91 - VOLLEYBALL ATHLETE MEMORIES FROM AMATEURISM TO PROFESSIONALISM

ROMARIZ, SANDRA BELLAS
GEFSS/FAMATh/RJ/BR
sbellas@ig.com.br
MOURÃO, LUDMILA
PPGEF/ GEFSS/UGF/RJ/BR
ludmila.mourão@terra.com.br

I.INTRODUCTION

For many years, the practice of physical activities was not for women, due to the belief that exercises were not good for them, harming the reproduction and somehow deviating them from their social and genetic designation. However, some intellectuals from the beginning of the XX century have shown the necessity of including in their education, intelligent exercises, so as to develop a new generation of women, more powerful and able to have stronger children. (Azevedo apud Gomes,1998)

In order to prepare women for maternity, physical exercises were included in their education, although they did not interfere in the "delicate mother´s organism". Therefore, some other sports were also indicated to women: swimming, gymnastics, rowing, horseback riding, fencing and dancing.

Nevertheless, the exclusion of women from the practice of physical-athletic activities has endured for a lonf time. The excuses were related to the fragility of the reproductive organs, preventing them from physical effort so as to obtain a health maternity. Only by the end of the XIX century we can find women taking part in competions as athletes, mainly in fencing, cycling and athletism. (Gomes, 1998)

In Brazil, most of the women who started to take part in competitions were European, generally from Germany. They began playing for clubs in the 20s (Mourão, 2003). According to an article published in a magazine called "*Tricolor Fluminense*", the year of 1927 was when the feminine activities officially started in The *Fluminense* Club, and it also coinceded with the inauguration of its gymnasium, where the first women´s volleyball teams were formed. (Gomes, 1998, p.46)

Although, in the urban centers of the country, the 30 decade marked the sporting moviment of women in Brazilian society. An event that showed the encreasing of sports for women in Brazil was the "*Jogos Femininos do Estado e São Paulo*" . The competion was in 1935 and there were a lot of women taking part in many different sports activities. (Tavares apud Mourão, 2005)

In Rio de janeiro, in 1949, an event held excluisively for women marked the emancipation process of Brazilian women concerning sports: "*Os jogos da Primavera*"- Spring Games, these games were designed by the journalist Mario Filho. (Mourão, 2003)

II. WOMEN COURSE THROUGHOUT OFFICIAL VOLLEYBALL COMPETITIONS

However, the prejudices about women´s sports practice were still there. The fragile stereotype was around the ones who tried to practice sports that demand speed, strengh and impact, such as soccer, basketball and handball. It is common to refer to these women as being masculine, manlike. (Mourão, 2003)

Since, volleyball has no physical contact with oponents, it has soon become women´s favorite sport, as it hides and protects them from this manlike label, occuring in a society that still propagated such prejudice.

After the creation of the first South American Championship, sponsored by Confederação Brasilieira de Desportos (CBD) Brazilian Sports Confederation and supported by Federação Carioca de Volley Ball Carioca Volleyball Federation Brazilian women were stimulated to take part in the training programs and they ended up composing the team that represented Brazil in the competions. Leisure and pleasure were no longer the target, hence, high efficiency was the new way of playing, having an amateur character tough.

This competition took place in the *Fluminense* Soccer Club Gymnasium, in Rio de Janeiro, from September 12th to 22nd 1951, and the Brazilian Women´s Volleyball team was the champion. After the second half of the 70s, *Confederação Brasileira de Voleibol* CBV The Brazilian Volleyball Confederation started to invest in the formation of Brazilian coaches and athletes, organizing a lot of courses that were taught by well-known foreign coaches. Hence, Brazil began to house many international championships, hosting groups and teams from many different countries. (Bojikian, 1999)

This interchange has helped to improve the level of Brazilian volleyball. The technical evolution has aroused the interest of the public towards the games and soon they were on tv. In 1981, *Record*, a Television network Company, bradcasted an international women´s competition in their prime time, "O Mundialito de Voleibol Feminino" took place in São Paulo and had a surprising audience level for the period. This was a mass media historical mark for Brazilian Volleyball. The presence of TV has brought the sponsoring companies to volleyball which allowed its professionalization.

Thinking over the national volleyball championships during the 80s, we noticed that there was a large number of advertisements of products and trademarks. This period was known as "primary windowshop" of Brazilian sport. Some companies have invested a lot of money in volleyball teams so that they could promote their products, companies such as: Atlântica Boavista, Bradesco, Pirelli, Banespa, Fiat-Minas, Supergásbras, Sadia, Lufkin, Transbrasil, Lojicred, Hering, Frangosul and many others. (Marchi Jr, 2005). The involviment of the mass media and the companies with the sport was the main key to increase and develop the professionalism of volleyball in Brazil.

III. VOLLEYBALL IN AMATEURISM AND PROFESSIONALISM FORK

The conceptions of amateur and professional athletes suffered adaptations according to the period and the Brazilian legislation. From 1941 to 1975, the decree-law number 3.199, encouraged amateur sport with the following words:

"encourage the development of amateurism by all means, as an educative sort of sport for excellence, and at the same time, establish an acurate vigilance over professionalism, so as to keep it within the principles of morality."

Such decree was revoked during the military govern of Ernesto Geisel, through the 6.251 law, from August 8th 1975. This law, however, had no reference or classification concerning the athlete status. The terms: professional and amateur, which had once been considerated links, in this law they had no distinctions. Hence, this law was replaced by the decree 80.228/1975, which regulated the law 6.251/1975. This new decree brought some matters that had not been mentioned in the law of 1975, and it has established a must: "*all sports associations that keeps professional sporting will not be allowed to receive federal financial supporting, unless they practice at least three olympic sports."*

This decree was a governmental attempt to encrease the sport development, since sports represented the possibility of developing the nation (Salles,2004). Although, in Chapter X concerning professional Sports, the law-text forbids professionalism in four different topics:

"I in sporting associations placed in cities with less than a hundred thousand inhabitants, unless the ones that have already been doing it;

II in sportng associations which are not pat of the National Sport System;
III In schools and military premises;
IV in infant and junior categories of any kind of sport"

At the end of the 80s, with the establishment of the 1988 Constitution, the new text distinguished formal sporting practices and no-formal sporting practices, it also set up the distinction between professional and non-professional sports, it has as well substituted the term amateur with non-professional.

In 1989, a new law kept the term "amateur" to mean the sports that do not produce funds for its own development. This law meant to help the amateur sports and it established tax benefits. The clubs were also allowed to receive financial resources from companies so as to support the "non-professional teams", however, some of these athletes considered amateurs, were very well-paid athletes.

Under the label of amateur sport, since the 80s, a number of companies set very competitive teams in many olympic sports. The term "amateur", however, was related to the sport and not to the athlete contract, therefore, because of the opening garanteed by the law, many sports idols were hired by these teams and they received high wages.

Volleyball was the major sport to enjoy such advantages, it allowed that many private and public companies, national and international ones, with different lines of bussiness could show their products, linking them to the images of success and prestige of the sports idols.

IV. INTERPRETING THE SPEECH OF THE FORMER AMATEUR ATHLETES

So as to analyze the narratives of the former volleyball athletes about their careers in the Brazilian Volleyball Team, considering the amateurism-professionalism fork:, four categories were used: i) the athlete's career , ii) motives that led her to the insertion and the interruption of the volleyball practice, iii) the sponsorship of the teams, iv) the meaning of volleyball in their lives;

4.1. The athlete´s career

The former athlete, Elda (1) in this study, that played from 1957 to 1968, began her volleyball career at school in 1957 with the age of 12 and ended in 1968 at the *Minas Tênis* Club. She was summoned for the Brazilian soccer team in the World Championship of 1962 and in the Pan American Games of 1963 and she was known as "*canhotinha de ouro"* (Golden-lefty).

Lonésia (2) played from 1961 to 1968 and also began playing at school, however, differently from the later; she was 17 when she started in 1961. That did not stop her from being summoned to dispute the States Championship, when she won the title of the best player; today this Championship is called The Super League. In 1967, she was summoned for the Brazilian Team to dispute the Pan American in Unnipeg, Canada and also the South American Championship, in which she was vice-champion.

Denise (3) played form 1969 to 1989, an athlete from the 70's that also had a late star, with 19, at the *Jaó* Club in the state of Goiás. In 1970, she was already part of the *Fluminense* Club Team, and in 1974 she was summoned for the first time for the Brazilian Team to dispute the World Championship in Mexico. In 1975 she took part in the Pan American and successively the South American, the World Championships and the World Cup. She was also present in the first Olympic Games in which Brazil participated in 1980 in Moscow. Fact that she states with emotion: "I went there, I went there, in 1980. It was the most beautiful Olympic Games to me, that human heat, wonderful. I love it."

When training for the Olympics in 1984, the athlete suffered a car accident (Kombi) together with the Team. She was going to a game in Juiz de Fora (a city in Minas Gerais State), that they would play for the Coca-Cola employees, sponsor of the team at that time. This accident caused the "fracture" of her feet, which was nationwide broadcasted. She was not able to take part in another Olympics, and that was her last chance, according to her statement:

"And so I was already too old for the following one that was in Seul. The fight with the young ones that were coming was too big". (athlete 3)

Irena (4) played from 1968 to 1989. She began At the *Atlético Paulistano* Club in São Paulo in the little league (13 years of age). Her first participation in the Brazilian Team was in 1973, when she was 16 to dispute the South American Championship, along with her sister, the team Captain at the time. She was summoned to the Brazilian Team in 1980, but she asked to leave, since she had lost her father and was a senior student at College. Since the players did not earn anything back then, she chose the career that would enable her to make money. In 1984 she was again summoned for the Olympics, but she hurt her back and had to undergo an emergency operation. In 1985 she came back to the Brazilian Team, taking part in the Japanese World Championship. She played until 1989 I São Paulo for several teams sponsored by companies. In that period, volleyball became professional and the companies injected income to maintain the adult teams.

4.2. The motives that led women to the insertion and the interruption of the volleyball practice

We can outline a very interesting fact about the factors that led the women to begin in the sport, the fact that the former athletes began their careers in the 60's, at school, with the incentive of their teachers; they looked for the sport, they were not discovered by their physical education teachers.

"I started out at twelve at the *Instituto de Educação* School in Minas Gerais, and my teacher took me to practice at the club." (athlete 1)

"It was at school, I was very tall, I am 1.74m, today I am very short, the school teacher called me." (athleter 2)

"I began playing in 1968 at the *Paulistano* Club, I was pre-infant at the time, and I started because my sister played in the Brazilian Team, and I followed in her footsteps."
(athlete 4)

Another outlined point in the different decades was the motives that made them finish their career as athletes. The former athletes from the 50's and the 60 would play until their engagement, marriage and for the arrival of children. The ones from the 70's and the 80's played until their bodies could not bear the routine of practice, ending their careers with advanced age with no children.

"Because I got engaged, in the past you got engaged and you could not play anymore, now, today, you can have kids and keep playing, the player Isabel started this." (athlete2)

"Because I suffered a bruise in the knee and then I had to undergo a serious surgery." (athlete 4)

4.3. Sponsorship of the teams

By the narratives of the collaborators, we can notice that the former athletes that took part in the volleyball teams until the 80's did it for the pleasure of playing , whereas the athletes that played in championships after the 80's would make a living out of volleyball.

"Nah, that's what I say, we practiced for the snack at the end.[…] when we won a championship, there was a dinner, so that was the motivation ."

"We didn´t have sponsors at the time, nothing at all[…] after that I had the *Lavoura* Bank, hired the whole team, put us in the bank and they would keep an eye on us to see if we were really working."(athlete 2)

"I got an apartment, furnished, that was the way is was, training uniforms, […] from the university I got a scholarship."(athlete3)

"I gave priority to my profession (architecture) and then when I dedicated myself to it […] I 've gone to where I could be financially better."(athlete4)

4.4. The meaning of volleyball in their lives: that is priceless!

This was a unanimous answer among them, recognizing the sport as the principal path that brought a lot of joy, friends, love, opportunities of studies and professional career, as we outlined in the sentences of the interviewers.

"It was very important[…] it gave me everything I have, because first I played and then I worked with volleyball." (athlete 1)

"Everything, It was everything."(athlete 2)

"Ha! It was everything, I studied, graduated, now I work within the sport field, I owe everything to volleyball."(athlete 3)

"It opened many doors, I made a lot of friends, I think I owe the climax of my architecture career to my knowledge in volleyball. So, I think that volleyball was everything, it was friendship, it opened doors to my professional life, and to my own physical and mental health, and that is priceless."(athlete 4)

V. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

We noticed that the athletes began their sportive life for the incentives of the school physical education teachers; they were picked out for their talent in the first decades (1950/60). In 1970/80, the women chose volleyball by going to the clubs, getting involved with the competitive sport, the coaches would only awake more and more passion for the sport.

The former athletes of the 60's played for the pleasure the sport provided, they were not paid, but received some small "treats", such as snacks after the conquests of championships, trips, and even jobs, the sport represented an influential social area. However, the former athletes of the 70's and the 80's took advantages of the amateur-professional fork, even having begun in the sport for the pleasure of playing , they kept on doing it for the guarantee of lodging, scholarship, uniforms, clothes and, at the end of their careers, for the payments of salaries from the sponsors of their teams.

In relation to the continuity of their lives, all of them have finished their careers and graduated from a university. Three of them graduated in Physical Education and the other became an architect. Nevertheless, the athletes of the 70's declared that not all of the athletes of their time were able to do that, and one of them concludes:

"When you are in the climax it is wonderful, everybody remembers you…is there with you. Once this time is over, you are forgotten […] forgotten. Friends of mine stopped playing and there they are, going through hardships, because they didn't study, they have no profession."(athlete 3)

Hence, even if knowing that being an athlete is not a profession for life, the narratives of this former athletes point out more positive than negative aspects in their life within the sport field of autoincome even when considering the amateurism-professionalism fork. It was possible for the athletes of autoincome of the essentially amateur period to study and to guarantee a college education, which enabled all of them to an insertion in the job market when they interrupted their athlete career. As for the 90's on, the hardships have been greater, since the professionalizing requires more from the athlete and very soon she has to make an option between studying or playing, especially if she remains in Brazil. So, it is advisable that a mechanism of social interaction should be created to readapt the athlete after the end of her career, for she is still within a productive age, but without many resources, since the dedication to the sport is integral, which does not allow the athlete to have other investments.

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Sandra Bellas de Romariz Rua Dr Mario Vianna 456 casa 102 B - Santa Rosa Niterói/RJ cep:24.241-002 . Tel: (21) 2610- 1667 ou 9228 6166 - sbellas@ig.com.br FAMATh.

VOLLEYBALL ATHLETE MEMORIES FROM AMATEURISM TO PROFESSIONALISM

The aim of this research is to analyze the course of former volleyball athletes who played for the Brazilian Volleyball Team during the 60, 70, 80 and 90 decades. We managed to unveil the prejudices and resistances concerning the practice of a competitive sport peformed by women in different generations, as well as in amateurism-professionalism fork, rebuilding stories about the women and the sports practices, so as to disclose the meaning of volleyball in their lives. The memory of the former athletes is the source of this research, and the theoretical- methodological reference is based upon the oral stories, providing a dialog between the official story and the way how these women featured and lived volleyball. Four women were interviewed during this study, they played for the Brazilian Volleyball Team in the midst of 1960 and 1990. The profile of women who were used to taking part in sport suffered transformations and the amateur ideal (recreational and educational) gave way to other interests such as, social rising and professional emancipation. Over the whole of their discourse, we have found out that these athletes had their lives linked to the sport, their experiences were all grounded around the depiction of a ball, and it was over it that they build their senses, sociability, friendships and passions. These outcomes have identified volleyball as the main point of these women lives, however, there is a difference related to their remaining in the sports career throghout the generations: i) the athletes from the 60s, when amateur volleyball was played, represented Brasil in competions only until their mariage dream came true. Ii) and, the ones who played after the 60s, broke up with amateur ideals and symbolized the women who had contraception and job rights (Lipovetsky, 2004). Being the latter, the ones who played untill their bodies could no longer bear the training programs, and ended up their careers at a ripe age.

Key words: woman, volleyball; amateurism/ professionalism.

MÉMOIRE DES FEMMES ATLÈTES DE VOLEYBOL AMATEURS A PROFESSIONELS

Le but de cette recherce est d´analiser la trajectoire de femmes atlètes de voleybol des décades de 60, 70, 80 et 90, qui ont joué dans la seléction brésilienne. On a essayer de reveler la discrimination et les résistences à la pratique du sport competitif par les femmes de différentes générations, entre les vertices amateur et professionel, atravers la reconstruction de histoires que concernent le pratiques sportives, pour montrer le signifié du sport dans leurs vies. La mémoire des atlètes de voleybol est la source de recherche. La réference théorieuque et méthodologique vient de l´histoire oral, avec un dialogue entre l´histoire officiel et la forme sur laquelle le voleybol a été perçu et vécu par ces femmes. Pour la recherche on s´est utilisé des entrevue avec quatre femmes atlètes, qui ont fait part de la seléction bresilienne de voleybol, dans le période de 1960 a 1990. L´image des femmes qui se dedient au sport s´est modifié sensiblement, avec la transformation de l´idéal amateur (récreatif et éducatif) dans un autre groupe d´interés, comme l´ascension sociale et l´émancipation atravers la profession Dans le discours des collaborateurs on a trouvée une vie anchorée dans le sport: sex expériences s´assicuent à la représentation de la boule, où elles ont construé leurs signifiés, la sociabilité, les amitiés et les passions. Malgré le résultats de la recherche ont placé le voleybol au centre de la vie de ces femmes, on a vérifié une diférence dans les relations de permanence dans la carrière sportive, entre les diférentes générations: i) le groupe de 60, quand on jouait le voleybol amateur, jouaient officiellement pour le Brésil, jusque elles se mariaient; ii) ces que jouaient après cette époche ont abandoné l´idéal amateurs, et représentent la femme avec droit à la contraception et au travail reconu. (Lipovetsky, 2004),. Ces femmes ont joué jusque le moment où leurs corps n´avaient plus la capacité de suporter le ritme des jeux, et ont terminé leurs carrières en âge avancée.

Mots-cléf : femme, voleybol, amateur/ professionel.

MEMORIAS DE ATLETAS DE VOLEIBOL DEL AMADORISMO AL PROFESIONALISMO

Esa investigación tiene como objetivo analizar la trayectoria de atletas de voleibol de las generaciones de los años 60, 70, 80 y 90 que actuaron en la selección brasileña. Se buscó desvelar a los prejuicios y las resistencias de la práctica del deporte competitivo por las mujeres en las distintas generaciones, en la bifurcación amador-profesionalismo, reconstruyendo historias correspondientes a las mujeres y a las pláticas deportivas, de manera que se desvelara el sentido del deporte en sus vidas. La memoria de las atletas de voleibol es la fuente de la investigación, y el referencial teórico-metodológico utilizado consiste en la historia oral proporcionando a un dialogo entre la historia oficial y la manera como el voleibol fue percibido y se ha vivido por esas mujeres. La investigación se utilizó de encuesta con cuatro mujeres atletas que pertenecían a la selección brasileña de voleibol en el periodo de 1960 a 1990. El perfil de las mujeres que se involucraban con el deporte fue cambiando sensiblemente. Lo que transformó las ideas amador (recreativo y educativo) por otros intereses, como la ascensión social y la emancipación a través de la profesión. Se encontró en los discursos de las colaboradoras, una vida afianzada en el deporte, sus experiencias se realizaron en torno a la representación del balón, donde ellas construyeron sentidos, aspectos sociales, amistades y pasiones. Aunque los resultados del estudio, pusieron el voleibol en el eje central de la vida de esas mujeres, se comprobó una diferencia en las relaciones de permanencia en la carrera deportiva entre las distintas generaciones: i) las atletas de la década de 60, tiempo que aún se jugada el voleibol amador competían oficialmente por Brasil, hasta que concluyera el sueno del matrimonio , ii) y las que han pertenecido después de esa década, ellas rompieron con el ideal amador y representan la mujer con derecho a la contracepción y al reconocimiento laboral (Lipovestsky, 2004), estas, jugaron hasta que sus cuerpos no consiguieran ya con edad avanzada.

Palablas claves : mujer ; voleibol ; amadorismo/ profesionalismo

MEMÓRIAS DE ATLETAS DE VOLEIBOL DO AMADORISMO AO PROFISSIONALISMO

Esta pesquisa tem como objetivo analisar a trajetória de atletas de voleibol das gerações de 60, 70, 80 e 90, que atuaram em seleção brasileira. Procurou-se desvelar os preconceitos e as resistências da prática do esporte competitivo por mulheres nas diferentes gerações, na bifurcação amadorismo-profissionalismo, reconstruindo histórias referentes às mulheres e às práticas esportivas, de forma a desvelar o significado do esporte nas suas vidas. A memória das atletas de voleibol é a fonte da pesquisa e o referencial teórico-metodológico utilizado consiste na história oral, proporcionando um diálogo entre a história oficial e o modo como o voleibol foi percebido e vivenciado por essas mulheres. A pesquisa utilizou-se de entrevistas com quatro mulheres atletas pertencentes à seleção brasileira de voleibol no período de 1960 a 1990. O perfil das mulheres que se envolviam com esporte foi se modificando sensivelmente transformando o ideal amador (recreativo e educativo) por outros interesses, como a ascensão social e emancipação através da profissão. Encontrou-se nos discursos das colaboradoras, uma vida ancorada no esporte, suas experiências realizaram-se em torno da representação da bola, onde elas construíam sentidos, sociabilidades, amizades e paixões. Apesar de os resultados do estudo, colocarem o voleibol no eixo central da vida dessas mulheres, verificou-se uma diferença nas relações de permanência na carreira esportiva entre as diferentes gerações: i) as atletas da década de 60, época que ainda se jogava o voleibol amador, competiram oficialmente pelo Brasil, até realizarem o sonho do casamento; ii) e, as que competiram após essa década, romperam com o ideal amador, e representam a mulher com direito a contracepção e ao trabalho reconhecido (Lipovetsky, 2004), estas, jogaram até que seus corpos não conseguissem mais suportar o ritmo dos treinamentos, terminando suas carreiras com idade avançada.

Palavras chaves: mulher; voleibol; amadorismo/ profissionalismo.