

Comments from the Editor

This is the second issue of Volume I of the *Journal of Intercollegiate Sport*. This is the first issue, however, that contains articles submitted by scholars whose essays were subjected to the full review process. (You will recall that Issue #1 was devoted to invited papers and reactions presented at the first Scholarly Colloquium on College Sports.) So, I am delighted that we are going to press with what amounts to our first regular issue of the Journal.

In point of fact, this general pattern for our biannual publication schedule will be followed in the years ahead. The first issue of Volume 2 will contain papers presented at the second Scholarly Colloquium to be held in January, 2009, in conjunction with the NCAA National Convention in Washington, D.C. These papers will be related in one way or another to the theme of the conference, "Paying the Price: Is Excellence in Sport Compatible with Good Health?" In addition to the program presentations, we expect that sufficient space will remain for a few unsolicited papers as well. The second issue next year will comprise a full complement of submitted manuscripts. In light of these opportunities in both issues of each volume of the Journal, I invite all scholars whose work bears on intercollegiate sport in any way to consider *JIS* for your research. Our "Submission Guidelines" are printed near the end of this volume.

I mentioned in my preface to the first issue of *JIS* that one of our purposes in supporting both the Journal and Colloquium is to stimulate solid research on what may be a too-often neglected phenomenon in our society—namely, intercollegiate athletics. *JIS* is a cross-disciplinary journal that accepts manuscripts from any disciplinary home such as philosophy, sociology, or physiology, as well as essays that combine research methodologies from several disciplines at once and thereby cut across traditional research silos. Also, for purposes of fostering research on sport by scholars who are new to this area, the *JIS* Editorial Board has published a selected bibliography that includes a number of the current and classic articles on intercollegiate athletics. You are welcome to access that bibliography at our website: <http://www.humankinetics.com/JIS/journalAbout.cfm>

Introduction to the Current Issue of *JIS*

In this issue, you will find a variety of interesting articles on intercollegiate athletics. I hope you will take the time to read through the entire volume, and toward that end I will try to whet your appetite by providing a thumbnail sketch of the essays .

In the first of the five articles, George Cunningham examines relationships between commitment to diversity and athletic department productivity. Among the

many interesting aspects of this research are the following: how “commitment to diversity” is measured and what measures seem most useful; which demographic groups show higher and lower levels of commitment; and perhaps most importantly, to what extent high diversity scores are related to improved productivity. Although this research focuses on athletics units, it has implications for success in any complex organization that is working toward a more diverse workforce.

In an essay by Brianna Scott, Thomas Paskus, Michael Miranda, Todd Petr, and John McArdle, the researchers examine an extensive data set on out-of-season versus in-season academic performance. This was done for at least two reasons: (1) to determine the impact of high-demand sport on grades and other academic markers, and (2) to discover whether the common claim that athletes paradoxically do better academically in season than out is true or not. The conclusions reached by this team of researchers may surprise some readers.

Dan Wann, Emily Brame, Mary Clarkson, Danielle Brooks, and Paula Wadill contribute an article in which they report on the relationship between team identification and social psychological health. In particular, the researchers attempt to determine whether actual attendance at games is a better predictor of various parameters of health than other modes of fan involvement. This research has implications for a variety of benefits that might accrue to the general student body and that are often thought to be associated with and promoted by intercollegiate sport. These include, but are not limited to, higher levels of reported well-being and better persistence rates.

Coyte Cooper’s research relates to gender equity. He conducted an empirical investigation of gender coverage on athletic departments’ home web pages. He accomplished this by comparing web-coverage of similar sports (e.g., baseball and softball) on a variety of parameters. This research extends our understanding of the treatment of men’s and women’s programs in one promotional vehicle and helps us better understand the progress that has been made (and the work that still needs to be done) in the domain of gender equity.

The final article, one that is authored by Bradley Ridpath, Athenia Yiamouyiannis, Heather Lawrence, and Kristen Galles, also broaches the subject of gender equity, but from a very different angle. These researchers investigate various legal challenges brought by the wrestling community against Title IX and explain why they have been uniformly unsuccessful. The authors make a case for an alternate strategy, one that focuses more on economics than Federal legislation, and one that underlines the common plight of all minor sports more than potential zero-sum relationships between men’s and women’s programs.

This issue of *JIS* also includes three book reviews. The first volume, Michael Sandel’s *The Case Against Perfection*, is reviewed by Board member Bill Morgan. Sandel, a well-know social and political analyst, rallies a unique argument against genetic engineering and other extreme forms of performance enhancement. He uses sport as the exemplar for his argument throughout much of the book, but his analysis applies to enhancement for any domain of expertise.

Confessions of a Spoilsport by William C. Dowling is reviewed by George Sage, emeritus professor of sport sociology. The book details decisions at Rutgers University to move more aggressively into big-time sport—in particular, into high-profile football. Dowling details the trials and tribulations of faculty and others who attempted to resist this movement.

Board member Packianathan Chelladurai wrote a review of a book that was published in 2003, Bowen and Levin's *Reclaiming the Game: College Sports and Educational Values*. Although many readers of JIS might already be familiar with this volume, it was deemed worthy of review because it is one of the few data-driven analyses of the overall fit between core university values and purposes, on the one hand, and college sports, on the other. In addition, along with its partner volume *The Game of Life* by Shulman and Bowen, *Reclaiming the Game* has proven to be a controversial contribution to the literature. This is the case because data can be used to tell more than one story and, as some would argue in this case, a different interpretation may well be warranted.

The other Board members and I hope that you find the articles and reviews in this issue of JIS interesting and enlightening. If you have any reactions, ideas, or suggestions related to research on intercollegiate sport in general, or the Journal specifically, please let me know. Scott Kretchmar, Editor December, 2009

I would like to thank the following individuals who served as guest reviewers for this issue of the Journal.

Kris Clark, Penn State University

George Cunningham, Texas A & M University

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Merrill Melnick, SUNY Brockport

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Stephen Ross, Penn State University

Welch Suggs, University of Georgia

—R. Scott Kretchmar