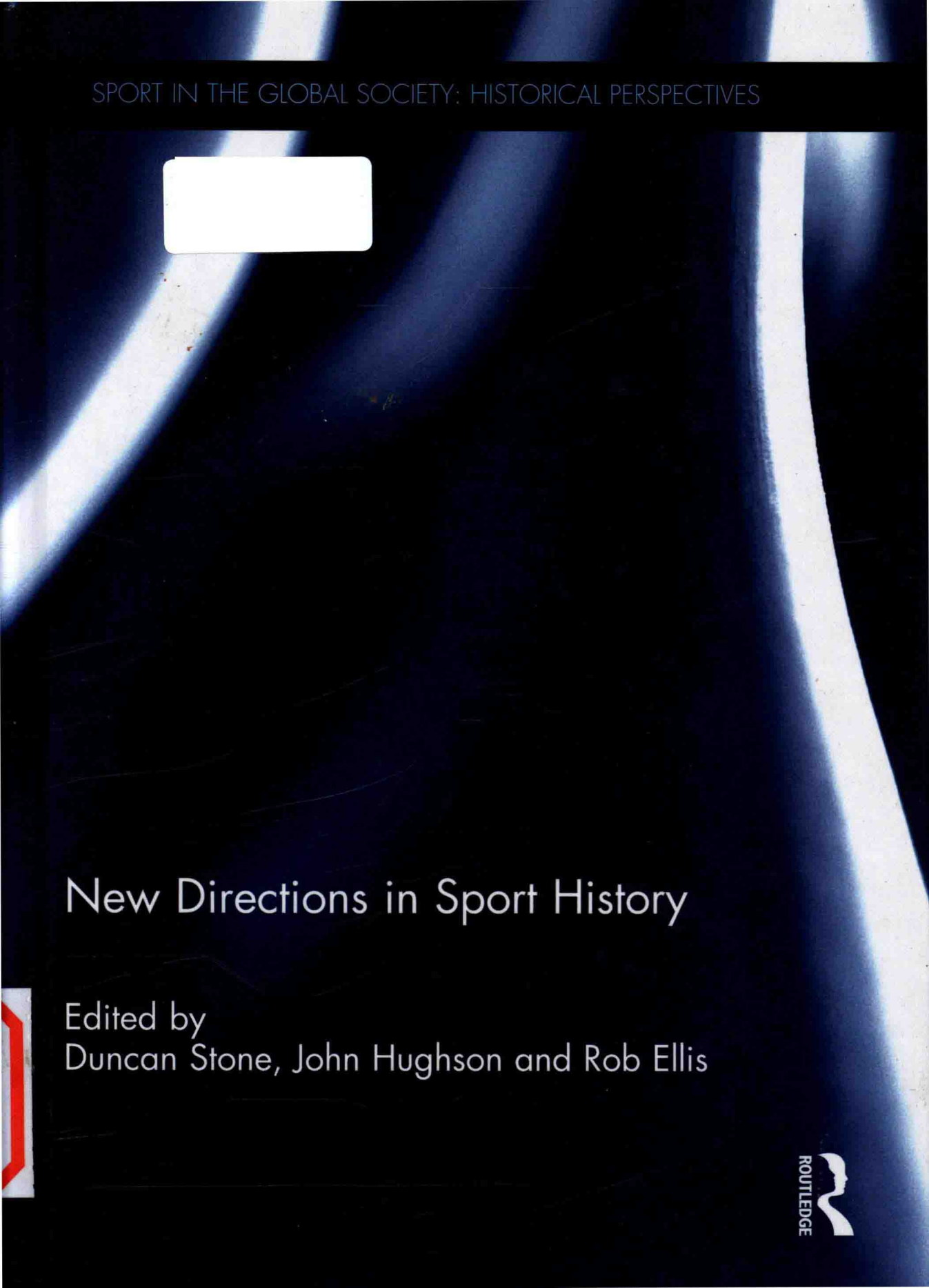
SPORT IN THE GLOBAL SOCIETY: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES



New Directions in Sport History

Edited by
Duncan Stone, John Hughson and Rob Ellis

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New Directions in Sport History

Emerging from the 'history from below' movement, sport history was marginalised for decades by those working within more traditional historical fields (and institutions). Although a degree of ignorance still exists, sport history has now acquired a level of credibility through the dedicated work of professional historians. And yet, as this authority has been established, changes to UK higher education funding (the removal of direct state funding, the Research Excellence Framework, and tuition fees) and academic publishing (open access) have the potential to damage, or even end, sports research. This book examines sport history from a variety of perspectives. Do mainstream historians need to engage, or 'play', with sports historians? Has the postmodernist 'cultural turn' in sports history been helpful to the sub-discipline? How can the teaching of sports studies be more innovative and inspiring? How can oral history and sport history be utilised in the study of other branches of historical interest. Although changes are required in dealing with the current political reality of UK higher education, sport history still has a great deal to offer students, future employers and the public alike.

This book was originally published as a special issue of the *International Journal of the History of Sport.*

Duncan Stone recently completed his Ph.D. at the University of Huddersfield, UK. His main research interests include amateurism, regionalism, the role of urban/suburbanisation upon social and cultural identities, the 'cultural war' over the definition of sporting practice, and the legitimate function and meaning of sporting activity.

John Hughson is Professor of Sport and Cultural Studies at the University of Central Lancashire, UK. He is the Director of the International Football Institute, and works in research partnership with the National Football Museum, Manchester, UK. He is author of *The Making of Sporting Cultures* (Routledge, 2009) and *The Uses of Sport* (Routledge, 2005).

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Series Editors: Mark Dyreson and Thierry Terret

As Robert Hands in *The Times* recently observed, the growth of sports studies in recent years has been considerable. This unique series with over one hundred volumes in the last decade has played its part. Politically, culturally, emotionally and aesthetically, sport is a major force in the modern world. Its impact will grow as the world embraces ever more tightly the contemporary secular trinity: the English language, technology and sport. *Sport in the Global Society* will continue to record sport's phenomenal progress across the world stage.

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Introduction
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Chapter 2
Last Man Picked. Do Mainstream Historians Need to Play with Sports Historians?
Paul Ward
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Chapter 3
Sports History: Outside of the Mainstream? A Response to Ward's 'Last Man Picked'
Matthew L. McDowell
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Chapter 4
Cracks in the (Self-Constructed?) Ghetto Walls? Comments on Paul Ward's 'Last Man Picked'
Malcolm MacLean
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pp. 23–34

Chapter 5
'The Postmodernist Always Rings Twice: Reflections on the "New" Cultural Turn in Sports History'
John Hughson
International Journal of the History of Sport, volume 30, issue 1 (January 2013)
pp. 35–45

Chapter 6

The Sporting Image: A Personal Journey Utilising History to Develop Academic Inquiry and Creativity
Iain Adams
International Journal of the History of Sport, volume 30, issue 1 (January 2013) pp. 46–64

Chapter 7

'Ordinary working men . . . transformed into giants on the rugby field': 'Collective' and 'Individual' Memory in Oral Histories of Rugby League
Rob Light
International Journal of the History of Sport, volume 30, issue 1 (January 2013) pp. 65–82

Chapter 8

Asylums and Sport: Participation, Isolation and the Role of Cricket in the Treatment of the Insane
Rob Ellis
International Journal of the History of Sport, volume 30, issue 1 (January 2013) pp. 83–101

Chapter 9

What's the Point of Sports History?
Martin Johnes
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Notes on Contributors

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Rob Ellis is Lecturer in History at the University of Huddersfield, UK. He has published articles on the West Riding Pauper Asylum's relationship with the Poor Law. More recently, he has worked with West Yorkshire Archive Service, the Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds City museums and South West Yorkshire Mental Health Trust to bring the asylum story to a wider audience.

John Hughson is Professor of Sport and Cultural Studies at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK. He is the Director of the International Football Institute, and works in research partnership with the National Football Museum, Manchester, UK. He is author of *The Making of Sporting Cultures* (Routledge, 2009) and *The Uses of Sport* (Routledge, 2005).

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Series Editors' Foreword

On January 1, 2010 *Sport in the Global Society*, created by Professor J.A. Mangan in 1997, was divided into two parts: *Historical Perspectives* and *Contemporary Perspectives*. These new categories involve predominant rather than exclusive emphases. The past is part of the present and the present is part of the past. The Editors of *Historical Perspectives* are Mark Dyreson and Thierry Terret.

The reasons for the division are straightforward. SGS has expanded rapidly since its creation with over one hundred publications in some twelve years. Its editorial teams will now benefit from sectional specialist interests and expertise. *Historical Perspectives* draws on *International Journal of the History of Sport* monograph reviews, themed collections and conference/ workshop collections. It is, of course, international in content.

Historical Perspectives continues the tradition established by the original incarnation of *Sport in the Global Society* by promoting the academic study of one of the most significant and dynamic forces in shaping the historical landscapes of human cultures. Sport spans the contemporary globe. It captivates vast audiences. It defines, alters, and reinforces identities for individuals, communities, nations, empires, and the world. Sport organises memories and perceptions, arouses passions and tensions, and reveals harmonies and cleavages. It builds and blurs social boundaries, animating discourses about class, gender, race, and ethnicity. Sport opens new vistas on the history of human cultures, intersecting with politics and economics, ideologies and theologies. It reveals aesthetic tastes and energises consumer markets.

By the end of the twentieth century a critical mass of scholars recognised the importance of sport in their analyses of human experiences and *Sport in the Global Society* emerged to provide an international outlet for the world's leading investigators of the subject. As Professor Mangan contended in the original series foreword: "The story of modern sport is the story of the modern world – in microcosm; a modern global tapestry permanently being woven. Furthermore, nationalist and imperialist, philosopher and politician, radical and conservative have all sought in sport a manifestation of national identity, status and superiority. Finally for countless millions sport is the personal pursuit of ambition, assertion, well-being and enjoyment."

Sport in the Global Society: Historical Perspectives continues the project, building on previous work in the series and excavating new terrain. It remains a consistent and coherent response to the attention the academic community demands for the serious study of sport.

Mark Dyreson
Thierry Terret

Contents

Citation Information ix
Notes on Contributors xi
Series Editors' Foreword xiii

1. Introduction 1
Duncan Stone

2. Last Man Picked. Do Mainstream Historians need to play with Sports Historians? 6
Paul Ward

3. Sports History: Outside of the Mainstream? A Response to Ward's 'Last Man Picked' 14
Matthew L. McDowell

4. Cracks in the (Self-Constructed?) Ghetto Walls? Comments on Paul Ward's 'Last Man Picked' 23
Malcolm MacLean

5. 'The Postmodernist Always Rings Twice: Reflections on the 'New' Cultural Turn in Sports History' 35
John Hughson

6. The Sporting Image: A Personal Journey Utilising History to Develop Academic Inquiry and Creativity 46
Iain Adams

7. 'Ordinary working men . . . transformed into giants on the rugby field': 'Collective' and 'Individual' Memory in Oral Histories of Rugby League 65
Rob Light

8. Asylums and Sport: Participation, Isolation and the Role of Cricket in the Treatment of the Insane 83
Rob Ellis

9. What's the Point of Sports History? 102
Martin Johnes

Index 109

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