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978-1-107-05203-1 - The People's Game: Football, State and Society in East Germany

Alan McDougall

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The People's Game

Sport in East Germany is commonly associated with the systematic doping that helped to make the country an Olympic superpower. Football played little part in this controversial story. Yet, as a hugely popular activity that was deeply entwined in the social fabric, it exerted an influence that few institutions or pursuits could match. *The People's Game* examines the history of football from the inter-related perspectives of star players, fans, and ordinary citizens who played for fun. Using archival sources and interviews, it reveals football's fluid role in preserving and challenging communist hegemony. By repeatedly emphasising that GDR football was part of an international story, for example, through analysis of the 1974 World Cup finals, Alan McDougall shows how sport transcended the Iron Curtain. Through a study of the mass protests against the *Stasi* team, BFC, during the 1980s, he reveals football's role in foreshadowing the downfall of communism.

Alan McDougall is Associate Professor of Modern European History and European Studies at the University of Guelph.

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By Alan McDougall

University of Guelph



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A football map of the GDR.

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Abbreviations

ASK	Army Sports Club
BFC	Berliner FC Dynamo
BSG	Betriebssportgemeinschaft (factory/enterprise sports club)
CDU	Christian Democratic Union
DEFA	Deutsche Film-Aktiengesellschaft (East German state film company)
DFB	Deutscher Fußball-Bund (German Football Association)
DFF	Deutscher Fernsehfunk (East German state broadcaster)
DFV	Deutscher Fußball-Verband der DDR (East German Football Association)
DS	Deutscher Sportausschuß (German Sports Committee)
DSB	Deutscher Sportbund (West German sports federation)
DTSB	Deutscher Turn- und Sportbund (East German sports federation)
FA	Football association
FC	Football club
FCK	FC Karl-Marx-Stadt
FCM	FC Magdeburg
FDGB	Freier Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (Free Federation of German Trade Unions)
FDJ	Free German Youth
FIFA	International Federation of Football Associations
FRG	Federal Republic of Germany
FSV	Fansportverein (fan sports club)
GDR	German Democratic Republic
GST	Gesellschaft für Sport und Technik (Society for Sport and Technology)
HFC	Hallescher FC
IM	Inoffizieller Mitarbeiter (unofficial informer)
KJS	Kinder- und Jugendsportschule (children and youth sports school)
MfS	Ministry for State Security (<i>Stasi</i>)

xii Abbreviations

NCAA	National Collegiate Athletic Association
NOFV	Nord-Ostdeutscher Fußball-Verband (North-East German Football Association)
NSA	Nichtsozialistisches Ausland (non-socialist foreign countries)
NSRL	National Socialist League for Physical Education
OND	Opera Nazionale Dopolavoro (National Organisation of Recreational Clubs)
PDS	Party of Democratic Socialism
SBZ	Soviet-Occupied Zone
SC	Sports club
SG	Sportgemeinschaft (sports community)
SED	Socialist Unity Party of Germany
SPD	German Social Democratic Party
Stako	State Committee for Physical Education and Sport
SV	Sportverein (sports association)
UEFA	Union of European Football Associations
VP	People's Police
VSG	Volkssportgemeinschaft (folk sports club)
ZIJ	Central Institute for Youth Research
ZK	Central Committee
ZSG	Central Sports Club

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Alan McDougall, Toronto