

# Summaries.

## Hannes and the Stockholm Olympics. The Yearbook of the Finnish Society for Sport History (FSSH) 2012

*Panu Autio:*

### **Naturalized athletes. The case of Brazilian futsal players**

Changing nationality has become usual in global sports. In consequence of this phenomenon the complex link between sport and national identity has become even more complicated than before. For sportsmen a new home country is usually a way to get forward on their career, whereas for recruiting countries and federations naturalization of elite sportsmen has been a shortcut to success and glory. International sports federations have tighten up the rules of the naturalization, but it hasn't stop this trend. Each case is individual and

it is very hard to judge different kinds of naturalizations. Futsal is an example of a sport, where athletes of one single country -in this case Brazil- are dominating the international competitions. Many Brazilian futsal players have found their way to different national teams after having noticed, that they won't be able to fulfill their dream of wearing the national team shirt of their native country. The most extreme example is the national team of Azerbaijan, which reached the fourth place in the European championships in 2010, with its six Brazilian players and a Brazilian coach.

*Hannu Itkonen & Arto Nevala:*

### **Sport and Facilities – The Case of Hundred-year-old Sport Club Varkauden Tarmo**

Doing sports have required built indoor and outdoor facilities. Over the years, role of the government officials have expanded in building sport facilities compared with the sport clubs. The focus of this article is to analyze the role of the built facilities as a part of the

history of hundred-year-old sport club Varkauden Tarmo (founded in 1912). We ask has the built facilities affected to the activities of the club and, on the other hand, have the decisions of building facilities been conditioned by the representatives of the club?

In the first half the 20th century there were traditional sports like gymnastic, wrestling, cross country skiing and track and field in the menu of Varkauden Tarmo. One reason for this was that these sports required only basic built facilities. On the other hand, in the case of bandy in the 1930s, the members and players of the club had to build an ice rink of their own. Especially from the 1950s, the town of Varkaus took a stronger role in building indoor and outdoor facilities although this caused disagreements, for example between political parties. Anyway, building many important facilities, like the swimming hall, ice court and sports hall gave also better exercising possibilities to the members of Varkauden Tarmo.

During the last decades, in the years of divided sport culture, the sports found in the menu of Varkauden Tarmo are closely linked to the standardized and high-quality facilities, e.g. volleyball, indoor

bandy and figure skating. Moreover, most of the traditional sports that were in the menu of Tarmo, have faded. Only wrestling has been in the menu of Tarmo for hundred years.

*Aino Sarje:*

### **German influences in Finnish military gymnastics**

Military gymnastics was the earliest physical culture in Finland. In the article, the Finnish military gymnastics from the times of the Swedish rule to the Second World War is described. In the development of military gymnastics four different phases can be distinguished. Each style has reflected the then prevailing military and warfare ideals and practice. The influences for the physical exercises were primarily obtained from German ideas and models. The earliest trend was classic gymnastics. It was a part of the education of the boys belonging to the small nobility. From the 1840s, gymnastics was officially acknowledged in the Finnish war school, where it was practiced until the end of the century. The gymnastics of the cadets followed GutsMuths's system

that was worked up by V. Heikel. The exercises resembled the club gymnastics of the day. In the early years of Finland's independence, Finnish military gymnastics changed to be more military. In the army, the new military gymnastics following Jaeger's system was practiced only some years. In the Organization of the Civil Guards, gymnastics got ideas from Nils Bukh's system, and gymnastics field performances became part of the public image of the organization.

*Tommi Mertanen:*

### **Strength and honor. Contests in gymnastics between Finland and Germany in 1935–1940**

The aim of this article is to explore the matches in gymnastics between Finland and Germany in 1935–1940. The matches were started on the Finnish Gymnastics Federation's (FGF) initiative. In the beginning of the 1930s the FGF's aim was to increase its contacts with foreign countries because the Finnish gymnasts had succeeded very well in international games. Unlike in other fields of sport the relations in gymnastics

between these two countries were regular. Matches were held annually sequentially both in Finland and Germany; the first match took place in Helsinki in 1935. Altogether, the games were organized four times. The importance of these matches was high for both countries. The media followed the contests and wrote broad articles of them. In these matches it was not only about the sport but both countries used them also for propaganda. To this end these contests can also be seen as an example of nationalism or chauvinism: Both Finland and Germany wanted to be seen as a home of sport heroes. This article is based on the press articles and on the annual reports of the FGF.

*Lauri Keskinen:*

### **Decadence and scientific training methods. A war of words between the Brits and the Yanks at the Stockholm Olympics**

The transatlantic rivalry between The United States and The United Kingdom was mostly political and economic by nature, but it was also waged during the track and field events of the London Olympics

in 1908 and the Stockholm Olympics in 1912. Especially the latter made it apparent that there were underlying and fundamental differences in the way the two nations regarded athletics, winning, fair play and the notion that athletic prowess is a sign of national well-being and virility. According to American newspapers, The New York Times and The Washington Post, the British team had poor spirit, was lacking in the will to win and was trained insufficiently and with antiquated methods. This was believed to indicate the decadence of the whole British Empire. British newspapers, such as The Times, conceded that the team was lacking in many respects, but what turned out to be harder to acknowledge, was the fact that other nations were drawing conclusions on the virility of the Empire based on the success of the British athletes. These and other topics that arose from newspapers are studied in this article. The results indicate that a significant amount of discussion topics stemmed from the comparison that the two nations made between their educational systems.

*Erkki Vettenniemi:*

### **“A Glorious Defeat”. Jean Bouin and the French Coverage of the 1912 Olympics**

The French athlete Jean Bouin finished second in the 1912 Olympic games’ epic 5,000-metre race won by Hannes Kolehmainen of Finland. Although Kolehmainen already had defeated him a few months prior to the games, the French media picked up on Bouin’s performance in the qualifying heat and all but declared him the Olympic victor. Ultimately, however, Kolehmainen pipped Bouin to the post, which did not prevent the French from still singing the praises of their “champion” and heaping praise on his “glorious defeat”. Yet although the early twentieth-century French sport journalism clearly exhibits symptoms of myopia, similarly insular and unintentionally delightful reporting litters the history of modern sport.