Modern sport, an important element in the lives of many Latin Americans today, came to the region as a part of Western European, and especially English, imperialism. United States influence in the introduction of modern sport also was significant in some areas. Latin Americans embraced this new cultural element with little pressure from its bearers. In the case of sport, world globalization of culture involved reciprocal interactions as Latin Americas eventually became innovators, especially in soccer. Based on secondary sources, 20 notes.

—RICHARD V. McGEHEE

VI. America


The success and profitability of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games was because the organizing committee (LAOOC) was a private entity which developed an innovative set of guidelines known as the LAOOC Approach to Management. Based on an analysis of previous Olympiads, the guidelines dealt with architecture, government, commercialism, finance and protocol among other items. Olympiads after 1984 have not followed the Los Angeles example, and each has posted a substantial loss. Based on primary and secondary sources, 42 notes, 10 photographs.

—LYNNE EMERY


Despite the recommendations of the 1999 National Gambling Impact Study Commission and Senator John McCain's Athletic Integrity Bill that gambling on college sports be illegal, it appears this will not happen. Nevada’s sports book which began with boxing has grown to a multibillion dollar industry. Of even more concern to the National Collegiate Athletic Association is the rapid growth of Internet sports books which numbered more than 700 in 2001. Based on primary and secondary sources, 37 notes, 4 photographs.

—LYNNE EMERY

Injuries and deaths in soccer, rugby, and American football in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries led critics to call for abandoning these sports entirely or at least eliminating their overly rough and dangerous aspects. Supporters cited the roughness and hazards as desirable elements that led to manly development. Mixed attitudes in the British medical press resulted partly because many medical students were themselves football players. Violent play in the United States eventually led some universities to discontinue football and to rule changes intended to decrease injuries. The American medical press generally criticized the hazardous nature of football. Based on primary and secondary sources, 99 notes.

—RICHARD V. MCGHEE


No other player in major league history has dominated a season offensively as thoroughly as Stan Musial when he topped the National League in nine categories in 1948. Musial led the NL in hits (230), doubles (46), triples (18), runs (135), RBIs (131), batting average (.376), total bases (429), on-base percentage (.450), and slugging percentage (.702). He also hit a career high 39 homers, just one behind the 40 of co-leaders Ralph Kiner and Johnny Mize. His 429 total bases were only 21 behind the NL record of Rogers Hornsby in 1922. Includes one photograph.

—LARRY S. BONURA


They were called the "Hitless Wonders." In the midst of the Dead Ball era, it was a wonder how they scored so many runs on so few hits: bunts for hits and sacrifices, delayed and double steals, executed hit-and-runs and bunt-and-runs. The White Sox won because they had a strong pitching staff of Nick Altrock, Frank Smith, Doc White, Ed Walsh; excellent position players creating a strong defensive team including George David, Lee Tannehill, "Jiggs" Donahue and George Rohe; and leadership from manager Fielder Jones. The article discusses the pennant race, the method of playing in the Dead Ball era, and the 1906 World Series match up. Includes two photographs.

—LARRY S. BONURA
Cliff Kachline has been involved in baseball for more than a half century. He began his writing career in 1940 working at his hometown weekly. In April 1943, J.G. Taylor Spink invited the 21-year-old Kachline to join The Sporting News, where he worked for twenty-four years. In 1969, he became the Baseball Hall of Fame’s historian, a position he held for fourteen years. In 1983, he became the first director of the Society for American Baseball Research.

—Larry S. Bonura

John Joseph Pinder, Jr., was a veteran of six minor league baseball seasons before he entered the Army in 1942. Later, as a member of the 1st Infantry Division, he took part on the June 6, 1944, attack at Omaha Beach on the Normandy coast of France. In 1945, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor as he "scorned death to establish vital radio communications" at Omaha Beach. Pinder had also taken part in the invasions of North Africa and Italy. His early life and years as a baseball player are highlighted, as well as his military heroism. Includes one photograph and 25 references.

—Larry S. Bonura

The story details the long-overlooked run-batted-in that, 69 years after Hack Wilson accomplished the feat, boosted his one-season major league record to 191. The quest began in 1977, when James Braswell wrote a letter to The Sporting News stating that Wilson had RBIs in 11 straight games and this resurfaced in 1996. On June 22, 1999, Wilson was credited with the 11-game RBI streak and 191 RBIs for the season. Includes sidebars on "Why So Many Records Are Wrong" and "Runs Batted In Rule."

—Larry S. Bonura
When professional baseball began, one umpire was assigned to each game. By 1911 both major leagues had adopted the two-umpire per game system. The transition between the one-umpire system and the use of two officials per game was at times abrupt, at times gradual. It took three tries for the double umpire system to become established. Through 1889, the one umpire was in use; the 1890 season saw the first season-long use of the double umpire system. Includes three tables.

—LARRY S. BONURA

Carl Mays is unfortunately remembered for two incidents. He is the man who threw the pitch that felled Ray Chapman and the individual who lost a suspicious game during the 1921 World Series. Mays’ career accomplishments from 1915 through 1929 exceed those of all of his contemporaries except Walter Johnson and Grover Cleveland Alexander. Includes one photograph and four sources.

—LARRY S. BONURA

In the 1950s Israeli soccer was divided among three sport federations, each associated with a political party. Supporters of the Beitar Jerusalem team were mostly poor and aligned with the right-wing Herut party. Beitar Jerusalem advanced to the first division after defeating Hapoel Rehovot in 1954; and the behavior of Beitar’s fanatic supporters seemed to be a factor in the game results. Many Hapoel fans were also poor but their party, the left-wing Histadrut, enjoyed control of the national government, and Beitar supporters carried their sense of political persecution into the stadium when their team played. Based on primary and secondary sources, 49 notes.

—RICHARD V. MCGHEE