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Antero Heikkinen: Stages of Research and Teaching
in the History of Sport in Finland

The article examines a period of more than a century in which research and teaching in the history of sport gained a firm hold in Finland. This period can be divided into three. The first – from the 1880s to the 1970s – is one which saw little research and teaching in the area. There was a small amount of research into the history of sport at universities and teaching was concentrated at the Gymnastic Institute at Helsinki University. The second period began in the late 1970s when activities of the Finnish Society for Research in Sport and Physical Education led to the establishment of a history of sport project. This project existed more than two decades and partially as a result research and teaching in the history of sport began to achieve a solid foundation. The third period, since the early 1990s, is characterized by diversification and growth in the discipline.

Leena Laine: The Ten Years of the FSSH

This is a short historical overview of the establishment and work of the FSSH in 1992–2002. The Society was established to continue the work of the research project of the Liikuntatieteellinen Seura (the Finnish Society for Research in Sport and Physical Education) financed by the Ministry of Education. The Nordic countries provided the model – international co-operation has

been intensive. Since 1994 the Society has published a yearbook which is a common forum for researchers and amateurs in sport history, and which was cited for distinction in 2002 by the Sport Museum Foundation. Other activities include courses, seminars and lectures in sport history for amateurs, usually featured in co-operation with history departments of different universities. The Society awards yearly the distinction called "the feat in sport history" which is meant specifically for amateurs. Lately co-operation with local museums was started. The activities of this active, small Society – 110 members and four collective memberships – are financed mainly by the Ministry of Education.

Aino Sarje: The Many Forms of Finnish Women's Gymnastic Performance

This article examines the publicity of the Finnish women's gymnastics in the gymnastic performances like field programme, gymnastic shows and competitions. The aim is to show how to typify the representative performances. The keywords for such a study are: historical span, womanhood, corporality, context, culture, society and power. However, the availability of the source material greatly directs the way how the typical examples may be chosen.

Jyrki Talonen: The Merging of Karate into the Culture of Physical Training in Finland

The article is a summary of a pioneering study in cultural history concerning the merging of karate into the culture of physical training in Finland. According to the study the merging of karate in the culture of physical training in Finland has occurred in three dimensions: i) Sportive and competitive approach, in which the domestic organisation structure has been emphasized. ii) Another approach to karate training can be classified as a kind of alternative physical training. Compared with the main stream approach this one includes more culturally divergent training elements such as Japanese customs and/or eastern

philosophy. iii) The third dimension in Finnish karate training has been practising self-defence skills. For a number of people the last mentioned may be the primary reason to get involved in karate.

It seems karate was first trained in Finland in 1960, but it was not regularly practised until the year 1967. Two years later (1969) *Finnish Karate Federation* (Suomen Karateliitto) was founded. In the beginning the teaching of karate was authorized mainly by the recommendations from native Japanese teachers. In the mid 1970s the views of the Finnish advanced trainees and the Japanese teachers started to diverge. Differing views concerned the nature of this martial art, the training methods and managerial matters.

In the end of 1970s a new notion of Finn Karate Do ("Finn-karate") was introduced. Characteristic of this training style was the focus on fitness training and competition. Modern methods of sports training were adapted. Some Finnish karate trainees did not agree with this definition of training policy and they continued on the line of the previous emphasis similar to the Japanese style.

The way of thinking and acting along established karate styles, have brought Finland a new kind of organisational practice in physical training that has interlocked with the traditional Finnish sports organisations. It can be said that in the 1990s karate has converged Finnish lifestyles and culture enough to become more accepted in public. In the year 2002 there were 20–25 different variations of karate styles practised in Finland; if also such smaller groups that are formally a part of a large style are counted, the amount of the variations rises to 30–35. (Translated by Tiina Minkovitsch; Minna-Liisa Karjalainen)

Jarkko Kemppi: The Formation of Sports Organizations in Estonia in the 1920s

The formation of sport organizations in Estonia started in 1919 when the first national sport congress was held. Following its decisions, the Estonian Olympic Committee and the Sports Federation of Estonia were established. Different sport associations were organized in the early 1920s. The civil guards

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of Estonia (Kaitseliit) started their activities in 1926, and sport gained an important place in the action programme of the Kaitseliit. So called military sports were exercised. Alongside the Kaitseliit's sporting activities there was the Working Class Sport Federation, established in 1927. In view of economy, the main organization was the Estonian Sport Fund which came into being in 1925. It supported sport clubs and associations which struggled under serious economic difficulties.

Jouko Kokkonen: "Rivalling Nations"

In international competitions a sportsteam metaphorically represents the entire nation. This is emphasized also by the people involved in topsports. The reception and acknowledgments granted to sportsmen by the state also tell of the role of sports in service of the nation and nationalism. In Finland, the relation of nationalism and sports is conceived as being exceptionally strong and unique. However, this holds true also in many other countries of the world, for instance Australia, GDR and Norway have been made well-known by sports, too.

Since the London Olympics (1908), the Olympics have been considered an sporting arena for the best sportsmen of their nations – from there they try to bring home as many medals and points as possible. Their success has been interpreted as telling of the clan vital of the nation and its form of government. The significance of sports as an identity-builder seems to be highest in those small countries which have no great history. The nation exists through its competing sportsmen. Newly (1991) independent Estonia hurried to take part in the Albertville Olympics (1992) – the participation in the opening ceremony was symbolically as important as the membership in the UN.

Nationalism inevitably presupposes the highlighting of specific national propensities. The sports regarded as 'national' are one means to build national identity; it is them that are viewed as depicting national character best.

The relationship between sports and nationalism has proved to be capable of transformation. Nowadays it is infused by commercialism: the sportsproduct is sold to the customer under national banners. It is hard to imagine that flags and national

anthems would be discarded from big sports events. Their popularity is still build on the imagined competition between nations.

Timo Metsä-Tokila: Sports, Military Training and Studies in Ancient Greece

Topsports had its own niche in Ancient Greek society and especially in its system of education. This article analyses how the Greek philosophers thought about the relationship of sports and exercise to general education and studies. It also deals with the relation of sports and military training. It is clear that a young talented sportsman had a good opportunity to exercise during his studies.

Mikko Hyvärinen: "A Symbol of Possible Integration." The Question of Civil Rights and the Status of African American Athlete in the 1940s

One of the most cherished stories of American folklore has been the inclusion of African American athletes to the organized professional sports during the late 1940s. The destruction of "gentlemen's agreements" has been seen as an outcome of black militancy and protest, but also as an evidence of widening racial sympathy among white people. The popularity of Joe Louis is probably the best example of the assumption that black athletes were invaluable in destroying segregation in American society.

African American journalists and civil rights leaders were extremely interested in the status of black athletes and in their political influence during and after the Second World War. As many sportsmen broke down racial barriers, African Americans were eager to take all the credit for integration. Nevertheless, white owners' economic objectives were much more influential in this process since African American athletes were abused for a long time. As the matter of fact, the status of African American athlete still remains a problem – despite the success and wealth of many superior athletes.

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Jani Mesikämmen & Timo Metsä-Tokila: Professional Careers in the National Hockey League from the 1960s to 1990s

The National Hockey League (NHL) is without question the toughest hockey league in the world. Professional ice hockey has long traditions in North America, but during the last few decades the NHL has gone through some radical changes, such as the powerful expansion to a 30-team league and a gradual breakthrough of European players. This paper discusses two questions from a historical point of view. (i) What kind of careers do hockey players make in the NHL, and (ii) has the general career pattern changed over the last four decades? The authors have statistically analyzed the careers of individual NHL players from selected cohorts. The last four decades have witnessed several changes in the career profiles of professional players: job opportunities have increased in total, but competition between players has also toughened, the security concerning a player's status and job security have improved, and the average length of a career in the NHL – whether measured in games or seasons played in the league – has shortened significantly.

Gertrud Pfister: Selling bodies, Anna Kournikova and the Development of Sport

In this contribution I will discuss the connections between the developments of sport, the public representation of sport in the mass media and the role of women in sport and in the sport coverage. I will try to answer the following questions: How and why did the presentation and the enactment of the athletes change? Why do athletes signalise sexuality, present themselves as sex objects? Why do the mass media focus on the erotic attractiveness of athletes? Which role play the sport federations in this process? Which impressions and messages do the new sporting icons convey to the public and how does the public, do we all, deal with these presentations? Because there is no research in these topics, I can only offer some theses.

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Kati Hara-Fabrin: "It did not look ugly at all" – Ninety Years Since Finland Got its First Female National Champions in Athletics

The article deals with the first phase of women's athletics in SVUL (Finnish Gymnastics and Sports Association) in 1907–1923. Women's athletics experienced a boom at the turn of the 1910s, and – compared internationally – Finnish women took the lead. They reached the county level in 1907 and competed over national championships in 100 meters and 100 meter relay in 1913–1923. In the beginning of the 1920s a drastic turn ensued in attitudes, and women's championships were dropped from SVUL's programme without a single protest in 1923.

That women could compete on national level was the result of the prevailing sports enthusiasm and of the competition the sports clubs over members. The crux of the articles in the Suomen Urheilulehti was how amazing it was that women could gain such quite good results. The articles reflected the more general thought-pattern of the Finnish society that sports was "for the best of the nation". In an atmosphere which highlighted health and briskness women's athletics was accepted. As the running movements of women seemed beautiful and smooth, running was regarded as suitable sports for them.

Women's athletics subsided gradually after 1918. The attention was increasingly focused on men who had the possibility to succeed in the Olympics. Women's international competitions fell, instead, into disfavour. The opinion opposing women's athletics was exacerbated in 1922, when Martti Jukola, the editing secretary of the Suomen Urheilulehti, bluntly stated that athletics was indecent, unaesthetic and unhealthy for women. In the same year the SVUL erased 'useless' women's championship athletics from its programme. It was because the SVUL gave precedence to traditional values which maintained order that athletics for women was abandoned.

Antti O. Arponen: Celebrating Running in Kymenlaakso

After the World War II Finns became very enthusiastic about competitive running. One of its manifestations was the way the sporting clubs in Kymenlaakso competed in relay of 25 times

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1000 metres. Even the smallest villages could gather 25 runners to the track. Alongside with runners, skiers, orienteerers and ball-players competed. This was discontinued by sports-political quarrel in 1958, but some villages, like Anjala and Elimäki, did not give up their yearly relay. The small village of Anjala was able to gather 25-men team even in the 1970s, the slowest of men running the stretch under 3 min and the best under 2.40. When the relay competitions were popular in Kymenlaakso as many as six villages took part. In the 1980s the enthusiasm waned; the number of adult runners went down to thirteen, the rest were girls and boys. Within time the negative sides of specialisation were felt and it became harder and harder to gather the teams. The fiftieth and last relay was run in 1997.

Terho Paltamo: A Boxer's Biography

The life of Henry Siljander encapsulates many an interesting event in Finnish history: life in Kallio, the working-class Helsinki, compassion towards the minority Swedish-speakers, voluntary participation in the Second World War (1940–1944), the rise from poverty to petty-bourgeois entrepreneurship and, finally, success as Olympic medalist in boxing. During his career he got acquainted with the methods of the legends like Gunnar Bärlund and Clas Thunberg. There are in Siljander's life such elements that feed Hollywood hit movies like *Fierce Bull* and *Rocky I*. As an elderly man he is characterized by fearlessness of a boxer and rhetorical skills of an experienced businessman.

Martti Silvennoinen: The Hill-Jumpers Feast and Work

The article tells about two hill-jumpers, Matti Pietikäinen (1927–1967) and Matti Nykänen (1963–). The former won the world championships in Falun, Sweden, in 1954, and the latter Matti may be one of the most successful hill-jumpers in the world. The text does not dwell on 'real history', it rather approaches hill-jumping from the standpoint of micro history of corporality and mentality. The 'vertigo-men' of the 1950s came almost without exception from working-class origins. 'Sweated' and 'strong'

body was heavily strained in work and during spare time. Hill-jumping, if any, maintained and 'produced' that masculinity which could be analogous to the masculinity of the rebels of modernizing and universalizing culture of youth, the 'flats caps', James Dean-like youngsters and later punk people. To become a hill-jumper one had to lead a life which resembled the life of a hill-jumper.

(Translated by Anssi Halmesvirta)

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