



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN SOCCER HISTORY



SPRING 2021

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Spring always offers a new beginning. This time last year, the Society for American Soccer History canceled our symposium scheduled to take place at Rutgers University-Newark. As an organization, we had the opportunity to turn this crisis into a new opportunity. Pivoting to an online presentation format that proved popular both live and with audiences watching recordings of the sessions, the two-session symposium series has grown into a regular First Friday feature where we highlight work on a range of soccer scholarship.

These sessions have helped the organization grow in a number of ways beyond its digital presence. This year three SASH members sat on voting committees for the National Soccer Hall of Fame, as the two organizations work together more closely to highlight hidden stories in American soccer history. SASH is committed to involving more members in this process as we continue to build this collaboration. Our organization has also had the opportunity to raise funds to acquire early national team footage buried in overseas archives.

With this spring issue, we streamline our coverage in this quarterly newsletter as well. New quarterly features include *SASH Selects* and *Snap Shots*. The first will feature books, essays, and media resources that will likely be of interest to SASH members. The latter offers historical background on a photo from America's soccer past. We encourage all members to send content they would like featured in the newsletter to info@ussoccerhistory.org.

Thanks for your continued support as we head into spring!

Zach Bigalke
SASH Secretary

SASH SELECTS

Each newsletter SASH will highlight books, essays, and content in other media that might be of interest to our members. Have content you want to see featured? Email info@ussoccerhistory.org!



Book Selection

Tony Collins, *How Football Began: A Global History of how the World's Football Codes were Born* (London: Routledge, 2019).

Collins is one of the world's leading researchers on early football history. Although he has written quite a bit about soccer, he is probably best known for his numerous books on rugby. His book *How Football Began* is a relatively short (under 200 pages) look at the historical development of modern football codes. He touches on all the major variants including rugby, soccer, Australian rules, American football and others. It is an accessible and informative look at how the world's football games emerged.



Essay Selection

Michael Kielty, "The American Footballers of 1891. When soccer football from North America came to Ireland," *Common Read Project*.

https://spark.adobe.com/page/nXXbhmjLfz6IW/?w=51_7070.

In this digital essay Kielty traces the origins of the Canadian-American soccer team's tour of the United Kingdom in 1891. Although the focus is on the matches played in Ireland, he also discusses the genesis of the idea in Canada and explains how and why players from the United States came to join. It is filled with interesting research tidbits and wonderful photographs, including a shot of the interior of goalkeeper Dennis Shay's tavern in New Bedford, Massachusetts.



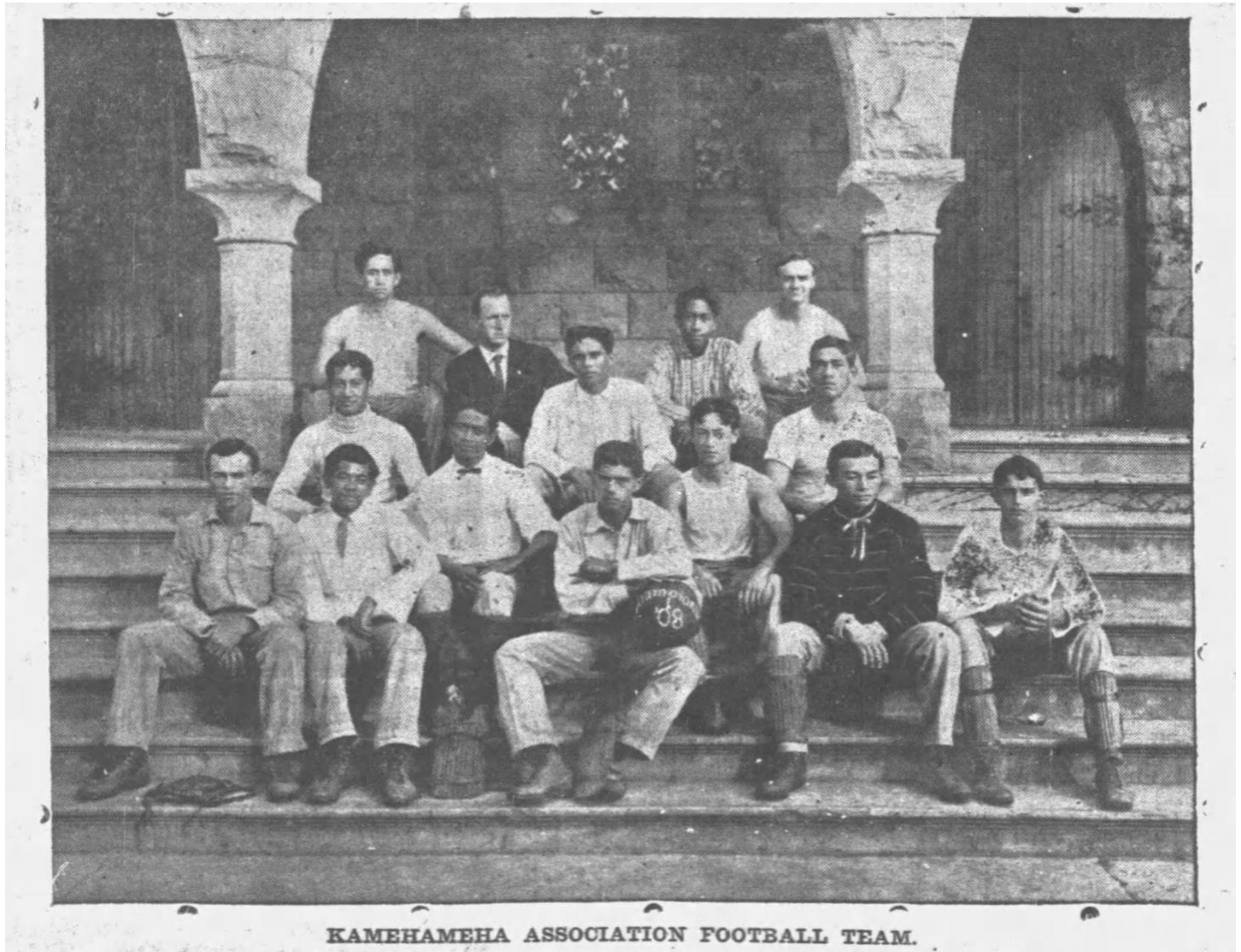
Media Selection

Tim Hanlon and Steve Holroyd, "Episode #109: The NASL Player's Strike of 1979," *Good Seats Still Available Podcast*. <https://goodseatsstillavailable.com/listen/2019/4/21/episode-109-the-nasl-players-strike-of-1979-with-steve-holroyd>.

In addition to his interest in US soccer history, Holroyd is also a practicing attorney specializing in labor law. As a result, he is uniquely positioned to discuss the 1979 strike in both historical and legal terms. The result is an interesting deep dive on an episode in US soccer history that is probably not as well-known as it should be. You can listen to the episode by following the link above.

SNAP SHOTS

Each newsletter we will feature a historic photo from American soccer's past. If you have a photo you would like to see featured in the newsletter, email info@ussoccerhistory.org.



Organized soccer emerged in Hawai'i in 1900 and the Hawaiian Association Football League (HAFL) began play in early 1901. Although the number of teams competing for the title in any given season was small, ranging from 3-5, the HAFL played continuously until 1914. As in other areas of the country, British immigrants dominated the organization, especially in the early years. The soccer community also included native born white Americans as well as Chinese, Filipino and Hawaiian players. Future Olympic swimming gold medalist and surfer Duke Kahanamoku played as a midfielder for the Kamehameha School side that took home the 1908 junior championship. He is pictured here (second row from the top, second from left in the patterned shirt) with his victorious squad. Image: *Honolulu Advertiser*, February 23, 1908.

SASH ZOOM SESSIONS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SASH has continued our tradition of hosting virtual sessions to introduce new research to the community. After the success of the first session in May, the executive board elected to continue monthly sessions on the first Friday of every month. These Zoom sessions offer a virtual space to gather as a community, showcase new work, and invite questions and comments to help enrich one another's scholarship.

If you are unable to attend the sessions live, recordings are available at the SASH website and through the SASH YouTube channel. If you would like to participate in a future session or have an idea for a subject you would like to see covered, please email info@ussoccerhistory.org.

Soccer in the South Central and Midwestern United States December 4, 2020



Our December session focused on soccer histories in the South Central and Midwestern United States. Patrick Salkeld opened with a look at Thomas Corden Powell and the development of the game in Topeka, Kansas. Jeff Organ followed with three stories on Texas soccer history. Rachel Allison concluded the presentations with an exploration of where professional women's players grew up, reflections on Midwestern experiences in women's development, and who benefits from the growth of the women's game.

Access the recording [via the SASH website](#) or [directly on YouTube](#).

"Gentlemen of Color": Oliver and Fred Watson

February 5, 2021

For Black History Month, Ed Farnsworth and Brian Bunk sat down to discuss Rhode Island-born brothers Oliver and Fred Watson, who played on Pawtucket-area teams beginning in 1894. The Watson brothers, subjects of [a recent paper on the Watsons at the SASH website](#) by Farnsworth and Bunk, are the earliest known African



American soccer players in the US. Moderated by SASH president Tom McCabe, this session delves into the milestones achieved by the pioneering brothers who broke American soccer's color barrier.

Access the recording [via the SASH website](#) or [directly on YouTube](#).

The Emerald Influence on American Soccer

March 12, 2021



The First Friday session for March explores Ireland's influence on soccer in the United States. Presentations by Michael Kielty, Pádraig Coyle, and Conor Curran examine the long history of connections between American soccer and Irish players. Showcasing a history dating back to Peter Peel and extending through college

recruitment of Irish athletes to play soccer, this session showcases the transnational nature of American soccer history.

Access the recording [via the SASH website](#) or [directly on YouTube](#).

UPCOMING FIRST FRIDAY SESSION

We are taking a month off from First Friday sessions as we prepare for an exciting slate of summer topics. Our next session will take place on May 7 when National Soccer Hall of Fame executive director Djorn Buchholz joins to discuss his role in helping preserve and illuminate American soccer history and the ongoing collaborations between the Hall of Fame and SASH. Stay tuned by email and through our social media channels for more information from SASH on the time of this event and links to join on Zoom.

WANT YOUR RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTED BY SASH? WE WELCOME CONTRIBUTIONS OF ORIGINAL RESEARCH FROM ALL SASH MEMBERS FOR THE SASH WEBSITE! PLEASE CONTACT INFO@USSOCCERHISTORY.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

ABOUT THE BOARD

The SASH Executive Board meets several times over the 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.

STAY ENGAGED WITH SASH!

- [Subscribe to our YouTube channel](#) to stay up to date with our latest content
- Email info@ussoccerhistory.org with any content for the website, suggestions for new Zoom sessions, or items you want highlighted in the newsletter

HOW TO CONTACT SASH



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info@ussoccerhistory.org

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 or email for membership information.