

Summaries

Marksmen and Healthy People

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Heikki Roiko-Jokela:

Justification in Sport. Sport – but with the Terms and Values of Whom?

Generally speaking, sport is considered to be positive phenomenon but that is not the whole story. There are also other aspects – drawbacks – that have result in discussion when they have come into daylight. These side effects and sore points of the sport have been ad-duced ever more strongly:

Doping has often come into daylight. The using of drugs contains risks but doping is still used. A good example of the ways how the current reality is questioned is me too campaign, which has increased its significance in the last few years. As for me too campaign, the sport is not separate from other parts of society and the phenomenon is lamentably familiar to women athletes as the recent – numerous – incidents prove. The sport has professionalized, which has brought multifaceted economic relations in sport activity. Is money what makes the difference? Is it a real danger that the hegemony of money in the sport leads to the 'grey zone'? The relationship between the sport and publicity is complex. On the one hand, success creates headlines and gives publicity but, on the other hand, hardships may quickly transform news coverage and publicity from positive into negative. Do athletes cope with these pressures? Nowadays, the sport is quite overwhelming. It demands from athle-

tes, and their close ones, coaches, and partners, a lot. There are success, glory, positive publicity, and economic revenues on the one side of the coin but failure, abandonment, economic distress, loss of health, and even death are lurking just behind the corner. The end of the sport career is an unavoidable part of athlete's life. The decision to end sport career is not often easy one and results in many kind of reasoning – what are the possibilities for education, employment and livelihood after the sport career?

The negative side effects of the sport often draw all the attention. It is correct and even essential to have debates over these aspects but the factors behind these phenomena and the consequences of the side effects are easily ignored without attention they deserve.

Kalle Virtapohja:

The Marksman Movement in Sweden was inspired by the Finnish heroes of War 1808–1809

The rise of nationalism was one consequence of the The Napoleonic Wars, and the fear caused but the Crimean War 1854–1856, resulted as a special Marksman Movement, "Skarpskytterörelsen", based on voluntarism in Sweden. This Movement was influenced by the English volunteer marksmen, and this is one reason that the Western harbor town Gothenburg became an early center of the Movement in Sweden. They even published the first marksmen's newspaper, "Skarpskytten", in Gothenburg in 1851. This paper lived only for a short period, but a few years later they started another newspaper with the same title in Gävle.

We can easily come to the conclusion that the war in 1808–1809, called the Finnish War, between Sweden and Russia was also an important generator for the Marksman Movement in Sweden. As a result of the War, Sweden lost Finland and the period of Sweden as the powerhouse of the Northern Europe came to an end. The popularity of

the Marksman Movement in Sweden grew so that more than 40,000 men took part in the voluntary training in the latter part of the 1860s. The marksmen were inspired by several emotional articles of that lost war against Russia especially in the “Skarpskytten” published in Gävle.

In Finland, our national poet Johan Ludvig Runeberg published his romantic poems of the lost Finnish War in 1848 and 1860. These poems were known also in Sweden as Runeberg wrote in Swedish, and they were translated only later into Finnish.

Finland gained an autonomous status as part of the Russian Empire, but this special status had to be enforced by expressing the loyalty to the Czar. Russian became the official language. Under these conditions there were no chances for a similar kind of patriotic Marksman Movement in Finland as in Sweden.

However, the interest in shooting grew also in Finland. The first shooting club in Finland was authorized in 1865 as a Hunting Club, and the clubs that followed were also namely Hunting Clubs, but soon several of these clubs specialized into sports shooting. In this way, sports shooting in Sweden and Finland have somewhat different origins, but the influences from Finland to Sweden and from Sweden to Finland are still obvious regarding the respect of marksmanship in both countries.

Erkki Vettenniemi:

A Muddled Mind in a Ruined Body. Reading Joel Lehtonen’s Sports Story

That an acknowledged Finnish author chose to write on sport and physical exercises one hundred years ago is, in and of itself, a noteworthy observation. Published in 1918, Joel Lehtonen’s short

story ‘Tommola the Athlete, or Mens Sana in Corpore Sano’ depicts the youngish protagonist’s keen efforts to improve his health. After having lost his interest in spa treatments and J.P. Müller’s fashionable ‘System,’ Tommola retreats to a lake-side cottage for the rest of the summer. Alas, Day One puts a premature end to his private training camp. ‘Have never been sick in my life until now,’ Tommola whines after having ruined his body by swimming, sunbathing, wrestling, sprinting, and jumping from sunrise to sunset. Tommola also displays nearly obsessive interest in sports news, and in also that respect the short story throws highly ironic light on him.

Kalle Rantala:

Strength and Triumphs. The development of coaching education in the Finnish Gymnastics and Sports Federation in 1906–1940

Coaching education in the Finnish Gymnastics and Sports Federation (SVUL) obtained its shape in the early 20th century. This article concentrates on the development of coaching education in the most successful Olympic sports for Finland, athletics, gymnastics and wrestling, in 1906–1940. The article is based on the archival records of SVUL.

Coaching education was quite similar in all three sports although the resources of different sports affected the scale of activities. The education can be divided into two main categories: courses and advising sessions. Sports Advisors such as Lauri Pihkala were hired to travel around the country to educate people on local level. Pihkala’s work in the 1910s was primarily organizational guidance and lifestyle education, but in the 1920s the amount of full- and part-time advisors grew, and the contents of sessions concentrated more on

practicing sports. Multiple week-long courses were held, for example, for gymnastics leaders and some for track & field athletes and local advisors as early as the 1910s. Wrestlers followed later because they had negative thoughts on the significance of theoretical guidance. On these courses advisors taught all-you-need-to-know on specific sports and on healthy lifestyle. The number of courses grew in the mid-1920s and the newly established Sports Institute of Finland adopted a new centralized approach on education. The scattered model of basic level education continued side by side with the new institutionalized education. In the early 1930s SVUL's member sports associations began to organize yearly seminars on development of sports, and in the mid-1930s the Finnish Athletics Association formed a coherent system of local, district and nationwide courses on coaching and thus set an example for other sports on how the education should be organized.

Tero Matkanieniemi:

Urpo Sirén – the other side of the working swimmer

Change is the only constant in life, and in life there are times when a certain phase ends and another begins, moving life along. Evacuated from Vyborg to Helsinki as a child, Urpo Sirén was a young man brought up in a good family after the war. He was full of confidence as well as hopes and dreams about a career in sports and he had all the makings of a beautiful future. For the man who had quickly risen to the top tier of Finnish swimming, practices and ideals learned doing sports offered an understanding of how good life could be.

Sometimes drastic life changes happen by choice, sometimes they are brought on by external circumstances. At first, alcohol was a social

lubricant for Urpo Sirén, helping to establish relationships and removing anxiety and depression. Seeking freedom and strength in alcohol, Sirén eventually lost control of his alcohol use, along with control of his life, for a decade. In a vicious cycle leading to social problems, Sirén hit rock bottom, refusing to dig himself deeper.

Sirén's alcoholism was a problem not only for the young athlete – Sirén moving to Sweden and Denmark caused a rollercoaster of hope and disappointment for his loved ones. In the 1960s, Sirén's time and energy were spent on adventuring instead of work or family life. Finally, supported by his father, Sirén quickly adjusted to a new life in Helsinki, where he started working as an entrepreneur. In the end, Sirén managed to lead a balanced and sober life as a married man.

Esa Mangeloja:

Mark Spitz and the keys of success

With Johnny Weissmuller and Michael Phelps, Mark Spitz is one of the most legendary swimming champions. He won seven gold-medals in 1972 Munich Olympics and set new world records in all seven events. Additionally, he also won two team golds, one silver (100m butterfly) and one bronze (100m free) in 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. During his career, he set 32 world records.

In this article, several factors behind the success of Mark Spitz are revealed and analyzed. The keys of ascendancy during Spitz's sport career are unveiled especially at three swim events, which shaped his career and future success. In all those three episodes, outcome was also determined by the actions of Spitz's main rivals. No athlete can prosper in social isolation, but the success is subject to the favorable conditions, including factors related to health, environment and conduct of other competitors.

Olympic final in 100m butterfly in Mexico City is often regarded as the most strategic race in Olympic swimming history. Douglas Russell swam a tactically perfect race and passed Spitz during the final strokes. That was maybe the lowest mental moment during Spitz's whole career, but he managed to continue his pursuit of excellence.

Olympic final in Munich in 200m freestyle became Spitz's triumph, but his success was enabled by the misfortune of rival Steve Genter who was in pain due to acute pneumothorax. Before the 100m freestyle final Spitz felt devastating pressure and panic, but his strong craving for success made him victorious.

Mark Spitz's success during his swimming career was made possible by various important factors. He had exceptional talent for swimming, made the right choice of sport during his early years, had dedicated parents, had the privilege to enjoy of the best coaching of his era, had beneficial training environment and maybe had sometimes even pure luck. He was able to train mainly free of injury and remained in good health during important races. All his three coaches, Doc Counsilman, George Haines and Sherm Chavoor, are legends. Mark Spitz would not have been successful in his career without those intelligent trainers.

Nevertheless, Mark Spitz had exceptionally strong will to win. He hated to lose and had superb ability to deal with adversity. His mental strength helped him to shine victoriously in hostile environment. Additionally, Spitz knew his own body and trained always in the optimal level. Mark Spitz is an excellent example of the victory of spirit over flesh.

Seppo Suominen:

Names of teams in aesthetic group gymnastics

In Finnish aesthetic group gymnastics the team names were first seen in the mid 1980's since it was possible to have two or more teams from the same association in a competition. Simply the name of the sports association was not adequate in order to distinguish different teams. In the mid 1980's the name of the coach was included but the idea of the competition programme was used also. However, gradually other separating names arrived. In the mid 1990's the spirit of the species, aesthetic group gymnastics has had more influence on the naming process. Terms that shade the aesthetic nature of the gymnastics have become more usual. Recently brightness, glory, femaleness, strength and flexibility have been father typical. Some associations have chosen one theme for each team from girls (8 - 10 years) to women (more than 16 years old), like birds, terms of physics or stars. No differences can be found between different provinces in Finland.

Sofia Kotilainen:

Horsemen in Hippos: the significance of networks in horse breeding and equestrian sports in early 20th-century Central Finland

During the early decades of the 20th century, the Hippos trotting track in Jyväskylä was the local horsemen's playing field, an arena where horse breeders and trotting enthusiasts met, networked and promoted horse breeding in the region. I examine equestrian sports in Central Finland from a micro-historical point of view, using as an

example a farmer called Heikki Holm, who lived in northern Central Finland, examining his work as horse breeder and analysing his social networks. Equestrian sports created regional acquaintances and friendships between persons who, in addition to their equestrian activities were also behind many other networks connected with sports or politics. The breeding and owning of trotting horses represented a certain economic and social status that was an essential characteristic of the life of the wealthier farming class. The main basis for the forming of long-term local networks in this case would seem to have been kinship. The interest in equestrian sports was handed down from father to son or from uncle to nephew. The trotting enthusiasts were often influential and locally prominent persons, farmers who were active in local politics or held positions of trust. The provincial horse breeding society was instrumental in organizing the equestrian events and particularly in educating local horse breeders and promoting horse breeding in the area.

Vesa Vares:

Tito 8 – Stalin 6. The two matches between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union in the Helsinki Olympic Games of 1952 and their political content from the viewpoint of the Finnish press.

Two European Communist leaders, J. V. Stalin and Josip Broz Tito became mortal enemies during the late 1940s due to Tito's refusal to submit to the status of a Stalin's satellite. He was able to do this because he could rely on his own army and to his mythical reputation as the "Liberator of Yugoslavia", whereas the Communist leaders in other Eastern European countries were totally dependent on

Stalin. Stalin's reaction was to declare Tito a traitor and an enemy of the people and to encourage a domestic revolution in Yugoslavia. Naturally, all this raised Tito's and Yugoslavia's fame in the West and also the patriotic feelings of most Yugoslavs.

In the Helsinki Olympic Games of 1952, the dice was undiplomatic enough to draw the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia against each other. The first match was a draw after the Yugoslavs spectacularly lost their 5–1-lead. Since the Soviets were famous, even notorious for their stamina, the Yugoslavs had many doubts before the re-match. However, they managed to win 3–1, which brought about massive celebrations in Yugoslavia; the event has sometimes been described as a birth of Yugoslav identity. This has been excellently described by Dr. Richard Mills.

This article deals with the Finnish way to see this match which might have been difficult for Finland as a host. After the Second World War, Finland had to be extremely cautious in its relations with the Soviet Union. Moreover, the Finnish Communists had to be unconditionally loyal to Stalin.

The Finnish press escaped this diplomatic problem by sticking to the sporting side of the matches. The press wrote extensively about them, but the non-Communist press made very few political comments. A social democratic newspaper referred to the totalitarian background of both teams, a conservative provincial daily suggested that the Soviets had tried to cancel the match, and all non-Communist papers wrote about the joy of the Yugoslav and the depression of the Soviet team after the re-match. But all politics was avoided.

The Communist papers were not equally diplomatic. They accused outright Yugoslavia for trying to cancel the match and for sinister plans to eliminate violently the best Soviet player out of play; they made sarcastic remarks about the "Tito, Tito"-shouts, comparing them to "Hitler, Hitler" and accused the Finnish spectators of being partial and of calling the Soviet players defaming names.

They also disapproved of the way in which the other papers praised the Yugoslavs and prophesized that the achievement and the good play of the Soviet team would be much appreciated in the Soviet Union. (Not a very accurate guess: Stalin dispelled the team and many players received bans.) But mainly even the Communist papers wrote about what had happened on the field, of sport.

In the international press, there were also some remarks that the Finns had been very pro-Yugoslav during the matches, and after the second game had carried the Yugoslav players to their bus on their shoulders. It is probable that the majority favored Yugoslavia, but there were also reports how the spectators had cheered for the Soviet Union and wanted them to equalize in the end of the first game – simply because they wanted to see more. The Finnish press does not hint that the Finns would have carried the Yugoslav players; they were carried by their own fans.

For the Finns, the "soft sector" remained soft.

Esa Sironen:

A bankruptcy during the Gold War

A small Finnish carpentry-shop had grown to a large-scale factory, which produced top-of-the-range ice hockey sticks, when it suddenly in 1971 went bankrupt. The bank discontinued financing the export to Canada and the Soviet Union. Why, the manufacturer wondered, in fact until recent times, when he found in the internet some delicate hints that the export and the payments of his sticks to Soviet Union was organized in a very complex and hidden way by the Finnish Communist Party. Was that the reason for the bank to discontinue financing this world-famous stick?