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armed force (Fenians), and officers in self-consciously “Irish” ethnic military units. However, most Irish volunteers served in non-ethnic units and the individual perspectives of myriad ordinary Irish Catholic soldiers are unknowable at this point. Bruce has tried to compensate for representation bias in her sources by relying on broader mid-nineteenth-century accounts of Irish life in the United States and of the behavior of Irish volunteers in the Army. Still, the possibility remains that her interpretation of Irish Catholics’ perspectives overemphasizes commitments to Fenianism and projects more coherence than is warranted onto a cultural grouping that was fractious and porous. Although Bruce may overemphasize Irish Catholic unity, her general point—that one would expect a group dominated by immigrants to have relatively shallow loyalty to an adopted country and deeper loyalties to members of personal networks and, perhaps, to homeland-based collective identifications—makes sense. Bruce also demonstrates fine interpretive judgment in numerous instances. For example, she discusses Thomas F. Meagher’s checkered career with both accuracy and compassion and she does not flinch in presenting the racial views promulgated by many Irish Catholics in the 1860s. Bruce is a superb writer. She leavens her narrative with often poignant vignettes that humanize the individuals caught up in the Civil War. She also integrates well-chosen photographs and illustrations as well as strikingly evocative quotations into her text. In spotlighting the nexus between individual soldiers and their communities, *The Harp and the Eagle* illuminates the conflicted responses of the members of a spurned group when called upon to sacrifice for their new country’s cause. This fine study offers insights into Civil War history, the evolution of Irish ethnicity in the United States, and by extension, the complex positioning of immigrant and minority groups in general.

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Karen Guenther. *Sports in Pennsylvania*. (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical Association, 2007. Pp. 117, illustrations, appendixes, bibliography. Paper, \$12.95.)

The field of American sports history has transformed from a curiosity of fans and buffs to an important extension of academic research into social

and cultural change. Fortunately, many scholarly works of American sports remain accessible to wider audiences, bridging an often yawning gap between academia and the general public. It is in the spirit of maintaining this accessibility that the Pennsylvania Historical Association has published Karen Guenther's *Sports in Pennsylvania*. This brief book is intended to provide an overview of the history of sports in the state of Pennsylvania, but it also subtly situates the role of sports within broader social contexts in American history. Judged against its own goal—providing a clear and concise scholarly history for a general audience—Guenther's book delivers.

Guenther organizes her work thematically and chronologically in five chapters. The first chapter—and most original in terms of what a casual sports fan can learn—studies sports in pre Civil War Pennsylvania. Readers may be surprised to discover that indigenous Indian tribes played early versions of lacrosse and football, troops at Valley Forge engaged in a rustic form of “base” ball, and Benjamin Rush cautioned against “running” as a leisurely activity because it was “too violent to be used often” (14). More generally, sports in colonial and antebellum Pennsylvania remained informally organized, although the state legislature did seek to regulate athletic endeavors, such as horse racing, that encouraged vices like gambling. In chapter two, Guenther reviews the evolution of collegiate athletics. Football receives the most attention, and the familiar successes of Pitt and Penn State's teams are accounted for, but Guenther also reveals that reformers feared corruption in college football (colleges routinely paid football players in the early twentieth century) well before the NCAA codified its laws. Chapters three and four examine the growth of professional sports in Pennsylvania. Appropriately, baseball receives a large share of Guenther's attention. As she demonstrates, baseball largely reflected broader trends in post-Civil War American society, especially professionalization, deeper conflicts between labor and management in a bureaucratized society, and racial segregation (Pennsylvania was a stronghold for Negro League baseball). Chapter four spends more time examining professional football, basketball, and hockey, and readers should be familiar with Guenther's timeline of the growth of teams like the Steelers, Eagles, 76ers and others into civic icons. Guenther's concluding chapter briefly traces the role sports have played in popular culture—especially in movies—and it ends with an extremely useful guide to the state's many museums and exhibits that educate Pennsylvanians about their state's sports heritage.

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The primary strengths of Guenther's book are twofold. First, she integrates the sporting experiences of women and minorities throughout her five chapters. Gender constructs regulated the rules of sport dating back to Delaware Indian games, which were often co-ed, but contained different sets of rules for men and women. Guenther also seamlessly weaves topics such as women's participation in male-dominated sports like baseball and Title IX's impact on Pennsylvania colleges and universities into her narrative. Similarly, the experiences of African Americans appear throughout much of the book. Historians often place these stories in separate chapters; Guenther's decision to keep them within her chronological framework allows her narrative to flow more naturally. The second great strength of this book is Guenther's research, which is strikingly deep for a book that is aimed at a general audience. Overviews of this kind invariably rely on secondary sources. Guenther, however, reinforces her observations by citing colonial statutes, memoirs of antebellum Pennsylvanians, travel guides, institutional reports, and newspaper articles. The use of these primary sources (in addition to many books and articles) does not result in dense academic prose, but in useful digressions that highlight broader points.

The one weakness of this book is largely a byproduct of the challenge of trying to include as many sporting activities as possible across American history in a state as populous and diverse as Pennsylvania. Anyone who picks up a book about sports in the Keystone State will expect, and many would demand, that the state's showcase teams (the Steelers, Eagles, Penn State Nittany Lions, etc.) receive plenty of attention. Guenther clearly recognizes this and gives Pennsylvania's most prominent teams their due space, but there is very little she can hope to add to sports fans' knowledge about Joe Paterno in two pages. That said, the originality of this work lies in Guenther's treatment of pre Civil War sports, of which obviously much less is known. The book's middle chapters, which in large part dutifully narrate the achievements of the state's well known college and professional sports teams, feel the stalest. This should not be read as a criticism of Guenther for not fleshing out obscure details about Terry Bradshaw or Wilt Chamberlain, but as an acknowledgment of her difficult task of providing a balance between outlining what is familiar and amplifying what is unique about sports in one state.

This book is worthy of adoption by libraries in Pennsylvania and its neighboring states, and also merits consideration for use in undergraduate

Pennsylvania History courses. High school teachers of American cultural history (or local history where applicable) also should find Guenther's treatment clear and well-written enough to share with their students as well.

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James Marten, ed. *Children in Colonial America*. Foreword by Philip J. Greven. (New York: New York University Press, 2006. Pp. xiii, 253, index. Cloth, \$71.00; Paper \$22.00.)

James Marten's edited collection, *Children in Colonial America*, is the inaugural volume in a new series on children and youth in America being produced by New York University Press. Marten himself serves as the series general editor. Both the organizational framework and content of this volume suggest this series is intended primarily for use in undergraduate classrooms. Indeed, in selecting twelve essays by scholars, excerpts from seven selected primary sources, and a concluding chapter of "questions for consideration" for his collection, Marten clearly gears this volume as a teacher-friendly introduction to this relatively new and exciting field of historical inquiry. The volume's content confirms this intent. Short essays (of mostly ten to fifteen pages) are grouped into four thematic sections that move forward in mostly chronological fashion from sixteenth-century Mexico to revolutionary-era Philadelphia and Boston. With its broad geographical coverage, the volume also partly reflects the Atlantic World perspective currently popular among early American historians. Many chapters focus on colonial British American topics, but there are also chapters dedicated to children in Latin America, the West Indies, and Dutch New Amsterdam, while another highlights English Puritan children in seventeenth-century Holland. Breadth of coverage is a goal. As Marten states in the introduction, readers need to understand the diverse experiences of children across colonial North America.

Still, producing an introductory, teacher-friendly volume does not mean an absence of historiographical debate and engagement. Because telling the stories of children and youth is a mostly new field in American history, these essays forge fresh interpretive ground in documenting the lives and experiences of an understudied population. The volume's colonial focus is another innovation. Most studies of children, as Marten notes, focus on the late