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Hannu Eklund: Kotka, a Center for Skiing

Skiing fever ravaged Kotka town and the whole of the Kymenlaakso county in the end of the 19th century. The county soon became the leading one in skiing in Finland. Big skiing competition was organized in 1897 on ice as happened also in 1902 when Kymenlaakso challenge cup was on. 168 men from fourteen clubs took part, and the event was attended by a large audience in spite of biting winter wind.

When skiing was transferred from ice to cross country, the role of Kotka and Kymenlaakso diminished. New boom commenced in the 1930s. At best over 200 skiers from factories, shops and offices took part in the so called "Propaganda-skiing competition". Local press considered the event the largest skiing event in the entire world.

Tuomas Hoppu: From St.Petersburg to Central Europe – Finnish Ballgame Players around the World in the Beginning of the 20th century

When the first contacts abroad in ballgames very established at the beginning of the 20th century, the Finns went to clubs in St. Petersburg to play soccer or bandy. The best of them was Bror Wiberg who evidently became the Russian champion in football in 1912. Some of the Finns worked in St. Petersburg and played as a hobby, some, especially the best players in Viipurin Sudet-team got some money, perhaps.

At the beginning of the 1920s the direction was Estonia where e.g. the wonderfully many-sided sportsman, Verner

Eklöf, showed the Sport Tallinna's club players how to play bandy. Also Karl Malten coached Estonians. Estonian championships was banned from the Finns so that they could play only friendly matches. In Latvia, the man from Vibourg, O. Kauranen, managed to win the championship of the contry in bandy.

In Central European ice-hockey and bandy which were going through a transition period, history was made by Johan Ollus from Helsinki. He won the ice-hockey championships of Germany in 1912. Hungary, a country where they still in those played bandy, was successfully visited by Hjalmar Kelin who was later better known as a soccer player.

Kimmo Ripatti: The 'Good Narrative' in Finnish Sports Novel

'Good narrative' in sports combines the ideal characteristics connected to exemplary sportsmen (women) which sports has been deemed as capable of promoting. By this narrative modern physical culture has set itself to legitimize its existence also here in Finland over a hundred years. At the same time the narrative has become a part of popular culture which carries with it memories from 'good old times'. In the rapture of 'good narrative's rhetoric and nostalgia it has often been forgotten that the narrative told how the things should be, not how they really are or were. In my M.A. thesis, I envisaged the gap possibly opening between the ideals and reality in sports in the certain decades of the 20th century. The 'reality' my thesis dealt with was the one interpreted in Finnish sports novels which comprised the empirical source material for the study. I read eleven novels, in six of them the theme was running, in three boxing, in one skiing and in one soccer. This kind of material has been largely neglected in studies of physical education although they tell the 'good narrative' in an interestind way. The method chosen was 'qualitative analysis' which was applied to study the main sporting figures in the novels and to study how the 'good narrative' was realized in them. Over decades some differences but also some similarities come to the fore – this article presents them in a summary way.

Erkki Vasara:

Sports in Lotta Svärd: Skiing and Hiking

During the inter-war period in the so-called white Finland, emerging from the Finnish civil war of 1918, sport was given a number of additional functions. One of them was to enhance national defence. The connection between sport and military training was especially strong in the Civil Guard Organisation. Lotta Svärd, the organisation for women in the Civil Guard movement, also integrated sports activities in its program, although women's sport in general, was considerably less developed and less valued than men's. The Lotta Svärd dealt out its own medals for skiing and hiking, awarded on different levels and comparable to the variety of sports medals to be achieved in the Civil Guard Organisation as well as in civilian sports organisations. To achieve the Lotta's medal one had to ski and hike 100 kilometers. Until 1938, about 30,000 women, roughly one third of the organisation's members, had achieved the goal. Additionally, Lotta Svärd organised competitions, mainly in skiing and Finnish baseball, *pesäpallo*. Apart from that, the organisation's sport activities were predominantly focused on participating in the Civil Guard's so-called percentage skiing. In 1938, one third of Lotta Svärd's members took part in the percentage contest. Lotta Svärd's girl's organisation also offered sports activities to its young members, as did the boys' branch of the Civil Guard. Although the Lotta Svärd organisation did not succeed in persuading all its members to practise sport, it was nevertheless in the 1920s and 1930s the most important and most active organisation in Finnish women's sport.

Hannu Itkonen: Kommila Games

In Kommila, a suburb in Varkaus, 'olympic games' were held in the 1960s. They were organized by boys living in the area and they were part of the youngsters' culture at the time. Besides athletics, boys played eagerly ice-hockey, baseball, soccer and skied. The Kommila games were an event of athletics held in the streets and venues built by the boys themselves. The most popular sports was pole vault, the winner of which was

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regarded as the hero of the games. The popularity of pole vault can be explained by the international fame of the Finnish vaulters and by the strength of Varkaus pole vaulting culture.

The memoirs of the Kommila games tell something about the changes in sports and youth culture. Kommila games never come back. The boys have left and people have grown old; there are no active people to organize the games. Athletics has also declined from its old dominant position as a form of sports hobby. The space where to do sports has been removed far away from home grounds to competitive sports arenas. However, home ground sports has not totally disappeared. They play baseball and football, throw javelin and pole vault in parks and town fields. Young people create original physical culture and define town space anew by skating and skiing.

Timo Metsä-Tokila:

Combining competitive sports and education – How top-level sport became part of the school system? Combining top-level sport and education has turned out to be one way of keeping competitive sports at the international level in several countries. The most-well known examples of combining sports training and education are the elite sports boarding schools found in former Soviet Union. Combining competitive sports and education without any special arrangements is a difficult task. Thus, discussion of the educational possibilities of athletes have emerged out in many countries since the 1960s. In this review it is analyzed from a historical and comparative perspective how top level training and education leading to a degree were integrated in five countries.

Jani Mesikämnen:

From the lake to the ice stadium: professionals in the Finnish hockey Ice hockey gained ground in Finland in the late 1920s. After a slow start, hockey began to rise in the post-World War two period. Especially since from the 1960s hockey has become increasingly popular in every way, and the business surrounding

the sport is in an entire "league of its own" on the Finnish sports scene. Today, hockey is by far the most popular spectator sport in Finland, and the top-level Finnish hockey has become fully professionalized. All in all, the hockey culture has in many ways pioneered professional sports in Finland. This paper deals with the professionalization process in Finnish ice hockey. Even though professional sports is a quite recent phenomenon in Finland, one can trace the roots of professionalism a long way back in the history of hockey culture. The change is here examined through three factors that have been central to the professionalization process. They are: (i) development of conditions (artificial skating rinks, indoor arenas), (ii) commercialization of the sport and the following increase in the publicity and popularity of the sport, and (iii) the more extensive revolution of attitudes in sports culture. By analyzing the impact of these factors the paper aims at creating a general view of the somewhat total change that has taken place in the hockey culture. The paper also compares the Finnish development in an international context.

Leena Laine: The Long Journey of Women's Skiing to Olympic Sports

In spite of the fact that women from Finland, Norway and Sweden had competed in skiing since the end of the 19th century, it took pains and a long time to have women's skiing accepted in international competitions. Women's alpine combined was in the programme of the Winter Olympic Games for the first time in 1936, Nordic skiing only in 1952. To begin with, in this article the progress of and obstacles in women's skiing in the above mentioned countries are analyzed in light of specific national characteristics of skiing culture. In all these countries a period of upward swing for women's skiing which continued until the 1920s can be detected. It was followed by a backlash: the marginalization of women originating from athletics halted the progress of women's sports in so-called important, national sports. Skiing became more 'sporty', the national and international organization and system of competing was rationalized. Men's sports became decidedly

dominant. Women's sports was given room only in sports deemed "fitting" for them, i.e. in alpine sports favoured by the middle-classes.

Since the Second World War women became more active and women's Nordic skiing was promoted in FIS. Finnish and Swedish national federations initiated it, the Norwegian one was against. Women's Nordic skiing was propagated e.g. on a tour in Central Europe in 1949. It proved a success: the first women's winter sports in Winter Olympics was 10 km's Nordic skiing competition in Oslo, 1952. Afterwards the Soviet Union promoted the extension of the programme (5 kms, relay) but it was hampered by conflicting interests of differing skiing cultures (Alpine combined vs. Nordic skiing). The Women's Committee (since 1945) in FIS which concentrated on Alpine Combined was followed by Women's Committee on Nordic Skiing only in 1965.

Terho Paltamo: The Internationalization and Globalization of Olympic Winter Games

Without doubt the Olympic Winter Games is an outstanding, global and international sporting event. The number of participating countries has increased from 59 (1988) to 90 (1998). Also the programme has listed 29 new sports. Internationalization has led to the dominance of economic utilitarianism which has pushed ideals of education aside. The Salt Lake City Olympic Games are overshadowed by fear of terrorism and by the bribery scandals detected during the election process. Are the Olympic Games degrading to the level of mass amusements of the TV?

Erkki Vettenniemi: Negroes on the Skis! The Controversy over the Diffusion of Modern Sports Starting

From the 19th century, Western sports have spread across the globe, and while there is no lack of studies devoted to their diffusion, the outcome is still open to question. On the positive side, team sports in many colonies played a major role in the

independence struggle by bringing the heterogeneous population together. Thus the contribution of sport to nation-making and national identity is not negligible. Moreover, modern sports have not been imposed on any people by force; the recipients have always had their say in the process, and it is not uncommon that imported games are adopted so as to reflect the values of indigenous cultures. Yet, although the demise of traditional sports may be inevitable and even their authenticity can be disputed, something irreplaceable is being lost in terms of diversity. The triumph of Western sports, which is often called cultural imperialism or globalization of sport, has also led to outright exploitation of the athletic talent found in former colonies. Other than that, multinational companies increasingly resort to outlandish marketing stratagems with no sense of responsibility. An appertune example of this development is the short-lived campaign to turn Kenyan runners into skiers. Two athletes were brought to Finland, one of them even gained Olympic experience in 1998, but as soon as the media had satisfied their curiosity, the sponsor scrapped the project.

(transl. by Anssi Halmesvirta)