Sport Sport Exercise Psychology

Second Edition

Edited by
Judy L. Van Raalte
Britton W. Brewer

Sport Second Edition Exploring Second Edition Exploring Second Edition Exploring Second Edition

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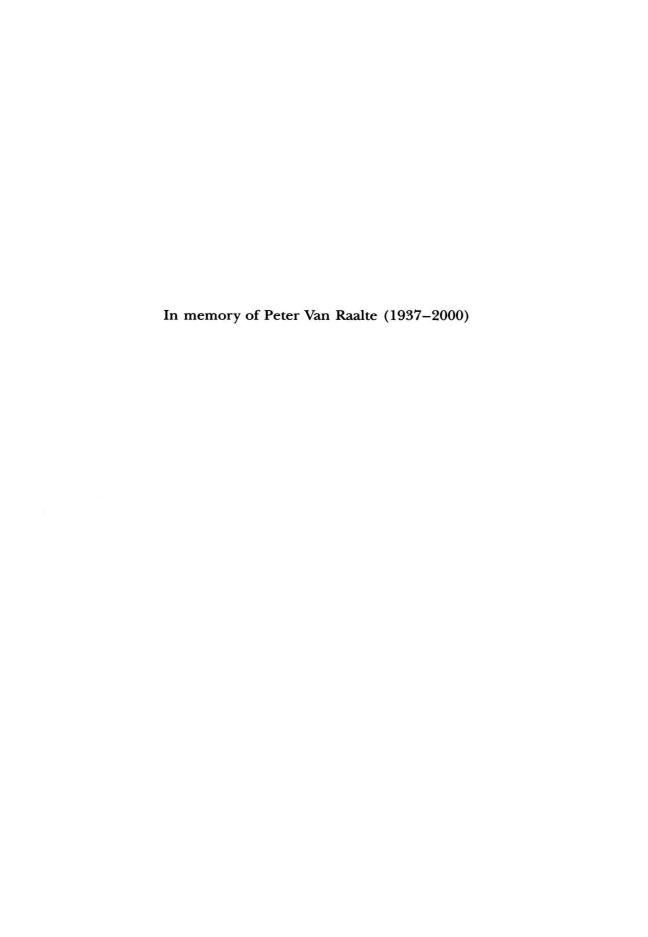
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Foreword

uture historians of psychology are likely to view the 20th century as a formative period during which some of the major themes in the profession were first developed. One of those themes has been the relationship between the mind and the body. That relationship has been a central issue in psychology since its emergence as a separate discipline. Indeed, it is not coincidental that psychology's conceptual parents philosophy and physiology—represented the polar extremes of this contrast. The mind-body dichotomy became an issue primarily because of the difficulties in conceptualizing an interaction between metaphysical and physical realms. This separation, technically termed dualism, has been prevalent in Western civilization since the times of Pythagoras and became formalized and enshrined by René Descartes. Dualism became an intractable problem: How was it possible for a nonmaterial mind to influence the material substance of the body? And how did the experiences of that body make their way from the physical to the mental realm? Proposed answers to questions like these have taken a variety of forms, each of which has had its share of adherents and detractors in the history of psychology.

In the second half of the 19th century, influential pioneers in psychology defined their work and the field itself as studies of consciousness. The pendulum of focus was on the mind's side of the dichotomy. As Wilhelm Wundt's voluntarism and E. B. Titchener's structuralism gave way to the post-Darwinian tradition of functionalism, however, the pendulum moved toward the bodily side. The rise of behaviorism marked the beginning of an anti-mind era, and this was the dominant position in North American psychology for the first half of the 20th century. Private events were largely banished from experimental psychology, and the "black box" of mental life was deemed unimportant to the allegedly "real science" of studying functional relations be-

tween stimulus (input) and response (output). The pendulum began its return journey around 1955 and, in the 1970s, psychology and other disciplines were in the throes of a sweeping "cognitive revolution." Beginning with studies in cybernetics and information processing, the cognitive sciences gained momentum and voice. The paradigms of connectionism and constructivism became second and third waves in the cognitive revolution, and the pendulum seemed destined toward the mind side again.

But something else happened. It was an unexpected and, in many ways, unprecedented something. The pendulum of focus broke out of its fixed path of alternations between mind and body. Instead of swinging in a straight line of separation between these two poles, the pendulum began swinging toward a circle that connected mind and body in an integrative way. Signs of this new development were popping up everywhere. The "dry look" in neurobiology, which had likened the brain and nervous system to an electronic circuit board, began to give way to the "wet look" of a nervous system literally bathed in fluids that connected it with the body. Respected brain scientists like Roger Sperry, who had previously endorsed an interactionist position on mind-body relations, began to encourage a new position that moved beyond the Cartesian assumption of dualism. The tradition of rationalist supremacy, which had placed reason above and in control of the body and its passions, was challenged by research emphasizing the power and pervasiveness of emotion in attention, perception, learning, and memory.

George Lakoff, Mark Johnson, and Antonio Damasio were among a creative group of theorists and researchers who documented that the body is in the mind no less than the mind is in the body. Developmental psychologists showed that infants used their bodily movements to establish communicative channels with their caregivers long before their development of language. Esther Thelen introduced the "new look" in motor development, showing how children display complex and dynamic self-organizing processes that defy any meaningful segregation of brain and body. The doctrine of cerebral primacy, which assumed that development and evolution were led by the head, receded in the face of evidence that body and brain development are integrated phenomena. Health psychology and sport psychology came to be recognized as legitimate and promising specializations that reflected this more integrative view.

The body is back, and so is the mind. They are not separate realms. They never were. It may be a long time before people develop a more

adequate vocabulary and language habits to address the complexity of body-brain processes, but I believe it is promising that recently steps have been taken toward liberating ourselves from the chains of dualism that have enslaved philosophy for more than two millennia and psychology for more than a century. There is still a long way to go, of course, but this should be an inspiring rather than daunting realization. Psychology is at the beginning of a new era, which promises to be filled with exciting insights that cannot be anticipated. To use the terminology now popular in the sciences of complexity, psychology is in the midst of a phase transition, in which old patterns of order are in the process of being incorporated (literally, embodied) into new patterns.

Dualistic notions about mind and body will not go away quickly or easily, and it is important that we realize the likelihood that dualistic conceptualizations probably served valuable functions in the early stages of reflective inquiry and psychological science. As tempting and popular as it may be to engage in "Descartes bashing," it is wise to respect the roles that traditions play in all evolutions of our thinking. Philosopher Thomas Kuhn is best known for his work on the structure of scientific revolutions, but he was equally emphatic about the role of essential tensions in the development of knowledge. Revolutions require traditions as the targets of their revolts. Changes require enduring stabilities to define them. Recognizing this is central to the appreciation that all development is fundamentally dialectical—that is, that it emerges out of the interaction of contrasts. The embodiment of mind and the return of the body to psychology are developments that have emerged out of a series of long-standing contrasts regarding mind, body, and their possible relationships. New paradigms are now appearing that integrate and elaborate in ways that will break new ground in theory, research, and practice. And one of the areas in which such integrations and elaborations are particularly apparent is that of exercise and sport psychology. This volume represents a major contribution to that area, and I am honored to contribute to it.

To appreciate the significance of this volume, one must realize what it represents in the context of the emerging specializations of exercise and sport psychology. One does not have to go too far back to see why the range and depth of this volume are a welcome and timely contribution. The pioneering works of Norman Triplett in the 1890s and of Coleman Roberts Griffith in the 1920s have been around for close to a century, and yet the field of sport psychology has remained —until very recently—an undernourished specialization. For the first

three quarters of the 20th century, psychological studies of exercise and sport were rarely undertaken and even less frequently reported. Things began to change in the 1970s, however, and have continued accelerating since then. A popular rise in health consciousness among the public has encouraged that development. The "movement movement" placed new demands on psychologists interested in incorporating the body into their services.

It is interesting to reflect on exercise and sport psychology only a quarter of a century ago. Exercise was the domain of exercise scientists, and it was considered an esoteric interest. Neighborhood health clubs were rare and little used. Those exercise facilities that did exist were neither high-tech nor fashionable, and their clientele were few and predominantly male. Bicycle lanes, running and walking paths, and fitness equipment were very difficult to find. Shopping malls did not abound with stores selling athletic apparel, running shoes, and home gyms. In North America, at least, sport was largely ignored by psychology. There were no trained specialists in sport psychology, no training programs, and relatively few researchers or practitioners. There were a few psychologists, however, who found themselves focusing more and more on sport. They began to write about the multiple roles of sport in society and the impact of an audience or competitor on athletic performance, the contributions of sports involvement to children's personality development, the existence of biases and preconceptions about women's involvement in exercise and sport, and the effects of hypnosis on athletic training and sports performance. In those days there was precious little literature-either experimental or case study-to inform and assist practitioners interested in offering psychological services to athletes or in recommending exercise or movement to their clients. Practitioners were essentially on their own in shaping their services. Many important lessons were learned and, fortunately, many were conveyed in forms that eventually made them more accessible to the growing numbers of practicing exercise and sport psychologists.

Today there are a growing number of training programs that incorporate exercise and sport psychology as important elements in the preparation of mental health professionals. The era of "talking heads" psychotherapy is evolving to reflect a deep and working appreciation of embodiment in all human experiencing. How does the practitioner do this? How do psychologists help their clients to appreciate the significance of their bodies in their psychological lives? How do we assess their attitudes toward their bodies, eating, exercise, dance, touch, and so on?

How do we individualize recommendations for healthy activities that bring joy as well as fitness into their lives? How do we teach children to develop a relationship with sports, movement, and themselves that sings with a sense of sublime delight at their capacities for "being bodily?" How do we help athletes to enjoy and optimally express their gifts and their hard work in their performances? What are the needs of special populations that may be challenged? And how do we encourage and participate in research and the training of psychologists who are interested in questions such as these?

These are among the issues addressed in this second edition of the present volume. Here the reader has a well-balanced range of chapters on basic themes and contemporary issues in exercise and sport psychology. The authors are highly respected specialists, including some of the pioneers in the field, and all share invaluable knowledge and experience. The topics addressed are core themes, such as assessment, motivation, imagery, cognitive strategies, intensity regulation, hypnosis, exercise therapy, assessment, psychological problems, referral practices, work with children and special populations, professional training, certification, clinical practice, and ethics. This volume represents a wealth of expertise and information that will be invaluable to anyone interested in serving athletes or clients who choose to explore exercise as a path toward well-being. This is a contemporary classic, and it deserves wide readership and practical application.

Michael J. Mahoney

Preface

n preparing the first edition of this book, we attempted to survey the broad and ever-expanding field of sport and exercise psychology. We wanted to develop a highly readable text that would serve as a resource for professionals and students who were interested in learning more about the theoretical, empirical, and applied aspects of the field. To accomplish our goal, we enlisted experts across the diverse array of essential topics in sport and exercise psychology to write chapters.

For the second edition, we have made an effort to update the book with developments in the field that have occurred in the years since the first edition was published, to provide coverage of emerging areas of sport and exercise psychology, and to address important topics that were not included in the first edition. To guide our efforts in revising the book, we read reviews of the first edition, consulted with colleagues, and obtained feedback and suggestions from members of SPORTPSY, an online sport psychology discussion group. The input from these sources, as well as the thoughtful work of the chapter authors, has resulted in a significantly updated and revised book. Specifically, the second edition features an abundance of new references and case examples and three new chapters addressing implementation of comprehensive sport psychology interventions, modeling, and promotion of physical activity through community development.

The second edition retains the focus of the first edition on providing an overview of the field of sport and exercise psychology, connecting theory and practice, and discussing important practical issues related to credentialing and training. We hope that this new edition will provide readers with a strong foundation in sport and exercise psychology and serve as a springboard for further exploration of the field.

Acknowledgments

e undertook the editing of this second edition with high expectations. Through the efforts of a large group of talented people, our aspirations were fulfilled. We are indebted to the chapter authors, who worked diligently to ensure that they included the most current information available, met deadlines, made revisions, made further revisions, and produced outstanding chapters. Preparing this second edition was simplified by the invaluable advice and words of wisdom we received from several experienced authors and colleagues. Jean Williams and Kate Hays were particularly helpful in this regard.

We would again like to thank our mentors, Darwyn Linder and Paul Karoly, who taught us the basics and continue to support and inspire us. Our appreciation extends to our colleagues and students at Springfield College, especially Al Petitpas, who has been unflagging in his advocacy for our scholarly endeavors over the past decade, and Ruth Brennan, Bryan Gross, and Miki Oyler, who managed a mountain of information and facilitated communication with chapter authors.

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