

Summaries

Sport and War. The Yearbook of the Finnish Society for Sport History (FSSH) 20113-2014

Anssi Halmesvirta:

Sportsmen defending Finland in the Winter War

This article analyses how the role of sportsmen as defenders of the country was seen during the Winter War (1939–1940) and how their performance as soldiers was evaluated by sports experts. The image of the Finnish sportsman (cf. Paavo Nurmi) as physically and mentally particularly fit type of soldier was disseminated by the Finnish sports journal *Suomen Urheilulehti* and the characteristics of the Finnish sportsmen as soldiers were compared with the ‘average’ soldiers and the attacking Russians, ‘Ruskies’, the Red Army soldiers.

‘Ruskie’, in Finnish *ryssä*, is a term of abuse to designate Alterity that could never be domesticated, hateful and fearful Otherness beyond history for the Finn. On the pages of the Finnish sports journal these

‘Ruskies’ were not regarded so much as an army of trained soldiers but as a demoralized and an unorganized horde of Asiatic barbarians or uncontrolled flock of lambs who attacked senselessly, without understanding of strategy and modern rules of warfare. The Finnish sportsmen were presented as the reverse of this picture, defending not only their own country but also the Western civilization and its basic values (freedom, Christianity, chastity, democracy, civic virtues etc.). It was as if the Finnish sportsman-soldier was the paragon having individually internalized military virtues, whereas the ‘Ruskies’ could only make a show resembling a Potemkin-type of façade. And even if Finland lost the war and the Olympics of 1940, for which the Finnish sports-life had prepared itself, had to be postponed, the sportsmen were considered the ones who had saved the country best and whose physique and mental stamina could bear warfare better than the ones of the average soldier.

Heikki Roiko-Jokela:

The goal – the healthy and strong Finnish people

The activity of the Sports Science Society in its early years reflected its own time. The society was dominated by patriotism, national defence, self-knowledge of the people, racial breeding, education and sobriety.

The network of the influential persons was very modern. For example the education of sports doctors was planned in the society already in 1934. The benefit of this was seen to be directed towards competing athletes and masses, which were physically active for their health.

Aino Sarje:

How moulding bodies became common in Finland

Moulding Finnish bodies according to the ideals of Classical Antiquity began in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Behind it was a new idea, Neoclassicism, which had become common in many European countries in the nineteenth century. Its supporters were aiming

for the rebirth of a flourishing Classicism in their own time. The rules of Neoclassicism were based on an understanding of the culture of Ancient Greece and on Greek myths and the texts of Ancient Greek philosophy. Throughout Europe, Nationalists took advantage of the trend to create their own idealistic visions. Using them, it was possible to identify the nation state with Ancient Greece and to hold up the Ancient Greeks as a model for the citizens of the future. Statues of athletes found in archaeological excavations became the ideal for the human physique of the future and the goal for developing the body.

In this article I describe the way that ‘body-building’ became common in Finland. There were two schools of thought about this. The Victor Heikel school swore by psycho-physicality and gymnastics, while the Helsinki Athletic Club believed in the physical culture of the body and weight-training. The article follows the struggle between the two schools of thought for the first five decades, from the early 1880s to the late 1920s. To conclude, I consider the position of the two schools in the present day.

Johanna Laakkonen:

Grossing the borders. Marianne Pontan and the Hellerau-Laxenburg method

Marianne Pontan (1901–1973) was a dancer and a physical education teacher who studied and worked at Hellerau-Dresden and Hellerau-Laxenburg in the 1920s. Hellerau was one of the leading educational institutions that specialized in music education, physical education and dance before the World War II. Pontan directed the school's physical education programme in 1924–1930.

The article is about crossing borders in two ways. Firstly, it looks parallel the developments in early modern dance and gymnastics. Early modern dancers practiced gymnastics as its exercises helped them to master their bodies. Secondly, the text crosses national borders. By analyzing and comparing documents in the Finnish and German archives, existing research on Hellerau and physical education manuals of that era, the article takes a closer look at the Method Hellerau-Laxenburg. Pontan developed the method together with her colleague Rosalia Chladek and formulated its principles in a written form in an article that was published in *Hellerauer Blätter* as

well as in Finnish *Kisakenttä* (1930).

It is shown that the Hellerau Method consisted of elements adopted from other contemporary dance and movement schools (e.g. Mensendieck, Kallmeyer, Laban) and contained exercises which stemmed from Emile Jaques-Dalcroze. It is also argued that a more transnational focus is needed in order to better understand the work done in Hellerau and the moving of influences during that era. Furthermore, the article suggests that the impact of Pontan and Hellerau on Finnish female gymnastics needs further research.

*Aarni Virtanen &
Heikki Roiko-Jokela:*

Kustaa Levälahti (1882–1963)

K. E. Levälahti was Lieutenant Colonel, gymnastic teacher, librarian and sports leader of Finland's Civil Guard. Levälahti served as the Director of Finland's Sports Institute at Vierumäki in the years 1939–1949. He also led Finland's Olympic teams in the 1920s–1930s. With Arvo Vartia and Lauri "Grindstone" Pihkala he was one of the leading sports personalities in Finland (It was Levälahti who invented Pihkala's nickname in 1907).

The approach in this article borders to the research problematic of Erkki Vasara's doctoral thesis: what were the goals and values of Levälahti's sports ideology? Here his ideology is compared with the ideas of Professor Arvo Vartia and sports philosopher Lauri Pihkala.

Where Lauri Pihkala was an ideologue and philosopher, Levälahti was a robust man of action. He organized sports events, such as the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952. He wrote works of gymnastics, sports equipment and sports in general. As a practical man Levälahti resembled Arvo Vartia but Vartia's ideas of sports had a significant social dimension. Vartia did not develop any consistent philosophy of sports, but as a social ideologist he was closer to Pihkala's than Levälahti's mode of action.

Lauri J. S. Kaira:

To yacht race is necessary; to live is not necessary – Yacht clubs in Turku before Second World War

The focus of this article is to analyse the yacht racing in the 1920s and 1930s in Turku. Yacht racing became the most important function of the yacht clubs in Finland and in the area of Turku. There were three reasons. First of all the First World War restrict practicing sailing in the outer sea outside the nearest sea are around towns. For Second, the World War causes lack of goods, which reflected also in boat industry. Boats were smaller than before the War. Finally, the absence of leisure time favoured the fast regattas, which took place just out of the open sea.

Before the 1920s sailing was part of recreational pleasures of the upper class. Little by little it came a part of a middle class hobby from the beginning of the 1910s. In Turku there was also labour class yacht club that was exceptional in Finland before the 1930s. It did not take part of local regattas before second world war for various reasons.

Success in regattas and races made ideological influence possible between Yacht Clubs. Class, wealth,

language and political ideology were present in competitions. Finally, this did not prevent cooperation between the Yacht Clubs.

Johanna Kulmala:

Zátopeks in Finland

This essay is a narration about my attempt to follow a small part of Emil and Dana Zátopek's journey in the Finland of the 1980s. The essay also documents my visit to Mrs. Dana Zátopková in February 2012. When travelling in the history, I meet the Professor of Sports Science Vojmír Srdečný who is also a Sachsenhausen survivor, like many other academic people of his generation.

I look for the Zátopeks in the Finnish National Archive in Helsinki by going through the calendars and notebooks of Minister Johannes Virolainen. However, Virolainen has not written any notes about his meeting with the Czech couple.

From Prague and Helsinki I return to my home town, Turku, where Emil Zátopek made one of his world records in August 1950 and where his idol, Paavo Nurmi is buried.

*Hannu Itkonen, Arto Nevala
and Richard Giulianotti:*

From local fields to international football pitches. The mobility of Finnish women football players

Globalization is a long-term historical process, which extends back to at least the late 15th century. Globalization has multiple dimensions, in terms of having economic, social, political and cultural aspects. Globalization is also marked by glocalization – that is, the interdependency and interplay between the local and global. For example, glocalization involves global cultural phenomena – such as sport – that may be adapted at the local or national levels, in accordance with local or national needs and values.

The purpose of the article is to analyze the mobility of Finnish women football players. The main research questions are: what kinds of mobility have been evident among Finnish women football players, and how the mobility of players changed since the 1970s has. The article draws on primary research into the documentary and literary archive of the Finnish Football Association, including research materials concerning

the mobility of women. The movement of women football players to international clubs changed slowly in the 1980s and 1990s, while the broader globalization of women's football occurred over the last two centuries. Globalization processes have also changed the position and experiences of women within the national organization of football.

Erkki Vetterniemi:

Running down memory lane. Miika Nousiainen's *Maaninkavaara* and the pitfalls of failing memory

Arguably the most accomplished sports-related Finnish novel of the current century, Miika Nousiainen's *Maaninkavaara* is basically a family drama with comic bite. Obsessed with the running tradition of his native country, the father is a tad too eager to turn his offspring into world-beating athletes. In his view, Kaarlo Maaninka ushered in the downfall of Finnish running by unnecessarily 'owning up' to 'blood doping' in the wake of the 1980 Olympics. The harsh training methods favored by the father-cum-coach stem from his need to 'redeem' Maaninka's 'betray-

al' which, however, never took place. Although he perceives himself as a walking encyclopedia of sports history, the father is not aware of the crucial fact that Maaninka refused to regret anything when journalists made a fuss over (perfectly legitimate) blood transfusion. For the truly knowledgeable reader, then, the protagonist's fateful memory lapse provides yet another layer of irony. If only the father had been such a connoisseur of running as he professed to be, his son would not have committed suicide and his wife would hardly have filed for divorce.