

## *Series Editor's Preface*

Sport is an extraordinarily important phenomenon that pervades the lives of many people and has enormous impact on society in an assortment of different ways. At its most fundamental level, sport has the power to bring people great joy and satisfy their competitive urges while at once allowing them to form bonds and a sense of community with others from diverse backgrounds and interests and various walks of life. Sport also makes clear, especially at the highest levels of competition, the lengths that people will go to achieve victory as well as how closely connected it is to business, education, politics, economics, religion, law, family, and other societal institutions. Sport is, moreover, partly about identity development and how individuals and groups, irrespective of race, gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic class, have sought to elevate their status and realize material success and social mobility.

*Sport, Culture, and Society* seeks to promote a greater understanding of the aforementioned issues and many others. Recognizing sport's powerful influence and ability to change people's lives in significant and important ways, the series focuses on topics ranging from urbanization and community development to biographies and intercollegiate athletics. It includes both monographs and anthologies that are characterized by excellent scholarship, accessible to a wide audience, and interesting and thoughtful in design and interpretations. Singular features of the series are authors and editors representing a variety of disciplinary areas and who adopt different methodological approaches. The series also includes works by individuals at various stages of their careers, both sport studies scholars of outstanding talent just beginning to make their mark on the field and more experienced scholars of sport with established reputations.

*Making March Madness* provides a detailed and nuanced examination of the early years of college basketball and its various postseason championship tournaments. Written by Chad Carlson, an assistant professor and basketball coach at Hope College, the book chronicles in a very interesting and engaging fashion the history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association and National Invitation Tournaments, and other college championships. Based on a combination of primary and secondary source material, Carlson successfully places college basketball in proper historical context and connects it to larger issues in college sport more generally and American society at large. Nowhere in the book is this perhaps more evident than in the discussion on the widespread gambling and point-shaving scandals that

rocked college basketball in the mid-twentieth century. We are provided a fresh look at those individuals involved in the scandal and how leaders in college basketball responded to one of the most embarrassing moments in the history of college sport. There are fresh insights, however, on a host of other topics that readers will find interesting, illuminating, and thought provoking.

*David K. Wiggins*