

## Sports

Sports. Sports can be found as part of ancient as well as of the most contemporary of societies. So remarkable is this state of affairs!! Why should this social omnipresence of sport be true? Is there some inherent reason why sports and society go together.

The first obvious answer seems to be that both organized society and organized sports come into existence to bring people together. From that point of view the members of a sports team might be seen as comparable to the members of a society. A problem is created by this comparison, of course. While we customarily want the members of the society we are constructing to come together, we usually want the playgrounds for our sports to be places for opposition: Cincinnati versus the Tigers!—the Yankees against the Reds! Have we run into a roadblock here, in our effort to harmonize society making with sports promotion? Are making society and promoting sports at odds with one another?

The resolution must rely on our definitions of society and sports. Society includes the notion of healthy conflict, in its formulation of the interaction of social ingredients—competition, which is essential to new levels of social achievement, involves and in fact requires conflict. Sports, on the other hand, has to work along lines of unity. It is not that Cincinnati cannot be versus the Tigers, but in being versus the Tigers it is that being versus the Tigers, Cincinnati will be for the wholeness of the game, the completeness of two againsts to complete the entire game.