

CHAPTER III  
PROGRESSIVE SOCCER,  
1910-1919

MACHINERY AND TOOLS  
“WANTED—SCORING MACHINE to retard Pullman Car Workers.  
Bricklayers’ Soccer Team.”<sup>1</sup>

The Bricklayers placed this tongue-in-cheek help-wanted advertisement to show the brash ambition of the up-and-coming “trowel wielders,” and their determination to dethrone the Pullman soccer club. This was no small task since the “Car Workers” reached the pinnacle of their talent and fame in the 1910s. In fact, the Pullman club captured both the Peel Cup Challenge trophy and the Association Football League of Chicago’s Jackson Cup championship trophy, or the “double,” a remarkable four consecutive times! From 1911-1915, Pullman’s dynasty exemplified how industry and soccer combined to rule the league.

Notably, the Bricklayers couched their frustration in the language of machinery, for indeed Chicago’s industry hummed during this decade. One writer described 1915 Chicago as a “continuous roar of action; the life-blood of the city pulsate[ed] in its great arteries; a static sense of energy in the air.”<sup>2</sup> This mechanical vigor radiated from several industries that used corporate paternalism as a means to fight unionism. Steel companies,

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<sup>1</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, June 21, 1915, p. 18.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph Husband, “Chicago: An Etching,” *The New Republic* (November 20, 1915), 70-71, in Harold M. Mayer and Richard Wade, *Chicago: Growth of a Metropolis* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1969), 282.

railroads, electrical works, garment manufacturers, and construction companies developed corporate recreation as a way to encourage employee loyalty. Alongside baseball, softball, and bowling, industrial soccer flourished in the workplace and represented a dynamic aspect in the city's and nation's soccer history.

The workers likewise contributed an important role in the game's development. In addition to playing, coaching, and managing the teams, employees encouraged industrial soccer teams to roster only British or American players. This monopoly of factory teams forced "new" immigrants—those primarily from southern and eastern Europe—to look to themselves and their ethnic fraternal organizations to form organized teams. These ethnic clubs would also field competitive teams in the Chicago leagues.

This chapter explores the factors that allowed these industrial and new ethnic teams to prosper. It also shines light on the youth leagues in the parks and schools and explains how progressive institutions nurtured the "Playground Movement," which encouraged soccer to proliferate and cultivate native talent. Chicago soccer likewise contributed organizers to the nationalization and internationalization of the sport. These soccer architects help to construct the United States Football Association, which soon joined the Federation International Football Association (FIFA) in a world-wide soccer community. Finally, the Great War brought these forces together as players joined the service and took Chicago soccer abroad. Likewise, draftees stationed at the Great Lakes Naval Training Base competed in the Chicago leagues. Together these movements constructed the industrial age of Chicago soccer.

## Leagues and Trophies

Before proceeding, it is once again advantageous to give a brief overview of the city's changing soccer leagues' names and alphabet soup monikers. From 1910-1915, the Association Football League of Chicago (AFLC) continued as the city's premiere soccer league. In 1913, the Chicago Soccer Football League (CSL) debuted with ten clubs and operated independent of the AFLC. The CSL idealistically stood apart by proclaiming itself a strictly amateur organization that aimed to "educate the public [about soccer] and not throttle the game by making it a money proposition."<sup>3</sup> This was a sport platitude since the AFLC was a semi-professional affair at best that only modestly augmented players' income. What the CSL did offer was an organized league in which lower caliber and non-British teams could play soccer.

The two leagues co-existed until 1915, when AFLC President Peter Peel convinced all interested parties to unite under the Illinois Football Association's Chicago and District Association Football League (CDAFL). The combined league successfully brought thirty-two teams into a four-tier organization and central body. Its charter proclaimed that the consolidated league would "harmonize the sport and bring about greater interest . . . among players." It was also officially recognized as a member of the United States Football Association (USFA), the nation's ruling soccer body, and continues to serve the Chicago soccer community as the Illinois Soccer Commission.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, March 9, 1913, III, p. 2.

<sup>4</sup> The Illinois Soccer Commission identifies July 20, 1916, as their organization date; see Illinois Soccer Commission, *Illinois Soccer Commission 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* (Chicago: American Metallic Foil Printing Company, 1941), 1, 3, 13. However, the following sources indicate a similar named organization operating a full year earlier, see the *Chicago Tribune*, July 11, 1915, III, p. 2; July 30, 1915, p. 9; August 6, 1915, p. 8; September 7, 1915, p. 15; Peter J. Peel "Chicago and District Association Football League" in Thomas

In the fall of 1919, several of the non-British aggregates left the CDAFL and formed the Independent League, which lasted for one season. These teams sought more soccer autonomy, and in the following decade, this league would become the International Soccer League. But in the 1910s, the AFLC, CSL, and the CDAFL, along with scores of out-of-town, high school, college, and other independent teams comprised Chicago soccer.

When the CDAFL organized, it competed for an abundance of local and national trophies. The first division battled for the Jackson Cup, and the second division challenged for the Olson Cup, donated by the Olson Jewelry Company. The third division competed for the Spalding Cup, which Coal City seems to have returned, and the fourth division battled for the John A. Gauger Company Cup donated by a home construction company.<sup>5</sup> In addition to these divisional prizes, the Peel Challenge Cup continued to grow in prestige and importance. Inaugurated in 1909, the Peel Cup had an organizational committee whose members drew lots to determine competition, collected and dispersed funds for injured players, and provided local and national publicity for games. It was indeed a “popular and helpful soccer institution.”<sup>6</sup>

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Cahill, ed., *Spalding's Official "Soccer" Football Guide 1915-16* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1915), 78.

<sup>5</sup> J.G. Davis, “Soccer Football in Illinois” in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding's Official "Soccer" Football Guide 1917-18* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1917), 82. H. Kramer, “Illinois State Football Association” in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding's Official Soccer Football Guide 1918-19* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1918), 87, 88. *The Chicago Tribune*, July 26, 1916, p. 10. Builders/Architectural Supply Catalog, No. 44, *John A. Gauger and Company, White City Salesman: Sash Moldings Doors Interiors Finish* (Chicago: John A. Gauger Company, 1904).

<sup>6</sup> Archibald Birse, “Soccer Foot Ball in Chicago” in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding's Official "Soccer" Foot Ball Guide, 1912-13* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1912), 185.

A brief overview of the Peel Cup tournament demonstrates both the growth and prosperity of Chicago soccer and the Cup. In 1909, eleven teams competed in the inaugural tournament; by 1914, sixteen teams entered; and twenty-eight teams, by 1916. Even during the War, the Peel remained popular, originally drawing twenty-four teams before the draft reduced the competition to sixteen in 1918.<sup>7</sup>

True to its purpose, the tournament aided injured players. The Cup Committee collected one-third of the gate receipts for each game and disbursed the fund as needed. The fund correspondingly grew along with increased team participation. In 1913, the Cup Committee reported that it had distributed nearly \$800.00 since its inauguration. By 1916, the fund grew to \$1,550.82 and paid out \$1,444.00. This benevolence and the quality of Peel Cup tournament play ensured that by decade's end the Peel Cup had indeed become the Chicago "soccer classic" that fans eagerly anticipated.<sup>8</sup>

While the consolidated league and the success of the Peel trophy seem to indicate harmony, this was not the case, as league and cup controversies once again led to a premature professional soccer circuit in 1916-17. This venture occurred due to the Hyde Park Blues' frustration with the city's ruling soccer body, rather than a glut of talented players and scores of paying spectators. The differences began when the Blues refused to compete in the Peel Cup and instead hosted Milwaukee in a non-sanctioned friendly. The

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<sup>7</sup> Jack Evans, "Soccer Foot Ball in Chicago" in George W. Orton, ed., *Spalding's Official Association "Soccer" Foot Ball Guide, 1910* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1910), 69. Archibald Birse, "Soccer Foot Ball in the Middle West: Soccer Foot Ball in Chicago" in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding's Official "Soccer" Foot Ball Guide, 1914-15* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1915), 115-117. W.R. Cummings, "Peel Challenge Cup Competition" in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding's Official "Soccer" Football Guide, 1917-18* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1917), 81. W.R. Cummings, "Peel Challenge Cup Commission" in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding's Official "Soccer" Football Guide, 1918-19* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1918), 89-91.

<sup>8</sup> Birse, "Soccer Foot Ball in Chicago" in *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1912-13*, 185, Cummings, "Peel Challenge Cup" in *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1917-18*, 81.

Peel Commission saw this as a threat to Cup revenue and attendance and persuaded the CDAFL to impose a \$50.00 fine. The Blues responded by announcing their “professionalism” and seeming independence.<sup>9</sup>

Not wanting to lose out on potential paydays, the Pullman Professionals, Chicago Americans, and a fourth team, sponsored by an old stand-by, the Wanderers Athletic and Cricket Club, joined the Blues. This quartet became the professional division of the CDAFL, which indicates a compromise of sorts as it allowed for a pro circuit but kept the teams under league jurisdiction. There are few records of this league other than game announcements, occasional match results, and even rarer lineups. Only the Pullman team with its large fan base could support a professional side. Furthermore, the paying crowd at Pullman enticed the better players from the other three teams to jump organizations, which thinned the overall quality of the enterprise.<sup>10</sup>

Another drawback to the professional venture was the fact that the pros were not much better than the semi-professionals or the amateurs. For example, in the 1916 opening rounds of the newly inaugurated national soccer tournament, or “National Challenge Cup,” Slavia defeated the Wanderers 3-1, the McDuffs defeated the Pullman Professionals 2-0, the Bricklayers bested the Blues 4-0, and the Pullman amateurs defeated the Chicago Americans 3-0. In the following fall’s Peel Cup qualifying rounds,

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<sup>9</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, October 11, 1915, p. 14; October 15, 1915, p. 10; October 20, 1915, p. 10.

<sup>10</sup> J.G. Davis, “Soccer Football in Chicago” in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding’s “Official” Soccer Football Guide, 1916-17* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1916), 88. The *Chicago Tribune*, July 26, 1916, p. 10; September 8, 1916, p. 11; September 10, 1916, III, p. 1; September 25, 1916, p. 12; September 30, 1916, p. 12; October 1, 1916, p. 2; October 2, 1916, p. 14; November 11, 1916, II, p. 21.

the results were equally disappointing for the professional sides. They conceded each match as well as an all-star game between the amateurs and professionals.<sup>11</sup>

Following the Peel Cup eliminations in March 1917, poor attendance and combined losses forced the Chicago Americans and Hyde Park Blues to fold. For the same reasons, the Wanderers also resigned from the game as quietly as they appeared, and only the Pullman Professionals remained. However, in May 1917, they also withdrew due to in-team-fighting and personal calamities such as the game day when center midfielder Archie McNaughton ran away with his sister-in-law.<sup>12</sup> Rather than take Chicago soccer to a new level, the professional league simply diluted the top Chicago teams and caused animosity in the ranks. Following the disintegration of the professional teams, many of the players re-joined the semi-professional and amateur ranks or retired from the game.

### Manufacturer's Soccer

Between 1910 and 1919, many of Chicago's industries sponsored sport teams as a component of corporate paternalism. This was part of a larger national trend that allowed major corporations a modicum of social control of the workforce, served as "moral entertainment" to deflect labor unrest, and provided the company with advertisement.<sup>13</sup> Some of the more storied U.S. soccer teams such as Bethlehem Steel, St. Louis' Ben Millers, Patterson, New Jersey's True Blues, the Detroit Packards and scores of other

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<sup>11</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 23, 1916, p. 14; November 20, 1916, p. 16; November 27, 1916, p. 12; March 5, 1917, p. 16; April 13, 1917, I, p. 13.

<sup>12</sup> *Spalding's Soccer Foot Ball Guide 1917-18*, 81. The *Chicago Tribune*, April 16, 1917, p. 16; May 14, 1917, p. 21.

<sup>13</sup> Steven A. Riess, *City Games: The Evolution of American Urban Society and the Rise of Sport* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989), 83-87.

industrial squads rose to national prominence in this period. Similarly, many Chicago industries sponsored soccer teams that competed for league honors and trophies.

The financial resources of Chicago's industries allowed the most talented soccer teams of this decade to come of age. Steel mills and other heavy industries were primarily located on the southern shores of Lake Michigan where the abundant water served to quench the thirst of the blast furnaces and allowed for easy transportation of supplies and products. Additionally, the canals and railroad trunk lines hauled metal in and out of U.S. Steel's South Works and the Gary Works, which at that time were the world's largest steel producers. Soccer teams from this south shore industrial corridor and along the canals and trunk lines quickly swelled the city's leagues. In addition to Pullman and the Bricklayers, community and factory teams played in Calumet, Harvey, Blue Island, Joliet, and Gary, Indiana.<sup>14</sup>

Still other Chicago soccer teams rose from the industrial ranks where corporate paternalism was not the primary method used to combat unionism. Some industries, located in diverse neighborhoods, depended on ethnic racism as an anti-union tactic. This too would manifest on the pitch. For example, International Harvester's McCormick Works promoted a multiethnic workforce because company management believed that by hiring the cheapest labor, diversity would minimize unionization. These workers were the "new" immigrants and African Americans.<sup>15</sup> While this tactic created an ethnically diverse workforce, the companies' soccer teams remained in control of

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<sup>14</sup> Lizabeth Cohen, *Making A New Deal: Industrial Workers in Chicago, 1919-1939* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990), 21. The *Chicago Tribune*, 1910-1919, passim. *Spalding's Soccer Guides*, 1910, 1919-20, passim.

<sup>15</sup> Cohen, *Making A New Deal*, 11-27,

British workers. A case in point was the McCormick Harvesters' 1912 soccer club. British surnames dominated their debut roster in their 6-0 loss to United.<sup>16</sup> The company continued to sponsor soccer until 1917 and even fielded a second team in 1915. Yet all of their published lineups indicate a British team.<sup>17</sup> In the team's final two years, it was a marginal performer and received only minimal coverage. Therefore, the lack of published rosters makes it unclear whether the squads' latter composition remained British.

A more concrete example of British workers controlling a team at an ethnically diverse factory may be seen at Western Electric's Hawthorne Plant. As the power and electrical industries came of age, this burgeoning industry required a large workforce to produce telephones and electrical equipment. The magnitude of the Hawthorne Plant transformed the quiet village of Cicero from 14,000 into a thriving city of 45,000 between 1910 and 1920. Over eighty-six percent of the workforce were foreign born or first generation, with Czechs the most numerous.<sup>18</sup> Western Electric's "Hawthorn Club" sponsored recreational activities and controlled between eight and fourteen athletic organizations. Usually these were inter-plant or "branch" competitions, such as baseball, that served to promote branch pride and loyalty. Other recreations, bowling for example, allowed for expression of branch antagonism, such as those games between inspectors and operators. Conversely, bowling created a degree of equality that allowed middle-

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<sup>16</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, December 8, 1912, III, p. 3.

<sup>17</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, February 2, 1913, III, p. 2; March 16, 1913, III, p. 2; March 28, 1913, III, p. 3; March 30, 1913, III, p. 3; May 3, 1915, p. 14.

<sup>18</sup> Cohen, *Making A New Deal*, 33.

aged workers to compete with younger bowlers.<sup>19</sup> In short, Western Electric considered sport as a way that allowed workers and management an opportunity to vent or come together under the direction of the factory. However, Western Electric's soccer team seems to stand apart from the other recreational activities, as it remained entirely British in its makeup.

As early as 1910, a Western Electric team commenced play on the Hawthorn grounds in Cicero. The team featured a British surname lineup capable of holding its own against the non-playing or "bye" teams in the AFLC and other non-league sides.<sup>20</sup> By 1913, the "Electricians" became one of the founding members of the CSL and consistently finished as league champion or runner up.<sup>21</sup> Despite a significant Czech workforce with an obvious passion for soccer, the company's British ethnics continued to dominate Western Electric's rosters. Additional evidence of the team's British roots comes from an obscure 1913 championship match between the Electricians and Roselands played in DeKalb, Illinois. The local paper reported that despite the heat the "husky players hopped and ran around as though they were having the swellest kind of time." It further noted that while the finer points of the game were lost on the large crowd, it was a "great day for [the] English and Scotch population who turned out in

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<sup>19</sup> F.J. Roethlisberger and William J. Dickson, *Management and the Worker: An Account of a Research Program Conducted by the Western Electric Company, Hawthorne Works, Chicago* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1966), 10, 538-540. Cohen, *Making A New Deal*, 177-179.

<sup>20</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, November 24, 1910, p. 6; December 18, 1910, III, p. 3; March 12, 1911, III, p. 4; April 17, 1911, p. 21; April 23, 1911, III, p. 3.

<sup>21</sup> A.M. Paterson, "Chicago Soccer Football League," in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding's Official "Soccer" Foot Ball Guide 1914-15* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1915), 117. The *Chicago Tribune*, March 9, 1913, III, p. 2; June 2, 1913, p. 14; May 31, 1914, B, p. 4; May 10, 1915, p. 13.

force.”<sup>22</sup> It is unsurprising that British immigrants would “turn out in force” for the game, but it is unlikely that the two teams would agree to play in DeKalb unless there was some connection between the players and fans besides entertainment. Just as the Thistles of the 1890s traveled to outlying Chicago communities to play for the local British fans and knit together various communities, so did Western Electric and the Roselands.

Thus, while the Hawthorne Club enlisted all employees as members, the soccer team remained in the hands of the British workers. Conversely, ethnic groups such as the Czechs were forced to look to themselves for organized teams. The Pullman Palace Car Company paralleled Western Electric with its organization of worker/players. Pullman differed, however, in its commitment to soccer as a recreational activity.

By the 1910s the Pullman Company’s railroad passenger car plants employed a workforce that fluctuated between 7,500 to 9,000 employees. The workers’ occupations varied from the unskilled labor that fitted rail-car flooring at the Calumet shops, to the skilled labor that machined specific replacement parts for worn-out components in the town of Pullman. The company also liberally employed African-American workers from the South, unmarried women to clean the cars or as clerical help, and eastern Europeans for mundane and routine manufacturing tasks. Hence, by this decade, the sprawling rail complex extended beyond the Town of Pullman, employed myriad workers, and remained committed to a vigorous recreation program as an important part of Pullman.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> The *Dekalb Chronicle*, June 16, 1913, p. 6; the *Chicago Tribune*, June 16, 1913, p. 14.

<sup>23</sup> Susan Eleanor Hirsch, *After the Strike: A Century of Labor Struggle at Pullman* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2003), 59-69.

With its long involvement in Chicago soccer, the Pullman team emerged as Chicago's most popular and skilled side. Since the first organized Chicago soccer league in 1890, the Pullman Palace Car Company had fielded a major team and several minor sides in Chicago soccer. In addition to capturing the double four years in a row, the Pullman club represented the "Western" National Cup finalist and reached the quarter or semifinals from 1914-1916.<sup>24</sup> The National Cup, or "Open Cup" as it is also known, began in 1913. This national soccer tournament features professional, semi-professional, and amateur sides in a single elimination competition to determine the United States soccer champion. Two other industrial teams, Joliet Steel and the Bricklayers, dethroned the Car Builders as the "Western" champions in 1917-18 and 1919, respectively. Yet, early in the decade, with their venue, skilled players, junior leagues, and enthusiastic crowds, Pullman was the top club in town.

In 1912, the Pullman club's managers, V.A. Gindra and Edward Butcher, convinced the corporation to erect a premier soccer stadium. Given the Car Work's long involvement with Chicago soccer, the management agreed and a "splendid enclosure" was constructed at 104<sup>th</sup> and Corliss in Pullman. A seven-foot-high fence surrounded the complex, which featured changing rooms, a club house, and one of the "best grounds in the vicinity."<sup>25</sup> Pictures from this period indicate that it must have been one of the jewels of the town. Gone were the days of ropes restraining the crowd. Instead, spectators packed the grandstands that featured bench seating, and wide aisles, and that rose on each

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<sup>24</sup> Roger Allaway, "U.S. Open Cup Records: 1914-1919" (working paper, photocopied, in author's possession, mailed to author, June 15, 2003).

<sup>25</sup> Archibald Birse, "Soccer Foot Ball in Chicago" in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding's Official Soccer Foot Ball Guide 1913-14* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1913), 237.

side of the pitch. Equally notable were the fans who tended to be predominately well-dressed males and suggest that soccer matches were an important outing. Likewise, team managers and coaches put on their three-piece suits, ties, and hats for the game day picture.<sup>26</sup> Clearly, a Pullman match was a social outing where one went to see and be seen as well as watch quality soccer.

Benjamin Govier continued to anchor the Pullman team before ending his remarkable career in 1918. Ben's equally talented Scottish-born brother, Sheldon, likewise proved a mainstay on the team. They were joined by English brothers John and Chris Cartwright, who emigrated from Yorkshire, England, and worked as steam fitters in the plant.<sup>27</sup> Another team mainstay, Albert Shallcross, immigrated to Pullman from Liverpool at the age of seventeen and quickly earned a spot on the reserves. He took a job as a Pullman machinist and emerged as a quality striker on the first division team by 1910.<sup>28</sup> Other stalwarts on these championship teams included fullback Fred Blockley and John Pollitt. These two also emigrated from England and found employment and soccer at Pullman. Blockley worked as conduit man, and Pollitt labored in the paint room as an air chipper.<sup>29</sup> In addition to their British roots, these players had skilled labor and skilled soccer in common.

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<sup>26</sup> *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1916-1917*, "Photograph of the Pullman Football Club, Chicago Illinois," 90.

<sup>27</sup> Ancestry.Com, *World War One Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. John H. Cartwright, James Christopher Cartwright, Draft Board 21, roll 1493567, available: [http:// Search ancestry.com/](http://Search.ancestry.com/).

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, Albert Gregory Shallcross, Draft Board 21, roll 1493567 and Ancestry.Com, *1910 Federal Population Census*, Chicago Ward 33, Cook, Illinois; roll: T624\_280; p. 24B; Enumeration District 1431; Image:198, available: [http:// Search ancestry.com/](http://Search.ancestry.com/). The *Chicago Tribune*, September 26, 1910, p. 13.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, Fredrick Blockley, John Pollitt, Draft Board 29, roll 1493581.

Because they had learned the game in England and Scotland, they definitely brought a British style of play that featured short passes and skilled dribbling to Pullman. However, the large number of native players taking up the game around Pullman ensured that the makeup of the team would become “Americanized” and favor a more physical rather than skilled game. One of Pullman’s first native players was goal keeper Robert Homes, who grew up in Pullman and also worked in the factory. He earned high praise in the press for his outstanding goal-minding skills both in Chicago and when the Pullman team traveled. By 1920, the Pullman youth ranks bore fruit as eight of the players hailed from Pullman and only three from England.<sup>30</sup>

Throughout the teens, other native-born and British kickers shuffled in and out of the lineups. These players ensured quality soccer by challenging veterans for positions and forcing the team to remain sharp. There was also a monetary incentive to play for the team. In addition to working and earning wages at the plant, Pullman team members were also able to supplement their income modestly through soccer.

One account from a 1916 friendly between Pullman and the St. Louis Innisfails reports that 2,197 spectators paid between fifteen and twenty-five cents to watch the match. After paying field expenses and club dues, the teams split the “gate” with each side receiving \$83.45. This averaged out to about \$6.00 for each of the thirteen Pullman players.<sup>31</sup> Of course those games with marginal attendance meant a paltry payday. Take, for example, the 1914 McDuffs/Detroit Packards’ National Cup qualifier, which Detroit won 3-0 on the McDuffs’ snow-covered pitch. The “icy blasts” of “marrow chilling”

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<sup>30</sup> W.R. Cummings, “Peel Challenge Cup Competition,” in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding’s Official “Soccer” Football Guide 1920-21* (New York: American Sport Publishing Company, 1921), 111-112.

<sup>31</sup> Robinson, “Saint Louis Soccer,” 104.

weather were so brutal that Frazier, the McDuffs' keeper, left the net before the final whistle. Naturally, the elements kept the attendance low, and the Packards and McDuffs' teams only received \$15.00 each from the gate. To offset this nominal payday, the McDuffs treated the Packards to a hearty meal and accommodations, thus demonstrating that they were "sportsmen of the highest type."<sup>32</sup>

Unfortunately, most Chicago soccer writers of the day seldom noted the attendance at soccer games except for Peel or National Cup finals, first place league contests, or out-of-town friendlies. These contests frequently garnered crowds of between 2,000 and 4,000 spectators. Consequently, playing soccer for the city's top teams meant a modest if variable financial incentive.

While Pullman enjoyed many championship games, one of their most memorable matches occurred in 1916, when they played Pennsylvania's great Bethlehem Steel team in the National Cup semifinals. The contest was the first time an "Eastern" team had ventured to Chicago for the series. The "Steelers" were a pet project of Bethlehem's Vice President Horace Edgar Lewis, who saw the team as corporate paternalism and a symbol the plant could rally around. Unlike Pullman, which relied on local players immigrating to Chicago, Bethlehem actively recruited talent from England and Scotland. This "raiding," as one Scottish paper called it, paid off handsomely, as Bethlehem captured the first four out of five National Cups.<sup>33</sup>

Prior to the upcoming game, the *Tribune* kept a watchful eye on the Pullman team and reported their after-work training sessions and exercise regimen in the Palmer Park

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<sup>32</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, December 14, 1914. *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1915-1916*, 77.

<sup>33</sup> Allaway, et al., *American Soccer History*, 28-30. Geocities, *Bethlehem Steel Soccer Club*, [http://www.geocities.com/bethlehem\\_soccer/](http://www.geocities.com/bethlehem_soccer/).

gymnasium. Pullman's captain, Chris Cartwright, noted that the extra drilling was a "big factor in Pullman's success." However, Bethlehem also enjoyed fine facilities including nearby Lehigh stadium and a gymnasium, both located near the Bethlehem plant.<sup>34</sup>

Clearly soccer was no longer a simple recreation; the gym work and mandatory practices indicate an emphasis on developing and strengthening the body for maximum competition, while the extra training allowed the players to further hone their considerable skills.

Corporate owners took pride in their teams' accomplishments. For Pullman's part, the company ensured Bethlehem's squad traveled to Chicago on a "special" Pullman sleeper. Bethlehem officials responded by sending Lewis and other company officials along with their team. Dignitaries from the Pullman Company and the Pullman soccer team met the Pennsylvania entourage and escorted them to the Great Northern Hotel where later that evening Pullman officials hosted a banquet for the clubs, referees, and corporate and USFA dignitaries.<sup>35</sup> On game day, a crowd of 4,000 filled the park and watched the two teams battle to a 0-0 draw. Despite the tie, the game was full of "great football" and hot shots that kept the crowd on edge throughout the ninety minutes of regulation play and two overtime periods. The following week Pullman traveled to Bethlehem where an equally exciting match took place. Unfortunately for Chicago, Pullman lost the rematch in the final minutes 2-1.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, April 11, 1916, p. 15; April 16, 1916, III, p. 4.

<sup>35</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, April 14 1916, p. 19; April 15, 1916, p. 15; April 16, 1916, III, p. 4. *Bethlehem Soccer*, the *Globe*, April 12, 1916; April 20, 1916; April 24, 1916.

<sup>36</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, April 17, 1916, p. 12; April 23, 1916, III, p. 3; *Bethlehem Soccer*, the *Globe*, April 24, 1916.

Although the Pullman club played this match in the twilight of their fame, the game indicates several points about United States and Chicago soccer. First, the lengths the teams undertook to prepare for this match included a fitness regimen heretofore unknown in Chicago or the national games. In addition, the corporations' pride in the teams went beyond anti-union activities. This is seen in the Pullman Company sending for Bethlehem in special cars and the steel company likewise sending dignitaries in addition to the soccer team to the match. Clearly, dignitaries at both companies wanted to be a part of their soccer teams' success. Finally, the players reflected these changes. Unlike past teams that traveled to and from Chicago, the industrial teams played with a grit and vigor beyond that of the athletic clubs of past decades. A sport writer for the *Bethlehem Globe* summed this up when he wrote that the considerable number of fouls in the rematch did not indicate a violent game but rather the sheer tension and determination of the players.<sup>37</sup> Without a doubt, playing for the Pullman soccer team went beyond corporate paternalism. It meant being a member of a soccer organization that a noted British referee called "equal to the best in the United States."<sup>38</sup>

Pullman continued as a team for one more season following the professional debacle of 1916. The club folded in the fall of 1917, due to the transient labor force created by World War I. In the booming war economy, the Pullman Company only reluctantly granted wage increases. In response, workers flocked to other higher paying industries such as the shipyards and steel mills, while Pullman's turnover rate reached

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<sup>37</sup> *Bethlehem Soccer*, the *Globe*, April 24, 1916.

<sup>38</sup> *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1915-1916*, 77.

283 percent.<sup>39</sup> The Pullman soccer team re-emerged in 1920 and played for nine more years but did not attain the national heights it had reached in the teens when the squad emerged as one of U.S. soccer's early dynasties and Chicago's foremost soccer ambassador to the nation.

During the 1910s, industrial soccer also flourished southwest of the city in Joliet, Illinois. There, former Pullman players joined a group of native players employed by and playing soccer for Joliet Steel. The combination allowed Joliet Steel a brief tenure at the top of the league, national exposure, and the opportunity to be a challenging contender in four Peel Cup championships.

Joliet Steel was part of the U.S. Steel's South Side Steel Works.<sup>40</sup> The company first sponsored a club team in 1912, and in the fall of 1914, formally joined the AFLC. Joliet found a rich source of soccer talent in nearby Coal City. Many of the former Maroons, such as Hugh and Bill Tallman, Bill Enrietta, Sandy Wilson and Phil Jones, laced up for the steel company and traded their mining jobs for the mill.<sup>41</sup> The Coal City boys were an instant success, as Joliet finished one game out of first place in an exciting three-way, end-of-the-season race with Pullman and the Bricklayers.<sup>42</sup>

Equally impressive was Joliet's meteoric rise to the Peel Cup championship. After dispatching five top clubs in short order, including a thrilling "revenge" match against the Bricklayers, the "steel men" played Pullman as the feature tilt in the 1915 Sportsmen's

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<sup>39</sup> Hirsch, *After the Strike*, 65-69.

<sup>40</sup> *The Encyclopedia of Chicago*, 2004, s.v. "U.S. Steel Corp."

<sup>41</sup> *The Chicago Tribune*, October 21, 1912, p. 12; August 16, 1914, B, p. 3; September 13, 1914, B, p. 3.

<sup>42</sup> *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1915-16*, 77. *The Chicago Tribune*, May 5, 1915, p. 12.

Club Athletic Carnival. Nearly 4,000 spectators watched the game, including Joliet Mayor William Barber, who arranged for special trains to convey the team and fans to the game. Pullman captured the Peel with a 5-2 victory in a match that was the best attended Peel Cup to date and served notice of Joliet's soccer potential.<sup>43</sup>

During the following season, Joliet recruited several more up and coming Coal City players, including Ed Herron, Dugall Gommora, "Babe" Kelly, and a sixteen-year-old prodigy, Dick Vidano.<sup>44</sup> These new recruits proved equally successful and popular. Over 4,000 spectators filled Joliet's new stadium and cheered the steel men to a 4-1 victory over the Pullman amateurs. It was the first of many impressive victories that allowed Joliet to hoist the Jackson Cup in 1916 and 1917.<sup>45</sup>

Despite these successes, John Shea, Joliet's Irish-born manager and a steel mill laborer, actively recruited Pullman players after that club folded.<sup>46</sup> Chris Cartwright, the Govier brothers, Ed and Art Bromley, and Robert Holmes all signed with Joliet in the fall of 1917, but their play produced mixed results.<sup>47</sup> On one hand, Joliet was able to compete against St. Louis, where they tied the Ben Millers 1-1 and defeated the Innisfails 4-3 in two pre-season friendlies. Joliet also held their own against the New York F.C.,

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<sup>43</sup> *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1915-16*, 77, 78. *The Chicago Tribune*, May 28, 1915, p. 10; May 30, 1915, III, p. 4; May 31, 1915, p. 12.

<sup>44</sup> *The Chicago Tribune*, November 22, 1915, p. 12; December 12, 1915, III, p. 3; April 10, 1916, p. 14; June 19, 1916, p. 16.

<sup>45</sup> *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1917-18*, 82. *The Chicago Tribune*, July 26, 1916, p. 10; December 14, 1916, p. 21; June 27, 1917, p. 12; November 19, 1917, p. 13.

<sup>46</sup> Ancestry.Com, *1920 Federal Population Census*, Joliet Ward 1, Will, Illinois; roll: T625\_416; p.1B; Enumeration District 186; image 150, available: [http:// Search ancestry.com/](http://Search.ancestry.com/).

<sup>47</sup> *The Chicago Tribune*, September 29, 1917, p. 13; November 12, 1917, p. 13; March 10, 1918, A, p. 1.

losing 2-1 in a rare match between these cities. Likewise, the new additions helped Joliet reach the National Cup semi-finals twice in 1917 and 1918, with impressive victories over Detroit and Cleveland. However, Joliet eventually came up against Bethlehem and lost 6-0 and 4-0 both years.<sup>48</sup> In addition, Joliet was unable to recapture the Jackson Cup with the newly acquired players. Conversely, several of the older Coal City players resigned from the team when the ex-Pullman veterans arrived and again stunted the growth of native-born talent. Perhaps the team's most fitting legacy is that it exited Chicago soccer a winner. In May, 1918, the steel men defeated the Bricklayers 2-0 for the Peel Cup. It would be their final game and championship.<sup>49</sup>

Like Pullman, Joliet Steel successfully integrated sport and industry. Also like Pullman, the team became a victim of the War as the draft depleted its players.<sup>50</sup> Still, the community and company were proud of their team, as shown by thousands of fans who attended home and away matches. Additional insight is gleaned from the Steel Company's "Joliet Club," which served as a conduit between the community and the team. For example, in a 1915 match with the Bricklayers, the Joliet Club arranged for a special train car to bring the Brickies to Joliet, along with officers of the CDAFL and the Peel Cup Commissioners. City and company officials met their guests and entertained them before and after the match.<sup>51</sup> The company also constructed a quality pitch and

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<sup>48</sup> Allaway "Open Cup Records: 1917,1918." The *Chicago Tribune*, March 26, 1917, p. 11; April 12, 1917, p. 11; April 22, 1917,A, p. 1; December 31, 1917, p. 13; January 3, 1918, p. 7; March 11, 1918, p. 13; March 31, 1918, A, p. 3. The *New York Times*, March 31, 1918, p. 29. *Bethlehem Soccer*, the *Globe*, April 23, 1917; March 30, 1918; April 1, 1918.

<sup>49</sup> *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1918-19*, p. 89, The *Chicago Tribune*, May 27, 1918, p. 12; June 5, 1918, p. 10; July 18, 1918, p. 18.

<sup>50</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, May 6, 1918, p. 12; May 13, 1918, p. 12; July 18, 1918, p. 8.

<sup>51</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 12, 1915, III, p. 4.

provided a gymnasium for the players. Furthermore, Joliet stands as an innovator of the Chicago game by re-introducing the rich soccer talent of the Coal City area back into the league.

Clearly, Pullman and Joliet stand apart as Chicago soccer's premier industrial teams. Other sides, such as International Harvester and Western Electric, indicate how British workers rostered and controlled soccer teams in ethnically diverse industries. Other teams also rose out of the steel communities, such as the Calumets, Blue Island, Harvey, Chicago Screw Company, and the Gary Thistles.<sup>52</sup> Organizations that supplied construction material also developed teams. Finally, the building trades also sponsored soccer teams, but unlike industrial sponsorship, unions and membership dues, rather than corporations, helped to finance these teams.

The South Side Stonecutters and the Blakes were the first construction craft-organized clubs and debuted in 1911. One account notes that the Stonecutters' players emigrated from Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>53</sup> By 1913, the Stonecutters were one of the founding members of the CSL and played their games at Hamilton Park on the city's Southwest side.<sup>54</sup> Because the Blakes and Stonecutters mostly operated as non-league clubs or only in the initial year of the CSL, little is known about their operations. The Bricklayers and Masons offer a better example of craft team.

Like the Stonecutters, the "Brickies" also featured numerous Scottish kickers but were simultaneously quick to recruit from Coal City, Pullman, and the developing youth

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<sup>52</sup> *Spalding's Soccer Guides, 1910-1919-20*, passim. *The Chicago Tribune*, 1910-1919, passim.

<sup>53</sup> *The Chicago Tribune*, October 16, 1911, p. 16; November 6, 1911, p. 14.

<sup>54</sup> *The Chicago Tribune*, October 13, 1913, p. 13.

ranks. The early years of the Brickies reflect this recruiting diversity. From 1913 to 1915 the Bricklayers' rosters featured changing lineups and almost entirely new teams.<sup>55</sup>

However, the organization emphasized its commitment to the mason trade. A benefit match held for the injured William Donaholm provides an example. Rather than play another Chicago team, which was the usual practice for such charities, the Bricklayers announced they would have the assistance of "trowel welders" who played for other teams.<sup>56</sup>

Although the Bricklayers did not reach the fame they would achieve in the 1920s, impressive signs of their commitment to Chicago soccer appeared in this decade. In early 1915, Bricklayer secretary J. Burrows convinced Charles Comiskey to develop the east side of White Sox Park into a soccer annex. Given Comiskey's long involvement and association with Chicago soccer, he agreed, and Bricklayers Park opened later that year next to the baseball grounds.<sup>57</sup> Pictures of the venue show an archway brick entrance, a high wooden fence, stands, and anchored goal posts. The Bricklayers' management was also eager to make the facility family friendly, as shown by their willingness to admit women free of charge and youngsters with a school athletic card for half price.<sup>58</sup> Bricklayers' Park would become a mainstay for the "mortar slingers" for many years and would be the setting for storied matches and rivalries.

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<sup>55</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, December 22, 1913, p. 18; January 12, 1914, p. 10; November 2, 1914, June 7, 1915, p. 18.

<sup>56</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, January 4, 1914, III, p. 3.

<sup>57</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, February 26, 1915, p. 9; September 19, 1915, III, p. 2; September 20, 1915, p. 9.

<sup>58</sup> *Spalding Soccer Guide 1918-19*, p. 90, the *Chicago Tribune*, November 25, 1915, p. 19.

With the financial support of industries and the masonry trade, some Chicago soccer players were able to supplement their job income, travel, compete against other national teams, and contribute to the development of the game. Lesser industrial teams did not have as many benefits yet remained primarily in the control of British immigrants or native-born players. This caused immigrants from northern, eastern, and southern Europe to organize themselves into their own soccer teams and cultivate youth ranks to ensure their continuity. These immigrant groups organized long-lasting and talented sides that would stretch far into Chicago's soccer future.

### New Ethnic Aggregates

Alongside Chicago's industrial teams, immigrants from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, and the Hapsburg Empire's Bohemians and Magyars organized ethnic Chicago soccer clubs in the 1910s. This development coincides with two additional patterns. First, as soccer spread into continental Europe, these nations adopted and promoted the kicking code, organized teams, and formed football associations by 1900.<sup>59</sup> Second, when turn-of-the-century immigrant soccer players migrated to Chicago, their respective ethnic predecessors had already developed a community that allowed for and encouraged recreation and sport.<sup>60</sup> Consequently, when knowledgeable soccer

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<sup>59</sup> Vic Duke, "Going to Market: Football in the Societies of Eastern Europe" and Stephen Wagg, "On the Continent: Football in the Societies of North West Europe," both in Stephen Wagg, ed., *Giving the Game Away: Football, Politics, and Culture on Five Continents* (London: Leicester University Press, 1995), 89, 90, 105, 108, 109, 110.

<sup>60</sup> Riess, *City Games*, 97-99, 121-123. Ulf Beijbom, *Swedes in Chicago: A Demographic and Social Study of the 1846-1880 Immigration* (Vaxjo, Sweden: Davidsons Boktryckeri AB, 1971), 336-363. George R. Nielsen, *The Danish Americans* (Boston: G.K. Hall and Company, 1981), 111-126. Norwegian American Immigration Anniversary Commission 1825-1975, *From Fjord to Prairie: Norwegian-Americans in the Midwest 1825-1975* (Chicago: Nelson Printing Company, 1976), b-18, c-11, 38-49, d-2-14. Eugene McCarthy, "The Bohemians in Chicago and Their Benevolent Societies: 1875-1946" (M.A. thesis, University of Chicago, 1950), 12-18.

immigrants came to Chicago they did so with a sporting tradition, and they arrived in communities that already had established institutions such as churches, foreign language press, mutual aid societies, and housing and employment networks. Thus, when there was time to play, the ground was fertile for soccer clubs.

These “new” ethnic soccer clubs played an interesting role for immigrants and their children in Chicago. Among the Danes, soccer was supported, abandoned, and supported again in the following decade. German immigrants almost clandestinely backed soccer so as to deflect unwanted nationalist criticism from the dominant culture. Conversely, the Bohemians embraced soccer and used the game to assert ethnic equality. By examining their early formations, we gain additional insight into the Chicago immigration experience and how soccer allowed some of these newcomers the opportunity to interact with other members of their community and other ethnic teams, as well as to compete against the higher caliber British and American sides.

In the 1910s, non-British and non-American kickers increasingly dotted the rosters of Chicago teams. Frequently the records only identified these players by their last name, their position, and—significantly—their ethnicity. For example, “Newman,” the Bohemian keeper, minded the nets for the Overseas team. Panwitz, a Danish fullback, filled in as a substitute for the Hyde Park Blues. Klotz, the former German international, played for the Chicago Americans. Two unnamed Swedish players, fresh from the 1912 Olympic Games, debuted in the Chicago leagues the following season. Chang Tan,

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originally from China, first made the sport pages as a Yale soccer player. After moving to Chicago, he saw action with the University of Chicago team.<sup>61</sup>

Other than Chang Tan, who learned the game at Yale, these individuals had experience with the game in their homelands. As in the United States, soccer was making inroads around the world, and the soccer skills of these immigrants reflect the sport's growth in Northern and Eastern Europe. A brief overview of soccer's development in these European regions lends clarity to the backgrounds of those Chicago immigrants who carried the game to the Second City.

Soccer arrived in Northern, Southern, and Eastern Europe much as it did in the United States. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, British diplomats, workers, and students took the association game with them when they went abroad. Formal soccer clubs and leagues soon organized and began play in Copenhagen, Gothenburg, Oslo, Hamburg, Budapest and Prague. Given much of Europe's obsession with soccer, it is ironic that the association game met early opposition in several European nations and cities. Some early soccer critics vehemently protested the popularity of the kicking code because it "displaced political energy" which was more efficiently mustered in the gymnastic movements rather than in a "people's game."<sup>62</sup>

The Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden all had strapping gymnastic movements. In the first two nations, adherents recognized organized soccer and other sports as a means to cultivate a sense of civic duty in the youth and were not threatened by its popularity. In Sweden, however, "educationalists" condemned the game

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<sup>61</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 18, 1911, p. 13; October 29, 1911, III, p. 2; November 11, 1912, p. 14; May 12, 1913, p. 10; April 24, 1916, p. 18.

<sup>62</sup> Duke and Wagg, *Giving the Game Away*, 89-91, 104-110.

because of its competitiveness. Nonetheless, soccer prospered in industrial cities and with the working class in all these countries, and organized teams and leagues soon followed.<sup>63</sup>

When Scandinavian immigrants arrived in Chicago, many brought soccer with them and discovered the thriving AFLC. However, the newcomers did not have either enough talent or experience to compete with the established Chicago organizations so their early teams began as recreational soccer clubs. The first Scandinavian immigrant teams in Chicago debuted in 1912. The Danes' "Thor," the Norwegian's "Fram" and the Swedes' "Sparta" (which played for two seasons and was a different organization than the more famous Bohemian Sparta that organized in 1916) all commenced play in the fall, and in 1913, became charter members of the newly formed Chicago Soccer League.<sup>64</sup> Immigrant numbers and their communities show how these teams emerged.

Between 1910 and 1920, over 20,000 immigrants and native-born Danes called Chicago home, making it the second largest Danish-speaking city in the world and the largest Danish community in the United States.<sup>65</sup> The Danes primarily settled in the Humboldt Park area and found employment in the manufacturing and trade sectors, domestic service, and transportation. Along with profitable employment, the Danes readily adopted English and generally tried to accelerate the "Americanization" process. Their success garnered financial independence and upward mobility sooner than their

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<sup>63</sup> Wagg, "On the Continent," 103-124.

<sup>64</sup> The *Chicago Tribune* *passim*, 1912-1913.

<sup>65</sup> City of Chicago, Department of Development and Planning, *The People of Chicago: Who We Are and Who We Have Been; Census Data on Foreign Born, Foreign Stock, and Race 1837-1970; Mother Tongue Addendum 1910-1970* (Chicago, Illinois: City of Chicago Printing Office, 1976), 27-30. City of Chicago, Department of Development and Planning, *Historic City: The Settlements of Chicago* (Chicago, Illinois: City of Chicago Printing Office, 1976), 54. Nielsen, *Danish Americans*, 111-126.

Nordic counterparts.<sup>66</sup> With discretionary time and income, the Danes spent their increased leisure hours in Danish societies that featured singing, masquerade balls, theaters, dancing, and athletic events, including soccer.<sup>67</sup>

*Foldboldklubben* (football club) Thor, the first Chicago-Danish soccer team, commenced play in November, 1912. Thor emerged out of Freja, which was a Chicago-Danish all-sport athletic organization. Evidently the soccer players sought athletic independence, and Thor was the result. The Danes played their games at 48<sup>th</sup> and Armitage, a couple of miles west of the Danish enclave of Humboldt Park. The side was a modest success, included a membership of thirty players, and proved a strong competitor in the early CSL.<sup>68</sup>

Thor produced several talented players, but the three native-born Karkow brothers were the most popular. Two of the brothers, Andrew and Waldemar, played for the University of Illinois' 1910-11 soccer teams and were prolific scorers for the Illini.<sup>69</sup> The youngest brother, Conrad, learned the game at Lane Tech and showed enough talent that he joined his older brothers on the Thor team while still a teenager.<sup>70</sup>

The Karkow trio exemplifies much of the Chicago Danish experience. Their father, Andrew Senior, was president of the Milwaukee Avenue Lumber Company. The

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<sup>66</sup> Philip Scott Friedman, "The Danish Community of Chicago, 1860-1920." (M.A. Thesis: Northwestern University, 1976) 1-9, 68-84.

<sup>67</sup> Nielsen, "Danish Americans," 123, 124.

<sup>68</sup> FLPS, reel 10, *Dansk Tidende*, August 3, 1912; August 17, 1912; November 16, 1912; November 30, 1912; November 15, 1915; *Revyen*, February 28, 1914.

<sup>69</sup> FLPS, reel 10, *Revyen*, November 5, 1910; the *Inter Ocean*, November 6, 1910, S, p. 2; the *Chicago Tribune* November 6, 1910, III, p. 2; November 13, 1910, p. 2; May 7, 1911, III, p. 3.

<sup>70</sup> FLPS, reel 10, *Dansk Tidende*, November 5, 1910; the *Chicago Tribune*, April 14, 1913, p. 10.

business was successful enough that he could finance his sons' educations. Likewise, the Karkow brothers were able to procure advanced degrees that segued into positions in civil engineering, law, and the military while honing their soccer skills with other Chicago Danes and students.<sup>71</sup> For the rest of the decade, the Karkows' names appeared in several Chicago lineups.<sup>72</sup> Their education and soccer ability indicates that the brothers were able to "Americanize" by improving their social status through education while remaining in touch with the Danish community through soccer.

Thor continued as a team until the fall of 1914, when the impact of the Great War reduced Danish immigration and dampened the supply of immigrating players.<sup>73</sup> A second reason Thor folded had to do with Chicago Danish upward mobility. As the Danes acculturated, they moved further away from the Humboldt Park community and membership in Danish organizations dropped.<sup>74</sup> Thor seems to have been affected by both. Fewer immigrants meant fewer players. Likewise, the dropped sponsorship reflects a shift in leisure. As the Danes moved further away from the ethnic club, they likely turned to those sporting activities that dominated Chicago rather than the industrial and ethnic soccer teams.

In 1917, the Danes once again formed a team but the military draft forced it to disband the following year.<sup>75</sup> In the next decade, a Danish American side would come

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<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, and Ancestry.Com, *World War One Draft Cards*, Andrew, Waldimier, and Conrad Karkow, Draft Board 64, roll 1613895.

<sup>72</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, November 27, 1914, p. 14; December 5, 1915, p.14; April 2, 1916, III, p. 4.

<sup>73</sup> Friedman. "Danish Community of Chicago," 67.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, 94-99.

<sup>75</sup> FLPS, reel 46, *Skandinaven*, September 17, 1917. *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1918-19*, 88.

and go, but the Chicago Danes were never able to sustain a team for long, unlike the other ethnic clubs that formed in this decade and have enjoyed remarkable longevity. Those Chicago Danish who wished to play soccer usually laced up with the Norwegians for the remainder of the decade.<sup>76</sup>

Chicago's Norwegian immigrants likewise contributed to the city's burgeoning foreign-born population and to the city's soccer leagues. By 1910, over 48,000 immigrant and second-generation Norwegians called Chicago home.<sup>77</sup> In 1912, the Norwegian's club Fram debuted in Chicago soccer.<sup>78</sup> Like the Danish, the Norwegians also centered their soccer activities in the west central part of Chicago, playing at 48<sup>th</sup> and Fullerton. Although the Norwegian aggregates remained in the lower league divisions and were often overshadowed by their more publicized sport, "Norge ski jumping," they nevertheless developed and maintained an enduring soccer presence in Chicago.<sup>79</sup>

In 1914, the Norwegians fielded two teams, Fram and the Norsemen (also known as Fram II), which competed in the North and South division of the CSL.<sup>80</sup> The clubs enjoyed moderate success, and by 1917, Fram captured the fourth division honors.<sup>81</sup> The following year, the draft forced the second team to fold but the Norwegians carried on

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<sup>76</sup> A comparison of line ups indicates many of the Thor players merged with Fram; see the *Chicago Tribune*, September 20, 1913, p. 10; November 27, 1914, p. 14.

<sup>77</sup> City of Chicago, *People of Chicago*, 27.

<sup>78</sup> FLPS, reel 10, *Dansk Tidende*, August 3, 1912; August 17, 1912; the *Chicago Tribune*, September 20, 1913, p. 10.

<sup>79</sup> Norwegian American Commission, *Fjord to Prairie*, b-18, c-11, d-6.

<sup>80</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 13, 1914, B, p. 3; September 20, 1914, B, p. 2; September 21, 1914, p. 10; September 1, 1916, II, p. 2.

<sup>81</sup> *Spaulding's Soccer Guide, 1918-19*, 88.

with one club, which they rechristened the Norwegian Americans in 1919.<sup>82</sup> This name change indicates that many of the players were natives of Chicago. This is further supported by the draft. Norway was neutral in the Great War. Yet half of the players were called up for the draft. These Norwegian players must have been native-born or at least naturalized.

Like most teams, the Norwegians experienced high and low points. They suffered from internal dissension, such as a team fight in 1917, and celebrated their better players, such as at the recognition dinner that honored Trygve Schou, their outstanding center striker.<sup>83</sup> But their organizers obviously found value in soccer, and the Norwegian community continued to sponsor the team. In the coming decades, their soccer descendant, the “Vikings” soccer club, would continue as a soccer presence in Chicago and in 1940 began a dynasty that held the Peel Cup for much of the decade.<sup>84</sup>

Chicago Swedish immigrants comprised the final and most formidable Scandinavian aggregate in Chicago soccer. The Swedes’ 116,740 immigrant and native-born residents swelled 1910 Chicago into the world’s second-most Swedish city and made them the sixth largest immigrant group in the metropolis.<sup>85</sup> The Swedes developed enclaves in the northern and southern sections of the city. They established communities, churches, and benevolent societies, labored in technical, metal, woodworking, and

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<sup>82</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 24, 1917, p. 12; May 25, 1919, II, p. 4.

<sup>83</sup> FLPS, reel 46, *Skandnavia*, August 20, 1917; November 12, 1917.

<sup>84</sup> Illinois Soccer Commission, *25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*, 9. Dave Litterer, *The American Soccer History Archives, Peel Cup Chicago*, <http://www.rovers.net/~spectrum/>.

<sup>85</sup> City of Chicago, *People of Chicago*, 27.

printing and entered assorted middle-class occupations.<sup>86</sup> Swedish athletic club records indicate several sporting societies that sponsored activities such as soccer, wrestling, gymnastics, track and field events, picnics, dancing and socials.<sup>87</sup>

As with Thor and Fram, the first Swedish soccer team, Sparta, took the field in 1912 and chartered the CSL the following year.<sup>88</sup> After two respectable seasons, Sparta incorporated with six other Swedish athletic clubs on July 17, 1914, to form the Swedish American Athletic Association (SAAA).<sup>89</sup> Now over ninety years in existence, the SAAA is Chicago's oldest continual soccer club.

Longevity aside, the SAAA emerged as the most formidable aggregate of the Scandinavian soccer clubs. Several examples indicate how the Swedes methodically developed a top side. Beginning with the 1913 match that featured two former Swedish Olympians, Swensson and Bergstrom, the Swedes held the perennial second division leader, the Western Electric team, to a scoreless tie.<sup>90</sup> Swensson and Bergstrom complemented several native players such as the three Olson brothers, who learned the game at Lane Technical High School and whose father, Clarence, donated the Olson Cup

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<sup>86</sup> Beijbom, *Swedes in Chicago*, 9-14, 160-197.

<sup>87</sup> Swedish American Athletic Association Inc., *40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Round up and Dance Program* (Swedish American Archives of Greater Chicago: North Park University) Swedish American Athletic Club Records 1914-1984, box 17, folders 1-7. FLPS, reel 60, *Svenska Kuriren*, September 13, 1914.

<sup>88</sup> FLPS, reel 10, *Dansk Tidende*, November 30, 1912.

<sup>89</sup> Swedish American Athletic Association Records, box 17, FLPS, reel 60, *Svenska Kuriren*, September 13, 1914; November 5, 1914.

<sup>90</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, May 12, 1913, p.10. A cross listing of the Swede's line up and the 1912 Swedish Olympic team suggests these two players were Swensson and Bergstrom. Unfortunately, these are only approximations and not exact spellings and the records do not include first names. Compare above line up with Recreational Sport Soccer Statistics Foundation, *V. Olympiad Stockholm 1912 Football Tournament*, <http://www.rsssf.com/tables/o11912f-det.html> .

courtesy of his Olson and Lebann Jewelers business.<sup>91</sup> By 1914, the SAAA team won the CSL, and the following year had enough interested players to field two sides that played their matches at Winnemac Park near the Swedes' colony on Chicago's North side.<sup>92</sup> The SAAA maintained two teams throughout the war and in 1916 advanced into the first division, where they remained throughout the decade.<sup>93</sup>

This brief recap demonstrates the intensity of Swedish involvement in Chicago soccer. The soccer club recruited experienced immigrants, developed local talent, donated a trophy to ensure league stability, and supported two teams during the war when many other sides disbanded. Additionally, the Swedes and the other Scandinavian teams located their pitches on the West or North sides of the city. This meant that as Chicago soccer grew, teams would need to travel beyond the South side of the city to play these Scandinavian aggregates. It likewise meant greater exposure of the game to the city's residents.

Chicago's German immigrants created the final Northern European team to organize in this decade. As with their Scandinavian counterparts, soccer arrived in Germany via British influences, developed in the northern coastal towns, and spread south. However, the Turnverein and other German gymnastic movements considered soccer un-military and at times banned the association game. But as in Sweden, association football proved too popular with the working class, and in 1900, the German

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<sup>91</sup> *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1914-15*, 117, *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1916-17*, 90, "photograph of Swedish American Football Club, Chicago, Illinois," identifies the three brothers as G., E., and C. Olson. The *Chicago Tribune*, January 3, 1914, p. 14; May 1, 1916, p. 18. FLPS, reel 10, *Revyen*, February 28, 1914.

<sup>92</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, October 24, 1914, III, p. 2; September 7, 1915, p. 15.

<sup>93</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, 1916-1919, passim.

Football Association organized.<sup>94</sup> This contentious gymnastic/soccer relationship migrated with Germans to Chicago, where the large number and strength of Chicago's Turnvereins stunted early German soccer development in the city.

In 1910, Chicago's German immigrant population was the city's largest ethnic group, with nearly one in four being a recent German immigrant or a U.S.-born German American.<sup>95</sup> German Chicagoans primarily recreated in the city's many Turnverein halls, which Chicago had more of than any other United States metropolis. Members were overwhelmingly middle-class, and prior to World War One enjoyed the country's "most favored nationality" title.<sup>96</sup> The advent of World War One and the United States' later entry had severe ramifications on Chicago's Germans. Turner halls saw their numbers plummet as German immigration dried up and patriotic fever questioned those with Turner memberships.<sup>97</sup> From this German sport vacuum emerged Victoria, Chicago's first German immigrant soccer team, which organized in 1916, and commenced formal league play the following year.<sup>98</sup>

The team's name, "Victoria," provides insight into the trials and tribulations that Chicago's Germans encountered in this period. By 1917, several German heritage landmarks and institutions changed their names to avoid being "unpatriotic." The

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<sup>94</sup> Allen Guttman, *From Ritual to Record: the Nature of Modern Sports, Updated with a new Afterword* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004), 87-89. Wagg, *Giving the Game Away*, 105-107.

<sup>95</sup> City of Chicago, *People of Chicago*, 27.

<sup>96</sup> Melvin G. Holli, "German American Ethnic and Cultural Identity from 1890 Onward," in Melvin G. Holli and Peter d'A. Jones, eds., *Ethnic Chicago: A Multicultural Portrait*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Erdman's Publishing Company, 1995), 102-103. Riess, *City Games*, 96-98.

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>98</sup> FLPS, reel 19, *Abendpost*, April 5, 1924; the *Chicago Tribune*, September 6, 1917, p. 10.

Bismarck Hotel became the Hotel Randolph, and the Germania Club rechristened itself the Lincoln Club.<sup>99</sup> Likewise, the German aggregate named their team “Victoria” in honor of Kaiser Wilhelm’s English grandmother, thereby aligning themselves with the innovators of the modern game and deflecting unwanted criticism of German nationalism. It was a humble start for an ethnic group that would ultimately become one of the most polished Chicago soccer contributors and organizers.

Two additional ethnic groups also contributed to Chicago soccer in this decade—the Hungarians and the Czechs or, as they were known prior to the breakup of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire and in the Chicago soccer leagues, the Magyars and the Bohemians.

In Europe’s Hapsburg Empire, the Magyars and the Bohemians populated the empire’s leading soccer regions. Both areas had adopted the association game—from the usual British influences—formed competitive leagues, hired English coaches, and established semi-professional play.<sup>100</sup> It is little wonder that the sons (and daughters) of these lands would field teams and even their own league in Chicago.

The 1910 census figures for these groups are incomplete, yet both prospered in Chicago.<sup>101</sup> Many Magyars found employment in the rail yards and steel mills and settled on the South Side near these factories.<sup>102</sup> Unsurprisingly, the first Magyar team originated in this area. Known as the Magyars, the team played at Dauphin Park, located

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<sup>99</sup> Holli, “German American Ethnic Identity,” 103-107.

<sup>100</sup> Duke, “Football in Eastern Europe,” 88-92.

<sup>101</sup> The “Bohemian” classification for the 1910 census was omitted without explanation. The authors suggest the census compilers included Bohemians in the Austrian and/or Hungarian category. See City of Chicago, *People of Chicago*, 27, 54.

<sup>102</sup> City of Chicago, *Historic City*, 75, 76.

in a Magyar enclave, and debuted in the CDAFL's fourth division in 1915.<sup>103</sup> In 1916, the Magyars fielded two teams and changed their name to the Hungarian Americans.<sup>104</sup> With Europe embroiled in the Great War, it seems that Chicago Magyars preferred the latter moniker as a means of dual identification, first as American and second as independent from the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

By 1918, Hungarian soccer was well on its way in Chicago. The *Magyar Tribune* proudly noted the success of their soccer teams, local players on the All-Chicago select team, charity matches, and an All-Hungarian soccer tournament against a Magyar team from Cleveland. When the decade concluded, Chicago's Hungarian community was able to field four teams in all divisions. Little wonder Dr. Peel lent his support to their soccer banquet, where he lauded their accomplishments in the city's soccer leagues and complimented their fine contributions to the game.<sup>105</sup>

Alongside the Magyars, the most influential immigrant group to alter Chicago's soccer landscape in this decade was the Bohemians. These immigrants brought a knowledgeable and creative game, passion, organization and numbers to Chicago soccer. In addition to using the game to build ethnic unity and identity, the Bohemians formed their own division and challenged the British by, amongst other tactics, hiring the city's best players to capture Chicago's top soccer awards.

The Bohemians embraced Chicago soccer in 1913 and never looked back. Their first team, the Bohemian Sports Club, fell to the Western Electric team 3-1, and the

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<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*, the *Chicago Tribune*, September 7, 1915 p. 15.

<sup>104</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, May 7, 1916, III, p. 1.

<sup>105</sup> FLPS, reel 29, *Magyar Tribune*, January 11, 1918; May 31, 1918, July 29, 1918; April 25, 1919; April 25, 1919.

following week the Slavia Sporting Club lost to the St. Georges 1-0.<sup>106</sup> With the debut of the CSL in the fall of 1913, a third Bohemian team, Slavia, entered the league. Over the next two years, Slavia organized a second team, known as the West Side Bohemians. A fourth team, Cechie, which emerged from a Sokol, likewise entered the league.<sup>107</sup> By the end of the decade, other Bohemian teams included: Atlas, Conroy Coats, Bohemian Americans, Olympia, Sellars, Union, Praha, Rangers, and the team that would become the flagship of Bohemian soccer, Sparta.<sup>108</sup>

A significant reason explaining why the Bohemians embraced the kicking code to such a competitive degree is found in the evolution of their benevolent societies. At first these organizations sponsored social activities such as cultural festivals, dancing, theater, gymnastics, and picnics. However, as the incoming immigration population leveled off, the benevolent societies increasingly sponsored sports that the younger generation wanted to play such as softball, bowling, and soccer.<sup>109</sup> Often soccer games and picnics were combined in “Bohemian Field Days” that featured all the Bohemian clubs competing for their ethnic championship.<sup>110</sup> These gatherings successfully kept Bohemian youth in touch with the community’s older residents and involved the entire Bohemian community in Chicago soccer.

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<sup>106</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 15, 1913, p. 12; September 22, 1913, p. 14.

<sup>107</sup> FLPS, reel 4, *Denni Hlasatel*, September 6, 1914; July 20, 1917; the *Chicago Tribune*, October 16, 1913, p. 23.

<sup>108</sup> Zdenek Nerada, *Sparta Chicago 80*, (Downers Grove, Illinois: Royal Graphics, 1996), 17-20.

<sup>109</sup> McCarthy, “Bohemians in Chicago,” 57-65.

<sup>110</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, May 8, 1916, p. 12.

An additional strength came from perceived identity. While a portion of the city's population considered Bohemians "other," Bohemian leaders challenged this interpretation through soccer, as shown through a protest that became heated with charges of mismanagement and racism.<sup>111</sup>

In the 1915 spring season, Slavia and Western Electric finished even as sectional leaders. This forced a tie-breaking match from which the winner would advance to the second division championship match to play the Swedish Americans for the Olson Cup. Western Electric won "one of the hardest fought [matches] of the season" 1-0.<sup>112</sup> Slavia, however, protested the game, claiming the Electrics employed three Hibernian players specifically for the match, which violated league rules. Conversely, Slavia likewise had had an opportunity to use talented guest players or "ringers," but declined to do so, as it would have violated the CSL's rules.<sup>113</sup> Slavia's management claimed the league did not want a Bohemian team playing for the championship and rigged the game so the Electrics and Swedes, whose rosters were dominated by British, American, and Swedish players, would win. As proof, a game bill poster announcing the Western Electric/Swedish American championship match, printed four days prior to the Western Electric/Slavia match, convinced the Bohemians that they were never intended to win. A motion by the Lincoln Park club to dismiss the charges and allow the Western Electric victory to stand carried the day, and Slavia lost its protest.<sup>114</sup> In a bitter letter to a Bohemian paper, the

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<sup>111</sup> McCarthy, "Bohemians in Chicago," 29, 116-129.

<sup>112</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, May 10, 1915, p. 13.

<sup>113</sup> FLPS, reel 4, *Denni Hlasatel*, June 20, 1915.

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*

Slavia management decried the league's decision. The author claimed the league robbed Slavia of the "honest fruits of our year's endeavor" because of "partisan management" and because Slavia was "Bohemian!"<sup>115</sup> Without a counter argument, it is difficult not to believe Slavia's interpretation of events. However, the letter went on to indicate Slavia would withdraw from the league. In fact, Slavia did not.

One positive outcome of the protest was a call for more Bohemian fans to attend matches, which they did in numerous and boisterous crowds. These Bohemian fans brought passion and violence to the city's soccer scene. In a Peel Cup match against Pullman, Slavia took a surprising one-goal lead. When Pullman equalized and then went ahead on a controversial goal, Slavia simply walked off the pitch claiming the referee was "biased," and refused to continue play. One month later in a Slavia/Corinthian match up, two players came to blows. In the ensuing fight, the Bohemian fans swarmed the field, and witnesses claimed that no less than five guns were drawn by the Slavia supporters. The Corinthian player, Jack Heath, was surrounded by his teammates, placed in an automobile, and sped away from the match. After the crowd quieted down, referee Gemmill simply resumed the match, which the Corinthians won 4-0. Although Slavia fans denied drawing guns, the following season further branded them as a quarrelsome lot. In a Slavia/Campbell Rovers match, Rover's Halfback Jimmy Watt was attacked by Slavia's halfback Prchal. When Watt retaliated, Slavia fans again swarmed the pitch, necessitating a call to the Chicago police, who forcefully restored order.<sup>116</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> Ibid.

<sup>116</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, April 3, 1916, p. 14; May 29, 1916, p. 11; June 5, 1916, p. 15; November 13, 1916, p. 15.

This violence and dissension within the league created animosity that resulted in several of the Bohemian teams competing exclusively in the fourth division, which briefly became known as the Bohemian Soccer League (BSL).<sup>117</sup> However, by isolating their teams, the Bohemian soccer community created a league cut off from the city's other competition and one of disparity. For example, without competing against the likes of the SAAA, Western Electric, or Pullman, the top Bohemian club, the Bohemian Rangers captured the BSL division title by scoring 100 goals while only conceding one.<sup>118</sup> Although playing in a league of their own meant less violence, it did not allow the Bohemians to challenge the stronger sides of the city. To do this, Bohemian organizers made the decision to hire players from outside the community who would compete on Bohemian teams.

The first Bohemian club to adopt this tactic did so in the 1917-18 season. The Bohemian-Americans signed a former Pullman scoring ace, Albert Shallcross. Several weeks later, he was joined by former members of the defunct Joliet club, Coal City natives Wilson, Herron, Tallman, Gomorra and Planeta.<sup>119</sup> These additions allowed the team to be competitive in the league's top division. Unfortunately, the draft reduced the team and it had to fold. Nonetheless, a pattern emerged. The Bohemian community discovered the wealth of soccer talent in Coal City, and the mining community discovered a paying sponsor. This would lead to a successful partnership, primarily with the Bohemian Olympia team, in the coming years.

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<sup>117</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, March 12, 1917, p. 11.

<sup>118</sup> *Spalding's Soccer Guide: 1917-18*, 82.

<sup>119</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 10, 1917, p. 14; October 8, 1915, p. 15; December 2, 1917, A, p. 4; March 25, 1918, p. 13.

This brief overview indicates that Scandinavian, German, Hungarian, and Czech ethnic teams developed club soccer for their ethnic communities but quickly became embroiled in the competitiveness of the sport across the city. As the next decade ensued, this pattern would be emulated by other ethnic clubs and would contribute to Chicago's soccer mosaic. These clubs likewise augmented immigrant talent with native players. While many of these teams developed upcoming players in the club, the most fertile area for native player development was in the city's parks and schools.

### Playground Soccer

As the previous chapter noted, several soccer teams, such as the Sherman Parks, Ogden Park Blues, and others, claimed part of the public park space to play association football. From 1910 to 1919, these numbers swelled as park directors adopted the kicking code as part of structured play. Likewise, educators and secondary school athletic directors supported soccer and increasingly promoted it in the high schools. Young players also had a say in the organization of park soccer, as they brought the culture of the street into the parks and made it part of their structured games. The result of this "playground movement" became another aspect of Chicago soccer that ultimately introduced many native players to the game and developed their talent.

Chicago Progressives saw the park systems as a way to structure play and promote citizenship in immigrant children. Organizers such as settlement house leader Jane Addams and Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) supporters Luther Gulick and Alonzo Stagg, both steeped in the theories of play and its benefits, successfully convinced business leaders, politicians, and academics to encourage their playground endeavors. These leaders persuasively argued that organized play would engender a

sound body and mind, as opposed to “scrub” or unorganized play which did not. To this end, Chicago’s South Parks became the nation’s largest laboratory working to keep youngsters off the streets, reduce juvenile delinquency, and “Americanize” young charges.<sup>120</sup> However, this was a give-and-take process since the juveniles brought their “street culture” into the parks and athletic clubs. In turn, some athletic institutions soon found themselves promoting gambling, political patronage, and strong-arm tactics such as controlling territory in the newspaper wars, as well as athleticism.<sup>121</sup>

Still, sports such as swimming, bowling, football, baseball, boxing and wrestling grew. Park organizers could point to these activities and show how formerly delinquent juveniles were now engaged in structured recreation. Conversely, gangs gained athletic sponsorship that brought trained athletes such as prize fighters into their ranks. These athletic gangs, or “social and athletic clubs” as they became known, fought for park space to make their home territory and often erected private facilities in the park that entitled them to “ownership” of the space.<sup>122</sup> For example, the stockyard’s gang “Ragan’s Colts” began as part of the Morgan [Park] Athletic Club. They became notorious for their intimidation of newspaper vendors and for their willingness to strong-arm store owners around Sherman Park. They also infamously contributed to the violence in the 1919 race riot.<sup>123</sup> Ethnic groups also jostled over these contested spaces. Polish football and

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<sup>120</sup> Benjamin G. Rader, *American Sports: From the Age of Folk Games to the Age of Televised Sports*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 2004), 107-109, 113-114. Elliott J. Gorn and Warren Goldstein, *A Brief History of American Sports* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1993), 169-177. Riess, *City Games*, 139-140.

<sup>121</sup> Gerald Gems, *Windy City Wars: Labor Leisure and Sport in the Making of Chicago* (Lanham, MD; Scarecrow Press, 1997), 102-114. Riess, *City Games*, 168.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

<sup>123</sup> Gems, *Windy City Wars*, 105-106. Riess, *City Games*, 95-96.

baseball teams from St. Stanislaus Kostka parish and the Kosciuszko Colts, as well as the Pilsen gymnastic Sokol, are examples of complete ethnic sides that banded together and competed against other teams for park space and gymnastic facilities.<sup>124</sup> Hence, the parks were often de-facto racial and ethnic lines of demarcation.

In this recreation mix, Chicago soccer is largely absent, but closer examination indicates the sport was alive and well, especially in the South Parks. Two of the more visible sponsors of park soccer were the ubiquitous Peter Peel and South Park's Gymnastic and Athletic Director, Edward B. DeGroot, a former Hull House resident who came to Chicago from New Jersey.<sup>125</sup> City soccer organizers described DeGroot as a most "enthusiastic soccerite." For his part, DeGroot proclaimed the "superiority of soccer over other forms of football" and wholeheartedly promoted it.<sup>126</sup>

While "superiority" is open to argument, DeGroot did erect a remarkable soccer program in the South Parks. The major component of this success was his insistence on the construction of soccer pitches, a project the other park commissioners did not pursue.<sup>127</sup> The results speak for themselves. Initial park competition began in 1910, with Sherman Park winning the honors.<sup>128</sup> In 1911, the teams expanded to include park sides from Fuller, Ogden, Hamilton, Bessmer, Russell Square, Sherman, and Palmer Parks that competed in a 110-lb weight division league. In 1912, two additional divisions were

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<sup>124</sup> Gems, *Windy City Wars*, 105-106, 111-112.

<sup>125</sup> Gems, 104.

<sup>126</sup> Birse, "Soccer Foot Ball in Chicago," *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1912*, 187.

<sup>127</sup> Birse, "Soccer Foot Ball in the Middle West," *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1914-15*, 115-117.

<sup>128</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, November 27, 1910, III, p. 3; November 24, 1910, p. 13; November 28, 1910, p. 13.

created for these parks, the 90-lb league, which one writer called the “smallest and greatest junior league in the Middle West” and a 125-lb league. Grandiose descriptions aside, the lightest league did field four teams that were uniformed and tactically knowledgeable. The heaviest 125-lb class organized “working boys” who ranged from fourteen to twenty years of age. This latter league produced the champion Palmer Park team, which, in addition to capturing the city’s top park honors, also played friendlies in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin.<sup>129</sup>

Peel likewise ensured that these young teams received plenty of exposure. He arranged for the junior teams to play their championships before the Peel Cup finals, making for a full day of soccer. Peel also encouraged skill demonstrations. Long before punt, pass, and kick competitions, Peel encouraged young soccer players to demonstrate their skills in kick, dribble, and run contests that measured distance, ball control, and speed.<sup>130</sup> He also provided medals and trophies, and that ensured the park teams participated in city-wide athletic events such as the 1914 and 1915 Sportsmen’s Club of America Athletic Carnival.<sup>131</sup> Following this tournament, Peel arranged for Mayor William Hale “Big Bill” Thompson to award the 105 soccer medals to the winners. Thompson agreed and lauded the park soccer league for “improving moral and physical conditions.”<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>129</sup> W.R. Cummings, “Soccer in Chicago’s Small Parks,” in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding’s Official “Soccer” Football Guide 1915-16* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1916), 79-80. The *Chicago Tribune*, January 31, 1914, p. 14; March 23, 1914, p. 10; March 26, 1914, p. 12; June 8, 1914, p. 10; September 27, 1914, b, p. 4; May 28, 1915, p.10; May 29, 1915, p.11; June 7, 1915, p.18.

<sup>130</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, June 8, 1914, p. 10.

<sup>131</sup> Cummings, “Small Parks,” *Spalding 1915-16*, 80.

<sup>132</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, April 9, 1914, p. 14.

Clearly DeGroot and Peel found a receptive audience for soccer in the South Parks with sponsors, organizers and players. Soccer in the parks likewise minimized rather than emphasized ethnic differences. This is best shown from in a recollection by Oney Fred Sweet, a short story writer, who served as a guest Park Director of Play for a day in Palmer Park in 1914. His account indicates the homogenizing effect of the kicking code.

Sweet noted that children of Dutch, English, Polish, Lithuanian, Italian, and Scottish parents lose “consciousness of their nationality and race and religion” while playing in the park’s grounds.<sup>133</sup> While his words could be easily written off as Progressive platitudes, insight about soccer emerges from Mr. Sweet’s comments about a soccer game that concluded his day. Sweet wrote that the Palmer children did not idolize “Ty Cobb or Buffalo Bill” but instead called for “soccer” and barraged Sweet with questions about “Ben Govier, [and the standings of] the Kensingtons, Roselands, Hyde Park, and Pullman.” Next, Sweet participated in a pickup soccer game that featured players from all the above-noted nationalities along with a healthy crowd of cheering parents. Tongue-in-cheek, Sweet recorded his inability to play, his repeated infractions of handling the ball, and lamented that neither side wanted him.<sup>134</sup>

Sweet’s snapshot of Palmer Park gives us a sample of 1914 soccer in the South Parks. The teams’ lineups do indeed indicate different nationalities. For example, the Van Deutchen brothers, A. Dixon, and a young Ben Govier, Junior, played for the early Palmer Parks. The three Bromley brothers along with Passarella and Klein played for Sherman Park, which evolved into the Campbell Rover Juniors. The Calumet Park team

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<sup>133</sup> Oney Fred Sweet, “Things Have Changed Since We Were Kids” the *Chicago Tribune*, November 1, 1914, C, p. 6.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid.

featured youngsters named Heisterberg, Elcholz, and Wright.<sup>135</sup> In short, Chicago's youth soccer brought nationalities together.

This homogenizing effect occurred because even at the juvenile level other sports overshadowed soccer. For example, baseball had many adherents fighting for limited park space for several teams. Conversely, soccer fields in the South parks could usually accommodate one or two soccer teams and not have to worry about hordes of other teams wanting the pitch. As a result, juvenile soccer teams could play together as a team of various nationalities that could come together under park team auspices.

As these players came of age, they graduated into the adult leagues. In 1914, the "young" Calumet team, composed of players that learned the game in the parks and around Pullman, debuted in the AFLC and opened their season by "trouncing" Pullman 4-1. The *Tribune* reported that the youngsters put their "youth and aggression" to good use.<sup>136</sup> By 1915, the Campbell Juniors reformed as the Corinthians, and the young team proved an able contender in each division in which it played.<sup>137</sup> The following year the Corinthians picked up four players from the defunct Scottish Americans and marched to the 1917 Peel Cup final where they lost to Harvey 1-0.<sup>138</sup> Later that year, the draft depleted their ranks, but playing in the Peel Cup final was an impressive soccer statement by the young club, many of whose players learned the game in Sherman Park.

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<sup>135</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 24, 1911, III, p. 2; December 30, 1912, p. 10; December, 22, 1913, p. 18; January 12, 1914, p. 10.

<sup>136</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 28, 1914, p. 12.

<sup>137</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 13, 1915, p. 10.

<sup>138</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, June 16, 1917, A, p. 4. Cummings, "Peel Cup," *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1917-18*, 80, 81.

The Palmer Parks likewise graduated into the adult ranks in 1916 and also saw much success. This team struck a fine playing balance by retaining a good many of their youth players who came of age together and knew each others' style of play. Their exceptional team work allowed the Palmer Park boys to collect many victories each season. Like the Corinthians, they also had a fine run in the 1917 Peel Cup, but lost in the semi-finals when many of their teammates such as the Van Deuchen boys and Dick Philpott were called to basic training.<sup>139</sup> Unlike many Chicago clubs that folded during the War, the Palmer Parks would re-organize after hostilities and become one of the top sides in the Midwest in the following decade.

Lack of funds and space caused the playground movement to falter around 1916.<sup>140</sup> However, sport in the public schools took the lead in organized play. Here too the growth of youth soccer is evident. The preceding chapter noted that Englewood and Oak Park began playing soccer as early as 1906. By 1911 they were joined by Lane Technical High School. In 1912, University High fielded a side. The high school teams competed for the "massive" Peel Shield—yet another trophy the good doctor donated—which was awarded to Cook County's best team.<sup>141</sup> The Shield is still conferred today to Chicago's champion high school soccer team, making it one of the oldest team sport trophies in the United States.

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<sup>139</sup> Cummings, "Peel Cup," *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1917-18*, 80, 81. *The Chicago Tribune*, May 7, 1917, p. 20.

<sup>140</sup> Gorn, *American Sports*, 177,

<sup>141</sup> *The Chicago Tribune*, February 25, 1912, III, p. 4; October 14, 1912, p. 23; October 20, 1912, III, p. 4; October 30, 1912, p. 10. *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1912-13*, 187.

The high school leagues continued to grow. In 1914, twelve teams divided into city and suburban leagues.<sup>142</sup> By the end of the decade, the teams expanded to eighteen, featured bantam, light-, and heavy-weight divisions, and played up to ninety-two games per season, as well as alumni games against other schools and all-star YMCA teams.<sup>143</sup> Not only white students played soccer. The high schools allowed for integrated soccer programs, as shown by Lane Tech's African American defender Marrell Webb and New Trier's defensive player "Kelly," an African American who also starred on the school's track team.<sup>144</sup> The *Tribune* gave high schools nearly as much print as the adult leagues including lineups, scores, and game reports.<sup>145</sup>

Naturally, many of these players also graduated into the adult leagues. Calumet High School's C. Dickson signed with the Calumets, and Oak Park halfback Veertuno laced up for the Mohawks.<sup>146</sup> The results of the parks and schools' soccer programs in graduating quality native players into the adult leagues was also demonstrated in two 1916-17 Red Cross charity matches. These "nationality" games featured sides of British, Bohemian, Scandinavian, and American players. In the 1916 match, the American side finished second, losing in the final to the British aggregate 2-1. The following year the

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<sup>142</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 22, 1914, p. 10; October 11, 1914, B, p. 2; October 15, 1914, p. 11.

<sup>143</sup> A. Patterson, "Soccer in Chicago Public Schools," in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding Official "Soccer" Football Guide 1917-18* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1918), 82,83. The *Chicago Tribune*, May 9, 1916, III, p. 3; September 30, 1916, p. 12; December 12, 1916, p. 15; December 13, 1916, III, p. 3.

<sup>144</sup> The *Chicago Defender*, June 24, 1916, p. 5. The *Chicago Tribune*, November 11, 1917, A, p. 2.

<sup>145</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, 1914-1919, passim.

<sup>146</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, April 5, 1915, p. 13; April 23, 1916, III, p. 3; March 6, 1916, p. 15.

American side won the tournament, defeating the British 2-0.<sup>147</sup> The games did indeed show what one Chicago soccer enthusiast called “striking proof that native players have come to the [soccer] front rapidly.”<sup>148</sup>

Although overshadowed by other sports, soccer in the parks and schools cultivated native talent and helped expand the game into the youth and adult ranks. Furthermore, because other sports attracted so many more athletes, park soccer did not detrimentally suffer from having to incorporate the street culture. For youth kickers, having enough players to form a league and a full side outweighed where someone was from.

This spirit of soccer cooperation also affected the leadership of the game. Coaches, managers, and organizers had to deal with ethnic diversity in order to field competitive teams and enable the sport to grow. Their success allowed Chicago’s soccer leaders an opportunity to contribute to the national and international organizational aspects of association football as many former Chicago kickers took up the reigns of U.S. soccer.

### Chicago Soccer on the National Stage

During the early decades of the 1900s, the United States and many other soccer-playing nations affiliated with the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA). This international soccer body formalized the game’s rules and regulations, forbade players from competing on two clubs simultaneously, enforced suspensions, and conducted tournaments. The first FIFA congress met in Paris, France, on May 21, 1904.

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<sup>147</sup> *Spalding Soccer Guide 1918-19*, 88. *The Chicago Tribune*, June 16, 1916, p. 18; June 19, 1916, p. 16; November 4, 1917, A, p. 2; November 5, 1917, p. 15; December 16, 1917, A, p. 4; December 17, 1917, p. 21.

<sup>148</sup> *Spalding Soccer Guide 1918-19*, 88.

Seven nations comprised the initial membership, and others were quick to join. The United States Football Association (USFA) became the nineteenth member in 1913.<sup>149</sup> This was by no means a smooth entrance, as there was a contentious political fight between two East Coast leagues, the American Football Association and the American Amateur Football Association, as to which would oversee U.S. soccer. The Association Football League of Chicago agreed with the national vision of the latter organization and pledged the support and influence of Chicago and Illinois soccer. The resulting body became the USFA and helped to legitimize the organization as the nation's ruling soccer voice.

The AFLC organizers who pushed for USFA alignment were British immigrants who had previously played for the Campbell Rovers, Wanderers, and Hyde Park Blues.<sup>150</sup> They were middle-class, blue- and white-collar workers who shared a vision for the game and were willing to surrender steady employment in Chicago for part-time work for the USFA and the opportunity to shape U.S. soccer. For example, the 1913, AFLC President George Kirk worked as a heating engineer; Vice President William Cameron managed the Wold Torris Company, which produced machining tools; Treasurer Archibald Birse labored as a tailor; and Bruce Porteous, head of the Peel Cup Commission, was a cashier at the Morris Meat Packing company.<sup>151</sup> They were joined by Dr. Peter Peel, who held several soccer positions in addition to practicing medicine.

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<sup>149</sup> Allaway, et al., *American Soccer History*, 98. *The Chicago Tribune*, June 2, 1913, p. 14.

<sup>150</sup> Evans, "Soccer in Chicago," *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1910*, 70. Birse, "Soccer in Chicago," *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1912-13*, 186-188, 192.

<sup>151</sup> Birse, "Soccer in Chicago," *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1912-13*, 185.

The USFA proved equally receptive to Chicago soccer by electing several Chicagoans to key positions in the organization. The first to hold office was Archibald Birse, who the USFA described as the “live wire” that kept soccer energized in Chicago and aided in the formation of the USFA. He served four terms as treasurer from 1913 to 1917.<sup>152</sup> Unsurprisingly, Peter Peel was also a powerful Chicago voice on national soccer matters. In 1915, USFA delegates named him one of the organization’s three vice presidents. In 1917, Peel became the USFA’s first “Westerner” president, and he governed the national soccer body through the turmoil of World War One. Peel was re-elected the following year and would serve as the USFA President again in the next decade.<sup>153</sup>

Throughout the decade, their various USFA positions required these men to travel several times a year for organizational meetings, important matches, and other USFA business. Consequently, what they lost in regular wages they were able to recapture modestly by turning their soccer passions into part-time employment with the USFA. Furthermore, their soccer input brought Chicago soccer into the national limelight and helped to draw the nation’s soccer communities together.

Aligning Chicago soccer with the USFA meant surrendering aspects of governing autonomy. Nonetheless Chicago teams and organizers were quick to foster this relationship and involve the USFA in Chicago soccer differences. For example, when the Gary, Indiana, team canceled a match with the Campbell Rovers, the AFLC cited a USFA rule that the governing body and opposing team be contacted in cancellations.

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<sup>152</sup> *Spalding’s Soccer Guide 1913-14*, 6. *The Chicago Tribune*, June 7, 1915, p. 18.

<sup>153</sup> *The Chicago Tribune*, June 7, 1915, p. 18; May 29, 1917, p. 16; May 30, 1917, p. 10; June 17, 1918, p. 10.

Because the Gary club only contacted the Rovers and not the AFLC as well, they were fined \$25.00. Individual players also sought rulings from the USFA. John McPherson of the Hibernians appealed to the national body to overturn a suspension on the grounds that he never received a hearing from the local league. The USFA heard his grievance but did not rescind the suspension.<sup>154</sup> The USFA also weighed in on player registration, game dates, and the formation of a national team.

Naturally, politics also came into play. A more enduring interpretation of the regulations was a ruling on the venue of a Pullman/McDuffs Peel Cup quarterfinal match. Evidently, the McDuffs won the home field draw and elected to play the game at their pitch. However, the Peel Cup Commission cited a FIFA—and consequently a USFA rule—that allowed the ruling body the right to select the grounds for the semi-final and final rounds. Believing that a larger paying crowd would attend the match at Pullman, the Peel Cup Commission named the Car Builder's pitch as the venue.

This decision raised several issues with the McDuffs. First, the McDuffs had already scheduled a Scottish Old Folk's benefit match with the Campbell Rovers for the John Williams Charity Trophy the day before the Peel Cup match. McDuffs' President Robert Black argued that playing two across-town matches in two days would put his team at a disadvantage. He at first refused to recognize the Commission's ruling, but later acquiesced to it. The Pullman club declared it did not receive the McDuffs' change of plan to play the match and did not show up for the game. Because of this oversight, the Pullman team claimed the match, and the McDuffs protested. The Peel Cup Commission and the USFA sided with Pullman and awarded the game to the Car

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<sup>154</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, February 1, 1914, B, p. 3.

Builders.<sup>155</sup> Ironically, the non-match did not produce any revenue, but the decision did demonstrate the authority of international, national, and league oversight and would be used to move future matches to those venues that offered the largest payday or charitable contribution. Chicago's Peter Peel was one of the USFA members who agreed with this decision and would use the USFA to resolve additional soccer disputes in the upcoming years.

For all of Peel's laudable hard work to further United States and Chicago soccer, the old Wanderer was never afraid to use his USFA positions as a bully pulpit to right perceived wrongs. Following his 1915 election as a USFA vice president, Peel embroiled himself in several public arguments. The most significant fight occurred against the Hyde Park Blues who, for unknown reasons, opted out of Peel Cup competition. On the day of the Cup's preliminary rounds, the Blues took advantage of their "bye" and played a friendly against a Milwaukee team, defeating the Wisconsin club 5-2. Because the Milwaukee/Blues match was not "sanctioned" by the Chicago District, the Blues were fined \$50.00. The Blue's manger J.H. Evans refused to pay the fine and, further, refused to meet the Campbell Rovers in a National Cup qualifying match the following Sunday, claiming that the CDAFL had no right to set a date, and arguing instead that the Blues and Rovers would set the date. The USFA weighed in and ordered the Blues to play on the assigned date or forfeit. The Blues agreed to play under "protest," but before the game could be arranged, Peel insisted the Blues pay the \$50.00 fine from the Milwaukee infraction or forfeit. The Blues refused to pay and petitioned the USFA to settle the

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<sup>155</sup> Birse, "Soccer Foot Ball in the Middle West," *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1914-15*, 115-117. The *Chicago Tribune*, May 28, 1914, p. 14; May 29, 1914, p. 16; May 31, 1914,B, p. 4; June 1, 1914, p. 14.

dispute. Thomas Cahill, the USFA secretary, ruled in favor of the Blues, but did not address the matter of the \$50.00 fine. The following week Hyde Park defeated the Rovers 2-1, advanced to the semifinals, and remained \$50.00 wealthier.<sup>156</sup>

Peel again brought the matter up at the USFA's December 1915 meeting. Although the USFA's report is vaguely worded, the national body exonerated the Blues from having to pay the fine. However, the USFA also ruled that the Blues had to conform to the CDAFL's future rulings regarding jurisdiction over the matches and right to set game dates. For their part the Blues insisted that the whole matter was "greatly magnified," and all were content to let the USFA ruling stand.<sup>157</sup>

While seemingly mollified, Peel and the Blue's management again butted heads early the following year. J.H. Evans, the Hyde Park manager/player, was also a USFA representative. Peel argued that only managers and not players were allowed to be USFA representatives and called for Evan's name and votes to be stricken from the record. As a further complication, Archibald Birse, the USFA treasurer, who was also treasurer for the Peel Cup Commission, "criticized" Peel for his attack on Evans and the Blues organization. In return, Peel suspended Birse from his Peel Cup position. The USFA took up both matters. In the former Peel lost and Evans retained his representative position. Peel also lost in firing Birse. The USFA ruled that because the Peel Cup Commission had no rules of procedure, Birse must be reinstated. Furthermore, Birse and

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<sup>156</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, October 11, 1914, p. 14; October 15, 1914, p. 10; October 16, 1915, p. 10; October 18, 1915, p. 10; October 20, 1915, p. 10; October 22, 1915, p. 10; October 24, 1915, III, p. 2; October 25, 1915, p. 10; November 1, 1915, p. 12; November 8, 1915, p. 14; November 25, 1915, p. 19.

<sup>157</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, December 13, 1915, p. 15; December 28, 1915, p. 8.

Peel were ordered to “shake hands and leave for home together to work harmoniously for Chicago soccer.”<sup>158</sup>

While all parties seemed appeased, no one was content. The Hyde Park Blues believed Peel unfairly attacked the organization and withdrew from the first division and formed the ill-fated professional division. Birse likewise was no longer on the Peel Cup Commission the following year; the “live wire” shorted out, and he no longer worked for Chicago soccer. So while Peel lost these points at the meeting, by 1917, Birse had retired from the game and the Blues ceased to exist as a team.

Peel also attacked USFA Secretary Thomas Cahill who, Peel argued, gave Chicago “persistent opposition.” As an example, Peel cited the 1916 U.S. national team trip to Sweden. Peel argued that not one “Westerner” had been selected for the team. After much debate, the USFA agreed to make room for Sheldon Govier, who unfortunately could not afford to go. Matt Didrichson from St. Louis took Govier’s place but Peel still argued it was a token gesture. As a native of St. Louis, Cahill’s support for more “westerners” on the national team would seem likely. In fact, he and Peel should have been allies on the matter, but their personalities clashed. USFA President John Fernley took it upon himself to visit Chicago, hold meetings with the CDAFL, and bring “harmony” to the region. His trip appeared beneficial since “matters” seemed to clear up. However, it was merely a band-aid, as Peel and Cahill would be in many political and sometimes physical confrontations in the upcoming years.<sup>159</sup> Clearly, Peel had a vision to ensure the profitability of the Peel Cup, gain recognition for top Chicago players, and

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<sup>158</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, February 14, 1916, p. 10.

<sup>159</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, August 14, 1916, p. 10.

unify the rules of the game. These caused contentious political fights. When Peel and other delegates could not reach a compromise, the good doctor did not hesitate to attack the opposition.

Personal differences and politics aside, Chicago's joining of the USFA strengthened the league in several ways. Team managers and owners were no longer able to sign players to "jump" teams without punishment, and any player who changed teams during the season faced suspension. Approved rosters and lineups for tournaments and league play were now required before matches, and FIFA game rules now governed the local game.<sup>160</sup> Thus, by aligning Chicago soccer with FIFA and the USFA, the city's league moved toward a recognizable soccer body that would contribute and at times lead U.S. soccer. The CDAFL's most significant leadership occurred during the Great War.

### Military Soccer

World War One introduced organized sport to those in uniform. Secretary of War Newton D. Baker recognized athleticism as a way to combat the drinking and prostitution that had accompanied the U.S. Army pursuit of Pancho Villa in 1916.<sup>161</sup> General John Pershing wholeheartedly agreed and called upon the YMCA to manage Army cantonments.<sup>162</sup> Consequently, the U.S. military implemented fitness programs that stressed boxing and ball play, including soccer. On the local level, Chicago soccer

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<sup>160</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, March 16, 1916, p. 11; June 5, 1916, p. 15; October 26, 1916, p. 12.

<sup>161</sup> Gorn, *American Sport*, 177-179.

<sup>162</sup> Rader, *American Sports*, 133.

contributed to the war effort by playing charity matches, supplying soldiers from the many soccer teams, and donating equipment and expertise to promote wartime soccer.

The advent of the Great War affected Chicago soccer as early as 1914, when European armies began marching to their death. Chicago's British kickers David McKenzie, Arthur Fluke, and Robert Duncan, all former Hyde Park and McDuff players, joined the Canadian armed forces and sadly met their end on Europe's battlefields.<sup>163</sup> Others, who also joined the Canadian forces, did so with a spirit of national and athletic camaraderie, such as Edward Liquorish and Jack Cartwright of the Lincoln Park and Pullman clubs, who signed up together. Tragically, they also lost their lives in battle within a week of each other.<sup>164</sup> Robin Frazier, the McDuff goalkeeper, joined the British Army in 1914 while vacationing back in Scotland. However, it must have been a deferred enlistment since the McDuffs' roster indicates that he returned to Chicago to mind the team's nets until January, 1915.<sup>165</sup> Frazier's commitment to the team was by no means unique. Several other players often returned to the lineup whenever possible during their military service. For example, before they met their deaths in battle, Edward Liquorish and Mike McCarthy played several games with their old team, Lincoln Park, while on furlough.<sup>166</sup> Corporal B. Edwards of the Corinthians volunteered for the Second Illinois Infantry, yet he rode the train from Springfield back to Chicago to lace up with the team on the weekends. Likewise, Sergeant Joe Cunat and John Krahulee, stationed at

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<sup>163</sup> Kramer, "Illinois," *Spalding's Soccer, 1918-19*, 117-119. *The Chicago Tribune*, November 3, 1918, A, p. 5; December 29, 1918, A, p. 5.

<sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*, and the *Chicago Tribune*, October 20, 1918, A, p. 4.

<sup>165</sup> *The Chicago Tribune*, September 13, 1914, B, p. 3; November 16, 1913, p. 16; November 30, 1916, p. 14.

<sup>166</sup> *The Chicago Tribune*, October 29, 1917, p. 15.

Camp Grant in Rockford, Illinois, returned to Chicago on Sundays to help the Rangers in league play.<sup>167</sup>

British military recruiters recognized the significant British makeup of the Chicago soccer leagues. They turned out in force, trumpeting nationalist propaganda in an effort to lure players into the ranks of the British war machine. For example, the 1914 English-Welsh/Scots-Irish charity match for the British Soldiers' Widows and Orphans' Fund featured halftime speakers John Crerar, President of the British Empire Association; William Dillon, President of the Irish Fellowship Club; and Thomas Marshal of the St. George Society. The three spoke to the rowdy crowd of 4,000 as well as the players following the game, urging players and spectators to enlist.<sup>168</sup> Likewise, the 1916 visit from the Sportsman Club of Toronto for the Canadian Red Cross featured track and field events, lacrosse, and soccer. Over 5,000 spectators paid between .50-\$2.00 per ticket to watch the games, including All-Chicago's 3-1 victory over the Toronto side.<sup>169</sup> Here too, recruiters hawked the virtues of military service.

Chicago's Bohemian soccer community also contributed to the war effort. The Bohemians mostly supported the Allies since an Allied victory might mean independence from the Hapsburgs. Influential speakers such as Charles Pergler delivered a persuasive speech to the city's Bohemian community and eventually to Congress. He outlined why the Bohemians were not friends of the Germans and why the Bohemians were for America and against Austria. He offered a resolution of protest against an un-named

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<sup>167</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 25, 1916, II, p. 12; April 8, 1918, p. 13.

<sup>168</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, November 23, 1914, p. 16.

<sup>169</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, July 19, 1916, p. 13; July 22, 1916, p. 10; July 23, 1916, III, p. 4.

author's 'Appeal to the American People', which called for neutrality. Last, Pergler addressed the favorable attitude the allied soldiers had for the Bohemian fighters and implored Bohemian Americans to join the war.<sup>170</sup> Bohemian organizers used soccer as a partial response to Pergler's entreaties. Charity games provided money for such causes as the Bohemian Red Cross and the Tobacco and Nationality fund. When the United States entered the war, several Bohemian soccer teams enlisted as entire squads; "every member [of Cechie and Praha] offered his service." Players from Slavia and Olympia likewise joined in large numbers.<sup>171</sup>

The United States' war entry and subsequent draft also had a significant effect on the overall number of American players. Entire teams, such as Calumet Park, Palmer Park, Washington Park, Bricklayers II, Atlas, Fram, and the Danish Americans completely disbanded due to military call-ups. The Illinois State Football Association (ISFA) reported that close to three hundred players served with the allied forces while "thirteen made the supreme sacrifice in the great struggle for freedom and liberty."<sup>172</sup>

Chicago's soccer teams often held farewell matches and invited the local soccer community to take part in the sendoff. The Harvey team did just this in 1917, when they hosted a farewell reception for Jim McConnell and William Clark following their game against the Bohemian-Americans. The teams often included going-away gifts in these bittersweet matches. Following a league match, the Fram team sent soccer balls along

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<sup>170</sup> Charles Pergler, *The Bohemians (Czechs) in the Present Crisis* (Chicago: Bohemian National Alliance of America, 1916), 2-23.

<sup>171</sup> FLPS, reel 4, *Denni Hlasatel*, September 6, 1914; April 16, 1917; July 11, 1918. The *Chicago Tribune*, April 29, 1917, A, p. 3.

<sup>172</sup> H. Kramer, "Illinois State Football Association," in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding's Official "Soccer" Football Guide 1919-20* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1920), 117-118. The *Chicago Tribune*, March 2, 1918, A, p. 3; May 6, 1918, p. 12,

with five of its players so they could continue to play at Camp Grant in Rockford. The Palmer Parks presented striker Scotty Haxton with a wrist watch at his final game before he shipped out with a Canadian regiment.<sup>173</sup>

Additionally, team managers and league officials also joined the war effort. The Bricklayer's soccer president Sam Hepburn enlisted with the American contingent in Ontario, Canada, in 1916. Ernest Knowles, the ISFA League Secretary and a carpenter at the *Tribune*, volunteered in the Quartermaster's Department. And ISFA President Harry H. Fettes "donned the khaki" and reported for duty at Camp Jackson, South Carolina.<sup>174</sup> Following the cessation of hostilities, Englewood High School coach Archibald Patterson joined the YMCA's Education Department in France, "where he did much for soccer" while promoting the benefits of physical health in aiding the nation's recovery.<sup>175</sup>

USFA President Peter Peel also threw United States and Chicago soccer into the war effort. In 1917, he launched the "teach the Kaiser how to play football campaign."<sup>176</sup> This movement encouraged a number of charity games and contests to support the troops. Peel was equally quick to demonstrate U.S. soccer's patriotism by stressing that "care would be taken that players who ought to enlist were not kept from the colors."<sup>177</sup> Peel organized several matches between the Bethlehem Steel team and Canadian clubs for the

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<sup>173</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 17, 1917, p. 12; November 12, 1917, p. 13.

<sup>174</sup> Kramer, "Illinois," *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1918-1919*, 88. The *Chicago Tribune*, May 8, 1916, p. 12; August 25, 1917, p. 9.

<sup>175</sup> Kramer, "Illinois," *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1919-20*, 118. The *Chicago Tribune*, January 19, 1919, A, p. 5.

<sup>176</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, December 16, 1917, A, p. 1. Robinson, *Soccer in Saint Louis*, 121.

<sup>177</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, May 29, 1917, p. 16.

benefit of the Canadian and U.S. Red Cross.<sup>178</sup> Peel also made arrangements for an all-star Belgium team to tour the United States and Canada in 1918. The USFA arranged a multi-city schedule and conducted local tryouts, but the end of the war terminated the tour.<sup>179</sup>

In Chicago, soccer organizations committed the CDAFL into the war effort. The league voted to donate ten percent of gate receipts to the American Red Cross, and the ISFA developed a fund that supplied soccer equipment to soldiers and sailors.<sup>180</sup> Red Cross charity soccer games drew teams of diverse nationalities such as the earlier noted 1916 and 1917 all-star American and all-star British matches.<sup>181</sup> The Corinthians played the Bohemian all-stars for the Bohemian Red Cross Fund, and in April 1917, a farewell match for an entire team of Bohemian players gave the gate to the Bohemian Red Cross.<sup>182</sup> Other wartime charitable organizations also benefited from Chicago soccer. The Harvey team played a “picked side” for the Patriotic Moose Fund, which provided financial support to families of enlisted members. Two weeks later, Harvey again played a friendly against Windsor Park for the American Red Cross and Orphans Fund. A nationalities match benefited Chicago’s poor children’s Christmas fund and purchased

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<sup>178</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, May 29, 1917, p. 16; September 27, 1917, p. 19; November 18, 1918, p. 13; December 1, 1918, A, p. 5.

<sup>179</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, May 30, 1918, p. 10; June 17, 1917, p. 11; July 18, 1918, p. 8; October 16, 1917, p. 11; October 24, 1918, p. 11.

<sup>180</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 2, 1917, A, p. 4; September 7, 1917, p. 17; September 9, 1917, A, p. 4; November 4, 1917, A, p. 2; November 14, 1917, p. 13.

<sup>181</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, June 16, 1916, p. 18,

<sup>182</sup> FLPS, reel 4, *Denni Hlasatel*, April 16, 1917. The *Chicago Tribune*, June 12, 1916, p. 14; April 29, 1917, A, p. 3.

soccer equipment for soldiers and sailors.<sup>183</sup> Clearly, the Chicago soccer community contributed to the war effort at home. However, Chicagoans also took their brand of soccer overseas.

Naturally, the war brought soldiers together from diverse regions of the nation. It also allowed soccer players to demonstrate points of their local kicking code to their fellow enlistees. Tom Smyth of the Hibernians is an interesting case. Smyth was Ireland's lightweight champion and came to the United States to fight the noted boxer Pete Maher in 1900. Although Smyth never met Maher, he made a home in Chicago and for many years played soccer in addition to coaching pugilism. When World War One ensued he joined the Canadian armed forces at age fifty, rose to the rank of sergeant in the engineer's battalion, and shipped out shortly after. In May 1918, he wrote from South Africa and explained how he had organized cricket and soccer matches with a local eleven. Five months later, he wrote that he was eighty miles from Baghdad and had also organized soccer games. Unfortunately for Smyth, the day after the Baghdad games, he was severely crippled by a shell. Equally tragic, his mind suffered damage from the injury, and several years after his return to Chicago, he murdered Mrs. J.I. Ennis, a philanthropist widow who aided war veterans in finding work.<sup>184</sup>

A more lighthearted instance of Chicago soccer going abroad during the war can be seen in an account penned by Private T.C. Nolan, a former member of the Corinthians, who wrote from Siberia about how his unit had joined up with some Czech soldiers.

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<sup>183</sup> Kramer, "Illinois," *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1918-1919*, 88. The *Chicago Tribune*, June 8, 1917, p. 10; June 18, 1917, p. 12; November 4, 1917, A, p. 2; November 5, 1917, p. 15; November 14, 1917, p. 13; December 16, 1917, A, p. 4; December 17, 1917, p. 21.

<sup>184</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, September 21, 1917, p. 14; May 3, 1918, A, p. 4; December 3, 1918, p. 21; June 17, 1921, p. 1.

Nolan recounted that he brought out his soccer ball and organized an “Uncle Sam” team, which defeated the Czechs, 3-2. Nolan added that he scored the first and winning goals.<sup>185</sup> Similarly, another Canadian Engineers enlistee, Archie Scott, the former Hyde Park Blue standout, wrote from Wales where he was stationed following the armistice. Scott reported that his “duties have been running the camp football team.” He elaborated on his team’s impressive record and noted that the majority of the players were from the United States.<sup>186</sup>

Certainly most overseas soccer experiences for Chicago players primarily centered on camp or local friendlies, as shown above. However, in the summer of 1919, the American Expeditionary Forces held their Championship Games, which segued into the Inter-Allied Games or Military Olympics. Despite the war’s devastation, an estimated crowd of half a million people converged in Joinville, France, to watch sporting events that featured such contests as track and field, rowing, hand grenade tossing, and soccer.<sup>187</sup> Chicago natives John Cunat and Robert Gardner played for the Le Mans Embarkation team that defeated the Army of Occupation team 3-1 in the championship.<sup>188</sup> Cunat also played for the American team in the Inter-Allied games, which Czechoslovakia won, thus claiming the new nation’s first soccer championship.<sup>189</sup>

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<sup>185</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, December 9, 1918, p. 19.

<sup>186</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, December 23, 1918, p. 18.

<sup>187</sup> Gorn, *American Sports*, 179.

<sup>188</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, May 19, 1919, p. 18.

<sup>189</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, June 27, 1919, p. 17. *Spalding’s Official Soccer Guide, 1919-20*, 17. Litterer, *American Soccer History Archives, Inter-Allied War Games*; <http://www.sover.net/~spectrum/>.

World War One also allowed out-of-town players stationed at the Great Lakes Navel Reserve to experience the Chicago Leagues. Three St. Louis players, T. Mulrooney, J. Fitzgibbons, and John Marre, who all played for the famous Ben Miller team, suited up for several matches with the Bricklayers while stationed in Chicago.<sup>190</sup> Making contact with Chicago soccer teams encouraged these sailors or “Jackies” to round up other Mound City boys and other former players into a Great Lakes team. The Jackies played a friendly against a Chicago all-star team, and won 1-0. Game reports noted how the match “delighted” and introduced soccer to thousands of sailors and soldiers who turned out to watch the game in nearby Ravine Park. The reports also chalked the victory up to the Great Lake’s team “superior conditioning” and fine combination of play, showing that the YMCA’s fitness efforts were not going to waste.<sup>191</sup>

The Jackies’ success inspired Peel to convince the Great Lakes Commander, H. Kaufmann, to showcase the Navy team. Kaufmann agreed and in November and December, 1918, officials hosting Chicago’s week-long livestock show provided space for an indoor tournament. The husbandry organizers and carpenters laid out an indoor soccer pitch and hung lights for the nightly attractions at the Dexter Park pavilion. The Great Lakes team played several Chicago clubs and compiled a remarkable record considering they faced a new opponent each night. The Jackies demonstrated exciting and skilled soccer that proved exceedingly popular and drew between 6,000 and 7,000 spectators. They defeated all-Chicago twice, drew once, and also notched victories

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<sup>190</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, October 1, 1917, p. 18; June 3, 1918, p. 12.

<sup>191</sup> H. Kramer, “Great Lakes N.T.S. vs All-Illinois State F.A.” in Thomas Cahill, ed., *Spalding’s Official Football Guide, 1918-1919* (New York: American Sports Publishing Company, 1919), 88-89. The *Chicago Tribune*, August 13, 1918, A, p. 1.

against the Bricklayers, American Hungarians, and Lincoln Park, before finally being defeated by the Scottish Americans.<sup>192</sup> The games were yet one more boost the association game received during and immediately after the war.

Over 300 Chicago players, league officials, managers and coaches took part in the war effort.<sup>193</sup> Entire teams disbanded, yet soccer managed to proliferate. This brief overview shows that local players gained national and international experience playing soccer in the camps and in foreign countries. Recruits stationed at Great Lakes and in Rockford watched and played for local elevens. Also, Peel ensured that the USFA and ISFA kept soccer in the public's eye by playing charity matches, donating soccer equipment and contributing soldiers, sailors, and money to the war effort. At the War's conclusion one Chicago soccer enthusiast penned his optimism when he wrote, "with the return of the boys from overseas, this coming season should surpass all previous records."<sup>194</sup> By all indicators, he had many reasons to be optimistic.

### Conclusion

With the War's conclusion, Chicago's soccer enthusiasts looked forward to a reunion season and a higher quality of play. Unfortunately, the fall games were "handicapped by the influenza epidemic." Chicago's Board of Health forbade games

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<sup>192</sup> The *Chicago Tribune*, November 27, 1918, p. 14; November 29, 1918, p. 17; November 30, 1918, p. 17; December 1, 1918, A, p. 5; December 3, 1918, p. 21; December 4, 1918, p. 15; December 5, 1918, p. 11; December 6, 1918, p. 19; December 7, 1918, p. 13; December 8, 1918, A, p. 5.

<sup>193</sup> Kramer, "Illinois," *Spalding's Soccer Guide, 1919-1920*, 117.

<sup>194</sup> Ibid.

where large crowds gathered, and the ISFA suspended play for six weeks.<sup>195</sup> Still, the league completed an abbreviated season that saw the Scottish-Americans capture the Jackson and Peel Cups. The USFA leadership attended this latter match during their annual meeting, which for the first time was held in Chicago.<sup>196</sup> It was a fitting acknowledgment of Peel and Chicago soccer since the city had contributed so much to the game in the past decade. Indeed, Chicago's soccer organizers could look back on a fine record of the teams sponsored by industry, the crafts, ethnic clubs, parks, and schools.

As industrial soccer teams, Pullman, Joliet, and the Bricklayers had all represented the city in showcasing the city's talent in national cup play and compiling a successful record. Players on these teams had earned a modest income, competed in first-class facilities, and enjoyed the prestige of playing for quality teams.

The decade likewise brought a proliferation of ethnic sides. Although these teams were primarily relegated to the parks, they too attracted large and enthusiastic supporters. Although the Bohemians (now Czechs), Magyars (now Hungarians), Swedes, and Norwegians were usually underdogs against the industrial sides, this was changing. Furthermore, increased immigration brought knowledgeable players who, with their sons, would ensure a bright future for Chicago's ethnic aggregates.

The proliferation of native-born soccer players also marked a turning point in Chicago soccer. These youngsters, who learned the game in the South Parks, ethnic junior teams, and high schools, were already coming of age and ready to join the city's

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<sup>195</sup> Kramer, "Illinois," *Spalding's Soccer Guide 1919-1920*, 118. The *Chicago Tribune*, October 19, 1918, p. 9.

<sup>196</sup> *Ibid.*, the *Chicago Tribune*, May 17, 1919, p. 14; May 18, 1918, A, p. 4.

adult ranks during the decade. Additionally, these players now served to inspire future American-born players who could see older brothers and friends graduate into the city's upper divisions.

Chicago's organizers and league officials likewise stepped onto the national stage. No longer was the city's soccer circuit limited to Chicago and only playing a couple of friendlies a season against regional competitors. Now teams competed in national tournaments, looked to supply players for a national side, and sent league officials to direct national soccer policy.

Taken together these factors certainly did point to a bright future. Indeed, Chicago's polished soccer players, teams, and organizers would shine brightly in the next decade as the nation and the city embraced the "Golden Age of Sport."