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## Society for American Soccer History Newsletter Late Summer 2024

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The SASH newsletter is a quarterly review of happenings in the field with quick access to content of interest to the members. If you have questions or wish to contribute to the newsletter, please contact the editor Brian D. Bunk, [newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org)

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Dear SASH Members,

Since our last newsletter, SASH has been busy and the soccer world has not stood still (Bravo to the USWNT on Olympic Gold)! We had two online sessions and a new Research Happy Hour which you can read more about below. In the last few months, SASH members presented papers at major conferences, with more to come this fall. SASH members have also been active on a host of things and the society has continued to provide extensive research support as you will see below. The American soccer story continues to be told far and wide by our membership. As you know, SASH is only as strong as its membership. Will you be speaking at a local historical society, school or library, a conference or event? Are you working on a project at the moment that you can share about? Have you written something recently? Remember to let your Board know ([newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org](mailto:newsletter@ussoccerhistory.org)) what you are up to so we can feature this in the next newsletter!

Your SASH Board has also been active and met four times since the beginning of the year. We also conducted a membership survey this summer and are discussing how best to respond to the many interesting points raised

there. Building on the membership survey results, your Board is working on ways to have more regular content, engage its membership even further, and build a Membership Research Directory, which will help sharing within the community and also serving the wider soccer world.

One major agenda point since the beginning of the year has been the review of the Society's Constitution and By-Laws. Essentially not updated since the original 1993 version, a volunteer working group was formed and has done a great job in bringing these up to date. The updated Constitution and By Laws will need to be voted on for formal approval by the whole membership. This will occur before the annual election. In terms of helping the day to day running of the board's affairs, secretary Zach Bigalke is working on a procedural manual covering the management of the society. More to come on this soon and we count on your active support!

As always, my door is open and please reach out if you have any questions, comments or suggestions... or just want to talk soccer history.

Best regards and see you in the SASH-verse soon,

KTM

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**An Italian celebration of St. Louis sports heroes!**

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In July, Ernesto R Milani, a historian and scholar of emigration from Lombardy, Italy, to the United States and Canada contacted SASH about an exciting project.

Ernesto has been working with a group of families from the Cuggiono area, on the outskirts of Milan. On June 16, the group unveiled a mural depicting the four baseball players from 'the Hill' of St. Louis, whose parents hailed from the Cuggiono area - namely Yogi Berra, Joe Garagiola, Frank Crespi and Jim Pisoni. The group wants to extend the mural to include players from the 1950 USMNT that beat England in the World Cup, including Frank Borghi, Gino Pariani, Charlie "Gloves" Colombo, Frank Valicenti alias Frank Wallace and possibly also Bill Bertani, Nicholas Diorio and Gino Gardassanich. The first panel recounts the emigration from Cuggiono, a short biography of each player and a panel about St. Louis.

This message was sent along to a group of people within SASH in order to find the best way to fulfill Ernesto's request. James Brown volunteered and quickly arranged for a Zoom call with Ernesto to learn more about the project and contacted Jim Leeker at the St. Louis soccer Hall of Fame and soccer historian Dave Lange. Dave was able to come back with a family photo of the 1950 team from the Borghi family collection and one-paragraph bios of the players . If anyone in SASH has a high-resolution photo of these players, please email [info@ussoccerhistory.org](mailto:info@ussoccerhistory.org) about possible use so that the panel images can be of the highest quality. Great, efficient work from everyone involved. The roots of US soccer reaches the four corners of the globe, even the town

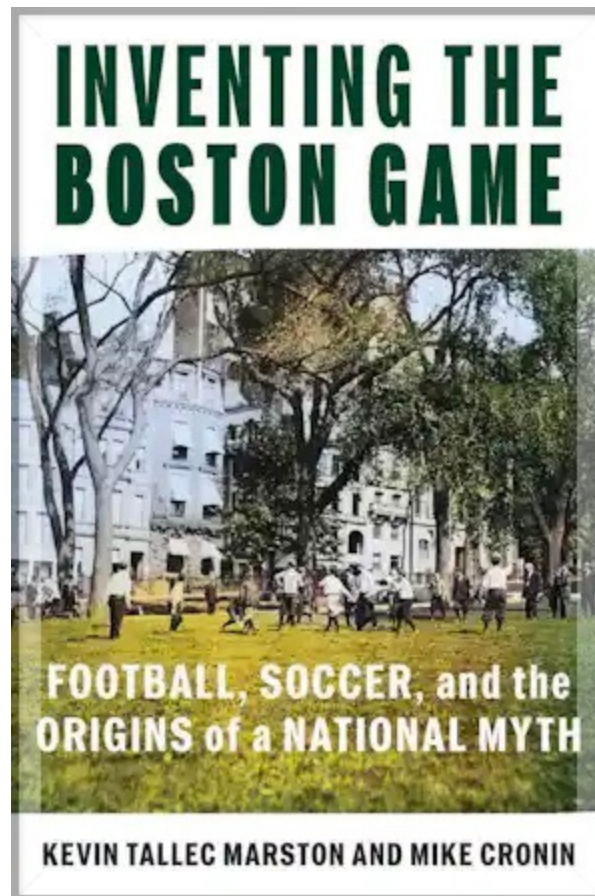
of Cuggiono, with a population of 8,266! A First Friday Zoom Session will be arranged with Ernesto in the future. You can learn more about Ernesto here: [www.ernestomilani.it](http://www.ernestomilani.it)

Image courtesy of James Brown

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## New US Soccer History Book Published

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SASH president Kevin Tallec Marston and sport historian Mike Cronin have written a new book about the Oneida Football Club titled *Inventing the Boston Game. Football, Soccer, and the Origins of a National Myth*. The book will be published in late 2024 by the University of Massachusetts Press and can be pre-ordered [here](#).

From the publisher's website: In *Inventing the Boston Game*, Kevin Tallec



Marston and Mike Cronin investigate the history of the Oneida Football Club and reveal what really happened. In a compelling, well told narrative that is informed by sports history, Boston history, and the study of memory, they posit that these men engaged in self-memorialization to reinforce their elite cultural status during a period of tremendous social and economic change, and particularly increased immigration. This exploration of the Club's history provides fascinating insight into how and why origin stories are created in the first place.

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## **Research Queries handled by SASH Members in 2023-24**

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Through its website and social media SASH often fields research questions from people around the world. Here is a list of those queries from the past year.

- The sports information director for Indiana men's soccer on whether alumni Bob Cooley was the first Black American to have played American professional soccer.
- A journalist (and SASH member!) from leading Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* on the use of countdown clocks in the NASL.
- A researcher from Austrian/German TV channels ARTE/ORF for a forthcoming documentary on the history of women's soccer in the 1920s/1930s.
- A family member researching his paternal great grandfather, John McFadden, who was active in both Scottish and American soccer in the latter part of the 1800's.
- A researcher looking to verify the number of caps earned by USWNT player Carin Jennings-Gabarra and also information about the history of Mexico's women's national team.
- A high school student in San Diego interested in soccer as the topic for a student research project.
- The editor for Scholastic Math, a magazine that connects current events to math students in grades 6 through 9, preparing an article on the history of the soccer ball and goal nets.
- A historian of the Bundesliga club 1.FSV Mainz 05 looking for information on a former Mainz player who played for 1. Deutscher Sport Club Phönix

in Philadelphia in the late 1920s.

- A researcher from the Deutsches Fussball Museum looking at games organized by German POWs interned in Texas during the Second World War.
- A collector in Canada interested in learning more about a soccer medal from 1895.
- The son of an Italian POW interned in Pennsylvania during the Second World War who organized friendly matches against Italian American teams in New York in the months after VE Day.
- A South African researcher working on a biography and documentary about Patrick “Ace” Ntsoelengoe.
- A researcher looking at the history of soccer in Milwaukee.
- A historian (and SASH member!) researching the 1965 Maccabiah Games.
- A Hungarian historian researching the time of two Hungarian players in the US, Lajos Monostory Kovacs and Paul Kovy.
- A historian of West Ham United interested in the 1963 International Soccer League season.
- A collector looking to identify the team in stereoscopic card from 1901.
- A Scottish journalist working on a book about the 1930 US World Cup team.

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## **SASH Members in Action**

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*James Brown, Zach Bigalke, Roger Allaway, George Brown.*

- **Researchers Meet Up**

In May 2024, James Brown, was back in New Jersey for the month visiting with his father, George. During the trip, he met with Ed Farnsworth in Philadelphia and was constantly conversing with Tom McCabe in London to arrange for filming. James scheduled a one-day session with regional historians at George's house in Mantua, New Jersey. In attendance were Zach Bigalke, Roger Allaway, and George Brown. They talked about US soccer recollections and the "Good Old Days." It was filmed for future use by Lawrence Geraghty, a friend of Tom McCabe's from St. Benedicts. The passing down of soccer history memories and experiences are essential for future generations of passionate enthusiasts.

- **National Soccer Hall of Fame**

Jack Huckel served on the National Soccer Hall of Fame's Colin Jose Media Award committee.

- **International Football History Conference**

The Society had a presence at this year's IFHC hosted by Cardiff City FC in Wales. SASH members Chuck Carlson and Tom McCabe were both in



attendance.

The two-day conference featured a few dozen presentations, including several with North American ties. Max Portman, one of the conference organizers, spoke about Clive Charles, a West Ham United player who came to play and coach in the United States, notably for the Portland Timbers, the University of Portland, and several U.S. national teams. Mark Orton presented on professional soccer returning to Sand Diego, CA, focusing on the arrival and immediate success of the San Diego Wave in the National Women's Soccer League. Finally, Tom McCabe presented on Tom Cahill, one of the founders of U.S. Soccer. His reappraisal of Cahill won the Best Paper Prize for the conference's second day.

Gary James, the main organizer of the IFHC, announced that next year's conference will be in Belfast, Northern Ireland at Windsor Park on June, 13-14, 2025.



*Gabe Logan at the NASSH conference*

- **North American Society for Sport History Conference**

The North American Society for Sport History (NASSH) included a panel on “Conceptions of Soccer in the US” at its annual conference held in Denver over Memorial Day weekend. The panel included a presentation by SASH member Gabe Logan, who detailed the history of U.S. Soccer’s Amateur Cup for those in attendance. It also included two presentations by international scholars—one on the legacy of Romania’s 1994 World Cup appearance in the US, and the other on Pelé’s influence on the New York Cosmos and North American Soccer

League in the 1970s.



*Julie Foudy, Jon Champion, Jen Cooper and Natalie Astrain at the Olympic Gold Medal match*

- **Olympic Games Paris 2024**

Jen Cooper was present at the Olympics providing research support for NBC's broadcast of the soccer tournament.

- **Australian women's soccer**

Over the last year, Kevin Tallec Marston provided research support to Football Australia for their review of the criteria and procedure regarding national team recognition and awarding of caps. Following the revised criteria and procedure, in July 2024 the federation announced a change to their historical national teams and recognized the 1975 players at the first Matildas.

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## **Recent SASH Sessions**

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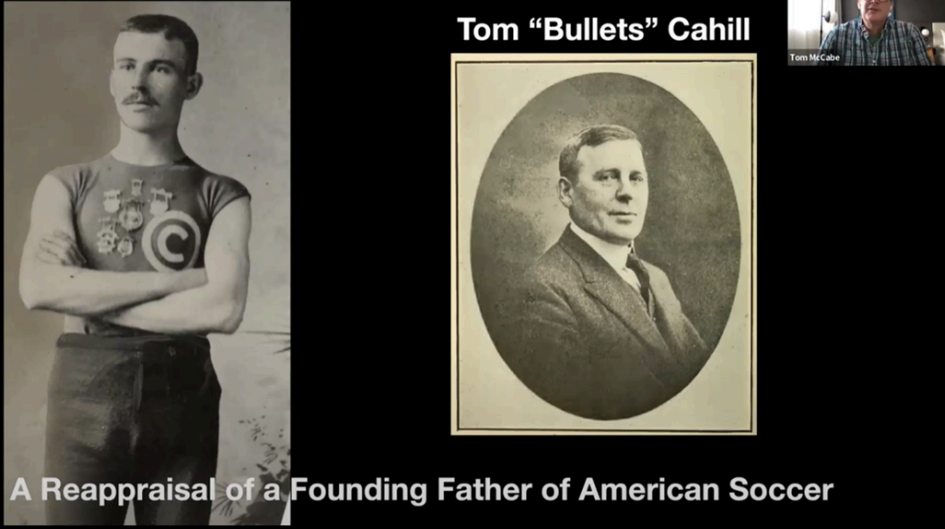
**April** – Zach Bigalke offered interesting insight into the well-known but little analyzed phenomenon of US players who represent other national teams. As Zach discusses the impressive statistic that more US-born women played for other national teams (110 as of the spring of 2024) than for all the USWNT's since 1991. Watch Zach's session [here](#).

### **May - Research Happy Hour**

A first for SASH, we held an online Research Happy Hour which was attended by 16 members. Open to all SASHers, we went around to hear what everyone was working on and where everyone's interests lie. Members shared tips and sources and talked about some challenges and ideas across all areas of American soccer history. The session was a resounding success and the Board will organize one of these every six months. The next session will be held outside the normal SASH Online Session calendar at some point during the fall. We will send out invitations and prep the session with a view to add break-out rooms for members to go into more depth on specific topics of shared interest.

SASH Session, June 2024: Tom 'Bullets' Cahill: A Reappraisal of a Founding Father of American Soccer

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Tom "Bullets" Cahill

A Reappraisal of a Founding Father of American Soccer

Tom McCabe

**June** – Former president Tom McCabe took a dive into the biography of a giant in early twentieth century soccer, Thomas Cahill. In a fascinating session, Tom explored the background and life of one of the US game's earliest and longest serving administrators. You can watch the session [here](#).

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## Upcoming SASH Events

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### **SASH Session on Minnesota Soccer History**

*Friday, September 6 at 12:00 pm EDT*

Brian D. Bunk, Brian Quarstad and Chris Bolsmann discuss aspects of the state's soccer history from the 1890s to the 1970s.

### **SASH Session: 1924 - The First Amateur Cup and the Olympic Team Selection**

*Friday, October 4, 2024 at 12:00 PM EDT*

Gabe Logan will present on the inaugural Amateur Cup and the selection process for the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris, France.

### **Oral History Workshop with Carly Adams**

*Friday, December 6 at 12:00 EDT*

Learn tips and best practices for incorporating oral history into your soccer history research.



**Write For 90** – One of the outcomes of the Research Happy Hour was the idea to have regular sessions where SASHers can be online together for the specific purpose of writing. Having a fixed time would help members carve out the time and make progress on their own work in a collaborative online environment. Eventually, this can become a SASH writing community to write together and provide feedback to each other. The first session will be announced during the fall and we hope to see you there!

Links to join the Zoom sessions will be mailed out closer to the date of each event.

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## SASH now on LinkedIn

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Follow SASH on LinkedIn [here](#).

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In case you missed it, a story from the archives:

[The Lost Tape](#)

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**Click here to renew your SASH membership**



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