

CONTENTS

Preface xi

1 The Sociology of Sport: What Is It and Why Study It? 2

- About This Book 4
- About This Chapter 4
- Using Sociology to Study Sports 4
- Defining Sports 6
- What Is the Sociology of Sport? 9
- Why Study Sports in Society? 13
- Summary: Why Study the Sociology of Sport? 21

2 Producing Knowledge About Sports in Society: What Is the Role of Research and Theory? 24

- Producing Knowledge in the Sociology of Sport 26
- Doing Research and Using Theory in the Sociology of Sport: A Case Study 28
- The Impact of Sociology of Sport Knowledge 42
- Using a Critical Approach to Produce Knowledge 44
- Summary: How Is Knowledge Produced in the Sociology of Sport? 48

3 Sports and Socialization: Who Plays and What Happens to Them? 50

- What Is Socialization? 52
- Becoming and Staying Involved in Sports 54
- Changing or Ending Sport Participation 58
- Being Involved in Sports: What Happens? 62

- How Do Sports Affect Our Lives? 68
- Summary: Who Plays and What Happens? 77

4 Sports for Children: Are Organized Programs Worth the Effort? 80

- Origin and Development of Organized Youth Sports 82
- Major Trends in Youth Sports Today 86
- Informal, Player-Controlled Sports: A Case of the Generation Gap 93
- Youth Sports Today: Assessing Our Efforts 95
- The Challenge of Improving Youth Sports 98
- Recommendations for Improving Youth Sports 100
- Summary: Are Organized Programs Worth the Effort? 102

5 Deviance in Sports: Is It Out of Control? 106

- Defining and Studying Deviance in Sports 108
- Challenges Faced When Studying Deviance in Sports 108
- Research on Deviance in Sports 119
- Performance-Enhancing Substances: A Case Study of Deviant Overconformity 130
- Summary: Is Deviance in Sports Out of Control? 142

6 Violence in Sports: Does It Affect Our Lives? 146

- What Is Violence? 148
- Violence in Sports Throughout History 149

- Violence on the Field 150
- Violence off the Field 162
- Violence Among Spectators 165
- Terrorism: Planned Political Violence at Sport Events 173
- Summary: Does Violence in Sports Affect Our Lives? 175

7 Gender and Sports: Is Equity Possible? 178

- Cultural Origins of Gender Inequities 180
- Orthodox Gender Ideology and Sports 184
- Mainstream Sports Reaffirm Orthodox Gender Ideology 188
- Progress Toward Gender Equity 195
- Gender Inequities Remain 199
- Barriers to Equity 209
- Gender Equity and Sexuality 213
- Strategies to Achieve Equity 217
- Summary: Is Equity Possible? 222

8 Race and Ethnicity: Are They Important in Sports? 224

- Defining *Race* and *Ethnicity* 226
- Creating Race and Racial Ideologies 227
- Sport Participation Among Ethnic Minorities in the United States 240
- Race, Ethnicity, and Sport in a Global Perspective 254
- The Dynamics of Racial and Ethnic Relations in Sports 257
- Summary: Are Race and Ethnicity Important in Sports? 261

9 Social Class: Do Money and Power Matter in Sports? 264

- Social Class and Class Relations 266
- Sports and Economic Inequality 267
- Social Class and Sport Participation Patterns 273

- Global Inequalities and Sports 284
- Economic and Career Opportunities in Sports 286
- Sport Participation and Occupational Careers Among Former Athletes 293
- Summary: Do Money and Power Matter in Sports? 298

10 Age and Ability: Barriers to Participation and Inclusion? 302

- What Counts as Ability? 304
- Constructing the Meaning of *Age* 308
- Constructing the Meaning of *Ability* 315
- Sport and Ability 326
- Disability Sports 331
- Technology and Ability 340
- To “*Dis*” or Not to “*Dis*” 345
- Summary: Are Age and Ability Barriers to Participation? 346

11 Sports and the Economy: What Are the Characteristics of Commercial Sports? 350

- Emergence and Growth of Commercial Sports 352
- Commercialization and Changes in Sports 362
- The Organization of Professional Sports in North America 367
- The Organization of Amateur Sports in North America 375
- Legal Status and Incomes of Athletes in Commercial Sports 377
- Summary: What Are the Characteristics of Commercial Sports? 385

12 Sports and the Media: Could They Survive Without Each Other? 388

- Characteristics of the Media 390
- Sports and Media: A Two-Way Relationship 400

Images and Narratives in Media Sports 410
 Experiences and Consequences of Consuming Media Sports 419
 Sport Journalism 423
 Summary: Could Sports and the Media Survive Without Each Other? 425

13 Sports and Politics: How Do Governments and Global Political Processes Influence Sports? 428

The Sports–Government Connection 431
 Sports and Global Political Processes 443
 Politics in Sports 458
 Summary: How Do Governments and Global Political Processes Influence Sports? 460

14 Sports in High School and College: Do Competitive Sports Contribute to Education? 462

Arguments for and Against Interscholastic Sports 464
 Interscholastic Sports and the Experiences of High School Students 464
 Intercollegiate Sports and the Experiences of College Students 472
 Do Schools Benefit from Varsity Sports? 481

High School and College Sports Face Uncertainty 488
 Summary: Do Competitive Sports Contribute to Education? 503

15 Sports and Religions: Is It a Promising Combination? 506

How Do Sociologists Define and Study Religion? 508
 Similarities and Differences Between Sports and Religions 510
 Modern Sports and Religious Beliefs and Organizations 513
 The Challenges of Combining Sports and Religious Beliefs 530
 Summary: Is It a Promising Combination? 535

16 Sports in the Future: What Do We Want Them to Be? 538

Envisioning Possibilities for the Future 540
 Current Trends Related to Sports in Society 542
 Factors Influencing Trends Today 546
 Becoming Agents of Change 551
 The Challenge of Transforming Sports 555
 Summary: What Do We Want Sports to Be? 558
References 561
Name Index 648
Subject Index 663