Petr Roubal, Ph.D.

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In her thesis Anna Pust-Petters deals with the ways the East-German and West-German media dealt with the issue of shared/common Olympic team from mid 1950s to 1965s. The topic of the work is highly relevant and at the same time unexplored. This is true for much of history of sport as she correctly quotes: “Sport ist die wichtigste Nebensache der Welt”“. As for the topic of the Olympic team itself, there is a PhD thesis on the subject, but that deals only with the organisational history and shays away from the broader public discourse on the subject. The topic of the thesis is not only highly relevant but it is – for a MA Thesis format – quite challenging. As a comparative work it covers two very different media landscapes with completely different discourse practices. This time-consuming approach however reveals some key features of this debate that would otherwise be missed. In particular this is true for the most important finding of the work: the role of the „other“ German state in finding own identity, in this case through the medium of the sport discourse.

The work is sufficiently rooted in the historical context and current discursive and mass media theories. The work is confirming to high academic standards in terms of structure, scope of sources, work with these sources, including their correct citing. In fact this work goes well beyond standards of MA Thesis and I would strongly suggest (after minor stylistic improvement) to submit it for publication in academic journal dealing with sport history of German history in more general.

The suggested grade is A (1)