



Chapter Five

COMPETITION

Preparing For and Operating in Competition

Gordon A. Bloom

Canadian sport enthusiasts will always remember Joe Carter's home run of 1993, which clinched the World Series in the bottom of the ninth inning for the Toronto Blue Jays. Americans still remember "the miracle on ice," the stunning gold medal victory of the 1980 U.S. Men's Olympic Ice Hockey Team. People fail to realize, however, the importance of behind-the-scene factors that may have contributed to these victories. Did the head coach speak differently before the game, make a crucial strategic maneuver during the game, or uncover valuable information from earlier post-game analyses? These factors have received little systematic attention. The purpose of this chapter is to emphasize the importance of what happens on the periphery, before, during and after a sporting contest.