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Pagrindinės kalbos: lietuvių, lenkų, anglų, rusų.

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Sport in the Context of Social Sciences. W. J. Cynarski, J. Kosiewicz, K. Obodyński, Eds. 2012. Rzeszów: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego. 282 pp. ISBN 978-83-7338-813-0

Michał Mazurkiewicz (Polska / Lenkija)

Sport has been a very important component of human existence for ages. It is a complex and colourful phenomenon which arouses the intense interest of fans all over the world and which can be analysed from different points of view. Sport is definitely something more than pure entertainment.

Anyone interested in sport should become familiar with the latest fruit of the work of the Polish scientists conducting research on different aspects of sports history and sociology. It is worth emphasizing that in Poland there are numerous scholars who have put sport at the centre of their scientific interests.

This informative monograph—Sport in the Context of Social Sciences—is a collection of interesting papers which were presented during the first conference of the Polish Society of the Social Sciences of Sport, which took place in September 2011 in Targowiska near Rzeszów. The papers of the Polish authors are written in English, which makes the book a valuable source of knowledge not only for Polish researchers and sports fans, but also enables people from foreign countries to get inspired and see the scientific research of Polish scholars.

The articles show the miscellaneous faces of sport, which corroborates the fact that there are numerous phenomena in sport

worthy of scientific analysis. What should be emphasised is the high professional level of these works. The book begins with a brief introduction, giving the general picture, and contains sixteen papers. Let us briefly analyse some of the articles and fields of research of the authors.

Andrzej Pawłucki, whose article comprises parts of a forthcoming monograph, emphasizes the need to maintain the tradition of philosophical and methodological study of physical culture sciences. His article presents the ontological foundations and classification of these sciences and tries to explain the lack of the concept of "physical culture sciences" in German- and Englishlanguage academic practice.

Jerzy Kosiewicz analyses foul play, a ubiquitous element of sport, which, as he claims, "will probably never lose its popular and sometimes spectacular character." One can find here a list of the causes of foul play, a description of its theatralization, and the attitudes of referees.

Anna Pawlikowska-Piechotka and Karolina Sawicka write about recreation areas in contemporary cities. Władysław Pańczyk draws the readers' attention to recreational and tourist activities and underlines the health value of physical activity. Stanisław Bryl examines the question of symbols and symbolic behaviours in sport.

Tomasz Bohdan analyses the image of a fan presented in the Polish sports press, which, however, shows only a section of the Polish press market (mostly leftwing and centrist); a broader spectrum of newspapers would result in more objective conclusions.

Andrzej Smoleń and Zbigniew Pawlak compare Polish football and basketball clubs in terms of their economic and financial situation and its influence on their sports achievements. The results of this work can turn out to be helpful to sports managers and club owners.

There are a few articles which concentrate on some interesting moments from the history of sport, for example, the one depicting sport in Warsaw at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries (Jerzy Chełmecki), or another showing the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936 (Marcin Łodykowski).

Moreover, there are also papers which concentrate on questions of sports facili-

ties and trends in investment in sport, the social rehabilitation values of physical culture, wheelchair basketball players, emotional tension, stress and anxiety in sport, as well as miscellaneous interpretations of sport.

Last, but not least, Michał Mazurkiewicz analyses sports heroes and the phenomenon of heroism in sport by taking as a model the famous conception of a mythical heroic journey introduced by Joseph Campbell and giving examples mostly from the worlds of football and baseball.

To sum up, this gripping collection of articles covers considerable ground; it shows, up to a point, the recent research of Polish sports scientists and proves that interesting work is being done in Poland as far as the social sciences of sport are concerned. Some of the papers the book contains might be read from cover to cover by sports fans. It is certainly deserving of recognition.