

Violence in sports: A Nigeria case study.

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Abstract:

Issues relating to soccer violence in Nigeria and the approaches towards remedying the situation are the subject of this thesis. The causes have been investigated in relation to the main features of the sport. These include its contact nature, its structure, governing laws and their administration. In addition the place of spectators, officials, the officers and administration in shifting roles as aggressors and or victims has been investigated.

Using data collected and statistically analysed where appropriate from answers to questionnaires served on various categories of dramatis personae to which was added information gathered from crowd behaviour in videorecorded accounts of two violent turn games, interview schedules with different soccer enthusiasts and from the report of a special symposium on the subject, the following conclusions were arrived at soccer violence could positively be influenced by the inevitable contact nature as well as the structure of the game. The players, the officials as well as the spectators including the news media. personnel could induce violence by their attitudes, utterances or writings and action. Individuals' cultural backgrounds could also influence and contribute to soccer violence. However, it was found that the laws of the game were adequate in scope to discourage violence.

Recommendations made to curb incidences of soccer violence revolved mainly on better administration of the game. Adequate facilities, i.e. playing pitch, protective barriers (tunnels, fences, moats etc.) should be provided well in advance. Appropriate officials with adequate education on the games should be provided. Regular public soccer education should be given to soccer fans. Pre-match physiological and psychological tests may be administered on the players. Commensurate punishments should be given to potential violence precipitators

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