

Summaries

Alussa oli vesi (In the Beginning there was the Water). The Yearbook of the Finnish Society for Sport History 2006.

Kimmo Seppänen and Tero Matkaniemi: Outdoor baths in Kuusankoski

Swimming was not a common form of recreation in 19th-century Finland, but the situation began to change towards the turn of the century. The first industrial plant of Kuusankoski was established in 1872, and seven years later outdoor baths for factory officials were opened by the side of the factory.

When swimming instruction and competitive swimming gained more popularity in the early years of the 20th century, Finland needed modern swimming facilities. The first public swimming pool of Kuusankoski was built by Lake Sompanen in 1915. Until the 1930s, the Sompanen baths, used by the working class sports club Voikkaan Viesti, remained the only facility suitable for competitive swimming and swimming instruction in the Kuusankoski area.

In 1935, public baths designed by architect Bertel Liljeqvist were built in Kuusaa, and the pools were also used for swimming instruction by Kuusankosken Urheiluseura, a middle-class sports club. At the same time, several other outdoor baths intended for factory officials were also in use. The public indoor swimming centre of the City of Kuusankoski opened its doors in 1970. Indoor pools became necessary due to the pollution of the Kymi-joki River, among other reasons.

Kuusankoski is geographically scattered, and as an industrial town its people were divided into factory officials and workers – this led to the fact that the town had several facilities meant for bathing and swimming well into the 1950s. Many of these

baths brought very positive characteristics to the local swimming culture: thousands of people from different social classes found a pleasant place and form for their hobby.

Antti Linna and Simo Laakkonen: Vasikkasaari – an urban summer paradise by the sea

The article discusses the leisure time of the Finnish working class on the Helsinki seaside after the second world war. It focuses on the summer cottage culture of the Vasikkasaari island during the years 1945–1964. Vasikkasaari, situated only 3 kilometres outside the centre of Helsinki, was leased out by The Ministry Of Defence to the left-wing party SKDL. An active working class leisure culture was developed on the island with about 150 summer cottages during the 1950s. However, the majority of the cottages had to be removed from the island in 1964 when the island was moved to the possession of the city of Helsinki in an exchange of territories between the state and the city.

In this article we argue that Vasikkasaari represents the first times when the working class of Helsinki could spend longer times in the seaside than the weekend-picnic of the early 20th century. This was based largely on the legislation of the annual holidays of 1939. From Vasikkasaari one could also go to work every day by boat. In any case, having an own summer place just outside Helsinki meant a remarkable improvement in the living conditions of the Helsinki working class. Fishing, parties, common sport competitions etc. on the island acted as a real counterbalance to the hard work and everyday life in the polluted working-class areas (mainly Kallio) of Helsinki.

Torbjörn Andersson: Women and the early football in Sweden

The article shows how the ideology of Swedish football as a completely masculine activity was consolidated during the inter-war years. This was demonstrated when an entertainment-oriented ladies football was established around 1920. The main reason for their entry onto the pitch was economic as the ladies teams met men of advanced years in joke matches that turned

into humorous spectacles in front of large crowds. Through this the view of football as an intrinsically masculine activity was confirmed and women's potential for a serious impact on the sport was effectively rebuffed; the end result of this being that it took another 50 years before a serious female football culture could be established.

Markku Jokisipilä: Ice hockey in the Cold War

International ice hockey was one of the most important sportive arenas of Cold war (1947–1991) ideological struggle. Intense and often violent game was perfect metaphor for waging a war. International tournaments witnessed outbursts of heated nationalism, as rival political systems tried to show their superiority to the world at large. International tournaments mirrored the recent world political events and there were frequent repercussions from real life duel between Western capitalism and Eastern communism. However at the same time international games also offered a forum for peaceful competition among nations and at least occasionally furthered political rapprochement. Nevertheless the media and general public interpretations of Cold war hockey almost always emphasized the confrontational and ideological aspects of these sporting encounters.

Martti Silvennoinen: Parkour – treks of adventure in urban spaces

This is a story about Finnish youngsters who have become deeply interested in a new way of physical activity and embodiment. What does it mean, when almost all the constructed places and sites in urban surroundings are taken as challenges, worth of testing physically and bodily? These "free runners" jump over benches, over different kinds of rails and bars, run towards vertical walls and make somersaults landing on the earth. You may mostly see them gathering together in small groups, making careful plans and estimations over the next steeples that are to be overcome. They enjoy the endless possibilities that different surroundings offer to them, they enjoy their skilfully operated

plans and movements, and most of all they enjoy their shared feeling: "this is just a case of our own". "Le Parkour" did not land in Finland from the States, as did many other physically active hip-hop subcultures, as skateboarding and break-dance. "No, it's been a gift from the French 'traceurs', David Belle and Sébastien Foucan", as one of the parkour pioneers in Finland featured his hobby. But, are the roots of parkouring in a post-modern youth culture or may we also search them from a longer period of the history of different body cultures?

Hannu Itkonen & Anna-Katriina Salmikangas: Local sports cultures in change: a comparison between the villages of Nakertaja-Hetteenmäki of Kajaani and Sivakkavaara of Valtimo.

The comparisons used in historical sociology are traditionally realised at the macro-level. The main focus has been on nations and large political units. Since the 1980's, the daily life has become the focus of researchers. At the same time, intensive local research has become general.

In our article we compare the sports cultures of the Nakertaja-Hetteenmäki village of the city of Kajaani and the Sivakkavaara village of the Valtimo municipality. We have traced the changes using the methods of historical sociology. Both of our research subjects differ from the general development lines of the Finnish sports culture. In Nakertaja-Hetteenmäki, the main responsibility of organizing sports activities has been taken over by the village association that has networked with other participants. In Sivakkavaara, the decrease in population has led to the decrease of the functional- and the social aspects, in which case the role of nature and landscape has become more important than before. The only group organizing sports activities is the hunting society Sivakan Erä-Veikot.

Riikka Turtiainen: How armchair supporter became a virtual athlete?

Sport consuming has long traditions. Last twenty years has been the time of mediated and commercialized sport. In my opinion

sport consumer can no longer be called as "armchair supporter". I introduce a virtual athlete which is my own concept. The virtual athlete is more than a spectator and something else than only a supporter. Virtual athlete is active when he/she consumes sport and uses media of communication – including digital technology. The activity appears through those forms and customs of use which virtual athletes have adopted. In media studies fans have been seen as active media receiver. In my opinion glorification of fans doesn't make justice to other media users. Because of digitalization all media users have come closer to fans. Sport consumer doesn't have to have a fan relations to be active. Activity of virtual athlete is sum of two forms of activity: interpreted and constructive activity. At first virtual athlete is already active when he/she interprets for example events of football match. On the other hand virtual athlete builds more extensive sport experience of his/her own by combining different kind of media – information and entertainment. Internet offers to virtual athletes for instance teams homepages, web magazines, forums, games and online betting. The only old media (from 1970's) which is used as much as internet regarding sport statistics is text television. Anyway, in question of mediasport, "new" media has not replaced "old" media. Virtual athletes are using different kind of media when they "participate" sport event. Today's committed sport consuming can actually be compared to early form of football, village football, which didn't make difference between player and spectator.

Kalle Virtapohja: Athletics tries to adapt to new demands

Finland became the first nation to host the World Championships in Athletics for the second time in August 2005. Helsinki was the host city also for the inaugural World Championships in 1983. Since then, the equality of sexes has come true in athletics. Today, women can also become World Champions in triple jump, pole vault or even in throwing hammer. A major change has materialized concerning prize money. The ideal of amateurism has been forgotten even so that the name of the international federation IAAF had to be changed in 2001. The former International Amateur Athletic Federation became the

International Association of Athletic Federations. Nowadays the prize money is paid openly: 100 000 euro for the World record breaker and 60 000 euro for the Gold medal winner. As the sportsmen have turned professional the demand is that the organisers act also more and more in a professional way. This means that volunteerism as the special power of Finnish sports is under threat of vanishing in the future. Another conclusion is that it is no more possible for single sports federations to organise such a huge competition like the World Championships in Athletics where around 200 countries take part.

Mikko Leinonen: The rise of the Finnish long-distance running in the 1970's

In my M.A. Thesis I tried to draw a picture of the coaching culture of Finnish long-distance running in the 1970's. In this article, coaching culture means every action that was in interaction with Finnish long-distance running training. Therefore, the concept of coaching culture includes both coaches' and athletes' actions and also the 1970's economic and organizational operational preconditions. In the description of coaching culture, I focused on top runners' training. The aim was to figure out what the "Finnish" coaching line was like. In my study I also tried to assess, what was the concept of man in long-distance runners' coaching like, by using the classification of Jyri Puhakainen. The main resource of information in my study was runners' interviews, autobiographies, the 1970's seminars of coaching of endurance sport, histories and journals of sport. I also used two newspapers, *Turun Sanomat* and *Keskisuomalainen*, to figure out what was the public picture of long-distance running in the 1970's. This article is a summary of my findings.

Erkki Vettenniemi: Nine Histories of Athletics

Today, it is called *yleisurheilu*, literally "general athletics", but it has also been referred to as *rata- ja kenttäurheilu*, or "track and field athletics", and *vapaaurheilu*, or "free athletics". Terminolo-

gical confusion surely testifies to the amorphous nature of what is known as plain "athletics" in the English language. Athletics is indeed a frivolous collection of heterogeneous sports; there is no obvious reason why acrobatic pole vaulters should be associated with sturdy steeple chasers – or hurdlers with throwers, for that matter.

In my article I have chosen to highlight nine approaches to the history of athletics. One of them is precisely the history of terminology with an emphasis on etymology, while the rest extend from body techniques and implements to training methods and issues pertaining to doping. Other possibilities can easily be thought up.

Traditionally, the study of the history of athletics has been limited to litanies of names and numbers, champions and records. Chronicles of this variety can be termed numerical histories, and it may well be that their popularity has, at least to an extent, checked scholarly undertakings in this particular field of sport history.

Hajo Bernett's ground-breaking monograph *Leichtathletik im geschichtlichen Wandel* proves, however, that the history of athletics can and should be taken seriously. While Bernett makes incisive remarks on the history of terminology and the evolution of implements, for instance, Gérard Bruant's *Anthropologie du geste sportif* is a comprehensive study of the body techniques adopted in the early days of modern running. On a similar note, *Mortal Engines* by John Hoberman is essential reading for any student of athletics training and the use of pharmaceutical substances.

These three authors have shown the way forward to other scholars. There are more than nine monographies to be written about the history of running, walking, jumping and throwing events. Yet the journalistic authors of what I have called numerical histories should not be left alone either. Given the undeniable impact of their narratives, widely available in countless languages, apologists for modern sport ought to be subjected to scrutiny, too.