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For Openers

Editorial Board

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Our age -- like the final decades of the last century, is sports-minded, some might say sports-dominated. Listen to the language we use for business, everyday exchanges, even personal relationships. We speak of "scoring" on a "level playing field," and "making a hit" with someone. The only other "contender" for such a source of metaphors is the language of war. Sports have become an equalizer of the genders, races, and nations, and some would say a promoter of internationalism.

This issue of *Conversations* focuses on the place of sports on Jesuit college and university campuses. The issue "leads off" with two position papers by prominent Jesuits. Fr. William Neenan is a Vice President at Boston College and a strong proponent of NCAA athletics both at Boston College and other Jesuit colleges and universities.

Fr. James Loughran is president of St. Peter's College in Jersey City, New Jersey. Citing recent studies of college athletics, Fr. Loughran concludes that there is no way to save NCAA type athletics on college -- let alone Jesuit -- campuses from the kinds of abuses that remain a perennial problem.

The remainder of the articles in this issue focus on particular ways in which sports have been (or can be) integrated into or contribute to the mission and identity of our individual campuses. The authors and subjects include athletic directors, faculty, and advisors to athletic teams.

After being absent from *Conversations* # 20, this issue also includes the department called *In Response*. Professor Winston Tellis reports on developments at Fairfield University since the October, 2000, conference on justice at Santa Clara University. *Conversations* continues to solicit articles for *In Response*.

New to the Conversation?

For those new to *Conversations*, the magazine regularly solicits suggestions for possible future themes as well as responses to past issues and/or essays. See the inside back cover of each issue for a list of themes currently under discussion.

For news of events on particular Jesuit campuses, see the AJCU (Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities) website: www.ajcu.net



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