

Nixon's involvement in sports at times stirred controversy, a point Sarantakes concedes. Penn State football coach Joe Paterno resented the president's decision to give a plaque to undefeated Texas, deeming it White House meddling in the annual canvas to select college football's national champion. Sports references helped little when Nixon sought common ground with college students critical of the war in Vietnam. Other stumbles—or fumbles—followed. Free-spirited, outspoken Billy Kilmer of the Redskins complained that the president's rooting for the team went too far. And during 1972's Super Bowl VI, journalists and NFL enthusiasts guffawed after the "Fan in Chief" proposed to the Miami Dolphins a passing play that Dallas's Mel Renfro thwarted in the Cowboys' 24–3 victory. Yet even that episode yielded some favorable publicity and good-natured ribbing. In a gesture of profound gratitude, the Dallas City Council designated Nixon "assistant coach of the year" (146).

Less fruitful were Nixon's efforts to use sports to woo African American voters. His once-close relationship with the former Brooklyn Dodger Jackie Robinson soured following the 1960 campaign, as Nixon increasingly courted conservative white southerners. Sarantakes notes that Gayle Sayers of the Chicago Bears supported Nixon in 1972, but the author misses the Nixon endorsement that came from Jim Brown, the Cleveland Browns fullback-turned-actor. In the end, Robinson's concerns about the president's political priorities proved prescient and backing by Sayers and Brown mattered little. African Americans voted overwhelmingly against Nixon in 1968 and 1972.

An excellent book such as this one inevitably leaves the reader wanting more. Nixon's rootlessness, perhaps even his opportunism, might have been explored through his "I pull for the home team" dictum, which endured after the former president relocated to the New York City area. Greater attention to Nixon's ties to sports before and after his presidency would have been welcome. And Sarantakes's observations about the cultural continuities of spectator sports during the "traumatic" 1960s and '70s cry out for elaboration and further analysis (209). Yet these quibbles must not distract from the achievement of *Fan in Chief*. This book is thoroughly grounded in pertinent sources, from the most recent scholarship on Nixon to the Nixon Papers at Yorba Linda, among other archival collections. Sarantakes writes with clarity, vigor, ease, and insight. *Fan in Chief* is a delight to read, and apt to please both specialist and general readers.

Dean Kotlowski

Barry Siegel. *Dreamers and Schemers: How an Improbable Bid for the 1932 Olympics Transformed Los Angeles from Dusty Outpost to Global Metropolis*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2019. 272 pp. Illustrations. Hardcover \$29.95.

The 1932 Olympic Games were certainly an "improbable" feat. They occurred against a backdrop of economic calamity and mounting international tensions. The unemployment rate peaked as the Great Depression reached full swing. Angry Californians marched on the state capitol, calling for "Groceries not Games" (118). The events also commenced just two days after President Herbert Hoover ordered infantry, cavalry, and police, supported by six tanks, to disperse the Bonus Army from the U.S. Capitol. Amid this tumult,

Hoover privately blasted California's "athletic carnival" as a "crazy thing," adding that "it takes some gall to expect me to be part of it" (130). Even the athletes struggled to make the trip. The Brazilian delegation, strapped for cash, had to steam up and down the West Coast, hocking bags of donated coffee to earn enough to dock in Los Angeles and compete (142).

The overarching argument that holds this sprawling narrative together (to the extent there is one) is Siegel's conviction that it was one man, William May Garland, who made the games possible, despite these headwinds. In Siegel's telling, Garland, a real estate capitalist, cut his teeth on the "boom and bust" world of western land speculation and boosterism. He makes for a fruitful contrast to other varieties of manufacturing or financial capitalists: his art, it seems, was an infectious optimism, the semi-mythical visions of California grandeur he promoted, and his luck in marrying well and cashing in on California's population boom.

Not surprisingly, then, the idea of a great Olympic celebration interested a businessman with Garland's boosterist pretensions. With painstaking detail, Siegel tracks the back-and-forth between Garland and reluctant European Olympic officials, as the real estate mogul jockeyed for an opportunity to host the games. Amid fears over the political instability in Europe, the International Olympic Committee selected Los Angeles in 1923; no other city had even bid. Nevertheless, the committee, worried about the ability of Paris and Amsterdam to host in 1924 and 1928, lobbied Garland to offer up Los Angeles as an interim backup plan. Garland refused. It was a full Olympics or nothing. Los Angeles as a mere "backup" hardly fit his boosterist dreams.

By the measure of Garland's own ambitions, the 1932 Olympic Games were a surprising success. Using the prevailing economic crisis to their advantage, California Olympic organizers were able to wheedle discount transportation and lodging accommodations in order to enable visitors and athletes to travel to California more affordably. According to Siegel, Los Angeles organizers were the first to conceive of the idea of housing athletes together in an "Olympic Village," although it was inspired more by the hope of cutting costs than any noble ambition of international fraternization (104). Ultimately, 1.75 million spectators showed, twice as many as for any other Olympics, and organizers sold 1.5 million dollars in tickets. It was also the first-ever Olympic Games to end with a financial surplus. "Without boasting and without fear of criticism, I feel I can say that the games were the finest ever held," an ebullient Garland told reporters (180). The perennial California booster was pleased with what he had cooked up.

Historians should be warned that Siegel's book is more of a detailed narrative than a structured analysis. For those fascinated by California or sports history it will absolutely make for a fun read, but, at its core, it is not really a history of "how an improbable bid for the 1932 Olympics transformed Los Angeles from a dusty outpost to global metropolis," as claimed by the subtitle. The issue is twofold. First, the premise itself is a bit flawed. Indeed, writing from Boise, Idaho, this reviewer chuckled at Siegel's insistence that 1920s Los Angeles, despite a population many times that of my newly adopted home city, was really more of "a sprawling village" (67). It seems a bit of a stretch to describe Los Angeles, with a population of around 600,000 in 1920, as but a "dusty pueblo" (146).

Moreover, Siegel dedicates only a few paragraphs to tracing how the Olympics might have actually transformed Los Angeles.

The other issue runs a bit deeper and is a product of Siegel's decision to structure this book in a narrative, story-driven style. Frankly, it tends to wander a bit; certain sections, depending on the reader, may come off as excessively detailed. At times, it reads like a biography of Garland and his attempts to bring the Olympics to California. At other times, it seems to abandon the Olympics altogether and dives into the seedy, scandalous stories of 1920s Los Angeles. Tales such as the 1921 death of actress Virginia Rappe, the Wineville Chicken Coop Murders, and the 1929 Greystone Murder-Suicide are all retold here, despite their seemingly tenuous, or nonexistent, connection to the Olympics. And, toward the end, the book mostly turns into a detailed, almost blow-by-blow account of how the 1932 Olympic trials and the sporting events themselves unfolded. There are no footnotes, though there is a chapter-by-chapter breakdown of consulted sources at the end.

These are not necessarily criticisms. After all, these were clearly conscious choices by Siegel, a professor of literary journalism and a Pulitzer Prize winner. The overarching intent seems to have been to tell a good story.

That said, in the name of a good story, there were a few elements that were curiously absent. In order to valorize the resilience and persistence of Garland, Siegel repeatedly emphasizes that "a true, fully realized Olympic Games had never been held outside of continental Europe" (103). Perhaps Siegel sees them as not "true" Olympics, but it was odd to hear very little about St. Louis's oddball 1904 Olympic Games. Similarly, the 1932 Winter Olympics, held earlier that year in Lake Placid, New York, go totally unmentioned (though Garland also apparently attempted to bring the latter to California). One cannot help but wonder if including Lake Placid might have complicated Siegel's narrative of Los Angeles as such a singular achievement.

Readers who approach this as a delightful and thoughtfully researched read, rather than a disciplined historical analysis, will likely leave Siegel's entertaining narrative satisfied.

Shaun S. Nichols

Theodor P. Gordon. *Cahuilla Nation Activism and the Tribal Casino Movement*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2018. 203 pp. Paperback \$32.95.

The legacy of the tribal casino movement in the United States can be traced back to California. In 1980, the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, a tribe of Cahuilla people, opened a small poker club in the desert of Southern California. The challenges that the Cabazon would face in asserting their tribal sovereignty and self-determination through tribal gaming is the focus of Theodor P. Gordon's book *Cahuilla Nation Activism and the Tribal Casino Movement*. Using archival, interview, and ethnographic materials, Gordon argues that the Cahuillas' role in the tribal gaming movement is directly linked to their understanding of and influence on settler society through political, economic, and cultural development (3). Further, the Cahuilla have persevered despite unimaginable violence, through their understanding of settler society and educational campaigns toward cultural