

Summaries

Hevosten jäljillä (On the Footprints of the Horses). The Yearbook of the Finnish Society for Sport History, 2007 (FSSH)

Erkki Vettenniemi: Back to Peurunka. Laukaa's Human Race in 1878 and the Vagaries of Sport History (ref.)

Traditionally, narratives of sport history are riddled with names, venues, dates, and results. A prominent place is given to events presumed to be inaugural ones, after which other milestones and momentous occasions ensue in an orderly manner.

For most of the twentieth century and down to the new millennium, a human race held in March 1878 on Peurunka Lake in the municipality of Laukaa in central Finland was perceived as the first footrace ever organised in this country. Then, in a monograph published in 2006, I imagined having rewritten history by introducing less-known races from the early 1870s and pointing out striking similarities between the Laukaa event and trotting sport. The latter was the only modern sport in Finland at the time, and virtually all races were run on frozen lakes.

Subsequently, however, I have come to accept that scholarly writing can do only so much to alter popular conceptions of history. It may well be impossible to suppress the long-standing need for maiden events and

neat chronologies. Also, the fusion of human and equine sports suggested by me can hardly be reconciled with the persistent segregation of the two species in sports-related literature. Yet human races were regularly held on trotting tracks across the country in the closing decades of the nineteenth century.

Another thing is that any attempt at revising myths and legends tends to have unexpected results, as demonstrated by Douglas Booth in *The Field: Truth and Fiction in Sport History* (2006). Scholars keen on exposing obsolete or otherwise suspicious stories may inadvertently reinforce the spell of such yarns. For example, most readers of my 'deconstructionist' article will probably remain under the impression that something extraordinary did occur on Peurunka back in 1878.

Suvi Kuisma: Womanly Light and Easy on Ski Track – Ski Races of Women in the Lahti Ski Games in 1923-1952 (ref.)

The Lahti Ski Games (= Salpausselän kisat) started in Lahti town in 1923. In the Lahti Ski Games the first Nordic skiing competition of women was 5 km race and was organized in 1926. When the Lahti Ski Games changed more international, the national cross-country 5 km race of women was quitted in 1934. The diaries and annual reports of the Lahti Ski Club did not tell much about skiing competitions of women in 1920s and 1930s. I have studied also local newspapers and there are quite short articles about the 5 km races of women. Some details as the cold weather or skiing suits of women have been as important in those articles as the real event or there were only the results. There were lot of discussion about what is the suitable suit for female skiers. The skirt, culottes or skiing trousers were the alternatives.

Finland and Sweden were interested in to have the international FIS skiing competitions of women in the end of 1940s. In Norway the tradition of skiing competitions of women was much weaker. In Holmenkollen it was only in 1951, when there was organized the first skiing competition of women. It was held the first international cross-country 10 km race

of women in Lahti in 1947 as well as in Sundsvall in Sweden. It became the annual event in the Lahti Ski Games. The local newspapers started to write much larger and more professional articles than earlier about the ski races of ladies in Lahti. Of course the articles were more extensive about the ski races of men than of women. There were lot of conversation in FIS if the skiing competitions are reasonable for women in the end of 1940s and in the beginning of 1950s. In Finland and in Sweden it was noticed that the ski races are not too hard for women and the womanly is not going to disappear to forest. The writers of the articles of ski races like to tell the same story that the skiing in competition can be womanly light and easy. The success of the Finnish ladies in the Winter Olympic Games in Oslo in 1952 made also the Finnish and the local newspapers more eager to write about the skiing competitions of women and the race was seen more important when it was the Olympic skiing event.

Simon Ekstrand: International Football Matches in Wartime: Sports or Politics? (ref.)

The following article deals with the relationship between sports and politics in times of crisis focusing on the international matches that the Finnish National Football Team played during the Continuation War fought between Finland and the Soviet Union during the Second World War. The primary aim of the article, which is based on a BA-thesis, is to examine what motives the Football Association of Finland had for arranging international matches during the Continuation War and whether these motives were of sporting or political nature. The article also deals with the question of why a number of planned international matches never took place.

The Finnish National Football Team played three international matches during the Continuation War; against Germany, Hungary and Sweden. The motives for arranging these three matches were all of a non-sporting nature. However, the motives varied depending on who the opposing national team was. Especially the match against Germany was of a distinctly

political nature, whereas the match against Sweden had a more friendly character of Nordic fellowship. The motives of the Football Association are mainly to be deduced from the speeches that the President of the Association, Erik von Frenckell, held before every national match examined in this article. The reasons why certain international matches were never carried out, were mainly the reluctance of the military management to grant the players of the national team leave of absence from the army, but also the difficulties involved with travelling in wartime Europe. Denmark, for example, had immense difficulties bringing about international matches due to German visa restrictions. Finland was also dependant on German goodwill for travelling to the European countries, with the exception of Sweden.

Kari Hiltula: Sara Mustonen and the Shadow of Hintertux (ref.)

Sara Mustonen was a talented Finnish alpine skier who dominated women's national alpine races during the latter part of the 1970's. She was only 15 years old when she represented Finland in the Alpine Ski World Championships of Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 1978. Tragically, she was killed in a skiing accident in Hintertux, Austria the following year.

The article examines how the Finnish newspapers and journals reported on the accident. Reference is made to the archives of Saara and Oiva Mustonen, Sara's parents, as well as to the archives of the Finnish Ski Federation (SHL). The analysis is supplemented by contemporary and historical representations of Sara Mustonen.

Sara Mustonen fell down into a crevasse while the Finnish alpine ski team was training on the Hintertux glacier on 12th September 1979. At first, only Sara was reported to have diverged or even gone astray from the normal skiing track. Despite her solid skiing experience a few major newspapers implied that Sara had ignored the warnings of the trainers of not to ski outside the marked slopes. The reports soon contradicted each

other as it turned out that other team members and skiers had frequented that particular slope.

The team trainer Raimo Manninen's first comments on Sara's supposed recklessness seemed to assign blame only to her. Similar views that particularly emphasized Sara's young age were expressed by the speed skier Kalevi Häkkinen who was not present in Hintertux. A week later these views gave room to questions about security precautions at the location. However, there is very little agreement between the views as to the causes of the accident.

At the end of the year 1979 the SHL finally gave out a statement that undermines the accusations against Sara and also notes some lack of supervision by the trainers. The statement was initiated by Sara's parents who were compelled to investigate the accident on their own. Except for the description of the rescue operation, it runs directly against the earlier report by the Austrian police authorities in Mayrhofen, which leaves the issue somewhat unsettled.

The article looks critically at claims of why the training camp was transferred from Italy to Austria. The lack of snow in Val Senales became a kind of official explanation although Ingemar Stenmark of the Swedish team had trained there the same week. The connections of the alpine ski magazine *Skimbaaja* to the Finnish national team and to Hintertux are also analyzed in brief.

Tero Tuomisto: How Tapio Rautavaara became an Archer

At the age of 12 Tapio Rautavaara (1915-1979) became member in a newly founded local sports club Oulunkylän Tähti ("The Star of Oulunkylä"). He was Finnish Champion in javelin several times during 1944-1949. He won gold medal in the 1948 Olympics in London in javelin. In 1950 he changed from javelin to archery, and after only a few years he was on the world top of that sports form, too.

Archery was at that time a relatively new and small form of sports in Finland. In June 1950 Rautavaara joined Sagittarius, an arching club in

Pukinmäki, the neighbouring suburb of Helsinki, beyond the river Vantaa only a few kilometres from his home.

Sagittarius was founded in May 1949, and during its actual 10-15 years of activities remained quite small and amateurish sports club. It had at best about 20-30 active members. In spite of its size and a little suburban character several capable members of Sagittarius were in quite influential positions in the decision making organs of the national union, Finnish Archery Association, thus helping the sports form to take long steps forward in Finland.

The club had a self made track for shooting activities, cleared from the bushes and trees by voluntary hands of several men and women with a keen interest in the bows and arrows, near the Pukinmäki manor, by the main railroad. Tapio Rautavaara took part in his first contest June 20 in 1950 on the local track in Pukinmäki, about a week before his first appearance in a national tournament. The result was modest but with intensive exercises and great eagerness to take part in tournaments the results soon became better.

The main elements that helped in Rautavaara's rapid process to become a great archer were partly mental and partly physical. He had a very strong mind, deeply rooted instinct for contests and a steady will to win. Actually it was a not an easy mental process to change one's mind and attitude from one sports form to another, from javelin to archery, he told later in his memoirs, but he could do that.

Rautavaara was also tall and strong. Powerful arms could easily draw even a stiff bow well enough to suit a long arrow. And when the draw was long, the starting speed of the arrow was great, its flying curve smoother, and it was less influenced by gusts of wind than a slower and shorter arrow.

After five years, in the summer of 1955 he became Finnish Champion in archery. By that time he was already a member in a larger sports club Wilhelm Tell, founded in Oulunkylä. In July 1958 in Brussels Tapio Rautavaara won World Championship in archery as a member of the Finnish three man team.

In the beginning of the sixties Rautavaara gave up the contests and tournaments but archery remained a loved hobby. Besides his great world class achievements in sports Rautavaara is remembered in Finland also

as a very popular entertainer, singer, songwriter and a movie star, whose artistic career started on the national level already during the war years in the forties.

Ville Laamanen: The Baltic Sea Friendship Race: A Unique Effort in the History of Finnish Bicycle Racing (ref.)

The Baltic Sea Friendship Race 1986–1989 was a 9-day (7 in 1986), high-level international men's amateur road cycling stage race that was run between the cities of Turku, Finland and Leningrad on four consecutive years, 1986–1989. The organizational responsibilities were shared between the Finnish and Soviet organisers Turku Athletics Federation and Leningrad Sports Committee.

The sporting level of the race was high. While most of the success was achieved by cyclists from the eastern bloc, the participating teams also came from e.g. the United States, Canada, Australia, Italy and the Scandinavian countries. Especially the 1988 edition of The Baltic Sea Friendship Race was a highly international event. In addition to the numerous well-established cycling countries, several teams from countries where competitive road cycling was only developing participated that year, including China, India, Iraq and Ivory Coast.

By Finnish standards the Baltic Sea Friendship Race was a unique effort measured both by athletic standards and its size, including budget. The race also achieved significant publicity in Finland, as all editions were broadcast on national television.

However, while it was by far the biggest event in the history of Finnish bicycle racing, it was largely made possible by good personal relations between the Finnish and Soviet organisers and strong grass-roots-level commitment by volunteers.

Heikki Roiko-Jokela: Sport Science as a Science: Approaches, Boundaries and Aims (ref.)

The objective of the research is to chart and analyze the essence of sport sciences in Finland, its national and international relations, its research traditions and practises as well as the factors of philosophy of science and society, which caused its rise and development from the 1920s to the 21st century. Concomitantly, the questions concerning the rise, development and differentiation of the sport sciences are tackled and problematic of its identity addressed. Another objective of research is the relations of sport sciences and its societal demand, i.e. it is to be explained what kind of interface there has existed between the scientific, theoretical and practical needs. This is connected to questions concerning the dissemination of scientific data and of keeping track of the developments in science on national and international levels as well as evaluation of how scientific knowledge has influenced society. The goal is to write a comprehensive history of sport science and the history of its identity, i.e. what has been its relation to basic sciences, has sport science in general been regarded as science, and how the theory of science and practise have met in studies in sport science.

Seen from the point-of-view of historical method the project is all about history of science. The objective is to find out how the concept of science has been formulated and revised during the period under scrutiny and how science policy (financing, filling the posts, basic research, researcher education) has affected the history of sport science. The history of science contains the history of scientific theories as well as the historical analysis of methods how scientific data has been gathered, how it has been used, which science has been regarded as 'scientific' and on what grounds. It is important to establish scientists' image of science and their conception of phenomena to be studied. In this sense we speak of 'history of experience', i.e. of how scientists have understood the notion of science itself.

Henning Eichberg: Laughing in sports and popular games: Towards a phenomenology of laughter

Hurling in Cornwall around 1600: Two villages fight their way through the landscape. Everybody tries to grasp the ball and to bring it to their own appointed place – the local pub where the final festivity will take place. Games like these have normally been treated as forerunners of modern sport: sport having regulated the space and the time of the game, the (non-) violence of behaviour, the control of results, the planning, strategy, tactics, techniques and evaluation of the competitive action. This is told as a story of social improvement and progress.

What analysis tended to ignore was the laughter of the participants. With the seriousness of modern sport, as it was established in the 18/19th centuries, a culture of laughter disappeared. The fool who had been a central figure of medieval popular competitions, had no place in the sport of the Industrial Age. When competition and play turned into a means of production – production of results and records – laughter became marginal or even dysfunctional. Neither the umpire or referee of sports nor the Olympic functionary handing over the gold medal displays himself as a fool. The newly-constructed discipline of “sport history” describing the rational development of the principle of performance had to forget both popular laughter and the history of its disappearance.

This study tries to counter the sportive mainstream by a phenomenology of laughter in popular games. This is confronted with the “underground” dimension of laughter in modern sports and with sportive smiling. And yet, laughter is not harmless...