

[View this email in your browser](#)



## Society for American Soccer History Newsletter July 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](mailto:newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org)

---



Dear SASH Members,

Everyone loves a medal ceremony and there was a rather significant one that took place at the White House recently.

U.S. Women's National Team stalwart, Megan Rapinoe, was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the first time a soccer player has ever received the honor. Rapinoe's play on the field and activism off of it make her one of the most significant athletes of her generation. Congratulations!

Here in England, where I live, the country is abuzz with the Women's European Championships. There are kiosks highlighting women's soccer history in the host cities, and here in the capital, player images have been projected onto London landmarks. They are great celebrations of the women's game and wonderful ideas for other

countries that will host tournaments in the future. I'd love to see the USA do that in 2026.

Society members Chris Bolsmann and George Kioussis were also recognized for their collection, [\*Soccer Frontiers. The Global Game in the United States 1863-1913\*](#). The duo received the Best Anthology book award from the North American Society for Sport History. SASH members authored nearly every chapter in the collection.

Finally, thank you to all members who filled out the recent survey. We talked about the results at our last advisory board meeting. There was a great deal of support for an in-person SASH symposium, so the Society will continue to explore the possibility of getting us all together once again.

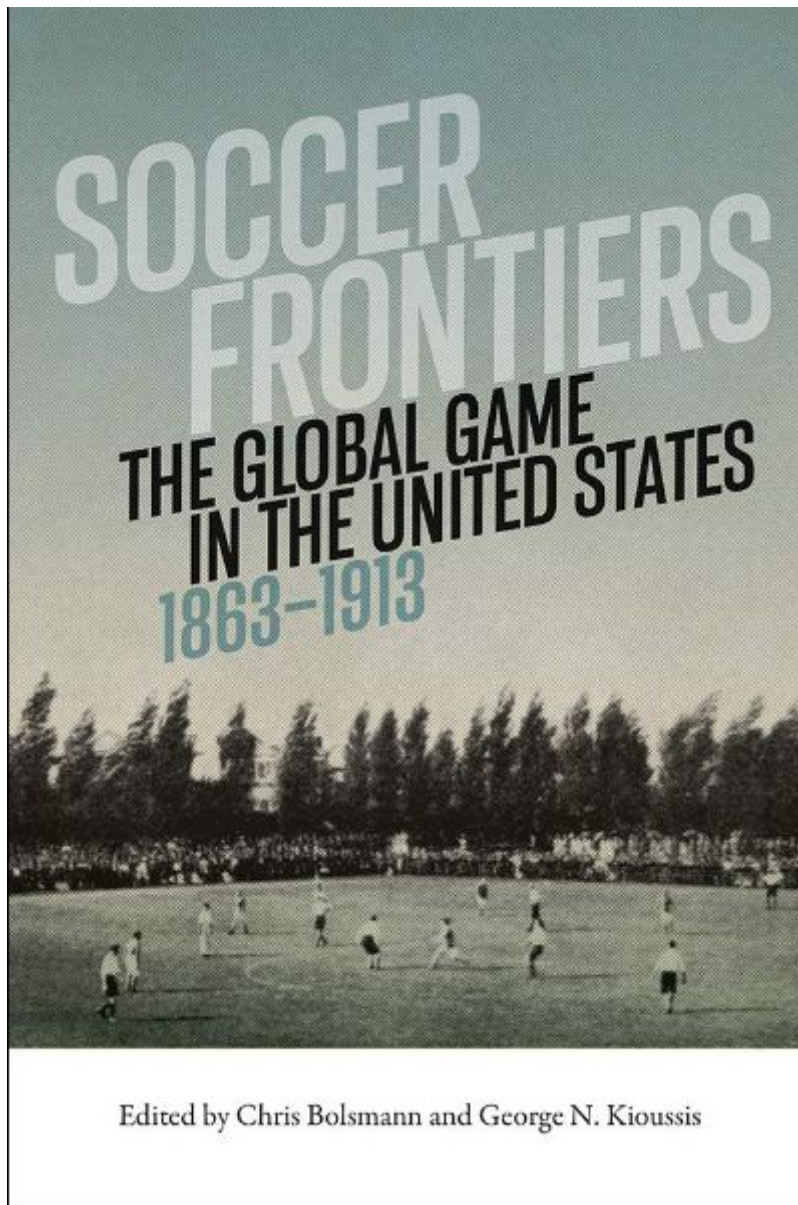
Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Tom McCabe

---

Book on US Soccer History Wins Award

---



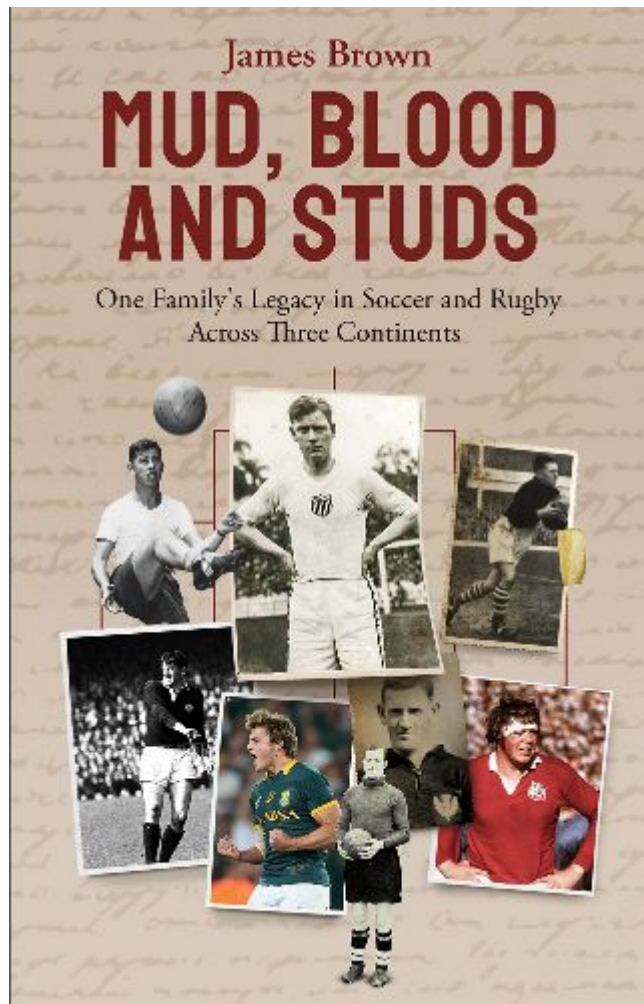
The book [\*Soccer Frontiers. The Global Game in the United States 1863-1913\*](#) co-edited by SASH members Chris Bolsmann and George N. Kioussis has been awarded the North American Society for Sport History's Best Anthology book award for 2021. The text makes an important contribution to the history of US soccer.

---

SASH Member to Publish Book

---





SASH member James Brown's book will be released in August 2022. According to the publisher: [\*Mud, Blood and Studs\*](#) is a special story of sporting excellence passed from generation to generation. An alcoholic father abandons his family in Troon, Scotland, and sails for America. But against the odds his four boys thrive and each carves his own legacy in football or rugby. In time, their sons would follow in their footsteps.

---

Interview with Dan Creel of the Soccer Almanac

---

# Soccer Almanac

Dan Creel creator of the [Soccer Almanac](#), a database of US Soccer leagues, results, and clubs recently answered some questions about the project via email.

*SASH Newsletter: Thanks for agreeing to speak with the newsletter about your project. Maybe we should start at the beginning: what is the Soccer Almanac?*

Dan Creel: Soccer Almanac is my website ([socceralmanac.com](http://socceralmanac.com)) where I compile and present my soccer history research. It's a constant work in progress where I upload information on a regular basis. I also run a twitter handle which posts updates to the site and interesting or fun facts as I come across them.

*How does it compare with other databases such as the RSSSF -- The Rec.Sport.Soccer Statistics Foundation or the American Soccer History Archives?*

Standing on the shoulders of giants. The Soccer Almanac takes so much inspiration from those sites as well as the work of seminal US soccer historians like Colin Jose and Roger Allaway. My work will

often use those resources as a starting off point. The Soccer Almanac's primary structure is to present yearly results from U.S. soccer leagues. Those resources also have the same. But, the data presented on the Soccer Almanac sits in a relational database and is presented as dynamic web pages. So, when you're looking at the 1926-27 American Soccer League standings, you can click on the link for Bethlehem Steel which takes you to a list of that club's seasons. I usually load information on a league season basis. I do my own research on each season before uploading any information to the database. The site also includes a blog which I recently added that gives a short summary of each season as I upload them.

*How did you become interested in this project?*

It was a combination of my love for soccer history and my interest in presenting information in a more interactive way than text. When the Baseball Reference website launched over 20 years ago I wanted to create something similar for soccer.

*What has been the greatest challenge in creating the Almanac?*

Soccer history is relatively young compared to the other major U.S. sports so there's simply more work to be done to unearth the information. Building the site is technically difficult but it's so gratifying when you create something from code you've written from scratch. Time, or lack of it, is always the greatest challenge. The site doesn't currently have player information. An earlier iteration that just focused on the old ASL, NASL and MLS did have players. But once I decided to widen the scope of the site beyond those leagues, I had to put adding players on the back burner. I hope to eventually build out the database to include both players and cup matches.

*What have you learned about the broader history of soccer in the US since you started doing this research? Has anything really surprised you?*

My research constantly reinforces the depth and breadth of U.S. soccer history. This country has one of the oldest and dynamic histories of soccer. I think the post-World War II era of the Fifties and Sixties

where the general public basically forgot that the U.S. was a soccer playing nation is hard to wrap my head around. I'd love for someone to write a book explaining what happened during that period of time.

*Do you have a favorite club, league, or era?*

Folks who follow me personally on Twitter will likely know that I'm an avid supporter of the Maryland Bobcats FC. They are my local professional men's club. For me, they represent the best of what U.S. soccer is about and I feel lucky that I get to root for them.

I'm generally fascinated by times of change or interregnum periods. The old American Soccer League is great for that because it went through many of those over its 60 plus year history. The Eastern Association Football League of 1909-10 is interesting because it may be the only example of a regional "super" league between the two professional leagues in 1894 and the launch of the ASL in 1921. The North American Soccer League of 1946 and 1947 which was the Midwest's attempt to launch their own ASL. The so-called "dark ages" between the fall of the ASL and NASL and the rise of the MLS where you had a cluster of regional leagues struggling to organize and modernize the game along with the USSF is such an important time period.

*How can people help with the project?*

Folks can engage with [@SoccerAlmanac](#) or [me personally](#) on Twitter about soccer history. They can let me know leagues, clubs, etc. they would be interested to learn more about. Like most people doing historical research, getting primary sources is super helpful. I'd love to write more, so any opportunities to do that would be great.

### About Dan Creel

Dan recently finished a survey of the early days of the SISL/USISL and is currently researching the turn of the century California Association Football League. His interests focus on the political, economic, and organizational aspects of the game from the grassroots to the national level. He writes and podcasts for [Protagonist Soccer](#) and has built (and



recently rebuilt) the Soccer Almanac website in hopes that it becomes a reliable historical record of US clubs, leagues, and organizations. Dan lives in the DC Maryland suburbs and his earliest soccer memory is being taken to a soccer match as a young child somewhere around Swindon, England.

---

## New Articles Posted to the SASH Website

---



A three part history by Ed Farnsworth titled "Sailor Lads, Jolly Tars, and Rovers of the Briny Deep: International Ship-crew Soccer Matches in the United States, 1890-1905" has been published on the SASH website. Click the links below to read the articles.

[Part 1: New York and New Jersey](#)

[Part 2: New England](#)

[Part 3: The West Coast, Hawaii and Texas](#)

Image: *Teutonic*, Courtesy of the Library of Congress

---

## Recent SASH Sessions Now Available for Streaming

---



Click on the title of the session to watch on YouTube.

[The American Soccer League at 100](#)

[Book Talk with Michael Lewis, author of \*Alive and Kicking: The Incredible but True Story of the Rochester Lancers\*](#)

[The Athletic's Pablo Maurer and Matt Pentz on William "Wee Willie" McLean](#)

[An Illustrated Guide to Anglo American Football History Before 1850 with Tom Langton](#)

---

Upcoming SASH Events

---

**August 12, 2022: 20th Anniversary of First Women's  
U-19 World Cup SASH Session**

- Presented by Jen Cooper
- 

**September 9, 2022: Soccer in the Great Lakes Area from  
the 1880s through the 1929-30 Midwest Professional  
League in Chicago, Cleveland, and Detroit SASH Session**

- Presented by Craig Tower
- 

**October 7, 2022: Research Round table SASH Session**

- James Brown, Hakoah All-Stars' 1930 South American tour and family cultural heritage
  - Other presenters to be confirmed
- 

More information about each event, including the start times, will be emailed closer to the scheduled date.

---

## Call for Participants

If you have some research you want to share and would like to participate in the October 7 research round table, please email [newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org)

---



In case you missed it, a story from the archives:

[Kristine Lilly, the Washington Warthogs, and Olympic Gold](#)

---

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



---

*Copyright © 2022 Society for American Soccer History All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---

This email was sent to [newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org)  
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)  
Society for American Soccer History · Herter Hall 633 · 161 Presidents Drive · Amherst, MA 01003 · USA

Grow your business with  **mailchimp**