



Society for American Soccer History Newsletter January 2022

The SASH newsletter is a quarterly review of happenings in the field with quick access to content of interest to the members. If you have questions or wish to contribute to the newsletter, please contact the editor Brian D. Bunk, newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org

A Message from the President



Dear SASH Members,

As I enter my fourth year as President of the Society, I can't help but think back to the last time some of us met in person at the SASH Symposium in Frisco, Texas in 2018. To say the least, a lot has changed in the world and our Society since then.

We haven't had the chance to be together in person due to the ongoing global pandemic, but with every obstacle there is an opportunity. And the Society seized one such opportunity in expanding its programming through our SASH SESSIONS via Zoom. 2021 was another year of virtual talks, including the story of the [Watson brothers of Rhode Island](#), two early African American soccer players, as well as the [role of Irish immigrants](#) in the American soccer story. Another featured a [conversation with Djorn Buchholtz](#), the executive director of the National Soccer Hall of Fame. Furthermore, we had two illuminating book talks, the first by David France about [Everton FC's experiences in North America](#), and then [Brian Bunk's magisterial history of early American soccer](#). We plan on continuing such offerings in 2022.

Dr. Bunk's book talk last October was a thrill for the Society with one member commenting: "I told Brian after reading his book that I now know what it must've been like to be in a band in 1967 thinking I'm recording some great music. Then the Beatles release Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. *From Football to Soccer* is hands down the best formal/academic distillation of early US soccer history I've ever read."

Truth be told, 2021 was a banner year for Society members as Chris Bolsmann and George Kioussis joined Brian Bunk in publishing a book when the duo co-edited *Soccer Frontiers: The Global Game in the United States, 1863-1913*. I'm proud to report that SASH members authored nearly every chapter in that seminal collection. Both books are now part of the canon of the ever-growing historiography of American soccer.

We will host a book talk by Chris and George on January 28. Some other sessions will be focused on the US national teams as we enter another World Cup cycle with the men's tournament in little less than a year in Qatar, and the next Women's World Cup in Australia/New Zealand in 2023. The Society is always open to new topics to present and discuss, so do reach out with ideas.

I'm proud of our Society's growth over the past three years, especially over the last two as we haven't been able to meet in person. Despite the obstacles we have met regularly, developed strong relationships, supported one another, and grown the scholarship surrounding the game in our country.

Thank you to all who have supported and moved us to this point; the Society depends on the energy, collegiality, and work of its members. Here's to another year—a World Cup one—in which we hope to grow the Society further still. I wish all a great, productive, peaceful 2022, and look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

With gratitude,
Tom McCabe

Introducing the Newest SASH director - Jen Cooper



Jen Cooper is the publisher of the [Keeper Notes NWSL Almanac](#) and serves as editorial director for National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) broadcasts. She regularly works as analyst for NWSL broadcasts, including the annual college draft. She was a member of the Fox Sports research team for both the 2019 Women's World Cup and the 2018 World Cup, as well as a statistician for the NBC's Tokyo Olympics broadcasts. Cooper also hosts The [Mixed Zone women's soccer podcast](#), the longest-running American women's soccer podcast hosted by a woman.

Snap Shots





Images courtesy of Kurt Rausch

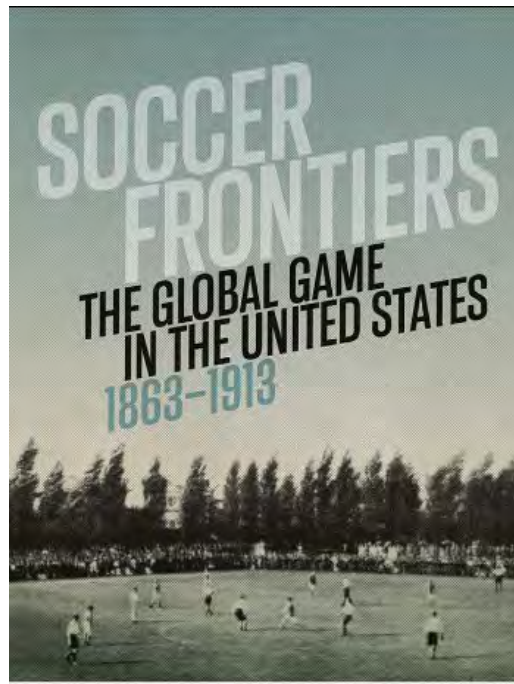
Games were played between the top teams in the east and the Midwest from [as far back as 1891](#) to determine the unofficial “champion of the United States.” The Midwest teams often hailed from St. Louis and the eastern clubs commonly included the winners of the American Football Association (AFA) Cup. Howard & Bullough (H&B), a team made up of employees from the firm’s tool factory in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, [won the AFA Cup in April 1911](#).

H&B would continue the tradition the following March by hosting St. Leos, champions of St. Louis and the Middle West, at the American League baseball grounds in New York. H&B decisively defeated the St. Louis club by a 7-1 score, fielding only four players who were actually on the 1911 cup-winning side. The game, played two days after H&B was eliminated from the 1912 AFA Cup competition by the Paterson Rangers, was touted as a match between foreign and native-born talent, with the visiting St. Leos being an all-native-born aggregation.

Hungry for a rematch, St. Louis soccer officials arranged for H&B to participate in a series of games in St. Louis in January of 1913. The H&B booters suffered through a 1200 mile, 39-hour train ride to St. Louis and played poorly upon arrival. H&B lost to Innisfails, Knights of Columbus, and St Leos while again fielding only four players from the cup-winning side of 1911. These three real photo postcards were taken in St. Louis during the visit of the H&B eleven in 1913 and show them in preparation for the upcoming contests.

Kurt Rausch

SASH Members Contribute to New Book



Edited by Chris Bolsmann and George N. Kioussis

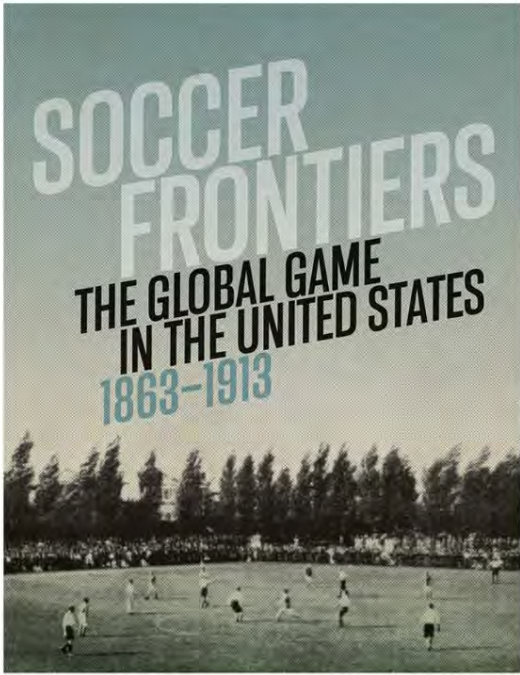
In 2013, the US Soccer Federation celebrated its centenary. Often incorrectly assumed, this was not the birth of US soccer, but a culmination of decades of organizational work and the spread of the game across the United States.

Despite the popularity of soccer in the United States, the scholarly study of the global game in the country remains in its infancy. The early history of the game pre-1913, remains understudied. Soccer Frontiers attempts to address this gap by showing how the game was played across the country from as early as the codification of the rules in 1863. The focus of the edited collection is on the period between 1863 and 1913. As waves of immigrants arrived and American cities began to industrialize and become sizable cultural hubs, soccer, too, began to flourish. Chapters focus on the years between the Civil War and World War I—a period which saw the creation of both the English Football Association and the US Soccer Federation—this volume also offers diverse regional representation, moving from New England to the South to the West Coast.

Soccer Frontiers seeks to identify the distinctive yet understudied origins, development and spread of American soccer. It contributes an important missing piece to the broader canvas of American sport history and inserts the US into global soccer history. SASH will be holding a discussion with the editors and contributors on January 28, 2022. More information about the event will be posted on the SASH website.

Exclusive discount on *Soccer Frontiers* for SASH members

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*Sale runs from January 14th through February 17th. Order now!

Edited by Chris Bolsmann and George N. Kioussis

In Memory of Rob Cox



A belated farewell to archivist and friend of US soccer history, Rob S. Cox who died in the spring of 2020 after a long (non-COVID) illness. Cox was head of Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. After arriving in 2004, he helped develop the university's archival collections with a special emphasis in the history of social activism and organization. He also brought the archives of legendary sports agent Mark H. McCormack to Amherst.

Of particular interest to SASH members, Cox played a key role in preserving and making accessible the personal archives of soccer historians Roger Allaway, Colin Jose and David Wangerin. "I first suggested in an email to Rob in 2012 that a group of writers on American soccer history could donate materials to UMass," Allaway recounted, "but I was worried about the fact that we couldn't offer any financial support to go along with this. Rob got back to me within the hour to say "yes," and the financial aspect didn't seem to bother him. I very quickly became a fan of both Rob and UMass that day."

Cox played rugby at Haverford College and graduated with a BS in geology. Afterwards he completed a master's degree in paleontology at Penn State University before moving on to the University of Michigan where he earned a master's degree in Library Science, an MFA in poetry and a Ph.D. in history. His own research interests were equally varied as he authored books on the history of American spiritualism, Massachusetts cranberry culture and New England pie.

To me, he was always generous with his time and seemed genuinely excited to talk about US soccer history, feelings shared by many of those who had the opportunity to interact with him. Jack Huckel, Historian and Archive Manager at the National Soccer Hall of Fame, Oneonta, NY, remembers Cox as "an enthusiastic proponent of documenting the history of soccer in the United States. His effervescent personality along with his commitment to the collection project really stood out to me. He welcomed Colin Jose, Roger Allaway, and me with warmth, humor, and genuine interest in developing the UMass archives as the pre-eminent historical repository for soccer history. I miss his friendship and engaging personality along with his professional dedication to this work."

He is survived by a wife and child. In October 2021, UMass chancellor Kumble R. Subbaswamy announced that SCUA would be renamed the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center. Donations in his memory may be made to the Robert S. Cox Special Collections Fund.

Brian D. Bunk



In case you missed it, a story from the archives:
Evolution of a Kit: Bethlehem Steel FC

Renewal letters were emailed on January 6 to 2021 members whose memberships are about to expire, and to past members whose memberships have lapsed. If you received an email, we thank you for your past support and urge you to renew your membership today for 2022.

[Click here to renew your SASH membership](#)

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