



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN SOCCER HISTORY



FALL 2019

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

It has now been just over one year since we last congregated in October 2018 at Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas for the [Society for American Soccer History Symposium and Annual Business Meeting](#) held in conjunction with the opening of the new National Soccer Hall of Fame. Out of the spirit of that meeting, we as an organization look to grow the Society for American Soccer History into a 21st-century venue for collaboration and a voice on the twists and turns of soccer history across the United States. For American soccer historians, 2019 offered the chance to take the pulse of the sport on many different levels. It revealed a sport with deeply embedded legacies and plenty of challenges awaiting in the future.

The United States women's national team closed out their fourth FIFA World Cup victory with a 2-0 victory over the Netherlands in July. [Writing their own chapter in American soccer history](#) twenty years after [the 99ers broke through on American soil](#), the 2019 champions still face a legal fight against U.S. Soccer in the struggle for equal pay. Meanwhile, the men's national team finds itself facing deeper and deeper criticism after missing out on qualification for the 2018 World Cup. Their most recent collapse, a 2-0 defeat against Canada at BMO Place in Toronto, marked the first time since 1985 that the Americans dropped a match to the neighbor to the north.

Major League Soccer continues to expand, and the larger number of clubs forming across the country shows a vibrant sport growing both within and beyond the major channels. On the other hand, the National Women's Soccer League continues to fight for its existence, with MLS investment one of the latest hopes for its long-term survival. Much like [the 1928-1929 Soccer War](#) that contributed to the wane of the American Soccer League at the tail end of the sport's first wave of professionalization in the U.S., money continues to hold outsized power over the administration of the game at all levels. While the actors change, the debates over where revenue is distributed and how much each party receives remains constant across time.

As more research continues to unearth the nuances of the sport's rich history in pockets across the country, the next step is getting it out to the public. This newsletter celebrates the public engagement of our members since last October's event, and sets up to move from fall into wintertime as we begin to prepare for the next symposium this spring.

This organization is here for its members and to support its members, and that means we want to hear what you are up to as well! Let us know what you are up to through any of the contact channels at the back of this newsletter, and we will highlight your work in upcoming editions. Thank you for your continued support of the Society for American Soccer History as we move into the SASH 2.0 era. I look forward to working with each of you in the future as we share our love of the game and its hidden histories.

Zachary Bigalke
SASH Secretary

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



SASH president Tom McCabe has enjoyed a big year for his documentary *Soccertown USA*, directed by Robert Penzel, which continues to earn rave reviews for all audiences who get the opportunity to view the film. *Soccertown USA* was screened at the 11th annual Kicking + Screaming Soccer Film Festival in New York in June, where it [earned the inaugural Player Pass Award as the top film selected by attendees](#) of the four-day festival.

McCabe has also appeared several times on SIRIUS XMFC as Charlie Stillitano's guest, spending his time on the radio show discussing the documentary as well as American soccer history more generally. McCabe has now turned his attention to a book manuscript on the long history of soccer in New Jersey.

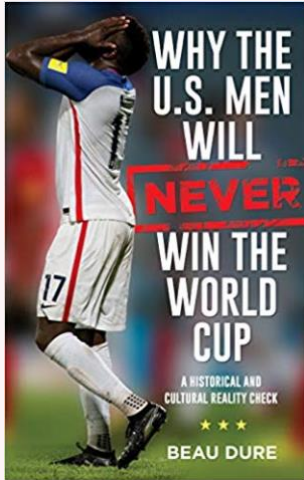


Kevin Tallec Marston recently reviewed Chris Bolsmann and Dilwyn Porter's book on the Corinthians in the European Committee for Sport History (CESH) Journal vol. 19 (2019). In the book he notes the value to American soccer scholars, as Bolsmann and Porter highlight some fascinating stuff about the team's North American tours.

Tallec Marston also presented on youth soccer history at the recent [CESH conference in Lausanne in September](#) and has an article on the history of international relations and sport diplomacy due for release soon in the journal *Contemporary European History*.

SASH members spent last spring and summer presenting research at various conferences around the country and overseas. Here are some of the highlights:

- **Western Social Science Association (April 24-27, 2019):** Zachary Bigalke and Patrick Salkeld presented on early Oregon soccer and narratives of the 1999 U.S. women's national team in San Diego.
- **North American Society for Sport History (May 24-27, 2019):** Gabe Logan and Zachary Bigalke were in Boise in May to talk about the Detroit Holley Carbeurators club and a theoretical framework for investigating national identity in international soccer.
- **International Football History Conference (June 6-7, 2019):** James Brown, Brian Bunk, and George Kioussis were in Manchester in June to present on early professional soccer, the 1930 World Cup team, and debates over football codes in early 20th century California.



Beau Dure recently published *Why the U.S. Men Will Never Win the World Cup: A Historical and Cultural Reality Check*. The book draws on 20 years of covering soccer – on the field and behind the scenes – along with hundreds of documents, news stories and other citations to trace more than 100 years of history and the culture that only recently lost its disdain for the global game. We don’t have the depth of soccer insight and passion that much of the world has had for generations.

The difficulty isn’t any single thing – the mismanagement of failed leagues, the inability to agree on a path forward, the lawsuits that stem from an inability to agree, or the unique American culture that treasures its homegrown sports. It’s everything. But with the right long-term changes, the U.S. can build a soccer environment that consistently produces quality players, strong results, and a lot more fun on the international stage. There’s just nothing to be gained by ignoring the obstacles this country faces.

Gabe Logan recently celebrated the publication of his first monograph, [*The Early Years of Chicago Soccer: 1887-1939*](#), out now through the Lexington Books imprint. Logan’s book traces the first half-century of the sport’s history in the industrial center of the Midwest, from a game transplanted by early British immigrants to one quickly adopted by a variety of ethnic groups and native-born players that comprised the city’s many leagues.

Logan expertly details the many championship tournaments, teams, and players that made Chicago one of the nation’s early soccer powers leading up to the 1939 success of the Chicago Sparta team that brought the National Challenge Cup to the Second City for the first time.



UPCOMING EVENTS



2020

Rutgers University—Newark * April 18-19, 2020

After a spectacular symposium at Toyota Stadium in Frisco, Texas in October 2018, plans are in motion to host SASH 2020 this spring. The conference is scheduled to take place on the weekend of April 18-19, 2020 at Rutgers University-Newark.

Final details are being ironed out, and we will release further information soon along with the call for presentations on the SASH website, through the SASH mailing list, and via our various social media platforms.

James Brown, vice president of SASH and grandson of Jim Brown, 1930 World Cup USMNT attacker and 1986 Hall of Famer, is organizing the First Annual International 1930 World Cup Conference with Martin Corbo of Project Jules Rimet 1930 to take place at the legendary Estadio Centenario Stadium in Montevideo, Uruguay over three days from July 18-20, 2020.

Papers focusing on football's origins, socioeconomic impact of the first World Cup, myths, untold stories, regional histories, gender, race and issues within football pertaining to 1930, South

America and World Football or upcoming World Cup bids and hosting especially the 2030 World Cup. The conference will be surrounded by events that celebrate the mythic FIFA championships held 89 years ago, including the first goal scored, first hat trick scored by Bert Patenaude, a remake of the famous USA vs Paraguay match when Bert scored, a Golden Ball ceremony, as well as the Gala dinner and closing ceremonies. For more information and registration enquiries contact 1930worldcup90th@gmail.com.



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FOOTBALL
1930

CONFERENCE 2020

1930 World Cup Conference
July 18-20, 2020

MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS



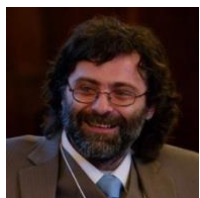
Tom McCabe (President)

Tom's research interest starts with the arrival of the game in New Jersey with Scottish immigrants and the Industrial Revolution and continues all the way through the coming of Major League Soccer to Harrison's Red Bull Arena. As he [captured most recently in his documentary *Soccertown USA*](#), Tom uses Kearny and its neighboring towns as a perfect lens through which to see the various scenes and moments of the American soccer story.



James Brown (Vice President)

James works primarily on the history of the U.S. men's national team and their involvement in the 1930 World Cup. He also aims to help bridge current MLS and past professional team histories, such as [his recent collaboration on an article for the reborn *Fall River Marksmen*](#). James supports local, regional, national, and international initiatives to educate communities about the rich soccer history that the U.S. has long cultivated.



Zachary Bigalke (Secretary)

Zachary delves into questions of soccer, immigration, and national identity both in U.S. soccer and more broadly in the amateur era in the Americas. He has written in the past on the demographics of the communities that produced the 1930 U.S. World Cup team, the history of soccer in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, and other topics on international soccer. Zachary has written most recently [about the 1999 USWNT in a *World Cup* preview for *Fansided*](#).



Brian D. Bunk (Treasurer)

Brian focuses on the early history of soccer in the United States up to about 1940. He is currently working on a book tracing the development of kicking games and soccer in the nineteenth century. Brian also focuses on the history of the sport during World War I and on the American Soccer League (ASL) of the 1920s, which is the focus of his podcast [Soccer History USA](#).



Ed Farnsworth (Board Director)

Ed's main area of study is the Philadelphia soccer scene, especially prior to World War II. He has also devoted attention to the evolution of inter-city play and its effects on the development of the professional game and the importance of early international tours in the sport's growth. Ed, who manages the SASH website, recently [compiled an archive of USWNT results](#) as a public resource ahead of the 2019 World Cup.

Patrick Salkeld (Board Director)

Patrick focuses on the commercialization and Americanization of soccer since the 1960s, while also actively researching women's soccer, the men's lower leagues in the period between the NASL and MLS, and indoor soccer. In collaboration with fellow SASH board member Zachary Bigalke, he recently published a chapter in the *Yearbook of Women's History* on protest in sport and recently reviewed two new books for *Sport in American History*.



Kevin Tallec Marston (Board Director)

Kevin focuses on the political, economic, and governance facets of football history. He has worked on football's early history, its diffusion and adoption in the 19th century, as well as more contemporary research on youth soccer and the crossroads of football, ethnicity, and immigration between 1950-2000. He is currently working on the biography of G.R. Manning and is interested in the biographies of other U.S. soccer leaders.



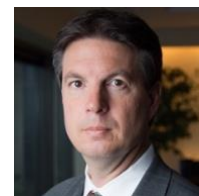
Gabe Logan (Board Director)

Gabe focuses on early soccer in the Midwest. His latest published work, [The Early Years of Chicago Soccer, 1887-1939](#), was released in June 2019 by Rowman & Littlefield. In his work on Chicago soccer, Gabe uses soccer as a prism to examine elements of labor, recreation, and immigration in the Second City. His current project examines the history of Detroit soccer during the Roaring Twenties.



Steve Holroyd (Board Director)

Steve focuses on uncovering details about "forgotten" professional leagues, such as the American League of Professional Football of 1894, the original American Soccer League, the stillborn American (baseball) League-operated circuit of 1902, and the North American Soccer Football League of 1945-46. He has also written and [spoken extensively about the NASL strike of 1979](#).



ABOUT THE BOARD

The SASH Executive Board has met several times over the past year to work on laying the framework to continue building the organization. The board has focused on outlining administrative issues such as incorporation, finance, membership, and communication; member and public engagement through the re-launching of a journal, creating a regular newsletter, and planning future SASH conferences and events; and research-related topics such as collaboration with the National Soccer Hall of Fame and other archives and building an organizational digital repository.

SASH 2020 elections are coming up soon! Are you interested in serving on the three-person election committee? Do your part to help keep SASH running smoothly on the team that helps invite nominations from the SASH general membership and works to set the slate of candidates. Email ussoccerhistory.mail@gmail.com if you are interested in taking on a role as a member of the election committee!

HOW TO CONTACT SASH



[Society for American Soccer History](#)



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ussoccerhistory.mail@gmail.com

Visit the SASH website at <http://www.ussoccerhistory.org/>

The Society for American Soccer History was founded in 1993 to promote, facilitate, and disseminate research into the rich history of soccer in the United States.

Annual membership: \$20

Visit [ussoccerhistory.com](http://www.ussoccerhistory.com) or email for membership information.