81 - WOMENS'S VOLLEYBALL IN BRAZIL: SOME HISTORY UNTIL THE YEARS OF 1950

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Abstract

The present study intends to bring to light some of the trajectory of Brazilian women's volleyball, from its 1910 presentation to the 1950s, when the socio-cultural scenario of Brazil already provided incipient conditions for the participation of women in sport. The choice of the study is justified by its importance for the development of Brazilian volleyball, with facts that in the 1950s inaugurated a decade of great representatively regarding the birth of the phenomenon 'volleyball', in its institutionalized form.

KEYWORDS: Women's Volleyball. Context. Woman Sportswoman.

In the period of the first Republic (1889-1930), during the process of modernization of Brazil, according to Gilberto Freire (1998), young people of the Brazilian elite identified themselves immediately with two sports modalities 'newly created' by the Americans: volleyball and basketball. This is because it becomes important to get closer to American and European customs in search of the desired Brazilian progress and, at the same time, the need to overcome them in technical advance, giving progress an eminently practical character.

This explains the easy success of US schools, which were founded by protestant missionaries in the early 20th century and who promote games such as volleyball and basketball. From them miracles are expected: strong, healthy, sporty boys, well prepared in mathematics and in English, capable of becoming engineers, technicians, captains of industry. More complete miracles are expected from the boys which parents send to the technical, commercial and engineerin, chemistry and agriculture schools in England and the United States. Mothers fear Protestantism, heresy, irreligion. But parents face the risk, as long as their children return from England or the United States, speaking English, playing tennis and apt to transform Brazil into a large industrial, commercial, and "essentially practical" country (FREIRE, 1998, p. 683).

Freire (1998) seems to refer to schools and religious institutions that, according to Cancella (2010), have distinguished themselves in the dissemination of sporting habits and have educational concerns, such as the Christian Youth Association (ACM), in whose North American YMCA) basketball and volleyball had their origins.

The first YMCA in Latin America was founded in Brazil in 1893, in the city of Rio de Janeiro, by the American missionary Myron Clark, called the Christian Youth Association (ACM). The invitation was made by Dr. George Chamberlain, a Brazilian missionary who was in the United States on vacation in the year 1890. Cancella (2010) notes that ACM's initial contributions to the diffusion of sports practice seem to have occurred only from the first decade of 1900. Nevertheless, the author emphasizes the importance of the influences and the close relationship of ACM Rio with the American ACM in the process of introduction, diffusion and consolidation of some sports modalities in the city of Rio de Janeiro, at the beginning of the XX century Such as basketball and volleyball.

In 1901 came the ACM Rio Grande do Sul, introducing the practice of volleyball in the state (ACM, 2016). At ACM in São Paulo, founded in 1902, the first volleyball match dates to 1917 (ACM / YMCA, 2016). According to Valporto (2007), at that time volleyball was soon a new sporting trend, gaining space in the clubs and colleges of the main Brazilian cities, besides the Armed Forces, as the American military acknowledged and divulged the potential of the sport as a leisure activity.

The city of Recife was one of the most modern cities in Brazil in the early twentieth century. It was undergoing a process of modernization and expansion, bringing to the city companies that had immigrant English as employees, and lived in Brazil to work. These English workers needed a place to find a group of similar interests and needed behaviors that would serve as an element of differentiation. In this perspective, as OLIVEIRA (2009) points out, in 1907 the Christian Youth Association of Recife-PE was founded, with foreign companies established in the city.

We have already found evidence in the 'Jornal do Recife' that volleyball was presented to Brazil by the Christian Association of Young Men of Recife-PE, by ACM members pioneers in the game demonstration (GAZETILHA ..., 1910). But the first documented record of a volleyball competition in Brazil dates back to 1911. This first ever tournament in Brazil and with rules that should be used, according to the Official Athletics and International Guide, was organized by the Association of Young Men Christian (ACM) of Recife-PE. Still in the 1910's, as reported by Cordeiro Filho and Albergaria (2005), one can highlight the record of volleyball practice at the Marist College of Recife-PE, and ACM of São Paulo-SP.

In the 'Correio da Noite' newspaper of 1913, volleyball is included in the 'program of athletic games', organized by ACM and held at Quinta da Boa Vista in Rio de Janeiro, on the occasion of the day in honor of the 'Universal Brotherhood' (FREEDOM ..., 1913). Thus, volleyball took more than a decade to reach Brazil.

In Porto Alegre, for example, according to Dalsin (2004), volleyball arrived in 1918, but was adopted by the Sociedade Ginástica Porto Alegre (SOGIPA) only in 1926 and by the Grêmio Náutico União (GNU) in the 1930s.

In Aracaju, the emergence of the 'Women's Sportive Club' in 1919, promoting parties, and especially rowing, volleyball and basketball practices, is reported by Dantas Junior (2010) as representing a movement in which women started to occupy the scene in practices previously seen as masculine. According to the author (2010, p. 260), this growing participation of women in sports practices "imposed a rupture with the corporal restrictions of women, the clothes that limited her and conformed to the range of movements and gestures of the female body."

However, volleyball was not widespread as soon as it arrived in our country and, according to Daiuto ([197-], page 8), "its practice was almost restricted to the internal activities of some entities." It is a risk to say that the restriction and the 'delay' in the diffusion of volleyball can be related to the corporal and sportive activities in general, that in the observation of Goellner (2009), almost did not exist in the educational institutions, and only began to popularize from the 1920s and 1930s, with the hygienists spreading the importance of body education.

In this period, Rodrigues (2006) refers to volleyball, as one of the sports activities considered appropriate and practiced in the Normal School, in Belo Horizonte, and which became part of the urban culture of the city.

Initially developed by women's bodies, basketball and volley-ball began to be featured in Belo Horizonte only in the late 1920s and early 1930s, which did not happen with hockey. (RODRIGUES, 2006, p.295).

For Melo (2001), this peculiar character of sports practice in Brazilian lands must be understood from an idea of multiple and differentiated influences that, far from having occurred in a linear way, allowed cultural patterns to be reworked, giving a character of their own to our sport. However, Melo (2009, p. 45) recognizes that the experience brought by foreigners to the structuring of clubs, organization of competitions and practices of the teaching of sports activities "is a factor of importance to be considered in the development of the sports field in the country."

The change in the Brazilian context during the 19th century allowed the access of elite women to cultural goods, schooling and the news of Europe, enabling women's participation, previously restricted to assistance, to be expanded by the end of the century such as turf, rowing, swimming, fencing, tennis, archery and cycling (Goellner, 2009).

For Goellner (2009, p. 271) the female participation in what she calls "culturally considered masculine terrain" does not result from a concession,

[...] but a conquest whose merits, to a great extent, must be conferred on women themselves, their struggles and resistance. I say "women" because it is impossible to think of the category "woman", since these are not equal, because they belong to different social classes, generations, ethnic groups, religious creeds, sexual orientations, in other words, markers that make them unique and diverse, with regard to images of femininity (GOELLNER, 2009, p.272).

Melo (2001, 214) already adopts a posture called by him as "intermediary", in which he recognizes that the "emergence of a new feminine role" was conquered by women. But, it considers fundamental its relation with the "controlled concession" of access to the sports by the men and their interests.

This idea can also be reinforced, with Tubino, Cherem and Oliveira (2008) referring to the delay in the participation of women in sports and physical activities:

In the Brazilian trajectory, it is observed that in the first half of the twentieth century the country did not have a significant number of women practicing physical and sports activities of any nature. Her participation in sports and physical activities began in clubs in the 1920s through young women, usually daughters of European immigrants who already appreciated the value of exercise and gave her an incentive to enter sport. For the socio-cultural scenario that Brazil presented at the time was still unfavorable for women (TUBINO; CHEREM; OLIVEIRA, 2008, p 122).

As for volleyball played at the time, Valporto's description (2007, p.17) as a "new sport, without physical contact and considered of lesser effort" seems to justify its information about the beginning of the practice "also for girls", in the Cities of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Belo Horizonte and Porto Alegre.

According to Goellner (2009: 276), the encouragement of female participation in corporal and sports practices was part of a national project to strengthen bodies, improve moral values, build a strong race and, consequently, a strong nation ". In this way, according to the author (277), this "new woman" became a protagonist in the sports space, since it gave her new experiences, far beyond what was considered of her "nature", and which allowed her to exercise of sociability.

Until 1930, the volleyball tournament was mandatory for clubs affiliated with the Metropolitan Athletic Sports Association (AMEA); the following year, with the repeal of that decision there was no championship due to the lack of a necessary minimum number of participants. Cordeiro Filho and Albergaria (2005, 274) exalt the diffusion of women's volleyball when reporting the suspension of the championship: "This year, too, despite the setback, the sport has turned out to be a very popular recreational activity."

In the late 1930s, according to Goellner (2009), different spaces of change were created for the feminine condition related to sport in Brazilian society, with the expansion of its public appearance, from sports competitions, such as the Women's Games of the State of São Paulo (1935). In Rio Grande do Sul, according to Dalsin (2004), the Volleyball Women's Tournament (1938), held annually in the week of the Mother Country, had great relevance in the diffusion of the modality, to include schools, besides the clubs, approaching the modality of the Education, and thus encouraging new practitioners.

Beginning in the 1940s, other competitions were created, enshrining women's participation in sport, such as the Cambuquira Open Games (1941) in Minas Gerais. According to Pimentel (2011), famous among athletes in Rio de Janeiro, the Cambuquira Open Games were included in the annual calendar of the Volley-Ball Metropolitan Federation, which suspended the first and second-place matches for men and women during the Games. Another important event, the Spring Games (1949), also known as the Women's Olympics, according to Mourão (2000, p.14), "were born in a context that was already beginning to differentiate, due to the subtle transformations in the feminine condition, such as their conquest of space in society". The South American Volleyball Confederation (CSV) was founded in 1946, under the direction of Brazilian President Célio Negreiros de Barros (CBV, 1996).

These facts inaugurated the decade of 1950, of great representativeness as far as the feminine participation in the Brazilian volleyball. On Oct. 10, 1953, according to the 'Jornal dos Sports', for the first time in history, a volleyball match would be played in Maracanã because there was no more block or gym in the city that would hold public size for Fla x Flu that would decide the 'V Spring Games'. On part of the lawn was built a board for the game, and lighting poles were installed around the court (UM FLA-FLU ..., 1953). The Maracanã was taken by a public calculated in more than 40 thousand spectators and never seen in all the South American continent in an amateur competition. According to the 'Jornal dos Sports', it even brought back memories of the first and victorious trip of the Globetrotters in Brazil, in 1951 (ESPETÁCULO ..., 1953).

Valporto (2007) observes that it was common among players to practice several sports. As for the girls, as few practiced regular sports, the talent of some directed them to more than one modality. This fact is visible in the first Brazilian women's volleyball team, formed in 1951, for the contest of the I South American Championship, held in Brazil, in which the title was won by the men's and women's teams. Of the twelve members of the Brazilian team, more than half practiced other sports in parallel, such as athletics, basketball, swimming and tennis.

The Brazilian Volleyball-Ball Confederation (CBV) was founded in 1954, becoming independent of the Brazilian Confederation of Sports (CBD). This made possible the participation of Brazil for the first time in the World Championship in Paris. Both women's and men's teams finished 11th in the World Championship. The newspaper 'L'Equipe', from Paris, indicated the Brazilian player Norma Vaz among the six best of the world (L'EQUIPE..., 1956).

Still, according to Valporto (2007, p.25), "Brazilian teams, even outside the podium race, impressed in the second phase [...] the winning sequence pointed to a promising future for Brazilian volleyball."

In 1958, the men's and women's teams were already three-time South American champions, making sure that they had 'no' opponents for Brazil in South America.

Women's volleyball was growing in a context that was already different for women. In 1959, according to Goellner (2014), the stadium of the Porto Alegre Gymnastics Society (SOGIPA), which had more than 30 thousand spectators, was not enough to accommodate the public at the opening of the Women's Open Games, created in 1954 in Porto Alegre, with the aim of

encouraging women to practice sports.

That year, Brazil participated in the Pan American Games in Chicago, in the United States, with its women and men teams. The men won the runner-up and the women won their first gold medal outside the South American Continent.

Final considerations

Based on the analysis and notes made during the course of the study, we realized that the first half of the 20th century recognized Brazilian women's volleyball development. These facts inaugurated a decade that we consider the most representative due to the birth of the phenomenon 'volleyball', in its institutionalized form. In addition, we believe that the history of Brazilian amateur sport, especially in the 1950s, has reserved a special chapter for women's volleyball, which we consider part of the 'cornerstone' in building the 'victorious history' of Brazilian volleyball.

We hope that the knowledge derived from this study will benefit the academy and society. For, in avoiding what Vlastuin (2013, 28) called "a subtle and almost unnoticed effect of generalizing the male volleyball course to refer to the course of female volleyball (even its omission)," which creates a Which concerns the approach to the structure of women's volleyball and its contribution to the rise of this modality, in the historical-social process of Brazilian volleyball, we can address some ignored questions about the history of women's volleyball in Brazil, the role of women in Brazilian society , the role of the female sportswoman and possible developments, helping to address some current and perhaps future situations that still present themselves in an ambiguous way, both in academic discussions and in the social sphere.

KEYWORDS: Women's Volleyball. Context. Woman Sportswoman.

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WOMENS'S VOLLEYBALL IN BRAZIL: SOME HISTORY UNTIL THE YEARS OF 1950

Abstract

The present study intends to bring to light some of the trajectory of Brazilian women's volleyball, from its 1910 presentation to the 1950s, when the socio-cultural scenario of Brazil already provided incipient conditions for the participation of women in sport. The choice of the study is justified by its importance for the development of Brazilian volleyball, with facts that in the 1950s inaugurated a decade of great representatively regarding the birth of the phenomenon 'volleyball', in its institutionalized form.

KEYWORDS: Women's Volleyball. Context. Woman Sportswoman.

VOLLEY-BALL FÉMININ AU BRÉSIL: UN PEU D'HISTOIRE JUSQU' AUX ANNÉES DE 1950

Résumé

L'objectif de cette étude est de mettre en lumière une partie de la trajectoire de volley-ball des femmes brésiliennes depuis son introduction en 1910 jusqu'aux années de 1950, une époque où le scénario socio-culturel du Brésil dejá fournissait des conditions naissantes pour la participation des femmes dans le sport.

Le choix de cette étude se justifie par son importance pour le développement du volley-ball brésilien avec des faits qui, pendant les années de 1950, ont inauguré une décennie de grande représentation par rapport à la naissance du phénomène 'volley-ball' de maniére institutionnalisée.

MOTS CLÉS: Volley-ball. Contexte. Femme Sportif.

VOLIBOL FEMENINO EN BRASIL: UN POCO DE HISTORIA HASTA LOS AÑOS 1950

Resumen

La presente investigación pretende traer al tema un poco de la trayectoria del volibol femenino brasileño, desde su presentación en1910 hasta los años 1950, época en que escenario sociocultural de Brasil ya proporcionaba de forma incipiente condiciones para la participación de las mujeres en el deporte. La elección del tema se justifica por su importancia para el desarrollo del volibol brasileño, con hechos que en los años de 1950 inauguraron una década de gran representatividad cuanto al nacimiento del fenómeno 'volibol', en su forma institucionalizada.

PALABRAS-CLAVE: Volibol Femenino, Contexto, Mujer Deportista.

VOLEIBOL FEMININO NO BRASIL: UM POUCO DE HISTÓRIA ATÉ OS ANOS DE 1950

Resumo

O presente estudo pretende trazer à tona um pouco da trajetória do voleibol feminino brasileiro, desde sua apresentação em 1910 até os anos de 1950, época em que o cenário sociocultural do Brasil, já proporcionava de forma incipiente condições para a participação das mulheres no esporte. A escolha do estudo se justifica por sua importância para o desenvolvimento do voleibol brasileiro, com fatos que nos anos de 1950 inauguraram uma década de grande representatividade quanto ao nascimento do fenômeno 'voleibol', em sua forma institucionalizada.

PALAVRAS-CHAVES: Voleibol Feminino. Contexto. Mulher Esportista.