

## References

- Covey, S. R. (1989). *The seven habits of highly effective people*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- Johnson, D. W. & Johnson, F. P. (1975). *Joining together, group theory and group skills*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc.
- Russell, R. V. (1986). *Leadership in recreation*. St. Louis, MO: Times Mirror/Mosby College Publishing.

J. P. WITMAN, Ed.D., Philhaven Behavioral Healthcare Services and Lock Haven University.

Lapchick, Richard E. (1996). *Sport in Society: Equal Opportunity or Business as Usual?* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN 0-8039-7281-4. 332 pp., paper bound, \$25.00.

Behold sport. Pure and noble. It remains one of the last bastions of accomplishment based solely on determination and ability; where the only limits are the individual's dreams. In sport young African-American males can raise themselves from the depth of poverty to the height of success, and sisters have the same chance to excel and contribute to society as do their brothers. The sports media displays only what is true and good about sport because that is the entirety of sport. . . . or . . .

Behold sport. Grotesque and despicable. It is nothing more and nothing less than a crystallization of the ills and evils of society. In sport black kids from the inner city have as much chance of achieving the "American dream" as they have of getting a solid education. Brothers play and sisters watch. And the media construct the lies and perpetuate the myths that maintain exploitation of the down trodden.

*Sport in Society: Equal Opportunity or Business as Usual?* edited by Richard E. Lapchick attacks the dilemma of sport head-on. The authors of the 42 articles contained in the book argue that sport is more than simply a reflection of society. Indeed, sport can and should be an active force in reforming society. In making his case, Lapchick employs quantitative and qualitative research to examine the relationship of sport to race, gender, class, and the media.

*Sport in Society* consists of seven sections each of which begins with a brief introduction of the topic covered therein. The first section (Race in Sports) contains eight articles with half addressing race in college sports and the other half dealing with race in professional and international sports arenas. This longest section in the book sets the stage for the remainder of the book. Although most of the articles deal with African-American athletes at the college level, some space is devoted to professional sports and the sensitive issue of the use of Native American names and mascots for college and professional sports teams.

The second section addresses the relationship between gender and sport. Donna Lopiano's article on growing up with gender discrimination in

sports is particularly worthwhile. Not only does she provide the reader with examples from her own experience and insightful perspective from suffering gender discrimination, but she offers several challenges to bring about genuine equality for females in the years to follow.

*Athletic Uses and Abuses* opens with a piece by Stanton Wheeler that gives the reader a background for the NCAA rules for student athletes and proposes issues that require further study. After several all too brief case studies of abuse and use of sport, the section concludes with the Knight Foundation Commission's report on intercollegiate athletics. Recommendations are made to college and university presidents to rectify the abuses of the past.

Stereotypes, Myths, and Realities about Athletes, the fourth section, ranges far and wide. Although several of the articles shed some light on the problems of stereotyping athletes, Gary Sailes' *Investigation of Campus Stereotypes* is the best in this section. In particular, he provides quantitative support for existence of the myth of African-American superiority in sport and that college athletes possess less intelligence than their non-athletic counterparts.

In a logical progression, Lapchick includes a section on media and sport. Ron Thomas opens the section by documenting the paucity of African-Americans in the sports media. The small number of African-Americans is especially problematic in light of the large percentage of African-American athletes at the college and professional level. Sandy Pawde refreshingly departs from racial and gender issues and addresses pertinent ethical questions confronting sports journalists.

Lapchick contributed all of the articles in the section on international sports. The first article is the most in depth of the three and examines the history of the Olympic Games. The remaining two articles focus on sport as it relates to South Africa. Nowhere is the message of sport serving as both a mirror of and an influence on society more evident than in the South African scenario.

The concluding section is eclectic and includes five pieces on individual sports figures who have made a positive influence on their world through sports. The personal stories cover a range of people with different roles in sports. It includes those whose names are recognized by anyone with an interest in sports to those whose names have recognition only within a fairly select group of sports enthusiasts. This powerful section seeks to give us hope about the power of sport to positively influence the world. The articles about Bob Shannon (the East St. Louis High School football coach) and Rynelda Becenti (a Navajo woman who played basketball for Arizona State University and has signed a contract to play professional basketball in Sweden) are more uplifting than the articles about Tom Osborne and Muhammad Ali.

*Sport in Society: Equal Opportunity or Business as Usual?* is an interesting collection of articles that sport researchers and sports fans should read. For the most part it is a relatively easy read with topics that change often enough to prevent overkill in any one area. The contributors write in a style that is informative and entertaining. One of the strengths of the book is its variety

of authors. Books of this type tend to be top heavy with academics. *Sport in Society* has its share of college professors from a variety of fields. However, contributors also include sports journalists, directors of sports foundations, coaches, violence prevention specialists, and a practicing attorney.

Unfortunately, the single greatest weakness is the editor's inability or lack of desire to allow these different perspectives to fully emerge. Editors certainly must have the option of interjecting their own perspectives on issues, but it should never overpower. In this case, Lapchick is responsible for more than half of the articles in the entire book. Six of the eight articles in the chapter on race and sport are written by Lapchick. All of the articles in section six, *Sport in the International Arena*, are solely from Lapchick. Of course, this is in addition to the general introduction, the introductions to each section and the conclusion. It may have been more constructive for Lapchick to limit his input to three or four articles and reserve more of his considerable talents for synthesizing the different perspectives in a powerful and though provoking conclusion. As it is, his three page conclusion is weak and offers little direction for "a new era in sport in which the unprecedented popularity of organized athletics will present unique challenges to the sports world as well as new opportunities to influence society" (p. xv).

On a related note, several of the articles are too short. For example, one of Lapchick's contributions, *The Use of American Indian Names and Mascots in Sports*, is less than two full pages. This fascinating topic has the potential to provide the reader with valuable insight into race in sport and society. Unfortunately, the introduction is on page 75 and the conclusion is on page 76. The same is true of a piece titled "Violence in Sport." These topics demand more than two pages.

Newcomers to this area of study will benefit from reading *Sport in Society: Equal Opportunity or Business as Usual?* Numerous qualitative research sections, some of which are merely anecdotes, provide a comprehensive introduction to race, gender, and class relationships in sports. However, experienced sport and society researchers may be disappointed by the book's lack of depth. Neither novel theory nor material on which to build new theory will be found in this publication.

Although this book has some limitations Lapchick is to be commended for compiling articles that reiterate important lessons. Sport is not merely a reflection of society. Anything as frighteningly popular as sport can influence as well as be influenced by various other elements of society. Lapchick goes beyond this point, however, and argues that sport *should* be a force to improve society. The final section provides a subtle yet poignant message of hope. Those of us who share an interest in sport must recognize the inequities in sport and strive to eliminate them. In addition, we are charged to consciously employ sport to rectify the ailments of our society.

DANIEL G. YODER, Ph.D., Western Illinois University