

Spain and Italy during the World Cup of Soccer in 1934: A “battle” by means a ball

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ABSTRACT / RESUMEN

The reports of some European foreign newspapers, on May-June 1934, evidence as soccer has become a reflection of conflicts of political character between the nations. That is particularly obvious in the journalistic reports of the countries whose government was hostile to that Fascist. We would like to analyze the match Italy -Spain disputed during the World Cup of 1934, in Florence, in continuation of which the press of the Spanish Republic was hurled against the Italian team, the refereeing, the fascist government its self.

This hostile political attitude is rather clear by studying some documents from the archives and is also pointed out in the use of some adjectives (e. g. "*red team*" in order to refer to the Spanish team) that sure they wanted to emphasize the different political position of the two nations. Also not arriving at moments of real and proper violence, however soccer has at once revealed a wide one potential of aggressiveness and violence – coming from a political matrix – that would be growing larger themselves until nowadays.

In this occasion will be analysed if the two nations, Spain and Italy, became aware of such potentiality and in what way tried to circumscribe, restrict or increase it.

Moreover the opportunity is taken in order to point out that the studied documentation, in particular that Italian which is kept in the historical archives of the Italian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of the Interior, underlines the importance of studying the international and diplomatic history with the object of bringing out the historical interpretation applied to Sport.