

lic relations campaigns as strategic accommodations in a white-dominated society; their arguments fit well with existing scholarship on Japanese Americans in California. Likewise, with their essays about the ordeals of Minidoka draft resisters and the Issei Iwao Matsushita, Eric Muller and Louis Fiset increase our knowledge of the wartime legal miscarriages suffered by Nikkei. Chapters on key individuals such as Yasutaro Yamaga, Jimmie Omura, and Hirabayashi and his three cousins comment on leadership roles, intra-ethnic conflicts, and diverse identities within a population often noted for its ethnic solidarity. One puzzling inclusion is Roger Daniels's argument against using the term *internment*—a provocative and useful piece, but out of place nonetheless.

Organized chronologically, the book could have benefited from a thematic arrangement to guide the reader through its rich material. For instance, a section on Canada would underscore the importance of place in the Nikkei past. Specialists in Pacific Northwest history are especially qualified to explain how proximity to the United States' northern neighbor shaped a distinct political and cultural experience, yet the volume as a whole does not take on this issue. At times, the reader wonders if there is a unique Nikkei Pacific Northwest experience, or if some of these stories could just as well have taken place in California.

Yet a handful of essays in *Nikkei*, especially those written by Andrea Geiger-Adams and Robert Sims, do suggest a distinct regional experience; these make the most interesting contributions. Geiger-Adams examines how Canadian authorities made grasping use of American legal principles to deny naturalization to Tommy Homma in 1902; Sims looks at "free zone" (areas in the West not affected by the evacuation order) Nikkei in eastern Oregon and Idaho during World War II. Patricia Roy and Arthur Hansen also

deserve mention for their studies of the ramifications of the postwar return of Japanese Canadian to the Northwest Coast and of Jimmie Omura and the wartime Denver Nikkei community. These works push the geographical boundaries of "Japanese America" while arguing for the Pacific Northwest's importance in Nikkei history and, conversely, the importance of Nikkei in the Pacific Northwest.

Nikkei is a valuable addition to Japanese American history and should provoke specialists and nonspecialists alike to pay greater attention to region in discussions of ethnicity and immigration in the American West. Its essays also suggest exciting possibilities for further research—especially in such underexplored areas as Japanese-Native relations in Yakima and cross-border relations with Canada.

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Playgrounds to the Pros An Illustrated History of Sports in Tacoma-Pierce County

CAROLINE GALLACCI, MARC H. BLAU, AND DOUG MCARTHUR

(Tacoma, Wash.: Tacoma Athletic Commission, 2005. 512 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$39.95)

In their preface to *Playgrounds to the Pros*, Caroline Gallacci, Marc H. Blau, and Doug McArthur note that the University of Puget Sound sports director and sometime instructor Tom Cross contended, "Sports are as important in American society as cultural arts, good literature, or a degree in business administration" (p. 10). *Playgrounds to the Pros* takes that contention one step farther, successfully arguing that one can-

not fully understand a community without understanding its sporting culture. Athletic heritage is very much a part of heritage itself.

The work is encyclopedic in its scope and includes a vast panoply of Tacoma and Pierce County sports, personalities, and athletes. Like other local sports annals, its tone is celebratory—even the work's title indicates pride in the region's successes. But that is as it should be. This and similar local studies serve as both works of history and documents of history. Their celebration of local sports makes them effective source material for later generations. "These games," later historians might say, "really mattered to these people."

They do matter. On more than one occasion, an interviewee acknowledges that his or her life would be less meaningful without athletics. The personalities that populate these stories of professional, semiprofessional, amateur, college, and high school sports are working members of the community. Their athletic ability is the source of their happiness, not their incomes. Organizers, officials, coaches, and players all receive equal attention from the authors.

Of course, the book is also a vibrant and successful work of history. With some exceptions, each chapter is generally devoted to one sport, describing both the history of the sport in general and the history of the sport within the community. A particularly compelling chapter on handball, for example, quickly summarizes the contested history of the origins of American handball before describing the development of Tacoma's YMCA handball scene in the 1920s and 1930s. Next the local Elks took up the game, sponsoring competitive events throughout the area. Fire stations also spawned handball enthusiasts. Tacoma's Firehouse Number 6 developed the first handball court in the region when the move to engines from horse-drawn tanks cleared room at the

fire station. In describing the history of the game within the community, the authors provide a history of how the community developed. It is this emphasis on society-through-sport that makes the work significant for readers outside Pierce County.

The book's other great appeal is the scope of the research. From sports broadcasting to volunteer referees to the most obscure of early 20th-century athletes, *Playgrounds to the Pros* casts a wide net. The book even has a brief chapter devoted solely to the sport of marbles. A catalog of athletes, officials, coaches, and sportswriters who either contributed significantly to sports in

the area or worked professionally follows the text. The book's detailed dissection of Tacoma and Pierce County sports is rivaled only by the array of photographs throughout. Though the work contains no citations, the acknowledgments following the text list the many area residents (and former area residents) who provided interviews and gave the authors access to personal records. Another list thanks city and county organizations that also provided archival access. Taken together, they convey the breadth of research so evident in the preceding pages.

Just as social history years ago successfully argued that historians really could

not understand what was going on without studying the poor, and just as women's history years ago successfully argued that historians really could not understand what was going on without studying women, *Playgrounds to the Pros* makes the case that historians really cannot understand what was going on in a community without studying which sports people were watching, playing, officiating, coaching, and organizing.

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