
INDIANA ARCHIVES

Sports History

*John M. Glen, Roger Dickinson, Mary Johnston,
and Kent Stephens**

The seventh annual installment in the Indiana Archives series continues the expansion begun last year into new concepts and methodologies by examining archival resources within the state that illuminate the history of sports. In the popular imagination, sports accounts largely amount to celebrations of famous teams, coaches, and players and the impressive statistics they have compiled, with disappointment, controversy, and the occasional scandal inflaming, then temporarily cooling, the ardor of fans. Yet a closer examination suggests that sports should be considered as one important barometer of popular thought, especially since the rise of spectator events in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Moreover, its prominence and staying power through wars, depressions, and myriad social, economic, and political events reflect the ongoing capacity of sports to excite human emotions and instigate changes that have an influence well beyond the playing field or court.

Indeed, the history of sports suggests several intriguing issues that have so far been only partially addressed. For example, Indiana's renown for its love of basketball is due in many ways to its residents' deep-seated identification with teams that represent the culture of their communities (large and small), their universities, and the state as a whole. The sport has long been associated with values attributed to an earlier era, untouched by economic modernization and institutionalization, even as those forces ironically facilitated the growth of basketball's popularity. Football and other sports have profited to varying degrees from a similar mix of frontier sensibility and bureaucratic organization. Meanwhile, the individual and team accomplishments of black athletes, who had been excluded for decades from interscholastic and intercollegiate sports, eventually helped break down school segregation and contributed to an overall decline in racial discrimination, and the increased partici-

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pation of women in sports, facilitated by a 1972 federal law, made important contributions toward gender equality.

The history of sports also presents methodological challenges, in that its students need to devote attention to material culture, or to less formal, often nonwritten resources that are more symbolic and creative than analytic and self-explanatory. They must make sense of all the pageantry that accompanies sporting events, including uniforms, team nicknames, mascots, marching bands, cheerleaders, halftime shows, homecomings, all-star games, postseason championships, and awards ceremonies. Historians must distinguish between the attention devoted to sports by media outlets and the actual impact of sporting activities on public attitudes. And they need to evaluate assessments of athletic prowess in terms of prevailing definitions of masculinity and femininity, or of victory and defeat.

The contributors to this year's Archives Section article offer potentially useful ways to address these and other questions. Mary Johnston surveys the holdings to be found at the headquarters of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the governing body of most intercollegiate athletic programs, noting in the process the complexity of coordinating the exponential growth of collegiate sports, their tournament championships, and the issues that have accompanied that expansion. Kent Stephens stresses the comprehensive approach the College Football Hall of Fame has taken to preserve and convey the spectacle of that sport through printed materials, visual images, music, and memorabilia. Roger Dickinson walks readers through the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, showing how its exhibits reflect a determined effort to sustain individual accomplishment, "school spirit," and civic-mindedness in the face of larger and, to some, more troubling trends. These archives are representative of other resources in Indiana that also reveal how the history of sports can help explain the tenor of the times in which the games have been played.

THE NCAA LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

The central function of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Library and Archives is to preserve intercollegiate athletics records. In 1922, the NCAA adopted a constitution that mandated the preservation of collegiate athletic records. The NCAA was just sixteen years old that year and had only organized its first championship the previous year, in track and field.

Originally named the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States, what would subsequently become known as the NCAA was founded in 1906 by thirty-nine colleges and universities in response to football players' injuries and deaths while playing the game. Since 1906, the NCAA has evolved from a discussion group into a rules-making body and a sponsor of national championships. After forty-five years of expansion in membership and championships,



HALL OF FAME MEMBER GEORGE TALIAFERRO WAS AN
ALL-AMERICAN FOOTBALL STAR AT
INDIANA UNIVERSITY IN THE 1940S.

the organization named its first executive director in 1951. Walter Byers led the national office staff until his retirement in 1987. Dick Schultz followed as the second executive director; Cedric Dempsey currently leads the national office staff with the title of president.

Even though the 1922 NCAA constitution mandated the preservation of collegiate athletic records, the formation of a national office in 1951 significantly advanced that effort. Despite a small staff and the national scope of the association, some records exist from the early years. For example, proceedings from the first NCAA convention, held in 1906, are accessible. Football guidebooks from ten years before the NCAA's founding are also available. Minutes of the NCAA Executive Committee meetings are complete from 1939. After the establishment of the national office, records retention and preservation have become more consistent. Results of championships have been collected with greater regularity, as have minutes of committee meetings and NCAA publications.

Still further advancement in the preservation of collegiate athletic records occurred with the hiring of the first NCAA librarian in 1994. Since then the librarian has been responsible for encouraging the use of the NCAA Library and Archives as the repository for historic materials. Over the past seven years 10,000 materials have been catalogued, and two major manuscript collections have been indexed.

In 1997 the NCAA membership decided to move its headquarters from Overland Park, Kansas, to Indianapolis, Indiana, and in 1999, the NCAA Library and Archives made that move with the national office staff. Three tractor-trailers were needed to transport the contents of the library. Library space was configured in 3,000 square feet on the first floor of the national office building overlooking the downtown canal of Indianapolis.

The NCAA Library and Archives is now in a position to document how the association has worked to support intercollegiate athletics as an integral part of educational programs and athletes as an integral part of student bodies. In addition to providing information to the NCAA staff and membership, the library and archives make every effort to accommodate authors, doctoral candidates, and others requesting access to NCAA records. An appointment is required for these external researchers.

The NCAA Library and Archives protects a unique collection documenting the history of the NCAA and the history of intercollegiate athletics.¹ The holdings include the papers of past executive

¹Two important collections are not held by the NCAA Library and Archives. NCAA championship photographs are managed by Rich Clarkson and Associates, LLC, of Denver, Colorado. For more information, visit <www.ncaaphotos.com>. NCAA championship videos are managed by the NCAA's broadcasting staff. For more information, contact the NCAA at (317) 917-6222.

directors, the results of championships, minutes of NCAA committee meetings, and a copy of every issue of the *NCAA News*.

Collections held by the NCAA Library and Archives include the following: the Byers Papers, consisting of the indexed correspondence of the first executive director, 1951–1987; the Schultz Papers, consisting of the indexed correspondence of the second executive director, 1987–1993; championship results files, dating from the 1950s to the present, containing official results, programs, box scores, and newspaper clippings; the Committees collection, including minutes, agendas, and supplements of NCAA committees; convention materials, consisting of proceedings, transcripts, and official notices that date from 1906 to the present; the *NCAA News*, the biweekly newspaper of the NCAA, published since 1964; NCAA publications, including sports records books, rules books, committee directories, and annual reports; the NCAA staff collection, composed of team handbooks and internal newsletters; Permanent Memos, including correspondence, meeting materials, and various mailings from NCAA staff to members, dating from 1952 to the present; the Women's Collection, containing files related to Title IX, the law requiring schools that receive federal funds to provide equal opportunities to men and women, as well as materials on gender equity, the history of women's athletics, and the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW), including transcripts of court proceedings, testimonies, affidavits, and dispositions.

In general, records are retained for administrative, legal, fiscal, and historic purposes. Various staff groups within the NCAA national office retain documents according to their own administrative, legal, or fiscal needs. The library and archives staff actively solicits materials that are deemed historic for deposit. For example, committee meeting dates are monitored to ensure that meeting documentation is produced for permanent safekeeping. The current NCAA governance structure is made up of more than 125 committees, which meet in person or via telephone two, three, or four times per year. The minutes of these meetings help tell the story of the NCAA.

For purposes of access, archival records are categorized as either open or restricted and are made available in accordance with the following guidelines. Open records are made available to all NCAA staff, NCAA members, and external researchers. In this category are records intended for public circulation, including but not limited to press releases, NCAA research reports, NCAA publications, public infractions reports, championship results, and the general collection. Restricted records are open to NCAA staff only. In this category are the Byers Papers, the Schultz Papers, and other manuscript collections. Some restricted records may be made available at the discretion of the library staff.

Reference service for the NCAA staff and membership is also provided. In 2001, the library and archives staff responded to approxi-

mately four hundred reference requests, typically historic in nature. The library staff endeavors to keep up with the growth of the collections, as well as the increase in the number of reference requests.

Since the first NCAA championship in 1921, the number of championships has expanded to eighty-seven in twenty-two sports for both men and women. Since 1906, the number of members has grown from 39 to 1,267. Since 1951, the number of NCAA staff members has grown from 1 to 330. The number of NCAA committees has swelled to more than 125.

As the NCAA membership continues to grow, the library and archives staff continues to look for ways to organize the historic documents of the association in a way that provides access to them and at the same time ensures their long-term protection. The “access versus preservation” struggle is an ongoing issue. Minutes of prominent NCAA committees—the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Presidents Councils, and Management Councils—have been made available via the NCAA web site at <www.ncaa.org> since 1998. The web site offers universal access to these most sought-after documents.

As the NCAA looks ahead to its one hundredth birthday in 2006, the library and archives staff is making an effort to fill some gaps that exist in the early twentieth-century NCAA materials. Some basketball and soccer guides from the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s have been recently been added to the collection. Sadly, many older NCAA publications have so greatly increased in value that they have become too expensive for the library to purchase. For example, in March 2002 a private collector purchased the program for the 1957 NCAA basketball championship for \$1,105 and a 1900–1901 Spalding Basketball Guide for \$1,405.

Knowing the value of these items serves as a reminder of the need to archive publications and documents as they are produced. The NCAA Library and Archives staff actively pursues its goals of preserving collegiate athletic records and making them accessible to the ever-increasing number of people interested in college athletics.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

The College Football Hall of Fame and archives, located in South Bend, Indiana, is a relatively new venture with a surprisingly long history. While the museum in South Bend did not open until August 25, 1995, the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame was established in 1947 and began electing Hall of Fame members in 1951.

For the first thirty years of its existence, the National Football Foundation (NFF) had its headquarters in several locations in the New York City area. During that time its staff collected memorabilia and college-football-related artifacts while conducting annual elections for Hall of Fame members.

In 1978, the NFF opened a College Football Hall of Fame museum in Kings Mill, Ohio, adjacent to the Kings Island amusement park, twenty miles north of Cincinnati. At that time a large quantity of football memorabilia was purchased that subsequently comprised the bulk of the museum's holdings.

The Kings Island museum never gained the support necessary to make it viable. After a nationwide search, the NFF announced in 1991 that the museum would move to South Bend, Indiana. The Ohio facility remained open until January 1992.

The current hall of fame is in a 58,000 square foot building, with 35,000 square feet dedicated to exhibit space. The museum features a wide variety of exhibits and interactive displays. It has given high priority to the development of a rotating system of exhibiting memorabilia and the creation of new displays, which give visitors a new experience each time they visit.

The museum creates eight new or temporary exhibits each year. These exhibits typically run for six-month periods and have examined a wide variety of college-football-related topics. The museum is currently featuring the eleven Big Ten Rivalry Trophies and an exhibit on the 100th anniversary of the Rose Bowl.

There are also several annual exhibits that reflect the most recent season. These exhibits and the memorabilia within the Hall of Champions (a time-lined approach to the history of college football) are updated every year.

The museum is highly interactive. A visitor can view computer-accessible videos on the game's history, its most recent season, and highlight film clips on any one of the 850 Hall of Fame inductees.

Behind the scenes, the Hall of Fame Archives and Library possesses a wealth of materials for the student of college football. Every Hall of Fame member has a file of biographical data, statistical information, photographs, letters, and clippings. Although the museum's photograph collection (approximately 8,000 images) centers on its members, the museum also maintains a collection of photos of college football players, teams, and coaches who have not been elected to the Hall of Fame.

In the summer of 2000, the Hall of Fame Archives and Library began to interview members as part of an oral history project. This year the staff hopes to add a number of inductees to its oral history roster.

The museum has other audio recordings of Hall of Fame interviews as well as sheet music, tapes, records, and CDs of a large number of fight songs. Its library contains 1,700 volumes, ranging from instructional books to biographies, team histories, general histories, and reference works. One of the more interesting aspects of the instructional books is that the older volumes explain the intricacies of strategies and formations long ago abandoned by today's coaches.

Of greater use are the museum's pulp holdings. These annual magazines are excellent sources for reviewing each season's games, players, and events. The museum also features five thousand media guides. These guides, produced by school sports information departments, were first widely produced in the post-World War II era. They contain team records and biographical and statistical information on each season's roster of players.

Before the introduction of media guides, the only source for rosters was game programs. The Hall of Fame has over three thousand programs dating back to 1873, just four years after the playing of the first game in 1869. The first games were more like soccer than today's game; interestingly, the 1873 program documents a contest between Yale and an English school, Eton.

The game of football has used film as a teaching and scouting tool since the 1900s. The Hall of Fame has 1500 game and highlight films dating back to the turn of the twentieth century. These films have been transferred to video formats and edited to make individual highlight reels of each Hall of Fame member.

The museum possesses the premier collection of college football artifacts. Primarily comprised of uniform items, the collection has nearly two thousand artifacts from some of the game's most famous players and the sport's most significant events. The most valuable of these pieces is the jersey worn by football's "Gallop Ghost," Harold "Red" Grange of the University of Illinois.

College football is a sport that has been greatly enhanced by the spectacle of bands, cheerleaders, mascots, and traditional social events, such as homecoming and tailgating. The museum's archives also reflects this aspect of the experience with a collection of band and cheerleader uniforms. It has a wealth of Indiana-related items, such as the Rose Bowl drum head from Purdue University's "World's Largest Drum," a Purdue "Golden Girl" costume, and a leprechaun outfit from the University of Notre Dame.

The library and archives are open Monday through Friday from 9 to 5 by appointment only. Contact Kent Stephens <Kent.Stephens@collegefootball.org> or call (574) 235-5711.

INDIANA BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

Basketball has been a part of the fabric of life in Indiana almost since James Naismith invented the game in 1891 at Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts, using two peach baskets and a soccer ball. Two years later, the Reverend Nicholas McKay brought the game to the Crawfordsville, Indiana, YMCA. Reverend McKay believed that this new game would help keep Hoosier athletes active in the winter months. After using peach baskets for a while, McKay had two hoops forged by a local blacksmith and attached coffee sacks as nets. Indianans took to this new game and added several touches. Their

innovations included backboards to keep home fans in the balconies from acting as shot blockers and open-ended nets to allow the ball to pass through.

Both as players and as fans, Hoosiers have been rabid about basketball. Rims appeared on barns, sheds, houses, and churches. Teams played in any room high enough to put a goal in—even, in one case, on the second floor of a store. Naismith himself eventually admitted it was no longer his game. In 1925 he visited Indiana to watch the state finals, along with fifteen thousand screaming fans. Naismith wrote, “Basketball really had its origin in Indiana, which remains the center of the sport.”

Despite Indiana’s great basketball players, memories, and traditions, the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame was not organized until 1962, in response to the efforts of Ray Johnson and long-time Indianapolis television sportscaster Tom Carnegie. The museum first opened its doors in Indianapolis in 1970, where it remained until 1986. Since 1990, it has been in New Castle.

The current Hall of Fame museum boasts 14,000 square feet, with more than 6,000 square feet of exhibit space. However, the museum plans to expand to incorporate those who have made outstanding contributions to the girls high school game in Indiana.

A brief tour of the Hall of Fame highlights some of its holdings. Twenty-one flags flying above the courtyard include the United States and Indiana flags and banners representing the current Boys’ and Girls’ State Champions, the boys’ and girls’ semistate finalists in each class, and the City Securities Classic champions.

Inside is a representation of a high school gymnasium. There is even an old mascot from Pioneer High School—a panther—standing arms outstretched to greet fans.

There is also an exhibit on the current class of Hall of Fame inductees and Silver Anniversary team members, along with a “What’s New?” case displaying new items.

At the entrance to the main exhibit floor is a ramp decorated with photographs and pennants of championship teams. With a soundtrack featuring crowd chants and the home announcer introducing players, visitors descend the ramp feeling as though they were walking into a gym to see a game.

At the bottom of the ramp, visitors hear a pregame speech on the “pyramid of success” by John Wooden, the honored University of California at Los Angeles coach and Hall of Fame member from Martinsville. The main exhibit floor includes displays of the “Milan Miracle” and the contributions of schools like Muncie Central, Jasper, Crawfordsville, and Crispus Attucks. There is also a “Timeline of Indiana Basketball,” memorabilia from all aspects of the game, including cheerleading, and displays of Hall of Fame members.

Players are eligible for induction into the Hall of Fame twenty-six years after they graduate from high school. Following the 2000–2001

season, women were for the first time eligible for consideration for the Hall of Fame, and the first women were inducted on March 1, 2002. The inclusion of women players has led to a demand for more exhibit space, and the Hall of Fame is in the process of securing additional funding so that it can include Indiana's best high school female players.

The John Jordan Library offers visitors further information about favorite players, teams, schools, and contests through a variety of media. Among the library's holdings are dozens of tournament game films, including boys' state games from 1947 through 2002 and girls' state games from 1976 through 2002. According to Sharon Roberts, the library's assistant director, the most requested film is that of the championship game of 1954, won by Milan High School.

The library owns 300 books on all aspects of basketball and features a large collection of donated school yearbooks and individual scrapbooks of teams and schools. Also available for research are biographical files and nominating files on all Hall of Fame members and many other prominent players, as well as notebooks on all state tournament games. Visitors may also consult three file cabinets full of histories of each Indiana high school, 1100 in all during the decades of state history covered in the Hall. Information contained in these files includes the location of each school and its team's nickname. There is a particularly large amount of information in the files on Indianapolis's Crispus Attucks High School and its famous basketball program.

The Basketball Hall of Fame is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 to 5 and Sunday from 1 to 5. Further information is available at its website <www.hoopshall.com>.