

The Centre for the Study of Sport and Spirituality

# Inaugural 3-day International Conference

## August/September 2007

The establishment of a Centre for the Study of Sport and Spirituality within the School of Sports Science & Psychology at York St John College, England, is a new and exciting development to provide a forum for academic study and debate. The Centre is dedicated to promoting scholarly activity through research, publication, conferences, symposia and collaboration with others. The Centre also hopes to foster a culture that emphasises the importance of the spiritual, moral and ethical dimensions of sport.

The Centre will be officially launched with an Inaugural Conference in August/September 2007. It is hoped that scholars and practitioners from across the sports disciplines can meet to engage in a critical discussion about sport, spirituality and religion. The following individuals have made a provisional commitment to deliver Keynote Lectures:

- Professor Michael Novak, author of *The Joy of Sports* (1967) and a world renowned social theorist and lay theologian.
- Professor Shirl Hoffman, author of *Sport and Religion* (1992) and one of the world's leading thinkers in this area.
- Professor Ken Ravizza, a renowned applied sport psychologist and author of numerous publications on spirituality in consultancy work and peak experiences in sport.
- Professor Scott Kretchmar, one of the world's leading sports philosophers, former Editor of the *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* and author of a number of core sport philosophy texts.
- Professor of sociology, Jim Mathisen, who is co-author of *Muscular Christianity: Evangelical Protestants and the Development of American Sport* (1999) and numerous other scholarly articles addressing the sport and religion interface.

Members of the Centre and colleagues from Leeds University are currently writing a book entitled *Sport and Spirituality* that is to be published by Routledge in 2006. Details of the book's content can be viewed on the website. Professor Shirl Hoffman has kindly agreed to write the Preface to the book.

There are three core members of the Centre, Professor Andy Smith, Dr Mark Nesti and Nick Watson, who are supported in their work by colleagues from the School of Theology & Religious Studies. For further details of the aims of the Centre, its members and the forthcoming Conference you can visit our website <http://sportspirituality.yorks.ac.uk>

**If you wish to be added to the mailing list for the Conference please contact (preferably via e-mail):**

**Nick Watson**

**School of Sports Science & Psychology**

**York St John College**

**Lord Mayor's Walk**

**York, YO31 7EX**

**England**

**E-mail: [sportspirituality@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:sportspirituality@yorks.ac.uk)**

