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Moments of impact: injury, racialized memory, and  
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This is the author's version a review of Jaime Schultz, *Moments of Impact: Injury, Racialized Memory, and Reconciliation in College Football* in *Sport in History* (forthcoming). It appears here in its pre-publication format in lieu of the publisher's version of record. Author: Malcolm MacLean

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Jaime Schultz, *Moments of Impact: Injury, Racialized Memory, and Reconciliation in College Football* (Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 2016) 216pp. £28.99 hb. ISBN 9780803245785.

Recent years have seen a growing awareness of, concern about and action on injuries in high impact contact sports. While policy makers and sports' governing bodies may only just be beginning to pick up the issues, to realise that they might have to be seen to do something and in some cases it seems to feign shock that their sport might just be dangerous, players and analysts have long know of that danger. For historians, Jaime Schultz's excellent *Moments of Impact* is a polysemous text exploring three cases of sports injury in (American) football in college sport, with significance for how we do history, for how we think about sports 'heroes' and their memories and memorialisation, and for how we think of the significance of sport in the USA. That's an awful lot to carry for 146 pages of text, but it works.

These three cases explore incidents involving black footballers at predominantly white colleges and universities (PWCU) in Iowa. Jack Trice played two games in 1923 for Iowa State University, was seen by many as having enormous potential, was the only African-American player on the team and died from injuries sustained in the second game. Ozzie Simmons was, again, the only Black player in his team from the University of Iowa and for many offered the hope of reinvigoration of the University of Iowa team in the mid-1930s and was seriously injured in a game against the University of Minnesota part way through his first of several seasons playing college football. Johnny Bright, also a very talented player inspiring his team to performances significantly better than previous years and the only African-American on the Drake University team in the early-1950s was knocked out three times in the first quarter of a game against Oklahoma A&M in 1951, an incident that although effectively ending Bright's season also resulted in Drake withdrawing from Missouri Valley Conference (the league including Oklahoma A&M).

These are incidents lasting only a few seconds, and in the case of Bright spread out over only a few minutes, but they have enough about them for Shultz to take as the basis of a rich narrative of justice, injustice, the past in the present and the reinscription of the past by the present. In dealing not with teams, seasons, conferences but with individuals, incidents and their place in histories of the present she is able to explore the politics of remembering as well as the politics and poetics of history-making. The substance of the book deals not so much with the moments of impact on the field, but the moments of (historical/social) impact decades later as College and University administrations come under pressure to make and commemorate these three young Black men, in an overwhelmingly White state with an overwhelmingly White university system. With care and empathy as well as nuanced consideration of the times in which the incidents occurred Schultz constructs narratives of remembering, of memory, of commemoration that sees each of these events as a racialized construction of what were, almost certainly, racialized acts.

Of the three, Trice attracts twice the content the others do, but then there is much to tell here, partly because we know less about him, partly, paradoxically, because he did less (2 games only), partly because of the price he paid, and partly because it was such a long and multi-faceted struggle. Although Trice died in 1923, although he had a plaque erected in his honour not long after that, he faded from institutional memory. His is a story of forgetting, of student activism, of struggles over stadium naming rights and corporate power, of compromise and of bleaching of the present. Similarly, Schultz approaches Simmons story as one of obfuscation, painting a picture of origins of the trophy played for each year by the Universities of Iowa and Minnesota as an attempt to smooth over tensions and divert attention away from the injury causing incident. As with the Bright incident, none were seen as racialized at the time, although a small number of letters from members of the public clearly reflect on issues of race in a situation where Drake was in competition with still segregationist Southern schools.

In making these cases, Schultz draws on models developed by Hayden White to unravel narrative tropes in the telling and remembering of these incidents, emphasising the tragic (in the contemporaneous accounts of Trice, Simmons and Bright) and the romantic (in post-civil-rights narrativization and activism). At the same time, she is acutely aware of her own position as a writer in making these interpretations, emphasising that a 'racial' narrative is only one way these stories can be told, but also being clear that in many ways it is the contemporary hegemonic narrative. All this is done with a light touch, in a case where theory of this kind lightly worn and convincingly used should be seen as evidence of both analytical and writerly skill. The introduction and afterword effectively contextualise the evidential chapters and have the effect of making big and powerful points about the US, about the question of 'race' in the US and in sport, about the contemporary politics of memorialisation, commemoration and apology and in doing so demonstrating Schultz's abilities to blend the specific and the general.

Although very specific in its focus – three incidents of racialized on-field violence in football in a relatively small Mid-Western state's university system – the book should have resonance well beyond its seemingly narrow field. There are four ways on which this argument has a much wider impact. The first, simply, is that these are telling stories told well: they have historical power because of what they tell us about 'race' in the US generally but specifically about sport and higher education in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Second, this is an example of careful and nuanced reading, revealing an historical imagination (linking, in the spirit of C Wright Mills, private troubles with public issues) showing the presence of the past in the present and vice versa. The third is methodological: Schultz has given us an exceptional example of a self-reflexive, critically aware style of history writing recognising but delimiting the place of the author in the text. Finally, in focusing on memorialization, this analysis is further evidence of the current state of US 'race' relations and the culture wars that surround them, noting the post-colonial spread of those tensions in, for instance, the UK's and South Africa's recent 'Rhodes Must Fall' campaigns.

Despite all of this, I am left wondering about a counter narrative of commemoration and memorialization. Schultz has been careful to include Black Press voices from the time; I'd like to know more about how these cases relate to contemporary counter-hegemonic narratives. To ask for that here is unfair; that would be a different book, but one I'd really like to read. The one Jaime

Schultz has written is an important contribution to the field, and should be used by the rest of us as a model for socially engaged and theoretically sophisticated historical analyses.

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