

Genesis and institutionalization of modern sport in northern Morocco under the Spanish Protectorate

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Abstract: This article aims to describe the process of anchoring, institutionalization and diffusion of modern sport in northern Morocco, and in Tetouan in particular, the capital of the Spanish protectorate (1913-1956). By referring to works describing some of the sports and physical activities practised in schools during the protectorate period, and by relying on some issues of the Spanish press of the protectorate period, the paper shows that although the British are to be credited with the introduction of the game of football and its relative diffusion in some cities and towns of northern Morocco, its supervised practice is mainly the responsibility of the colonists and the Spanish military. These two precursors of football in Morocco during colonization organized and practised it for entertainment purposes, mainly for the benefit of the Moroccan Spaniards. However, if the Europeans forbade Moroccans to take part in military gymnastics because it was considered dangerous, sport, which was considered a game and had no political charge, seemed less dangerous and, consequently, more accessible to the indigenous Muslims. The latter took advantage of this to appropriate a new culture while remaining totally absent from the management and decision-making structures.

Keywords: modern sport - football - Institutionnalisation - Spanish protectorate

INTRODUCTION

In pre-Protectorate Morocco, modern sport and its institutionalized practice did not exist. Competitive sport was therefore absent from the repertoire of the system of bodily practices in traditional Moroccan society. Moroccans discovered football and other physical and sports activities (PSA) thanks to Europeans, but especially thanks to the Spanish and the French during colonization. According to colonial reasoning, Muslims should not have access to PSA because of the political functions they performed, which led to mistrust and reluctance on the part of the Spanish and French in Morocco [1], but sport, which was more like play, seemed less dangerous than military gymnastics and, consequently, was more accessible to indigenous Muslims.

In this article, we will try to describe the process of anchoring the different PSA in Morocco, and in Tetouan in particular, the capital of the Spanish protectorate (1913-1956). We will also try to show that, although the British deserve credit for the introduction of the game of football and its relative diffusion in certain Moroccan cities and towns, its institutionalized practice undoubtedly belongs to the Spanish and French colonists and military. These two agents who pioneered football in Morocco during the colonial period organized and practised it while forbidding the indigenous people to participate in its management.

It was mainly peninsular Spain and metropolitan France that communicated the taste for physical exercise

and sports to the Europeans of Morocco and the indigenous Moroccans [2]. The French and the Spanish began to install their culture of games and sports as soon as they arrived. In the north of Morocco, the Spanish games of sporting chance, Piola, Salvo, "tres canastas" and "jump caballero", among others, were practiced very early in Tetouan. The Tetouanese cyclist, Maadani A., nicknamed Turki, specifies in this sense that "Muslims, Jews and Spaniards from the same neighbourhood all played Spanish games together, in Trankat, Kaa-Hafa, Laayoun.... For each game..., competitions are organized almost every Sunday... by volunteers" [3].

Morocco thus became interested in sports early on. Modern sports and European games were introduced in Morocco, in the north as well as in the south, as leisure activities for the first settlers. But their use for purposes beyond entertainment was the order of the day.

1. DIVERSIFICATION OF SPORTS ACTIVITIES

The variety of sports imported and practised in northern Morocco could be elaborated from some books describing some of the school sports and physical activities practised during the protectorate and, on the other hand, from some issues of the Spanish press of the time. In fact, the Spanish sports authorities did not intend to produce a more or less complete compendium of everything related to sports for the executives of the sports movement at the time. The games played and the sports competitions organized were generally reported periodically by the specialised press, first by the daily

newspaper Marruecos and then, from 1946, by *El Diario de África* and its weekly sports supplement *África deportiva* from 1947.

A. Football, the sovereign sport

As far as its introduction into Morocco is concerned, no historical study has been carried out to date. However, there are two opposing views. According to the first thesis, the introduction of football in Morocco was done by the French and Spanish soldiers and colonists and not by the English sailors as it happened in other countries of the world.

Officially, the first competition and matches only started in 1916. But other sources say that football matches were played a few years before that date. El Hayani H., one of the Moroccan pioneers of the sports press, states that the very first football match on Moroccan soil was played in 1913, only one year after the establishment of the Protectorate. The match would have taken place in Aïn Taoujdate and would have opposed a team of colonists from Fez to another from Meknes [4].

Furthermore, Zerzouri S., referring to a photo in the book by Captain Voinot L. in 1912, points out that 'it was the French soldiers who played the first football matches at the Oujda Camp (Camp Jacques Roze)'. This postcard from early 1913 shows a football match between two military teams at Camp Roze, refereed by a soldier on horseback, dressed in army uniform. "We can therefore assume that the soldiers set up a football pitch for their own leisure time at the end of 1907 and the beginning of 1908, directly after their installation in the Jacques Roze Camp in Oujda, and that this was the date when modern sports were introduced in the capital of eastern Morocco. The first official matches in Oujda must have taken place around 1910 or 1911 [5].

According to both authors, we can conclude that the entry of modern sports in Morocco was through French settlers and soldiers immediately after their installation in the big cities of French Morocco, and the first sport practiced on its soil was football. During this first phase, modern sport and in particular football was only practiced by the French, especially by soldiers. The first football clubs were created. Indeed, as early as 1911, the first football club was founded in the town of Oujda. "Some French football fans such as Manuel Garbès, Henri Leguet, Paul Jist, Figari, Bilotte, Maxime Hugues, Dalverny and the Miléo brothers created the Sporting Club d'Oujda (S.C.O). From the outset, football, boxing, fencing and gymnastics were practised. The year 1913 saw the creation of the very first Casablanca football clubs, including the Union Sportive Marocaine de Casablanca (USM), which was to symbolize an entire era of colonial football.

The second thesis is defended by Halli T. [6], author of a recent book on football in Morocco, especially in Safi. He was able to demonstrate that, as in other countries of the world, it was the English sailors who

introduced football even before the French and Spanish protectors officially settled in Morocco. This game, as a modern physical sport activity (PSA), appeared in the shadow of the mercantile spirit that the Abda region experienced between 1817 and 1920 and only began to figure in the daily life of the local population of Safi at the beginning of the 20th century. Since then, the Anglo-Saxons and Iberians have been closely linked to the history of football in Safi and its establishment. This is simply because the merit of the paternity of this sport and of its introduction in the fief of the Abda is fully theirs. The local chronicle is unanimous in recognizing that it was the English and Spanish nationals who were undoubtedly the first to have shown a pronounced infatuation for the practice of this sporting speciality and to have adopted it before spreading it and teaching it to a native population that was quite jealous of its ancestral playful heritage. Therefore, it is possible to affirm, without fear of being mistaken, that football would never have existed in this region without the initiative of the members of these two communities.

Hilli's words rhyme with the logic of the history of football around the world. If we consulted it, we would discover that it was indeed the British who invented football and that their country has been the cradle of it since 1863. After adopting it as a fact of civilization, the English were to start exporting it between 1870 and 1910, first to Europe, to Spain in 1872, then to Portugal and everywhere else in the world, especially where they were establishing their commercial presence. The English were 40 years ahead of the French in this field and organized their first Cup in 1871. And so "some British nationals settled in Safi were the first to bring this sporting activity to our city at the beginning of the 20th century and began to practice it evidently on the premises".

The conclusions reached by Hilli T. also corroborate the words of El Ghaffari A., who states in his book on Moroccan football *Al Aarida (La Transversale)* that "football was played early in the north of Morocco by the English and the Spanish. As soon as English sailors and Spanish soldiers arrived in Ceuta, Melilla and Tangier at the beginning of the 20th century, they played football on its beaches for fun and entertainment...". Immediately after the Protectorate was established and Tangier was placed under international supervision, the city became a centre of attraction for states seeking to establish themselves there through diplomatic representations. And it was precisely at this time that football was introduced to the city thanks to the children of diplomats who visited their families during school and university holidays. "They used to play football in El Wetya El Hamra in the Merchane district, where the municipal stadium is now located. When they returned home, they offered the ball to Muslim children, inhabitants of the neighbourhood, etc".

Furthermore, the entry of football into the city of Tangier was reinforced by the English navy, very active on the Strait line, which "was in charge of transporting

diplomatic mail between Tangier and London via Gibraltar. While waiting for the mission order, the sailors of these postal boats organized matches and played football on the city's beaches. At that time, the equipment for the game appeared and was later offered to interested local spectators... A few years later, English, Spanish, French and Italian teams were formed. Within these teams, there were very few Muslim players who were allowed to play.

In view of the above, it is likely that while the British deserve credit for the introduction of the game of football and its relative diffusion in some Moroccan cities and towns (Safi, Tangiers), its institutionalized practice is undoubtedly due to the Spanish and French colonists and military. These two agents who pioneered football in Morocco during the colonial period organized and practised it for purposes that went beyond mere entertainment. The Spaniards sat massively, if not exclusively, in the governing bodies of the football societies they created, thus deciding on the policy to be followed and the uses to be made of football and the clubs. Indigenous people are totally absent from these management and decision-making structures [7].

In Tetouan, the administrative capital of the Spanish zone, its inhabitants have known football thanks to the Spanish soldiers and settlers. It should be pointed out that Spain was the second European country to play football after England and to have benefited from the British experience. This new sport appeared in this country in 1871, first thanks to the English workers who worked in the Spanish mining company Rio Tinto. Then, thanks to some Spaniards who stayed in England, either for studies or for various business reasons, and who learned enough about football practice. When they returned to Spain, they were able to teach it to their Iberian peers.

B. Other Sports Activities [8]

With reference to issue 514 of the weekly magazine Achamal, 9-15 February 2010, and to the book by Valderrama M. F. [9], we will list the sports practised and the activities organized by the structures and organisations that manage them.

- **CHESS:** The main activities of the Chess Federation are tournaments. For officials, a distinction was made between:
 - First category tournament;
 - Second category tournament;
 - Third category tournament;
 - Spanish National Championship;
 - Intercity Tournament;
 - Inter-Social Tournament;
 - Team Tournament;
 - Glass Tournament
- Federation Cup;
- Moroccan Cup.

A great player, Sidi Driss Ben Abdeslam Ben Abud, is several times champion of the first category and was able to obtain the fourth place in the national championship of Spain. The other renowned sportsman of the first category is Sid Mustafa Ben Ahmed El Bakkali, the current champion. Among the Spaniards, Mr. Carlos Jofre Cairo stands out.

- **ATHLETICS:** The existence of a stadium in Tetouana facilitated the task of the organizers of the annual athletics championships which were celebrated every year. On the menu of these championships: running, cross-country, track and field, jumps, hurdles and throws. The winning teams took part in the national competitions. It should be noted that the 34th Spanish National Athletics Championship was held in September 1954 in Tetouan, and was attended by representatives from the zone and 11 Spanish regions or provinces. The classification of the first three teams was as follows:
 1. Cataluña.
 2. Guipúzcoa.
 3. Castilla.
- **BASKETBALL:** The stadium of the Delegation of Education and Culture, with a capacity of 2000 spectators, was inaugurated on 24 February 1946. This date marked the beginning of the heyday of this sport, which was to gain many followers among the population of the Zone. The federated basketball teams that take part in the annual championship are:
 - From Tétouan: Sociedad Deportiva "El Pilar", Empresa "Torres Quevedo", Club Atlético, Plus Ultra and Rábida Riadía.
 - From Tangier: Hasnona B. C., A.S., Unión Deportiva España, Club 23.
 - From Ceuta: Unión África Ceutí and Empresa Benoliel.
 - From Melilla: Epic Military Society.

All these teams have their counterparts in the junior category. There are also women's basketball teams, corresponding to the Colegio de María Milagrosa de Tétouan, Colegio de Nuestra Señora de los Angeles de Larache, Educación y Descanso, Sección Femenina and Juventud Femenina.

The Moroccan teams participate in the Spanish championship of the second division. Spanish teams come to Tetouan to play against those affiliated to the Moroccan Federation.

The basketball court of the Delegation of Education and Culture witnessed the Spain-Portugal international match, which was celebrated on 22 May 1949 on the occasion of the marriage of H.I. El Jalifa Muley El Hasan Ben El Mehdi with Princess Lalla Fatima Zohra, the daughter of Sultan Muley Abdelaziz. The Spanish national team won by 63 to 36.

- **BOXING:** This Federation held vigils in Tetuán and other towns in the Zone. It brought pugilists (both boxers and wrestlers) from Spain and other countries to participate with the boxers of the Zone. The figures of Ben Boubker (Abdeslam Ben Mohamed) and Ahmed El Mokhtar can be distinguished in this sport. In 1954 and 1955, the latter was declared vice-champion of Spain as an amateur in his category: light weight.
- **HUNTING AND FISHING:** The abundance of hunting has made many enthusiasts of this sport. Also, the longitude of the coast invited fishermen to multiply and improve their skills. Excursions were frequent to the mountains, the coast and the rivers in search of animals (only during the period of the year when they were allowed to hunt or fish), and it was not uncommon to have competitions, where each one tested his value and ability.
- **CYCLING:** As the Moroccan population shows a great passion for this sport, the number of amateur practitioners was remarkable. Tetouan has seen the birth of great figures in Moroccan cycling, including the star Ahmed Turquí, nicknamed Colombophilie. Championships were organized annually, and the various rounds that took place saw the participation of cyclists from several Andalusian cities. Three competitions were organized each year, the first in April, the official championship, the second in September and the third in December. As in the case of the Moroccan championship, there were branches in some cities that organized local competitions for beginners, amateurs and other categories.
- **COLUMBICULTURE:** This Federation had its headquarters in Melilla. It received considerable support following the creation of the Sociedad Colombófila de Palomas Deportivas (Colombian Society of Sporting Doves) in the same city on 2 March 1945. In its first year of existence, there were already fifty-five palomares in Melilla, with a total of seven hundred and twenty-five birds. Three competitions were held each year:
 - The first (the official championship), in April;
 - The second in September, on the occasion of the Melilla festivities;
 - The third (the championship of native doves born in the current year) in December.
- **FENCING:** The Hispano-Moroccan Fencing Federation was ranked second (only one point behind the Valencian) in the 1945 Spanish National Championships. It was in Melilla (thanks to Enrique Bossini Zavaglio) and Ceuta (Enrique Catalá Tanco) that this sport was cultivated. Melilla and Ceuta were then the head of the federation's branches. In both cities, competitions were frequently held and the elimination rounds for the regional championship were punctually organized for foil, epee and sabre techniques.
- **GYMNASTICS:** This Federation was created in the first months of 1955, and in July of the same year, it organized the first Hispano-Moroccan Championship, which took place on the 24th of the same month in front of the College of Nuestra Señora del Pilar, competing for the President of the Assembly's Cup for the absolute individual champion, and six cups for the champions of the floor exercise, pommel horse, rings, parallel bars, high bar and vault.
- **HORSE SPORTS:** There was a Horse Society in Tetouan, Larache, Ceuta and Melilla, and they celebrated competitions in the dates of its respective popular welcomes.
- **SKATE HOCKEY:** This sport is young in the Area. It started to be practised publicly on 20th June 1954 in the "Patín Club" of Tetouan, on the occasion of the game that tested the teams of Tangier Marciano H. C. and Rayo de Oro. Later on, the interest in skate hockey grew and many teams were formed. Atlético de Tetuán won the local championship in the capital of the Zone in 1955.
- **ALPINISM:** This federation is home to the sport of mountain climbing and skiing. On public holidays, mountaineering clubs organize excursions to nearby mountain ranges with the thrill of climbing peaks, taming steep terrain and hills. As for the white sport, it began to gain importance in 1946 under the sponsorship of the Central Assembly and with the unselfish collaboration of the Moroccan Army Staff, which provided the necessary means to complete the excursions to the snowy slopes of Quetama, which were suitable for practising all the modalities of this sport: saltos, walks, descents, slalom, etc.
- **SWIMMING:** Three cities lead in this sport: Tetouan, Melilla and Ceuta. The latter two thanks to their port, while Tetouan benefited from its swimming pools, mainly the one built next to the sports ground of the Delegation of Education and Culture. Competitions were organized every year. Amongst which we can mention the crossing of the port of Ceuta, the swimming sports day in Ceuta, the aquatic exercises in Melilla, the cup of H.I. the Jalifa in the city of Nador, and the Hispano-Moroccan swimming championship in Tetouan. This Federation also hosted the activities of the Melilla Nautical Club, which periodically held cutter regattas (1), as well as the passages in the dugout canoes that were

carried out between Ceuta and the Río Martín or between other places on the coast.

- **UNDERWATER FISHING:** This sport has been organized in such a way as to gain more notoriety every day. The most resonant event of this sport was the 2nd World Championship, celebrated in Cala Tramontana.
- **TENIS:** The teams federated here are those of Tetouan, Melilla and Tangiers. In the courses of the Equestrian Societies of Tetouan, Melilla, Ceuta and Larache the local meetings and championships of the different modalities that this sport offers, (1) with the participation of Spain, took place. Tetouan had the honor of hosting the Spanish national championship in 1945 and the first Moroccan championship, held between 18 and 29 May of the same year.
- **TABLE TENNIS:** This peaceful sport has grown considerably since 1946, when its federation was created and now has many fans and a large number of federated teams. It organizes annual local championships, which end in the Moroccan one through the League system.
- **PIGEON SHOOTING:** This Federation has a magnificent pigeon loft in Jemís de Ányera. It was the breeding ground for the pigeon shooting competitions that were held on the occasion of local or regional festivals. The Moroccan championship was celebrated in Tetouan in July every year.
- **WATER SPORTS,** including swimming, rowing and yachting, were a pastime of the Spaniards and some French in northern Morocco. Very popular due to the climate of this region, which has an additional advantage: it has miles of coastline.
- **TAUROMACHY.** Although some sources mention the existence of an arena in Tetouan, everything indicates that this was not the case. Yes, it is possible, although we have no confirmed data, that some bullfighting shows were organized in the El Pilar School. There was a bullfighting club in Tetouan, founded in the 1940s and based in one of the city's most central streets, the Spanish Plaza.

According to Parres, at least three competitions were organized in Tetouan in 1956. They took place on 17, 18 and 23 July in a demountable arena, located near the Hípica [10]. Thus, in this whole range of sports, about twenty disciplines, practised in Tetouan as in Spain, only a few activities were opened to Muslims: football, boxing, athletics and cycling.

C. School side.

As Football was introduced into schools in the late 1930s and early 1940s, according to Valderrama Martínez [11], the official at the Delegation of Education and Culture of the Spanish High Commission in Morocco. He remembers school teams representing different schools, primary and secondary, girls and boys, pupils, students, teachers and PE teachers... Inter-school football matches became commonplace.

The Directorate of Physical Education and Sports organized an official school championship and a school trophy in which several school clubs were involved.

According to the testimonies and interviews with some of the players [12], this school football in its early days was truly and totally apolitical. All the very young players, secondary school students, were motivated by the search for fun.

D. Muslim side.

It is football that will develop and become the most popular among the natives from the 1920s. It will draw crowds of spectators, but also of players. Everyone will kick a ball. However, the first Muslims who were interested in institutional football played it in Spanish or mixed clubs.

The first "informal" Tetouanese football association [13] created by Muslims was in 1924, according to Ahmed Mohamed Mghara. It adopted the color green and was called the Union Sportive Al-Ahli club. It was a mono-ethnic Muslim association which disappeared very quickly. But it gave the starting signal for the creation of football societies.

2. BIRTH OF SPORTS CLUBS AND FEDERATIONS IN NORTHERN MOROCCO

Football quickly spread and became a popular sport in Spain and in other parts of the world where they had economic interests.

Arriving in Spanish Morocco in the context of the Protectorate, Europeans and Moroccans were possessed early on by the mania for football. The habit of playing football to amuse oneself or to fight boredom, or even to compete with one's opponent, thus cultivates the first footballing traditions in Tetouan and in the other regions of the Spanish zone. It is the most widespread and popular sport. In the Zone, there was not a town or urban centre that did not have at least one football team, officially or socially recognized.

The federated teams were divided into two regional categories, and had the option of remaining in the Spanish national categories if they so wished.

The teams are the following: Club Atlético de Tetuán and Unión Deportiva España, from Tangier for the second division of the championship (League), and Unión

Deportiva Melilla, Sociedad Deportiva Ceuta, Sociedad Deportiva Ceuta, Español Club de Fútbol, from Tetuán, Larache Club de Fútbol, Unión África Ceutí, Unión Deportiva Tangerina, Club Deportivo Alcázar, Club Pescadores, from Villa Sanjurjo, Tesorillo de Melilla, Sociedad Deportiva de Villa Nador, Club Alcazaba, from Tangier, Club Deportivo Riffien and Sociedad Deportiva Atlas for the third division of the League. As for the Regional Category, it includes the following clubs: Tetuan Football Club, Rábita Riadía, Club Deportivo Ceutí, Asociación d'Empleados Municipales de Ceuta, Ibérica Football Club, from Tangier, Sociedad Deportiva Alam, from Tangier, Unión Deportiva Las Navas, from Larache, Agrupación Deportiva Alhucemas and Sociedad Deportiva de Villa Sanjurjo.

The Tetuán Stadium, the former Municipal Stadium, has been the property of the Central Assembly of Physical Education and Sport since 7 April 1947. It measures 102/67 meters and has two tiers, covered with a gull wing style visor, under which are, in addition to the steps, thirty boxes, two of which were dedicated to H.I. El Khalifa and H.E., the High Commissioner. It has a capacity of twenty-five thousand people and has an athletics track and a jumping pit.

Thus, around 1916, the first two football clubs in Tetouan were founded: Sporting Tetuán and el Hispano-Marroquí. They played in the Tetuan stadium, which was founded by the engineer Marquez de Varela in 1913 (see annex). In 1922, under the impulse of Spanish personalities, unconditional supporters of Atlético de Madrid, who lived in Tetouan, the two clubs merged. Club Atlético Tetuán was born. This explains the resemblance of their respective logos and the adoption by both clubs of the same uniform: red and white top, blue shorts.

There were many football teams in Tétouan and its regions. We mention: S.D España Tetouan, Espagnol C.F, Juventud Balompédica S.D, C.D Morocco, A.D Mercado, C.F Moghreb de Tetouan, C.D San José, Tetouan C.F, C. Atlético Tetouan, Nahdat Shabab, C.D Ar Rabita Riyadia, Amistad C.F, C.D Sania R'mel, C. D Sam (Automotive Service), Maestranza C.F, C.D Tetuan, S.D Rincon Del M'dik (Villa Elena), C.D Riffien Dar Riffien (Castillejos), C. Riffien Castillejos, Poblado Riffien, U.D Castillejos, C. Atletico Rio Martin (Martil), S.D Rio Martin et C.D Rio Martin [14].

Of all these clubs, El Atlético de Tétouan was the main one for the city. It was professional and represented the capital and the whole Northern Zone honorably in the Spanish second and first division championship. Thanks to this team, the city of Tetouan experienced a brilliant achievement in professional football between 1945 and 1956, and the Valera stadium saw great Spanish teams like Real Madrid, F.C. Barcelona and A. Bilbao.

At the dawn of independence, El Atlético de Tétouan moved to Sebta and Moghreb de Tétouan replaced it and

became the sole representative of the city and the first to represent the northern region in the first national division.

In the rest of Spanish Morocco, the city of El Hoceima saw the birth of its first football club in 1942. It was named Sociedad Deportiva de Sanjurjo. It was founded by Manuel Ruiz and the emblem of its outfit was blue and white. This Sanjurjo team played in the municipal stadium, which had a capacity of up to 2,500 spectators. Its headquarters were located in Avenida La Legion, where the club's officials and members, estimated at the time to be around 300, would meet from time to time to discuss the future of their team. On 16 September 1944, the city of Al Hoceima saw the creation by Giraldo of a second football team called Juventud Sanjurjo, nicknamed Pescadores. The players of this team wore red shirts. After long efforts, this team was finally able to reach the third division of the Spanish football championship where it played in pool number 13. In 1956, the two teams (Sociedad Deportivo de Sanjurjo and Juventud Sanjurjo) disappeared and were replaced by Club Santé, which became the representative of the city of El Hoceima in the championship of the North-East League in the division of honor (color of uniform: white).

On 30 August 1941, the city of Nador saw the birth of the first official football club called Sociedad Deportiva de Villa Nador. It had 230 regular members among the city's sports and political personalities, especially among Spaniards. The team was distinguished by its white shirt with a ball in the centre. The club had a stadium with an estimated capacity of 3000 spectators. The stadium also contains private (meeting room) and public (café, toilets) facilities. Since its creation, the team did not stop winning the regional championship of the eastern pool and, during the years 47, 48 and 49, it qualified for the play-offs but was eliminated first by the Spanish team of the Union Sportive Espagnole de Tanger at the Merchane stadium, then by the team of Moghreb Al Aksa at the Alfonso Morbi stadium in Ceuta. At the beginning of 1954, it was able to reach the third division thanks to its excellent players, including Moreno, a player from the Spanish team of Barcelona.

In addition to Sociedad Deportiva de Villa Nador, another football team was also created. This was Al Atlético de Nador, which played in the regional first division, eastern pole, and relied almost exclusively on local Spanish players.

In Martil, in the year 49-50, a football team called Atlético Martin participated in the second division of the regional championship, western pool.

In Larache, the Santa Barbara football club was founded in the city of Larache in the 1940/1941 season and its president was José Perez. The team was classified in the second division of the northern zone where it was able to win the trophy of its division and thus reach the first division. After the death of the founding president, José Santoja became president of the club for the period

between 1941/1942 and 1942/1943, during which time the club was able to maintain its place in the first division. The club had players belonging to the Spanish army, and the name was changed after this date to "Athletic Aviation". One of the club's memorable matches was the one that brought the club together with the Barcelona Spanish team, which had 5 international players. Afterwards, Francisco Canalejos replaced José Santoja at the head of the club which changed its name to Patronato Deportivo Larache. In June 1944, after the definitive departure of Canalejos to Tetouan, the choice went to Miguel Martín Valero as new president. In the sports season 1944/1945, the club won the title of its zone in the first division. In the summer of 1945, a football tournament was organized in Larache with the participation of clubs such as Sevilla, Betis, Patronato de Larache, where the Larache representative performed well with admirable results despite the high level of the other teams. In January 1946, the president of the club resigned. He was replaced by José Eugenio Ochoa and in December of the same year a friendly match was played against Athletic Bilbao. After signing on for another remarkable season, the club was able to maintain its ranking in the division it belonged to. The team ended up changing, once again, its name. It is called Club Deportivo Larache [15].

A second football club named Juvéniles de Larache was created. The club played its first match in 1948 in Rabat, outside the Spanish zone, against Stade Marocain. On that date, the Juvéniles de Larache also visited Casablanca, where they played the Union Sportif Marocaine de Casablanca (U.S.M.C). They lost games, the first with a score of (1-6) and the second (1-3). Between 1944 and 1946, the team had a resounding success by winning the title of its group in the first division of its zone and qualified for the final, the winner of which would enter the third national division in the Spanish championship. They were beaten by the sports club Algesiras with a heavy score of 3-1, thus depriving themselves of the opportunity to enter this division. However, a year later, they managed to reach the fourth place among the teams of the third division of their group. In the 1955/1956 season, they maintained the same ranking.

Other towns in Spanish Morocco also saw the creation of football teams (or clubs) under the impetus of the Spaniards.

- In El Kasr El Kebir, the Deportivo Al Kasar club was founded in 1940 by a Spanish soldier, Captain Rebot. Since its creation, the club has been playing in the amateur division, but from the 55-56 season it reached the third national division. Most of the players were Spanish soldiers. The club remained active in the northern football scene until 1956, when it disappeared and was replaced by the current club "Al Nadi al Kasri".

- In Chefchaouen, and since the installation of the Spanish army in the city, several football teams were

formed, first in the military barracks, then elsewhere. These teams organized tournaments and friendly matches. The first team to appear in 1946 was called "Sociedad Deportiva". It was assigned to the second regional division and thus participated in the championship run by the Spanish-Moroccan football federation. The team was made up of Spanish and Moroccan players [16].

- In Assilah. It was also thanks to the Spanish soldiers who settled in the town that football clubs were created. The first football team founded in Assilah was military. It was in 1940. The team was made up of Spaniards only. A second team was created in 1945: the Athlétic Juvenile Assilah, a team that managed to reach the first regional league [17].

On the other hand, championships were organized in French Morocco. In 1916, the whistle was blown for the first official competition, the Moroccan League. The forerunner of today's championship began with clubs playing exclusively European players. Administratively, the League was placed under the supervision of the French Football Federation (FFF). At the time, the FFF had 22 regional leagues, including five in North Africa (Morocco, Oran, Algiers, Constantine and Tunisia).

For the first season, it was the C.A of Casablanca which won the title, thus becoming the first champion in the history of Morocco. A year later, the reign of USM began and they managed to win three titles in a row. After the end of the Great War in Europe, the superiority of the Casablanca clubs ceased for a while, as it was the Olympic Marocain, R'bati club that dominated the League for four years in a row. The first half of the 1920s was also characterised by the timid appearance of the first Moroccan players in French league clubs. One of these players was none other than Mohamed Ben Lahcen Tounsi Afani, alias Père Jégo. After being the very first baccalaureate in the history of Morocco, Father Jégo discovered a passion for football when he went to study in France in 1919. After completing his studies as a banker, he returned to Morocco in 1922, where he joined the Union Sportive Athlétic de Casablanca (USA). His career was not brilliant, but he was one of the very few Moroccan players to play in the league at the time.

And it was thanks to the appearance and multiplication of teams founded in the north in the cities of Ceuta, Melilla and Tangiers that the idea of organizing local competitions began to emerge. In 1917, each of these cities had an autonomous commission that was responsible for organizing the local football championship. These committees carried out this function until 1931, when the Regional Hispano-Moroccan Football Federation was created.

Directly after the creation of the Regional Hispano-Moroccan Football Federation in 1931, teams from Tetouan participated such as: El Atlético de Tétouan, Moghreb de Tétouan, Racing de Tétouan, Sport Deportivo

España, and Espagnol. The Estadio La Hípica has hosted matches between famous Spanish teams.

On the other hand, Zoubair Ibn Amine, author of a book on El Atlético de Tetuán, reports, in an article published in the regional weekly Achamal, dedicated to a brief history of some sports practiced during the period of the Spanish Protectorate, that "official football championships were organized in Tetouan such as the "Military Championship, the School Championship, the Craftsmen Championship, the Civil Servants' Championship and the Youth Category Championship. Many other unofficial competitions, of a friendly nature, have also been organized in the form of football championships. Without claiming to be exhaustive, we quote: Khalifa Cup, Youth Cup, Spring Championship, Rabita Riyadia Tournament, Moghreb of Tetouan Tournament, Hasani Scout Tournament".

French, Spanish and Italians, but no Muslims, started to play football. The new game is played with many difficulties. The game was played with many difficulties and was subject to parental recriminations, as it was later for the Muslims, but not for the same reasons. The players of the time marked out the pitch with plaster. The same pair of shoes was used by 3 or 4 players who contributed to pay for them. The rules they learned could not be enforced. They played football without encouragement.

Other teams were formed with difficulty and disappeared as soon as they were founded, or after a short period of existence.

Internationally, and thanks to its proximity to Spain, Spanish Morocco was often visited by teams from the Iberian Peninsula who travelled to Tetouan and Tangiers, outside the framework of the Spanish football championship, to play matches against teams from both cities. On a Sunday in March 1932, Futbol Club Elche triumphed at the Tetouan stadium against Athletic. Other matches were organized with Spanish teams from the peninsula and it was always Athletic Club of Tetouan that faced them. Similarly, and as part of the exchange between clubs from the north and those from the peninsula, Morocco Tangiers and Atlas of Tangiers regularly travelled to the south of Spain to have friendly meetings with football clubs from Andalusia [18].

The Athletic Club of football, the official representative of the city of Tetouan, is a mono-ethnic formation. This club essentially serves as an expression of the national identity of the Spanish coloniser. That the Spaniards played there at the beginning of its activities.

CONCLUSION

If Europeans have known sport thanks to a diffusion model that is more a process of appropriation by contagion during commercial or student contacts between the British and the populations of other countries of the old continent, Moroccans have discovered and practised

modern sport according to a pattern that is clearly part of the colonial enterprise that has affected both Africa and Asia [19]. It was the Spanish colonialists and military who introduced and spread association football in the north of Morocco and it thus became the hegemonic sport. If sport was used to "educate" and bring the natives closer to the values of civilization, the Moroccans took advantage of it to appropriate a new culture of the body and use it for fun.

The initiative to institutionalize sport thus led to the creation of sports structures, associations and federations. Of these structures, Muslims were very little present and influential, which slowed down the development of Muslim sport.

Pierre de Coubertin, a supporter of the grouping, wanted to protect sport from the political struggles that penetrated it. However, the Spanish coloniser politicized it excessively: formally prohibiting the access of Muslims to gymnastics and other physical and sports activities for military preparation and controlling the membership of indigenous people in sports associations and especially in their management and decision-making bodies.

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