Controlled Conflict: Sports and Education Abroad

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Jeff Whitehead - University of Pittsburgh
Carrie Wojenski - Sacred Heart University
Mike Woolf - CAPA The Global Education Network
Panelists

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Sacred Heart University

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Interdisciplinary Topics: Globalization
Globalization

London 2012 Summer Olympics: Live Sites
The anthropology of sport

Berlin 1936 Summer Olympics: Opening Ceremonies
Nationalism & Regionalism

“El Clasico”: Barcelona vs. Real Madrid
Nationalism & Regionalism

The Florentine “Calcio Storico”
Political Cultures

Italy’s Silvio Berlusconi
Sectarianism

The “Old Firm”: Glasgow Celtic vs. Ranger
Racial Politics

Zinedine Zidane: 1998 vs. 2006
Gender Politics

USNWT & Wage Discrimination
Pedagogical approaches

- Interdisciplinary
- Source material
  - Rich primary source inventory
    - Public and political discourse
    - Sports and local media
    - Social media, blogs
    - Public records
  - Urban space as text
  - Growing corpus of secondary sources
    - Academic Journals: *Urban Studies, Sport in Society*
    - Monographs & documentaries
- Experiential
  - The stadium and field as social anthropological space
  - Ritual and aural sensory in the stadium, on the street
Case Study: Sacred Heart University
Case Study: Sacred Heart University
Case Study: University of Pittsburgh

Current athlete travel

- Haiti
- Dublin
- Korea
- China
- United Kingdom
- Dominican Republic

Unique circumstances

- Health & fitness
- Curriculum
- interests
Game Planning

Individual institutional circumstances

- NCAA Rules & Regs
- D I, II, III, IV differences
- Schedules, travel, training
- Semester extensions
- Advising
- Study abroad advising
- Promotions
- Athletic program integration
Some Success

Yogi Roth

- Author
- Producer
- Director
- D I Wide Receiver
- Study Abroad Veteran

Since studying abroad,

- 20 countries
- Director the documentary, Life in a Walk
  - Spain and Portugal
Challenges

- Schedules
- Compliance & Athletic Scholarships
- Academic advising
- Study abroad advising (specialized approach)
- Relationship with athletic department
- Training
- Competing with down time
NCAA & University Encouragement

More than 50 University Study Abroad Offices with resources including:

• Athlete blogs
• Program lists
• Guided curriculum
• Scholarships
• Timelines

NCAA Publicity

• http://www.ncaa.org/champion/summer-success
• http://www.gooverseas.com/blog/study-abroad-tips-college-athletes
Accomplishing

- Develop relationships with athletic department
- Meet coaches, players
- Convert "mission" trips into academic programs
- Individualized advising
- Specialized program lists
- Find programs with training facilities
- Student unions / clubs to compete
- Appeal to life after athletics
Now for some fun
What is this sport?
Hurling

Irish game

• 2000 + year old origins, celtic origins
• As popular as soccer, rugby in Ireland
• Played by heroic figures of Irish mythology & lure
• Organized in late 19th century by college students at TCD
• Played internationally in Argentina, United States, Canada, UK, South Africa, etc
What is this sport?
Sepak Takraw

Played throughout Southeast Asia

- 15th century
- Pre-colonization & western influence
- Game of the Gods
- Evolved from ancient Chinese game, Cuju (2nd-3rd c)
- Spread to the world through refugee migration
- Canada helped create awareness and international competition landscape
What sport is this?
Ok, more seriously...
Martial Arts (errr, sort of)

Martial arts actually means Arts of Mars (Roman God)

- From violent to non-violent - Controlled Conflict
- Ancient (3400 BC: Egypt, 2000 BC: China, etc)
- Transcends physical fitness & combat - religion?
- From breathing and focus (Tai Chi) to fight to the death

Commercialization & cultural imperialism

- Movies, TV (Bruce Lee)
- UFC
- Martial arts as depicted by the west (1960s to present)
Questions?