



## CONCUSSIONS

In 1905, U.S. President Teddy Roosevelt, known as a rugged outdoorsman, convened a group of university presidents to discuss the dangers of college football. That year, several football players died as a result of their football injuries, and there was public outcry against the sport. In an effort to save the sport, Roosevelt met with the presidents to develop safety regulations. Out of those meetings came the creation of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to govern men's collegiate sport. Today, football faces a similar crisis with concussions. Former NFL All-Pro and Hall of Famer Junior Seau committed suicide and was found to have chronic traumatic encephalopathy. In 2013, the NFL settled a class action lawsuit, agreeing to pay over \$700 million to the plaintiffs; however, the concussion issue remains one for all levels of football players, from Pop Warner to college to the NFL. Should we expect to see President Obama call a meeting of university presidents or NFL owners? Though the NFL is working to change their rules to enhance safety, many players and fans complain the new rules make the game soft. More than 100 years ago, college presidents convened to make college football safer. Today the NCAA seems more concerned with how to profit from the same players they claim to protect.

### Defining the Field: 1960-1979

The early years in the development of the field we now call sociology of sport and physical activity was primarily focused on sport and had its intellectual origins in Europe and North America. Throughout this book, we rely on a social science definition of *sport* as more than an elite, competitive physical game. As noted earlier, the first known texts on sociology of sport were published in the 1920s, but it wasn't until the 1960s that a subdiscipline in the field of kinesiology began to take shape. Bringing sociology and physical education together in this enterprise, the International Committee for the Sociology of Sport (ICSS) was formed in 1964 and formally founded as a professional organization in 1965. By 1966, the first journal dedicated to sociological analyses of sport was launched, the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport* (IRSS), and 11 years later a second journal was initiated, the *Journal of Sport and Social Issues* (JSSI). A 1974 Commonwealth and International Conference symposium on the sociological study of sport led to the 1978 establishment of the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (NASSS). NASSS held its first conference in 1980 in Denver, Colorado, and continues to be one of the key international organizations, along

1900-1959  
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1954

*Brown v. Board of Education* ruling orders racial integration of U.S. public schools.

1960-1979

1963

The book *Sport in Society* is authored by Peter McIntosh (British physical educator).

1964

International Committee for the Sociology of Sport is founded in a meeting of prominent sociologists of sport in Warsaw (Poland).

1966

First international symposium of the International Committee for the Sociology of Sport (ICSS), "Small Group Research and Sport," takes place in Cologne, West Germany.

1966

*International Review for the Sociology of Sport* publishes its first issue and becomes the official journal of the ICSS.

1967

First international workshop, "Cross Cultural Research on Sport," is held in Urbana, Illinois; board meeting is held in Jyväskylä, Finland.

1968

Olympic Games are held in Mexico City; Olympic Campaign for Human Rights forms.

1969

*The Revolt of the Black Athlete* by Harry Edwards is published; the Seventh World Congress of Sociology is held in Varna, Bulgaria.

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