

JOURNAL OF AMATEUR SPORT

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Foreword to the Issue

Earle F. Zeigler

Earle F. Zeigler, Ph.D., D. Sc., LL.D. retired from the University of Western Ontario in 1989. Additionally, he is a past president of the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport, honorary past president of the North American Society for Sport Management, and was president of American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education. Since 1948, Zeigler has published over 50 books and monographs and 430 articles in five sub-disciplinary and sub-professional areas within the fields of philosophy, history, management theory and practice, comparative and international aspects, and professional preparation. He is also the namesake for the prestigious Earle F. Zeigler Lecture Award given yearly by the North American Society for Sport Management.

It is a pleasure, an honor, and indeed, a challenge to write an editorial for the first issue of a new journal devoted to amateur sport.

World society is obviously in a precarious state. It is therefore important to view present social conditions globally. I maintain that highly competitive sport and related, beneficial human physical activity (e.g., amateur sport) have developed to a point where each has greater or lesser worldwide influence. However, there is too much of the former and too little of the latter. Both of

these activities should be so organized and administered that they truly make a contribution to a much larger percentage of people of all states and conditions in a society where human concern would focus more on self-expression, cooperation, and the identity of the self.

Some go so far as to say that there are no more amateurs - at any level. This is not true. There are - and I hope there always will be - amateurs as defined in what might be called a traditional definition. However, it is my hope that people like us will bring pressure to bear

so that all will agree that the amateur is the beginner in any sphere of activity - including sport.

For example, when a young person just learning the game of golf turns in a score of 125 for eighteen holes, he or she is indeed an amateur - a beginner or "duffer" in the game of golf. This coincides with the original meaning of the term "amateur" as one who seeks to cultivate any art or pursuit for the pure enjoyment of it. The amateur may simply lack the talent, desire, or polish of the semiprofessional or the professional.

In North America during the 20th century we developed more than 100 different definitions of an amateur but none of a semiprofessional. This is why any attempt to define an amateur or a professional in sport correctly will soon bring you to a state where you begin to wonder whether you ever should have gotten involved.

Traditionally our brethren in the amateur sport organizations have described the amateur as follows: An amateur sportsperson is one who engages in sport solely for the pleasure and physical, mental, or moral benefits to be derived there - from and to whom sport is nothing more than an avocation.

Try explaining that definition to some of today's Olympic athletes in basketball and tennis! Even a dictionary's innocuous statement that, "an amateur is one who is not rated as a professional" leaves you high and dry. It helps a bit if

you read further and learn that, "a professional is one, generally, who has competed in athletics for a stake or purse, or gate money, or with a professional for a prize, or who has taught or trained in athletics for pay." But today, this is now an outmoded definition. However, note that nowhere do we find an attempt to define a semiprofessional, a person for whom sport is presumably not the goal of a lifetime but more that of an avocation. It may well be that serious consideration should be given to such an "intermediary" category as well.

The challenge is for all people in society is to have the opportunity to so order their lives to the extent possible that they are renewed daily through refreshing play, amateur sport, and purposeful recreation.

However the situation develops, I was so very pleased personally and professionally to learn about this new *Journal of Amateur Sport*. I offer my most hearty and sincere congratulations to Dr. Jordan Bass and his associates in this venture. Such a journal could not have arrived at a more appropriate time in sport history!
