53 - ASSOCIATION PARANAENSE VETERANS BASKETBALL: HISTORY, EMOTIONS AND SOCIAL MEANING

TAÍS GLAUCE FERNANDES DE LIMA PASTRE
ROLANDO FERREIRA JÚNIOR
WANDERLEY MARCHI JÚNIOR
CEPELS UFPR
COLÉGIO MEDIANEIRA
Curitiba Paraná Brasil
taislima@onda.com.br
rolandof@ig.com.br
marchijr@ufpr.br

1. INTRODUCTION

Before to get to know Curitiba Veteran Basketball, it´s important to know a little, about, how basketball came to this country, and why not, know how this sport was born. Basketball appeared from the necessity of the students of the YMCA, in Springfield, Massachussets, to have a more interesting sport, during the winter, than the long and boring gym classes[1].

Then the YMCA director, asked for the canadian/american professor, James Naismith, to create the so long awaited winter sport, very dinamic and exciting. On december 31, 1891, Naismith improvised two basketball baskets and the new winter sport was born. At that time, the new game, had some basic principles very specific, and with the evolution of the game, the rules also evoluted[2].

In 1896, the american professor August F. Shaw, arrived in São Paulo, to teach at Instituto Mackenzie, and in his luggage, he brought a basketball, and in his mind he brought a dream. He wanted to see the sport created by professor Naismith, established in Brazilian land. The new sport was first aproved by the students, but only girls, making the diffusion of the sport between men very difficult. Then he had a huge task to be done, convince the men that basketball was a activitie for both genders, and also, over the great appeal that soccer had. At that time, soccer was very popular, being introduced in Brazil by Charles Miller in 1894, a little before basketball. Shaw made a big effort and overcame men resistance to basketaball. In 1896 was formed the first basketball team at Instituto Mackenzie in São Paulo and later in Rio de Janeiro.

In 1919, basketball arrives in Curitiba, through the International Basketball Club, a team made with girls, fans of the International Foot Ball Club. In the same year, on september 28, a basketball court was inaugurated[3].

In 1929, Romero Cabral, a lieutenant, of the brazilian army, became friend of Coritiba Foot Ball Club fans and induced them to play basketball. In august 11, 1929, there was the first internal basketball championship and Coritiba Foot Ball Club was the first team to have a Male Basketball Department. Jarro, a seargent, fan of Clube Atlético Paranaense, that liked to play basketball, decided to create a team at his beloved club. In january 8, 1951, was founded the Federação Paranaense de Basquetebol, who promoted a tournament, that began on may 22 of the same year, between clubs of Curitiba. The federation still in the same place were was created until today.

Around 1956, basketball veterans appeared. Players with more than 35 years of age, from Curitiba, Pr, people who loved the game, began to settle meetings to play. The first institution to shelter this group, was Sociedade Thalia, a very traditional club in Curitiba. As time went by, other veterans came, adding more people to the group, and that´s how appeared the first group of basketball veterans in Curitiba. Besides the tournaments, the most important thing in veterans basketball, is the joy of meeting former athletes. Basketball is a way of being a part of a group, with some kind of representation on the social web and the relations are established by this groups of veteran basketball[4].

In 1989, the veteran and pianist, José Acacio Wotroba, a basketball lover, went to Santos, a seaside town in São Paulo state, and introduce himself to the city. At the time, he found out that many basketball veteran associations were created around the country, and every year those associations promoted a national meeting. When José Acácio got back to Curitiba, he founded the APVB (Associação Paranaense de Veteranos de Basquetebol). Since then, this association has promoted activities among the players that just became veterans. In 1989 already, athletes from Paraná participated of the National Encounter, and in 1992, Curitiba was the headquartesr of the national encounter, that had approximately 350 athletes and guests[5].

Today, the APVB is presided by Doctor José Cândido Muricy, who points out the importance of this anual meeting to the athletes, to promote confraternization, the constant practice of sport, the phisical activitie in practices (thats how they call the famous pick up games) and the tournaments. During the year, APVB promotes many tournaments. The teams are picked by draw, and it´s main objective is socialize the players, motivate new members and have a bigger number of athletes.

In 1991 was created the “Torneio Freitas Neto”, to homage a veteran from Paraná. The tournament takes place in SESC sports gym at Caiobá beach, a seaside town of Paraná, every january. In Ponta Grossa there is another tournament called “Torneio Mayr Facci”, a homage to former brasilian national team player, silver medal in the world games in 1954. Mayr Facci became a true mith in Ponta Grossa, and very famous in Curitiba, because he still participates, every year, in the tournaments promoted by the association.

The basketball veterans in Curitiba, represent a group of people that has more than 35 years of age, having around 150 members associated, with diferent professions but persuing the same objective. Veteran Basketball can be a way to maintain a search for emotion, reduce stress, occupy leisure time or only be a part of a social representation. Through constant observation of Veterans basketball groups in Curitiba, in tournaments or practices, we can clearly conclude this theoretical analisys that the author reveals in this research. The reaction of the athletes to the games and the emotions given to them through the practices. For the authors, **Norbert Elias and Eric Dunning (1992)**, during leisure time, the feelings flow free and the sensation of relaxation after a game can be strange, but is defeated by total relaxation and a “good tiredness”. This kind of leisure, has been chased in sports and games, and not only like leisure facts, but like facts <<miméticos>> of leisure.

2. THEORETICAL FUNDAMENTALS

We know that veteran sports has other objectives than performance. The search for victory through sports practice, as a result, being the human relations the way to obtain this result, on the use of the leisure time.

According to **Norbert Elias and Eric Dunning (1992**), this, maybe, is the phase where people search for new controled emotions and challenges to occupy their spare time, because in this phase of life, the grown up feel prepared and responsible for their attitudes and seeks for a knowledge of new things, and specially, new tensions, being a way of controled emotion without risks related with the excitement from other situations of life, one <<mimética>> excitation that can be aprecciated and can have a liberating effect.

The authors, **Norbert Elias and Eric Dunning (1992),** say that the ocupation of the leisure time, among that, sports as a spectcle or practice form, are considerated ways to lose control of your emotions but in a pleasant and controled way. The

great variety of leisure activities, in general, and sports, wich this complex society has to offer us, aloud the individual to have a large posibility of choices that fill their needs. Sports, like other leisure activities, can give a type of tension, a pleasant excitation and authorize the feelings to flow free.

For **Norbert Elias and Eric Dunning (1992)**, the search for excitation is one of the most important factors of modern life. The <<miméticas>> activities or games, are made from activities with bigger appeal and presence in the actual social enviroment. When a activitie is choose, the first thing that counts is taste, the personal interest. The decision is individual, based in self motivation and experiences. For the authors quoted here, social control of the emotions and self control associated to it, are fundamentals to the development of our society. Through activities of <<mimético>> meaning, establishes bigger or smaller public tolerance to the exposure of excitation manifestation, we can transfer to our life, where the balance of the tensions set by complementary relations between the search for excitation and emotion control.

Refering to **Norbert Elias and Eric Dunning (1992),** in Antique Greece, there was religious festivals, medieval carnival, examples of search for excitation for those antique people, taken like leisure activities and liberation of the restrictions. Many leisure activities of the present, in particular the <<miméticas>> one, have similar functions to some religious activities of the past. But, while looks like there´s pressure and restrictions, in every known society, it´s character and global balance between then, modifies on the course of a civilization process.

Regarding this, **Norbert Elias and Eric Dunning (1992)** studies, say that the majority of the leisure activities, belong to a category that we call <<mimeticas>> (tolerates the expression of the excitation), however, not everyone are a part of this category, from dance to sports, from hunting and fishing to runnig and painting, from card games to chest, from swimming to rock and roll dance and many more.

By **Norbert Elias and Eric Dunning (1992)**, the way to search for pleasant excitation, counterbalancing the tensions and difficulties of life without leisure, finds expression in social institutions and habits, can vary from society to society. According to the authors, work is classified like a moral duty and ends here; in other side, leisure is a kind of laziness and indulgence, or more, occupation chosen independently and not salaried, dominated by pleasure; and spare time, refer to all the spare time you have from the occupations that your job requires. We can associate this study, like a sport study as a leisure form, through the authors quoted here, and as a search for excitation through this practice. In a short perspective, it can happens that we fix our attention only in the fact that, in some sports, the model of restriction about violence had dimished. Make us forget that, thinking in a long term, the model of restriction of the entertainment is very high.The same thing happens about the transformation in terms of sublimation. By that, the level of thecnical competence necessary to a professional performer in one of the many occupations of leisure time. The activities taken as leisure, show that the thecnical level is lower than the professional level, but professional sports can take all the joy of the participants. The sport as leisure, characterized because is practiced in our spare time, can bring new experiencies to the individuals, pleasure just to practice, and can be very pleasant to the all team, if a victory comes with that experience. And, then, if was a good game, even with a loss, it will be a great pleasure, because of a simple leisure practice.

3. METHODOLOGY

This research has qualitative method characteristics, with sociological analisys of historical slope, in wich we used a source treatment, literature revision, press material, besides interviews with veteran athletes, that will be used as a reinforcement of the argumentation, according to the methodology proposed by **Gil(1994).**

The data collect was made on the fisrst semester of the years 2004 and 2005, with 5 veteran athletes from Curitiba clubs, through structured interviews, in wich the interviwer follow a script previously stablished but could formulate other questions, to make a profound study of historical and sociological contents, that took place practices and tournaments.

Copies of documents from the “Associação de Veteranos de Basquetebol do Paraná”, were collected as sources, like, meeting writings, games stats, participation records of Curitiba´s athletes, in local and national tournaments, and if was possible in international tournaments as well. We will use the material available in the net, some already published, and bibliography references about basketball.

The research compreends a historical review of Curitiba veteran basketball memories, since its appearence, until today, making a relation between the sport and the social representation of the athlete. The sociological analisys proposed for the bibliography and field review is going to occur through Norbert Elis and Eric Dunning. In this way we will make the data articulation obtained by interviews, group observation and historical description.

The reference that will be used to articulate, analyses the athletes search for emotion, trough veteran basketball practice, this representation in front of their colleagues, and the emotion overflowing before game situations in games and tournaments.

In synthesis, basketball is one of the most popular sports in the world, assuming a great importance in actual sports scenary, because has awake the interest of a growing number of practioners, new athletes or veterans, or “new veterans”, veterans that never were athletes when young. In this way, we justify this research, in this sports modality, through Paraná´s veteran basketball group, to elucidate and enrich the sociological and historical context of this group in our society.

4. RESULTS

The search shows documentary data and relevant observations about the practice of veteran basketball and the search for occupation of spare time, in relation to leisure. Through this research documental/historical, we can say that the adepts of “Associação Paranaense de Veteranos de Basquetebol”, search a sports practice, for social and health reasons, physical or mental, through the occupation of spare time. Being a part of this selected group, the veterans can practice the games promoted by the institution, and also continue the social relations stablished by veteran basketball. We registered that the “Associação Paranaense de Veteranos de Basquetebol” was founded to obtain a better social representation of its athletes in a state, national and even international level. Veteran athlete Arnaldo Baptista Ramos related to us, when asked aboutthe origin of his group:

“...well, the real founder of “pelada” is Aluisio Pinho, he was the founder, he liked, was a basketball director at Thalia Club, and we begin a friendship, I didn´t know anyone, and we played over there on Saturdays, sometimes didn´t play, Sunday morning. After a while, it settled, it was the around 60...61, I know... then this was the first “pelada” team, then we went from Thalia to SESC, Thalia was building a swiming pool, we stayed one year there, but there was hard to play, and after, in 62, we came here, to Círculo, Oscarzinho came from Londrina the be Círculo´s coach and fix everything for us to come here. In 62 we came here and here we are, till today, has been 43 years...”

Throug of observations of athletes practice, we could observe that the main objectives are: sports practice, just for the pleasure of living the emotions called <<miméticas>>, provided by games, leisure practice and physical activitie and health. In this, the practioners become actors, and are a part of this specialized occupation, without any obligations and restrictions, only with the purpose of being pleasant and give pleasure. This reaction of the overflow of the emotions are clear in the interview with veteran Cezar Antonio, Sociedade Thalia´s Athlete: “...What I feel...is that everything turns off, turns off totally from your life, from reality and concentrates only in basketball, intensifies a lot, is a good thing to me...”

By Norbert Elias, leisure activities are a liberation moment, to unleash a moderate exciting behaviour, that has to be controled in public. Also says that the activities of spare time are the ones that have leisure character. Actually, society allows a

small action field, even to the more stable people, in relation to their acquisitive power; to passionate explosions of esponteneous and irreflective excitment. This action is clear in the interview of veteran athlete Washington Abreu, of Clube Duque de Caxias, when asked about his reaction in games: "...I feel emotion...I want to win, I don´t like miss a shot to the basket, I get frustrated..." This speach of emotions and being competitive, is present, also in the deposition of veteran athlete Nilson de Souza, of Círculo Militar do Paraná, when he says: "...I feel, much...much emotion, I am very competitive, but I know how to lose. I even feel among my friends that are extremely competitives, I even feel...if I won´t be able to steal a ball clean I won´t go for it, but my friends complain..."

Therefore, social structures, don´t aloud not controled emotion explosions, only the ones socialy controled, in some situations, as games, like is our study, will aloud a demonstration of the emotions experienced during a game or a veteran tournament. The leisure activities function, in special all the <<miméticas>>, have to be stablished relatively to this ubiquity and stability of the excitation control. In a form of leisure activitie, of <<mimética>> class, our society satisfy the necessity of tasting the explosion of strong emotions in public, a kind of excitation that doesn´t bother neither puts in risk, the relative social order. The game excitation is searched voluntarily, so we can liberate our emotions that are stuck in our routine.

5. CONCLUSION

This documental/historical study, proves through refered analysis and practice observations of Curitiba´s veteran basketball, that sport is a leisure activity, specially in this phase of players life, refering to performance, still demandable by themselves, but with new objectives, besides victory. Veteran sport, has some main objectives: sports practice, occupation of spare time with pleasure, search new emotions; that routin doesn´t give to this players, phisical and mental health, finally leisure with quality for their lives, searching felicity and full satisfaction of the reached objectives.

Maybe, because of this, the numbers of practioners are increasing, and members of <Associação Paranaense de Veteranos de Basquetebol>, searching contact with others, meet new practioners, have a social relation with other members, finally have a reason on the social web. Being a part of the association group, they participate in tournaments, and with that the search for the eruption of pleasent and strong feelings, that are not in their common life, or are not the same as in a game. The function of leisure practice, isn´t only a liberation of tension, but renew this tension, that is a essential ingredient of our mental health.

According to **Norbert Elias and Eric Dunning (1992)**, the effect of this <<mimética>> practice, or this explosion of emotions, can´t be totally understood, but only if you consider the high risk that people have to be excited. Its a antithesis of self-control, of reasanable or racional conduct. The pleasant excitation can be frustrated without its dangerous social and individuals implications, which, many times enjoyable to other forms of pleasure. The peculiar ambiguity that circles leisure excitation can be observed in present time, when the people offers themselves, new excitation horizons.

Basketball practice in Curitiba, comes to meet all this search for emotion during leisure, this constant search for pleasure in activities, reflects after the game, where we can observe that the body is overtaken by pain, or feelings of phisical fullness, with or without pain, because the practical relation and pleasure is the true meaning of sport, as a <<mimético>> fact in the life of veteran athlete. To conclude this sociologicxal reflexion of sport, we can quote part of the interview given by veteran athlete Roberto Boylos, from Sociedade Thalia, when asked about what maintains him on the group: "...what maintain us is friendship, ally that to the stree and meet friend that participated and have basketball spirit, and they maintain this spirit always young, looks like a children. I made things inside a court that I can´t believe, but we grow up...sometimes we fight, but when we leave the floor we forget everything..."

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Taís Glauce Fernandes de Lima Pastre
Endereço: Rua Eloy de Assis Fabris, n.351 sobrado 4
Bairro: Novo Mundo Curitiba-Paraná
E-mail: taislima@onda.com.br Fone: 41-3347-8425
Instituição: CEPELS UFPR

ASSOCIATION PARANAENSE VETERANS BASKETBALL: HISTORY, EMOTIONS AND SOCIAL MEANING

ABSTRACT: We can say, that to understand society better, is necessary to comprehend it`s social phenomenons, like the manifestations of music groups, arts, dance, folklore, and in our case, sports. To do that, we`ll try to understand the social phenomenon, that is sport, inside one of it´s representation, in this case, the group of Paraná´s Veterans Basketball players. Basketball is a collective sport, very dinamic and exciting, considering the variety of plays and moves, baskets, spectaculars passes and dunks. According to the press, basketball has a great importance in the national view, losing in popularity, only to soccer and voleyball. We can say, that Basketball went over many barriers to be popularized/institutionalized, and today many groups look for places to play, including former basketball athletes, with 35 years old or more, being that the main characteristic of the veteran basketball player. The practice of veteran basketball, is characterized by it´s constantly search for emotions, pleasure and social meaning. The search for this emotions make the will of practicing basketball alive. We can say, that besides this emotions, there is the fact that the veteran player wants to be a part of a group, and, according to our research, half of the group practices basketball to participate in competitions and tournaments, and the rest of the group just to be a part of a group, to maintain their relationships. To understand better this relations, we interviewed veteran players from Curitiba and Ponta Grossa, and map this structure and the events promoted by the Associação Paranaense de Veteranos de Basquetebol, institution that promotes all the tournaments and championships, with the objective of socialize and motivate veterans.

Key words: Veteran Basketball, emotions and social meaning.

ASSOCIATION PARANAENSE DE BASKETBALL VETÉRANS: HISTOIRE, ÉMOTIONS ET SIGNIFICATION SOCIAL

RESUMÉ: Nous pouvons dire que pour meiller comprendre la societé il faut avant tout essayer de compredre leurs phénomènes sociaux, comme par exemple la misique, lês arts, la dance, lê folklore et bien sûr lê sport. Pour cela, on va essayer de comprendre lê phénomène social à partir du sport, dans une représentation qui cãs l'équipe de basketball vétéran du Paraná. Il s'agit d'um sport collectif, três dynamique et émouvant, puis que l'on considere lês lances, lês paniers, lês passes et lês plonges três fort dans lê parnier qui sont vises dans l'univers du basketball. A l'heure actuelle, lê basketball est três important dans lê cadre national à cause de sa popularité. Selon le media brésilienne, au niveau de son importance, le basketball se trouve seulement à derrière du football et du volleyball. Au cours de son histoire, le basketball a double plusieurs

barriers pour dévenir un sport popularize et intitutionnalisé. Aujourd'hui, sa pratique est cherchée par plusieurs groupes comme par exemple les ex-athlètes qui l'ont plus de 35 ans d'âge et et qui sont les veterans. La pratique du basketball veteran est caractérisé par l'émotion, par le plaisir et par la signification sociale. Ces caractéristiques qui sont defines comme <miméticas>, rend possible la volonté de pratiquer le sport et s'émouver pendant une partie. On peut dire qu'au-délà de ces emotions, il y a aussi le fait du veteran être un membre de l'équipe et qui participle des compétitions. Par contre, l'autre moitié des joueurs est dans l'équipe par d'autres raisons comme par exemple les rélations sociales et lês rélations d'amitié. Pour meiller comprendre cette dynamuque qui associe les veterans et les autres jouers dans les equips, nous avons fait des entretiens avec de veterans des clubes de Curitiba-Paraná et de Ponta Grossa-Paraná, avec lê but de comprendre ces structures et lês évènements de l'Association Paranaense de Basketball de Vétérans qui organise lês compétitions avec lê objectif de socialiser et de motiver lês vétérans pour donner une sorte de continuation de ces structures et de ces institutions.

Mot-clé: basketball vétéran, émotions et signification sociale.

ASSOCIACION PARANAENSE DE BALONCESTO VETERANOS: HISTORIA, EMOCIONAES Y SIGNIFICADO SOCIAL

RESUMEN: Se puede decir que para entender mejor la sociedad se hace necesario comprender sus fenómenos sociales, asi como lãs manifestaciones em grupos de músicas, artes, danza, folklore, dentre otras el deporte. Para eso vamos intentar comprender el fenómeno social, que es el deporte dentro de una de sus representaciones, en ese caso, el grupo de baloncesto veterano del Paraná. El baloncesto es un deporte colectivo muy dinánimico y emocionante, considerando las posibilidades de las jugadas, cestas, pases espetaculares y las enterradas, tam deseadas en el mundo del baloncesto. Actualmente es un deporte que ejerce gran importancia en el escenario nacional, en lo que dice respeto a la popularidad, pierde a penas para el fútebol y voleibol, según fuentes de la midia. A lo largo de la historia del baloncesto, se puede decir que el deporte venció muchas barreras para que fuera popularizado/institucionalizado, hoy en dia su práctica es procurada por varios grupos, inclusive por ex-atletas, con edad superior a los 35 años, que caracterizam los veteranos. La práctica del baloncesto veterano, se caracteriza por la constante busca de emociones, placer y significado social. La busca por esas emociones, las cuales podemos llamar de miméticas, es que mantiene viva la voluntad de practicar deporte y extravasarse los sentimientos durante los juegos. Podemos decir que además de esas emociones, hay también el hecho del veterano pertenecer al grupo en la cual entrena, en nuestra pesquisa podemos decir que mitad del grupo veterano entrena para participar de competiciones y torneos, mientras para estra en el grupo, como integrante, y de esa forma mantener sus relaciones sociales y de amistad. Para que entendamos mejor esas relaciones, entrevistamos veteranos de clubes de Curitiba y Ponta Grossa, para mapearmos esas estruturas y los eventos promovidos por la Associação Paranaense de Basquetebol de Veteranos, institución que promueve torneos y campeonatos, con el objetivo de sociabilizar y motivar los veteranos, para que den continuidad a esas estructuras e instituciones.

Palabras-llave: baloncesto veterano, emociones y significado social.

ASSOCIAÇÃO PARANAENSE DE BASQUETEBOL VETERANOS: HISTÓRIA, EMOÇÕES E SIGNIFICADO SOCIAL

RESUMO: Podemos dizer que para que entendermos melhor a sociedade é necessário compreender seus fenômenos sociais, como as manifestações em grupos de músicas, artes, dança, folclore, dentre outras, o esporte. Para isso vamos tentar entender o fenômeno social, que é o esporte dentro de uma de suas representações, nesse caso, o grupo de basquetebol veterano do Paraná. O basquetebol é um esporte coletivo muito dinâmico e emocionante, considerando as possibilidades das jogadas, cestas, passes espetaculares e as enterradas, tão almejadas no mundo do basquetebol. Atualmente é um esporte que exerce grande importância no cenário nacional, no que diz respeito à popularidade, perdendo apenas para o futebol e voleibol, segundo fontes da mídia. Ao longa da história do basquetebol, podemos dizer que o esporte venceu muitas barreiras para ser popularizado/institucionalizado, hoje em dia sua prática é procurada por vários grupos, inclusive por ex-atletas, com idade superior aos 35 anos, que caracterizam os veteranos. A prática do basquetebol veterano, caracteriza-se pela constante busca de emoções, prazer e significado social. A busca por essas emoções, as quais podemos chamar de miméticas, é que mantém viva a vontade de praticar esporte e extravasar os sentimentos durante os jogos. Podemos dizer que além dessas emoções, existe também o fato do veterano pertencer ao grupo em que treina, em nossa pesquisa podemos dizer que metade do grupo veterano treina para participar de competições e torneios, enquanto a outra metade treina apenas para “estar” no grupo, enquanto integrante, e dessa forma manter suas relações sociais e de amizade. Para entendermos melhor essas relações, entrevistamos veteranos de clubes de Curitiba e Ponta Grossa, para mapearmos essas estruturas e os eventos promovidos pela Associação Paranaense de Basquetebol de Veteranos, instituição que promove torneios e campeonatos, com o objetivo de sociabilizar e motivar os veteranos, para que dêem continuidade a essas estruturas e instituições.

Palavras chave: basquetebol-veterano, emoções e significado social.