

ABSTRACT

Professionalism and the Development of Club Football in Trinidad, 1974-1986

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This study has three major related objectives. Firstly, it attempts to ascertain the amateur and/or pecuniary nature of the orientation of players and national officials involved in the sport of football across two time periods: the 1970s and the 1980s. Secondly, it seeks to determine which of these orientations was either dominant or subordinate in the period under study. Thirdly, it examines several professional developments in football, describes their particular character, and accounts for their outcomes. In this latter regard, the author examines the role played by the structural location of actors as it affected their access to such resources as power, authority and finance, and the role played by amateurism, as the dominant action orientation.

The sampling methods used in this study have been determined by the general lack or absence of official records, the death of certain individuals and foreign migration. As a result of these factors, the sampling method adopted was largely of a purposive and/or quota character, although it contained certain random features. The above problems, together with the conflictual nature of some of the events studied, necessitated further, the use of purposive sampling. The study employed the method of triangulation which, in this case, involved the use of questionnaires, structured interviews and documents.

It was found that players and officials have shown historically, both an amateur and pecuniary orientation, although the former was generally dominant, while the latter was generally subordinate. However, no positive correlation was found between the dominant amateur orientation and the class and occupational location of national officials. On the contrary, a negative correlation was found. In addition, it was found that while the various professional developments reflected similarities and differences in their character, their outcome was shaped largely by the workings of structural factors, the actions of individuals, and had nothing to do with the dominance of amateurism.