



Tutorial Question:

Tutorial Question: How has sport serviced the maintenance of Aboriginal social and cultural aspirations? How and why have Aboriginal people experienced success in some sports? What class, race, and gender dimensions are apparent in Aboriginal people's sporting success?

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Today's content:

- An overview of Aboriginal involvement in sport
- The most popular
- A focus on footy AFL, NRL, The Knockout
- Grassroots footy The Moree Boomerangs
- Success stories what opportunities does sport provide?
- What Indigenous sports stars have to say...
- Sport: An equal playing field?
- Racism in sport

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Sport: A political arena?

Sport is a vehicle for many things. There are many people who believe that sport and politics should never mix. The reason for this is sport is seen as the pure and noble practice - hard work, champions. However, politics is seen as cynical and grubby.





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- Aboriginal groups saw the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1982 as the means of protesting their case to, and through, the world's cameras.
- Damien Hooper caused a stir when he wore an Aboriginal flag t-shirt into the boxing ring at the London Olympic Games.
- When Cathy Freeman cloaked herself in the Aboriginal flag at the 1994 Commonwealth Games it created a furore in the Australian media. Many commentators claimed that Freeman should have refrained, because Aboriginal Australia is not recognised as a self-governing nation.

1. A brief overview of Indigenous sporting involvement

In his book, 'Aborigines in Sport', Colin Tatz says that virtually all Aboriginal sporting achievement is concentrated in fourteen sports:

 athletics, Australian Rules football, basketball, boxing, cricket, cycling, darts, horseracing, rugby league, rugby union, soccer, tennis, volleyball, and wrestling.

He goes on to say that there is "the greatest number of top-level sportsmen but also an over-representation, proportionately, of Aborigines in boxing, Aussie Rules, and rugby league."

Question: Why do you think Indigenous athletes participate in some sports over others?

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What people have said about Indigenous sportspeople

- "Indigenous [AFL] players have become synonymous with having flair, magic, or x-factor." Dr Chris Hickey, Associate Professor, Deakin University
- "Sport was the first pathway that embraced Aboriginal people and gave them the opportunity to compete on an equal playing field."
 Michael O'Loughlin, Aboriginal AFL player
- "If anything transcends race, intolerance or discrimination, it is sport." Steve Stacey, Executive Officer, Nyoongar Sports Association Malaga, Western Australia.
- "When we play football, there's that connection with the land that we are on and the way that we play. When you see two brothers or three brothers playing on the same team, you can just see this natural ability shine through." Adam Goodes, Aboriginal AFL Player.

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Racism in Sport



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 1993 - then Collingwood President Allan McAlister said that Nicky Winmar and teammate Gilbert McAdam would be respected "as long as they conducted themselves like white people."



 During the 1980 Wimbledon tournament, a senior Australian politician at the time said he hoped Evonne Goolagong "wouldn't go walkabout like some old boong."



• In 2010, Timana Tahu quit the NSW Origin State of Origin team after NSW Assistant coach, Andrew Johns, described Queensland player, Greg Inglis, an Aboriginal man as a black c*** in his training instructions to the team.

Racism in Sport Lecture at UNSW

Seeks to explore the nature of racism in sport, and what the various codes, in particular the NRL, are doing to address the problem

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The forum's expert panel inclues:

- David Gallop, NRL CEO
- Graeme Innes, Race and Disability Discrimination Commissioner
- Dr Barry Judd, Post Doctoral Fellow, Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies, Monash University
- Deborah Healey, Senior
 Lecturer UNSW, commercial
 and sports law expert
- Marcia Ella-Duncan, former Australian netballer