of a descriptive, rather than critical nature are included for all entries.

As a bibliographer of over two decades standing, I often find myself highly critical of bibliographical compilations produced by non-specialists and especially in the world of sport. All too often they fail to comprehend or choose to ignore the criteria of bibliographical scholarship. With this publication I offer only one rather churlish criticism which for the majority of readers of this journal will be of little consequence - that is poor layout and design, especially with reference to the spacing of entries and typeface selected.

The subject is a significant and worthy one, the scope appears appropriate to me given that there is no specific topic I noticed missing. The content is well selected, although strongly biased towards American literature and therefore somewhat limited for those seeking to bring themselves up to date on the British or for that matter any other national scene.

As someone who had lost touch with much of what was being published in the field of sports sociology, especially the American literature, I found it exceptionally useful in familiarising myself with the contemporary literature, the issues being discussed and what different authors were saying. Almost two decades ago I relied on Gunther Luschen and George Sage's *Handbook of Social Science of Sport*, (1980) this was replaced to some extent eight years later by Paul Redekop's *Sociology of Sport: An annotated bibliography* (1988). Suzanne Wise's guide provides an even more up-to-date source that will have a valued place on my bookshelf, as I am sure it will for anyone else teaching/researching social aspects of sport, for some years to come.

Richard William Cox
UMIST

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Wigglesworth, Neil, *A Social History of English Rowing* (London: Frank Cass, 1992)

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Tozer, Malcolm, H. H. Stephenson: The first of the Great School Coaches, *The Sports Historian*, 15 (1995), pp. 54-64

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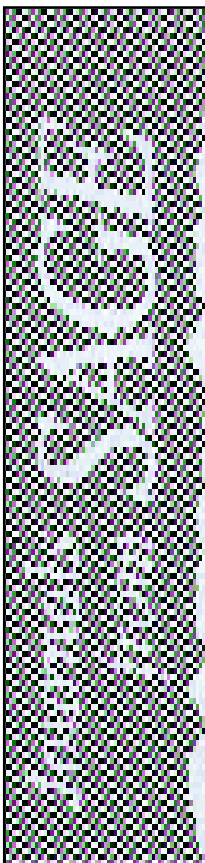
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