

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SPORTS

180 W. San Carlos St.
San Jose, Calif. 95113



THE HISTORY

FOUNDER



Fred J. Imhof

March 16, 1900–November 12, 1971

What is now the National Library Of Sports was actually started in 1929 by the late Fred J. Imhof of San Jose.

While working at Libby McNeill & Libby in Sunnyvale where he later became assistant superintendent, Fred was smitten with collecting. "The fellows in the cannery were making 10¢ bets on fights," Fred said, "so I started keeping records of the boxers so I could handicap them better. I had varying measures of success. It wasn't the dime, but the fact that I wanted to win. And, with my love for track, I started keeping records there, and little by little I started. I found a book on this and I found a book on that."

Fred and his wife Lillian would take a month's tour of the states in the fall to poke around bookstores for rare volumes. Lillian would dutifully stay by the car to feed pennies and nickels into the meters.

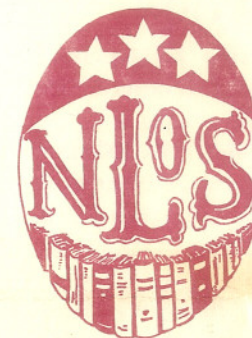
One of the many complete runs of guides and periodicals in the collection is *Spalding's Official Baseball Guide* from 1882. Imhof picked up many of the early ones for a dollar or two and now they are worth from \$60 to \$70 each.

Football guides go back to 1894, tennis guides date from 1892, and the basketball series starts with 1902.

After moving several times to secure additional space to store his library, Fred finally felt compelled to spend \$4,500 to erect a building in the backyard of his new home in San Jose. Lillian was delighted because Fred then used only one of the bedrooms for duplicates and the garage for triplicates.

Fred never tried to capitalize on his remarkable collection as he answered questions from all over the world without charge and with tremendous devotion to accuracy.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SPORTS



A library dedicated to becoming America's foremost sports information and research center through the expansion of its already vast facilities, and offering its services to members throughout the United States

The National Library Of Sports is *dedicated to the preservation of our National sports heritage.*

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(408) 287-0993

THE NEED

A national library of sports is something that has been needed in this country for a considerable period of time.

The world is experiencing one of its most trying periods. In many ways, the United States represents a microcosm of the larger world. In the face of political, economic, social, and spiritual turmoil, there are hopeful signs. One of these is represented by the expansion of cultural exchanges between nations otherwise engaged in conflict. Among the examples of cultural exchanges are those involving friendly competition in sports.

THE COLLECTION

Trying to describe the National Library Of Sports collection is like trying to describe the universe—and giving two examples.

There are a total of 145,000 research materials among five principal resources comprising the collection: (1) books, (2) journals and periodicals, (3) annuals such as almanacs and guides, (4) game programs (35,000 for football alone), and (5) clippings from magazines and newspapers. The Library is housed in 2,200 square feet of space in the San Jose Public Library.

THE SERVICES

The primary objective of the National Library Of Sports is to provide research materials for the serious sports scholar and recreation for those interested only in browsing, to disperse information through the printed and audio-visual mediums for members, sportswriters, sportscasters and the general public and to present awards for outstanding writing, sportscasting, sports photography and sports art.

Most questions can be answered by National Library Of Sports personnel with a single phone call and most research can be completed within 24 hours.

THE COVERAGE

The collection is uniquely structured for research with 175,000 index cards and 1,500,000 references. References are expanded daily. There is information on 95 different sports organized according to subject headings ranging from *almanacs* to *yachting*. Each sport is a department within itself.

THE SPONSORS

The National Library Of Sports is a non-profit organization sponsored by its members throughout the United States and endorsed by the Greater San Jose Sports Association of Santa Clara County and City of San Jose, California.

RESOLUTION FOR CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION

Whereas, there is an ever expanding need to facilitate the serious study of sport, and whereas, the National Library Of Sports already contains the world's largest collection of sports literature and is best equipped to carry out this mission at this time and for the foreseeable future, the National Library Of Sports does hereby request Congressional recognition as a national library of sports.

The above resolution will be introduced into Congress at an appropriate time.

OFFICERS

Chairman—Kenneth Cronin,
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO THE

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SPORTS

(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

AS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

I will receive an embossed membership card, a premium based upon the classification of my membership, the right to submit questions to be answered, and the realization that I will be participating in operating a library for educational and literary purposes and recognizing and rewarding outstanding work in sportswriting, sportscasting, sports photography and sports art.

☐ Please add my name to the Library's mailing list.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Any individual or organization may become a member of the National Library Of Sports upon payment of \$10.00 annual dues and/or contributions in the following classifications: **FOUNDING MEMBER**—Dues plus \$990.00 or more. *Premiums—Lifetime membership, inscribed plaques for sponsor and library.*

SUPPORTING MEMBER—Dues plus \$490.00. *Premium—Four historical program reproductions.*

SUSTAINING MEMBER—Dues plus \$90.00. *Premium—Three World Series program reproductions.*

CONTRIBUTING MEMBER—Dues plus \$40.00. *Premium—Two World Series program reproductions.*

PARTICIPATING MEMBER—Dues plus \$15.00. *Premium—One World Series program reproduction.*

ASSOCIATE MEMBER—Annual dues of \$10.00. *Premium—Rare sports program reproduction.*

☐ My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

☐ Please bill me for my membership.

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (area code): _____

Date: _____

Signed: _____

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