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## **Abstract**

This course release will contribute to an academic publication. *The History of Early Chicago Soccer 1890-1939*, is currently under contract with Texas Tech University Press. The project lends itself to the scholarship of discovery as the resulting monograph will be a qualitative study that advances the understanding of sport history in general and U.S. soccer history in particular.

*Early Chicago Soccer* fills a gap in the existing historiography of United States sport history. This time period marks the beginning of Chicago's first organized soccer league and concludes with the city's first United States National Cup championship. It uses Chicago soccer as a prism, whereby the interconnections among recreation, immigration, and labor are established.

British immigrants first organized Chicago soccer and native-born players quickly embraced it. Succeeding waves of Chicago immigrants and their children advanced the game by organizing ethnic teams and introducing soccer into the schools and parks. This led to the proliferation of semi-professional and professional soccer circuits that emphasized a distinct Chicago style of play and fan culture.

Soccer permeated Chicago. It was a significant recreation that brought together neighborhoods, businesses, industries, unions, schools, and entire towns. These were more than simple soccer matches and tournaments. They often served as a collective presence celebration. This work illuminates heretofore unrecognized recreational patterns, cultural pride, labor solidarity, and corporate paternalism. It provides a greater understanding of how Chicago lived and played and soccer's evolution from an ethnic recreation to a passion of the people.

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## **Introduction**

The course release's goal will allow for the successful publication of *The History of Early Chicago Soccer 1890-1939*. This work is under contract with Texas Tech University Press with an April 30, 2017 due date. A reduced teaching load will afford time to augment and hone the chapters, dedicate time to working with the press' editors, and complete the myriad tasks associated with academic publication. The following literary review explains the developing scholarship this book will address.

This work lends itself to the academic discipline of history and the rapidly expanding sub-discipline, sport history. Sports matter. They intersect lives as professions, activities, and entertainment. Further, the academic examination of sport history serves as a mirror to society by reflecting social issues in athletic arenas.

A brief sampling demonstrates how the International Olympic Games often functioned as a surrogate battleground for competing Cold War and contemporary ideologies. Recent studies of concussions have bolstered medicine and athletic performance studies. Questions of gender have been and are still played out in athletics. Racially, the Black Lives Matter movement gained a visible platform with Colin Kaepernick, the St. Louis Rams, Cleveland Cavaliers, and the University of Missouri's football team. These topical examples exemplify the entwinement of sport and society.<sup>1</sup>

By extension, international soccer has received its fair share of intellectual attention, especially in the social sciences and humanities. However, much of this research ignores United States soccer due to its previously marginalized place in the U.S. sport landscape. This has changed. Beginning with the "Pele Generation," of the 1970s, U.S. soccer has exploded in terms of players, facilities and fans. Both the U.S. Women's and Men's national teams attract global

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audiences. Likewise, the Major Soccer League, universities, colleges, secondary schools, amateur and youth leagues all maintain a healthy following.<sup>2</sup>

U.S. soccer has a long and storied past. Besides Great Britain, the U.S. and Canada were the first nations to play an international soccer friendly in 1890. As early as 1895 the U.S. developed a professional soccer league on the east coast. U.S. soccer became one the first members of FIFA, the world's governing soccer body. It has regularly sent national teams to World Cup and Olympic competitions.

With such traditions there is a surprising dearth of academic studies that have documented this remarkable history. Popular soccer narratives primarily focus on the contemporary growth of the game or topically mention early soccer "hotbeds" such as the ones on the eastern seaboard, and St. Louis, Missouri. While these are indeed important soccer histories they are limited in their depth and breath. By contrast, *Chicago Soccer* enhances this knowledge by documenting how the Second City augmented the early game. Specifically, this work uses soccer as a prism to examine aspects of recreation, immigration, and labor. It explains how the city contributed to the national and international soccer landscape by documenting Chicago's leadership in U.S. soccer and FIFA. It further identifies international players and teams that visited Chicago and vis-a-versa. What follows is a brief narrative that contextualizes how the study contributes to the discipline of history.<sup>3</sup>

*Chicago Soccer* broadens our understanding of recreation. Specifically, sport histories argue how immigrant British cricket clubs often evolved into modern baseball teams. This occurred as native players augmented the British teams. This new middle class enjoyed discretionary income and time. They also preferred baseball to cricket and frequently changed the sporting direction of the club. This work expands these observations and explains how these

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same cricket clubs also incubated and nurtured U.S. soccer in conjunction with baseball and cricket. This overlooked sporting development explains how soccer continued to exist in baseball's sporting shadow.<sup>4</sup>

Other recreational discoveries clarify how these soccer enthusiasts introduced the sport to secondary schools, universities and the Progressive Period's Playground Movement. This early twentieth century phenomenon enjoyed an especially fruitful period in Chicago. It further explains how the Progressives used soccer as a form of "organized" play rather than unstructured recreations. The game became a popular choice to help assimilate immigrants. A rather ironic instance given soccer's "foreign sport" moniker.

When Chicagoans marched into the Great War, they took soccer with them. The local YMCAs, at the behest of the War Department, encouraged and financed the game in its camps and overseas. Organizers saw soccer as a healthy alternative to the drinking, gambling, and prostitution. These "unwholesome" activities plagued the U.S. army when they chased Pancho Villa around the Southwest. Organized sport, such as soccer sought to eliminate these moral blights.

Following W.W. I, Chicago soccer took its place in the "Golden Age of Sports." The game blossomed in professional, semi-professional, and amateur ranks. It spawned soccer stars, and garnered sensationalist advertisement. It provided entertainment to the masses. It proved an inexpensive yet popular draw for sport minded Chicagoans.

Given soccer's relative inexpensive costs it remained a recreational mainstay during the Great Depression. Ethnic clubs, park districts, and schools maintained vibrant soccer programs that carried the game through the challenging times. Each of these sporting instances provides original understanding to the historic narrative of recreation.

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This work also offers insight into U.S. and Chicago immigration. Historian Charlotte Erickson referred to British immigrants as “invisible” due to their ability to assimilate into the host society via shared language and traditions. Soccer illuminates these immigrants by explaining how soccer served as a catalyst for British-specific celebrations and recreations. Later immigrant waves also organized and maintained soccer teams. These often spanned generations as the children of the original members took up the game while continuing the ethnic clubs’ longevity. This also contributed to the “Americanization” of the game as these native youngsters played soccer alongside baseball, basketball, and other sports.<sup>5</sup>

Further, soccer served as an inter-ethnic athletic exchange that brought the city’s teams and members into contact with each other. For the first time, the city’s many ethnic groups found themselves socializing with each other while cheering their team to victory or watching championship matches. Several politicians, most famously Mayor Anton Cermak, exploited Chicago soccer as a way for the city’s immigrant communities to recognize their political commonalities and political power. This book addresses this overlooked aspect of Chicago politics via soccer.

Finally, Chicago soccer often provided a livelihood. Skilled players augmented their factory jobs and salaries by kicking for one of many industrial teams. From the Pullman Palace Car Company to the Manhattan Brewers, industry and soccer went hand in hand. Industrialist recognized the game as a means to mitigate labor unrest by providing paternalistic recreations. It also served as excellent advertisement. Many notable players of the time “tramped” around the nation and offered their educated feet to the highest bidder, often landing in Chicago.

Labor unions, the United States Communist Party and socialists also recognized the value of soccer. These agencies likewise sponsored teams that remained staunchly independent of

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industrial soccer. Strong unions such as the Bricklayers and Masons organized legendary teams that brought out union members and leaders from around the city when they played industrial behemoths such as Western Electric or Indiana Steel. Likewise, Chicago communist and socialist proudly displayed their politics on their chests when they took the pitch in their red uniforms embossed with the hammer and sickle.

This left wing soccer served as an athletic alternative for players and organizers who protested the industrial order of the time. These examples contribute to the sport history narrative by demonstrating how the forces of labor and capital played out on the city's fields. It also contextualizes how Chicago soccer influenced work, pay, and play.

This work is not a new project as it began as my dissertation. Two partial chapters have appeared in peer reviewed publications. I have expanded other dissertation themes at academic conferences. Most recently at the 2016, North American Society for Sport History Conference. This is when Texas Tech Press indicated an interest in moving the dissertation into a monograph, the projected outcome of this project.

A review of the attached C.V. denotes my qualifications for this project. Specifically, my dissertation on Chicago soccer contributed to my earning a Ph.D. in history. I have authored seven pieces specific to soccer, including, journal articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries. I have reviewed eleven sport history books for peer reviewed journals. Again, most of these are soccer specific. I am recognized by sport historians as a leading voice in early U.S. soccer and an expert in early Chicago soccer.

The importance of this work to U.S. and sport history helps us understand the rich past of U.S. soccer before the "Pele Generation." It shows that many citizens considered soccer as

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important as baseball, basketball, and football. The same social struggles that played out in other sports also occurred in Chicago soccer. This monograph recounts the story.

NMU, the College of Arts and Sciences along with the History Department would each benefit from this peer reviewed publication. A course release demonstrates each agency's continual promotion of intellectual discovery, a hallmark of higher education. Likewise, this publication is personally significant as it allows me to give back to Chicago a more complete understanding of how their ancestors played. It also continues my contributions to the field of sport history as one of the leading scholars of United States soccer.

### **Methods**

This project will develop my dissertation into a publishable monograph. There are no anticipated additional expenses. I will augment past research with current arguments. While the academic understanding of U.S. soccer has remained mostly unchanged the historic sport narrative has not. Therefore, a recent contextualization of Chicago soccer into this narrative will produce a more contemporary and nuanced flow. It will minimize academic challenges to the methodology, and produce a work that future sport history scholars must wrestle with. The projected timetable anticipates honing each of the five chapters from November, 2016 through April, 2017. It will be sent to Texas Tech Press no later than April 30, 2017.

### **Reassigned Time**

To successfully complete this project, I request a one course, four credit hour reduction. This will allow me to retain my high teaching standards for my other courses and academic duties while gaining a modest release from planning, grading, and teaching one course.

## Appendices: Cited References

<sup>1</sup> Two classic studies of sport history include: Guttmann, Allen. *From Ritual to Record: The Nature of Modern Sport, Updated with a New Afterword*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2004. Gorn, Elliott J. and Warren Goldstein. *A Brief History of American Sports*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1993. In addition, the two following monographs have received accolades for extending the narrative into the contemporary. Jay, Kathryn. *More Than Just A Game: Sports in American Life Since 1945*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2004. Zirin, Dave. *A People's History of Sports in the United States: 250 Years of Politics, Protest, People and Play*. New York: The New Press, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> International soccer studies can be easily searched via the discipline. For the humanities, some of the more important arguments include: Goldblatt, David. *The Ball is Round: A Global History of Soccer*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2008. Foer, Franklin. *How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization*, New York: HarperCollins, 2004, 235-248. Mason, Tony. *Association Football and English Society: 1863-1915*. Atlantic Highlands, NJ: Humanities Press, 1980. Sugden, J. and A. Tomlinson, eds. *Host and Champions: Soccer Cultures, and National Identities and the USA World Cup: American Nativism and the Rejection of the People's Game*. Aldershot, United Kingdom: Arena/Ashgate, 1994. Wagg, Stephen, ed. *Giving the Game Away: Football, Politics and Culture on Five Continents*. London: Leicester University Press, 1995.

<sup>3</sup> Some of the classic U.S. soccer histories include: Foulds, Sam and Paul Harris. *America's Soccer Heritage: A History of the Game*. Manhattan Beach, California: Soccer For Americans Publishing Company, 1979. Frommer, Harvey. *The Great American Soccer Book*. New York: Atheneum, 1980. Wangerin, David. *Soccer in a Football World: The Story of America's Forgotten Game*, Philadelphia, Temple University Press, 2006. Wangerin, David. *Distant Corners: American Soccer's History of Missed Opportunities and Lost Causes*. Philadelphia Temple University Press, 2014. Markovits, Andrei, S. and Stephen L. Hellerman. *Offsides: Soccer and American Exceptionalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001. There are also a handful of U.S. soccer specific dissertations, including: Baptista, Robert Charles. "A History of Intercollegiate Soccer in the United States of America." Ph.D. diss., Indiana University, 1962. Robinson, James Francis. "The History of Soccer in the City of Saint Louis." Ph.D. diss., Saint Louis University, 1966. Apostolov, Stephen. "Les Hauts et les bas du soccer Professionnel aux Etats-Unis a`partir du cas du Massachusetts." Ph.D. diss., Universite` Paris Eight, Vincennes-Saint Denis, Paris, France.

<sup>4</sup> Rader, Benjamin. *American Sports: From the Age of Folk Games to the Age of Televised Sports*. 5th ed. Upper Saddle Creek, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 2004. Pope, Stephen, ed. *The New American Sport History*. Urbana: University of Illinois, 1997. Melville, Tom. *The Tented Field: A History of Cricket in America*. Bowling Green: Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1998.

<sup>5</sup> Erickson, Charlotte. *Leaving England*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1994. Daniels, Roger. *Coming To America: A History of Immigration and Ethnicity in American Life*. New York: Harper Collins, 1991.

\* Please note, the directions call for a "Works Cited" page. However, this is more specific to MLA and APA papers. History depends on the Chicago Style. Therefore, I have used endnotes that provide the appropriate works as they relate to the corresponding and denoted paragraph in the narrative.



## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Gabe Logan**

**Department of History, Associate Professor and  
Secondary History/Social Studies Teacher Certification Coordinator  
Director, Center for Upper Peninsula Studies**

### **Education**

Ph.D. History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois May 2007.

M.A. History, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, December 1997.

B.E. Missouri Southern State College, Joplin, Missouri, May 1985.

### **Dissertation**

“Lace Up the Boots, Full Tilt Ahead: Recreation, Immigration, and Labor on Chicago’s Soccer Fields, 1890-1939.” Advisor: Dr. Barbara M. Posadas, Northern Illinois University.

### **Chapters, Articles, Encyclopedia Entries, and invited author**

“C’mon You Reds: The U.S. Communist Party’s Workers’ Soccer Association 1927-1935.” Under review *Journal of Sport History*, 2017.

“Pilgrim’s Progress in Chicago: Three English Soccer Tours to the Second City, 1905-1909.” *Soccer and Society*. Vol. 11:3, (May, 2010), 198-212.

“The Rise of Early Chicago Soccer.” In *Sports in Chicago*, Elliot Gorn, ed. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2008, 19-42.

“Soccer.” In Mel Adelman, Steve Riess, and Patricia Vertinsky, eds. *Encyclopedia of North American Sport*. New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2011, 1022-1025.

“Professional Soccer in the Midwest.” In Andrew R.L. Cayton, Richard Sisson, and Christian Zacher, eds. *The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia*. Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 2007, 912-914.

“Soccer.” In James Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice Reiff, eds. *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004, 760-761.

“Jewish Contributions to Early Chicago Soccer.” In the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and Museum Symposium, *Our Lives and the Beautiful Game: Jews in Soccer*. Commack, New York, March 15, 2009.

### **Book Reviews**

Review of *American Soccer History, Culture, Class*. By Gregory G. Reck and Bruce Allen Dick. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland Press, 2015. *Journal of Sport History* (Fall, 2015): 440-442.

Review of *The Rise of American High School Sports and the Search for Control, 1880-1930*. By Robert Pruter. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2013. *Journal of Illinois State History Society* 107:2, (Summer, 2014): 241-243.

Review of *Gaming the World: How Sports Are Reshaping Global Politics and Culture*. By Andrei S. Markovits and Lars Rensmann. Princeton University Press, 2010. *Journal of Sport History* 39:1, (Spring, 2012): 191-192.

Review of *The Global Game: Writers on Soccer*, by John Turnbull, Thom Satterlee, and Alon

- Raab, eds. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2008. *Journal of Sport History* 37:1, (Spring, 2010): 184-185.
- Review of *Long Distance Love: A Passion for Football*, by Grant Farred. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2008. *Journal of Sport History* 36:2, (Summer, 2009): 293-294.
- Review of *Soccer in a Football World*, by David Wangerin. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2006. *Journal of Sport History* 36:1, (Spring, 2009): 182-183.
- Review of *North American Soccer League Encyclopedia*, by Colin Jose. Haworth, NJ: St. Johann Press, 2003. *Journal of Sport History* 35:3, (Fall, 2008): 530-531.
- Review of *The Encyclopedia of American Soccer History*, by Roger Allaway, Colin Jose, and David Litterer. Lanham, MD: the Scarecrow Press, 2001. *Journal of Sport History* 30:3, (Fall, 2003):378-379.
- Review of *Football Culture: Local Contests, Global Visions*, by Gerry P.T. Finn and Richard Giulianotti, eds. London: Frank Cass Publishers, 2000. *Journal of Sport History* 28:3, (Fall 2001):487.

### **Conferences Presentations**

- “C’mon You Reds: The United States’ Communist Party’s Worker Soccer Association 1927-1935.” North American Society of Sport History. Georgia Institute of Technology. Atlanta Georgia. May 27-May 31, 2016.
- “Playing for the People: Labor Sport Union Athletic Clubs in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula 1927-1936.” Keynote Speaker, Sonderegger Symposium XIV. Northern Michigan University. Marquette, Michigan. September 11-12, 2014.
- “Soccer, Suds, and the Syndicate: The Meteoric Rise and Disintegrating Fall of Chicago’s Manhattan Beer Soccer Team 1938-1939.” Soccer as the Beautiful Game: Football’s Artistry, Identity, and Politics. Hofstra University. Brooklyn, New York. April 10-12, 2014
- “U.S. Soccer History.” Football Scholar’s Forum. Michigan State University. Lansing, Michigan. February 26, 2013.
- “Kicking a Political Futbol: Anton Cermak and Chicago Soccer.” Performing Ethnicities Through Sport. The University of Iowa. Iowa City, Iowa. April 1-3, 2011.
- “Pilgrims’ Progress in Chicago, 1905-1912.” North American Society for Sport History. Lake Placid, New York. May 23-25, 2008.
- “Bricklayers and Miners, Celtics and Rangers: Scots in Chicago Soccer: 1890-1932.” Symposium Presentation. University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland. April 20, 2004.
- “St. Louis Soccer, A Sport Exceptionalism.” British Association for American Studies. Manchester University, Manchester, England. April 17, 2004.
- “Soccer: The New Most Popular Sport Does it Signal a Change in America Culture?” New Ideas in History. Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois. September 26, 2003.
- “Chicago Soccer in the Golden Age of Sport.” North American Society for Sport History. French Lick, Indiana. May 24-27, 2002.
- “No Depression Just Aggression: Chicago Soccer in the 1930s.” Chicago Seminar on Sport and Culture. Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois. March 3, 2002.