

Research on Mini basketball: Spanish Experience and Chinese Enlightenment

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Abstract: *This research analyzes the development process and experience of mini basketball in Spain by means of literature review and logical analysis. The research found that the continuous improvement of Spanish basketball level is closely related to the development of mini basketball. Its development experience lies in the establishment of a "Trinity" mini basketball service system; "Leapfrog" youth competition system; High quality reserve talent training system. The Enlightenment of China: build a diversified and integrated mini basketball service system; Build a full coverage, multi-age and multi-level event system; Optimize the "people-oriented" reserve talent training structure; Expand the influence of the media and establish a player file and player tracking system by big data; Stimulate the enthusiasm of social capital and promote the development of mini basketball cultural industry system.*

Keywords: *mini basketball, Spain, reserve talent training, development experience*

1. Introduction

In October 2021, the General Administration of sports of the people's Republic of China issued the sports development plan for the 14th five year plan, which proposed to "promote the formation of a new pattern of basketball development with efficient operation of talent training system, sound and perfect event system and full play of comprehensive functions" [1] the implementation of the "mini basketball plan" filled the gap in China's modern youth competition system, It has become an important starting point for the cultivation of basketball reserve talents in the new era and has become an important part of promoting the strategy of "Sports Powerful Country" in the "14th Five-Year Plan" period.

Mini basketball is a basketball game suitable for teenagers under the age of 12. In essence, it is a transformation of basketball. The ball, court and hoop are in small specifications, so as to meet the actual physical situation and sports needs of teenagers, reduce the entry difficulty and comprehensively improve the competition experience and sense of achievement. As early as 1960, China began to try to promote mini basketball. In 1970, the China Sports Commission formulated specific rules for mini basketball. However, with China's return to the Olympic Games in the 1980s the China Sports Commission began to inject almost all its limited resources into the Olympic sports, The scope of work of the Sports Commission has gradually narrowed to the competent department of Olympic sports. Mini basketball is naturally not valued. In addition, the standards of mini basketball are not unified, and there is a lack of a competition system, mini basketball has not been well developed in China. [2] It was not until November 2017 that the "little basketball development plan" was restarted.

Spain has reached the finals twice in a row in the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games, won the 2015 European Championships and the 2019 World Cup, and has become the largest opponent of the American Basketball "dream team" in the international games for many consecutive years. It has long occupied the second place in the FIBA ranking, It is enough to prove that Spain is a well deserved top basketball power. As a country whose economic and educational level is only in the middle reaches of Europe, its basketball level can remain in the top ranks in the world for a long time, which is inseparable from the development of mini basketball. For instance, the famous Spanish star Pau Gasol began to participate in some organized mini basketball games at the age of 7; Ricky Rubio made his debut in the Spanish professional basketball league (ACB) at the age of 14. All of these benefited from the promotion and popularization of mini basketball. The development of mini basketball in China is still in its infancy and initial stage. Studying and learning the development experience of mini basketball in Spain is conducive to its healthy and sustainable development in China in the future.

2. Analysis on the development process of Spanish mini basketball

2.1 birth and rise: Spanish mini basketball was born in the "soccer generation"

When it comes to Real Madrid and Barcelona, the first mentioned must be the two giants of La Liga. However, as the two teams of Asociación de Clubes de Baloncesto (ACB), Real Madrid and Barcelona are no worse than soccer clubs. They have a dominant position in the ACB and perform well in the European Champions League. In fact, they come from the same source as soccer clubs. They are also the only two basketball teams controlled by soccer clubs in Spain. As the two oldest clubs in Spain, it reflects that the initial development of basketball in Spain is closely related to soccer.

The initial rise of mini basketball in Spain dates back to the 1960s, when sports had a strong political meaning in Spain. From 1930s to 1970s, Spain was in Francisco Franco's dictatorship period, and great political changes took place in the society. Spanish society entered a highly centralized dictatorship period. During this period, the development of Spanish sports followed the development path of Italy : a large number of sports organizations were established one after another; Sports is no longer an activity of private organizations, but an activity carried out by public sports organizations under the entrustment of political rights; During this period, sports became an "escape culture", a release tool for people to temporarily get rid of the tyrannical dictatorship. Spaniards love adventure and competition, which makes bullfighting, football and basketball the most popular sports in this period. Acevedo defined Franco's ruling period as three stages: "political generation" (1936-1946), "soccer generation" (1947-1966) and "rebellious generation" (1967). In the 20-year "soccer generation", Franco and his people are more enthusiastic about football than anything else. Soccer is of great importance in this generation as an "escape culture" to ease the repression of dictatorship [3]. Franco took the extremely successful Real Madrid club as its symbol, closely linked the support for the semi official way of Real Madrid with the centralization policy, and seized the opportunity of international football matches, which not only made Spain's international image more positive from the image of a brutal dictator, But also used the glory brought by football victory to enhance the domestic reputation. As a tool to publicize national prestige and social control, soccer has enabled Spanish sports clubs to develop rapidly.

On the other hand, in the "soccer generation", Franco's dictatorship attaches great importance to the development of physical education. The most fundamental reason is that the education of young people is a place where values can be instilled, which is reflected in politics, legislation, theory and other aspects, Spanish society attaches great importance to sports clubs and physical education, which makes clubs become the base for the development of physical education. Mini basketball came into being under this background, and continues to sprout and develop.

2.2 Dissemination and promotion: mini basketball from Spain to the world

The mini basketball game was first born in the United States in 1948. A teacher named Jay alche organized a basketball game for children aged 8-12, and specially used lighter ball and lower frame that children are easy to hit. This became popular and was called "mini basketball game". For a long time, the "mini basketball" activity was mainly limited to the United States. However, the hero of the real internationalization of "mini basketball" was actually the Spaniards.

In the 1860s, there was an upsurge of basketball in Spain. The Spanish Basketball Association and many educators visited the United States and introduced mini basketball. Ann Lopez was the most enthusiastic advocate of mini basketball at that time. He led the manufacturing standards and game rules of mini basketball equipment in Spain and was later elected chairman of the Spanish mini basketball Committee. With the rapid development of mini basketball in Spain, the achievements of basketball youth training and youth basketball competition in Spain have also been significantly improved, which has attracted the attention of European countries. Since then, many European countries have learned the "mini basketball rules" from Spain and carried out this sport one after another.

In 1970, under the guidance of FIBA, Spain established the first International Committee for Mini-Basketball. In July 1972, the Committee held the first international "Mini Basketball Game" in Almeria ,In 1973 and 1974, the Committee held the second and third international mini basketball competitions in Lima and Rio ,. [4] In this regard, mini basketball has been promoted from Spain to the world and began to become an international sport tried by teenagers all over the world. FIBA has also begun to issue corresponding unified rules and carry out various mini basketball summer camps and

international competitions. Under the guidance of FIBA, mini basketball has gradually formed a very complete sports rule system, and has become internationally Popularize.

In 1975, after the end of Franco's dictatorship, Juan Carlos came to power and carried out democratic reform. Spain entered a transition period from dictatorship to democratic rule. During this period, the class attribute of Spanish sports participation began to fade gradually. The Spanish government put forward the slogan of "sports for everyone" [5] and guaranteed the people's right to participate in sports through a series of legislative measures, at the same time, during this period, there is a very high participation rate of sports activities in Spain, covering people of all ages, including teenagers and children. These measures greatly promoted the development of mini basketball in Spain.

2.3 Foster and enhance: mini basketball helps Spanish Basketball enter the "golden age"

During the dictatorship, Spanish sports clubs served the pillar of the country and played a important role in changing the national image and improving the national reputation to a great extent. On the other hand, sports clubs began to take on the major responsibility of cultivating reserve forces. After entering the mid-1990s, age echelons at all levels were established one after another. Clubs of class B League, C League, and D League under La Liga sprung up, gradually creating a fairly complete youth training system and event system. Because the mini basketball game attaches great importance to the individual ability of players, the Spaniards began to introduce the training on individual ability in American basketball, and then a group of players with outstanding ability began to compete in the NBA. The Spanish Basketball rose, winning three European Championships, two world championships and two Olympic runners up, Spanish basketball has entered the "golden age".

3. Analysis on the development experience of Spanish mini basketball

3.1 People oriented: "Trinity" mini basketball service system

The biggest goal of mini basketball is to cultivate high-level basketball players. As we all know, there is a huge service team behind every top player. Spain's domestic mini basketball service system takes "home, school and society" as the main body, which has an all-round impact on mini basketball players. First of all, family members, as the role of helping players make decisions at key stages, are very important to the development process of teenage players. In the mini basketball game in Spain, parents have a high degree of participation and a wide range of participation. They not only provide spiritual attention and encouragement, but also fully integrate into the game by sponsoring the team, serving as game volunteers, providing logistics services for the game and organizing post game parties [6], so that Spanish teenagers can fully enjoy their favorite sports, Accumulate basketball culture atmosphere and mass base; Secondly, as one of the main bodies responsible for the cultivation of mini basketball talents, the school is responsible for undertaking mini basketball competitions at all levels on the one hand, and continuously exploring and transporting talents by providing scholarships for students with excellent physical education and learning on the other hand; At the social level, mini basketball committees have been set up in various regions of Spain, which are mainly responsible for formulating mini basketball development plans in line with the local actual situation, organizing competitions and introducing social capital. At the same time, under the leadership of the mini basketball Committee, an event service structure with "coaches, referees and competition organization personnel" as the main body has been formed. Its personnel training has formed a "pyramid" certification system, and all levels are required to have rich ideas and practical experience, so the certification is very difficult. Nevertheless, according to the survey, there are about 190000 registered basketball players in Spain, and 150000 registered coaches. In addition, the mini basketball committee will also cooperate with the local TV media to report the Mini Basketball League in an all-round way, and produce the game data of each mini basketball player, so as to provide a basis for the recruitment of athletes in the superior youth training system. The three levels of "home, school and society" are independent and integrated with each other, forming a joint force in many aspects, which provides excellent service guarantee for the growth of mini basketball players.

3.2 Calling talents and enabling: "leapfrog" youth event system

Spain has a very complete event system. In terms of professional basketball leagues, there are currently 4 levels, including ACB (18), class B Oro (18), class C Plata (24) and class D EBA (108 by Region). There are also semi professional and non professional basketball systems at levels 5 to 9 in all

regions of Spain. Among them, ACB is known as the best basketball league in the world except NBA. It can be seen that it has many participating teams, large reserves of athletes and high league level. In addition, the Spanish youth competition system covers seven groups, including two groups of the mini basketball league, 12-14 years old group, 15 years old group, 16 years old group, 17 years old group and 18-22 years old group (commonly known as the youth team) [7]. There is a rigorous competition mechanism and a benign flow of personnel between team groups. Once players show sports performance beyond their age, they will be selected to "skip" to participate in higher-level competitions, so as to ensure that they can continue to play in a matching competitive environment to continuously improve their level; At the same time, the 18-22-year-old age group will compete with the players of the level 4 professional league (EBA), and adapt to the confrontation intensity of the professional team in advance in their youth, which is also the reason why Rubio, Luca Dončić can emerge in international competitions at the age of 17 or 18. Spain also has a youth brand event "Young King's Cup", which has high domestic attention and great influence. The Spanish youth competition system shows the characteristics of wide age span, fine age division, leapfrog style and branding. It has quickly trained a group of high-level young talents for the national team and accumulated rich talent reserves.

3.3 Combination of learning and training: a high-quality reserve talent training system

Spain's basketball reserve talent training system adopts the "La Masia" model, which has been very successful in soccer youth training. This training mode takes the training base established by the club as the main place for players to live, study and train. It was first used to train Barcelona soccer players. Since 1987, the teenage players of Barcelona basketball team also began to study and train in La Masia. FC Barcelona youth training general director Forgueira once said that "good youth training should first cultivate good children, followed by good students, and then have potential and like this sport". Therefore, the club takes "learning to be a man, learning culture, and then learning to play" as the team building principle. It has always put "cultural education" before "sports training", emphasizing that in the early stage of contact with basketball, we should first cultivate correct motivation, obtain sports fun, increase the sense of role experience, and endow tactical thinking ability. In the La Masia training base, the players have to complete about 7 hours of course learning every day, and the training is carried out after the course every afternoon. After the training, they have to complete the learning homework of the day. During the holidays, the base also requires the players to have more than 6 hours of self-study time. Its emphasis on players' cultural level and humanistic quality can be seen. [8] This training mode not only make the players focus on their studies, even better than that of ordinary school students. Therefore, the players of the Spanish professional team also got the opportunity to enter the University. In the 2010-2011 season, Barcelona's team in B League had a miracle of "College Students' team" with 11 players all studying in Colleges and universities, When Pau Gasol entered the first team of Barcelona in the ACB, he was admitted to the medical school of the University of Barcelona, which has the second highest admission score in Spain.

In addition, with its humanization and suitability, mini basketball has become an important form of reserve talent training system at the low age stage, which is widely carried out in primary and secondary schools and special youth basketball clubs. Some high-level League clubs usually set up the position of scout to investigate the performance of players in local mini basketball leagues, explore young players with the potential, and recommend them to enter the youth training system of their own club for training. All professional basketball clubs in Spain attach great importance to the construction and investment of their own youth training system. The excellent players trained by the club can not only improve the level of the club in the league, but also some small clubs sell their excellent players to large teams, and the transfer fees and other expenses are fully enough to maintain the daily operation of the team. For example, Ricky Rubio and Rudy Fernández, who play in the NBA, are home to the little-known Juventud club in the ACB, and their influence is even less than that of the youth training camp. It can be seen that the Spanish basketball reserve talent training system with the club as the axis has vigorously carried out mini basketball, attached importance to the training concept of cultural level and humanistic quality, penetrated into the development mode of the club, and promoted the two-way benign development of domestic education and competitive basketball.

4. The enlightenment of the development of Spanish mini basketball to China

4.1 Build a diversified and integrated mini basketball service system

The phenomenon of high professional and cultural level of Spanish basketball players can not be

achieved by relying on one aspect alone, but based on the full cooperation and close cooperation of "home, school and society". At present, there is no complete and independent leading organization for mini basketball in China, and the service role has not been functionalized and systematized. Therefore, the basketball association needs to establish an independent mini basketball Committee under the Basketball Association, and a special person is responsible for its development; Each service role should improve its functional attributes and form a multi-faceted joint force of mutual integration: for example, at present, the coach training mechanism in China is still very imperfect, the number of on-the-job training courses for coaches is small, the interval is long, and the number of participants is small; The training mechanism of Chinese Basketball Association and local basketball association is independent of each other, and the certification system and promotion mechanism are not connected; The difficulty of coach qualification certification is low, it is difficult to obtain the opportunity of follow-up training and promotion, and there is no clear level promotion channel, so it is difficult to improve the level; Primary and secondary schools and clubs have no strict requirements on whether coaches teaching basketball teams hold qualification certificates, and the training level is generally low. In addition, there is a huge gap in the number of mini basketball coaches because there are plenty differences between mini basketball rules and previous adult basketball rules. In view of the current situation, the Chinese Basketball Association should further improve the coach training system and establish a five-level promotion mechanism under the leadership of the Chinese Basketball Association; Open up the channels of grade promotion, increase the opportunities and quality of training, and integrate the mini basketball coach training system into the overall coach training system of the Basketball Association, so as to provide more teaching methods suitable for lower grades for coaches; We will promote the establishment of a security system for retired professional athletes, optimize the salary system for professional athletes, and encourage more high-level athletes to engage in low-age basketball education, so as to further improve the level of coaches. In addition, different from the general support of Spanish parents for young players, the idea of regarding sports as "playthings" in China's traditional culture still has a far-reaching impact. Both the school and parents have very limited support for their children's basketball, and they will not be encouraged to spend a lot of time and energy in professional basketball training. In order to solve this problem, we need to give full play to the educational concept of mini basketball from the school level, integrate into the construction of a sports power of "young generation are strong, the country is strong" from the national level, and improve the rationality and importance of the existence of mini basketball from the perspective of national education strategy. At the same time, we should also expand the coverage of the mini basketball service system, pay attention to the development of rural mini basketball, vigorously introduce social resources, build a rural mini basketball service system from the perspective of public welfare, and build an all-round integrated mini basketball service structure.

4.2 Build a full coverage, multi-age and multi-level competition system

In the mini basketball event system, at present, China has established a set of competition mode in which clubs compete with school teams, which increases the opportunities for teenagers to participate in the competition to a certain extent, but also leads to a large gap between teams, resulting in insufficient brilliance and limited attention. Therefore, we need to try to gradually establish a hierarchical event system and promotion and degradation system, layer the team according to strength according to the game results, participate in different levels of games, and create a high-level and high attention brand event. At the same time, most of the current mini basketball events adopt the competition system, with high competition density and short time, which is not conducive to the high-level play of athletes. The annual competition is very limited, and the team often faces the situation of "only practice but not competition". [9] In order to promote the development of China's mini basketball event system, we can put the clubs and school teams in the region together, hold the "season system" and "home and away system" with frequent competitions and large time span, maintain appropriate competition frequency, and practice while playing. In addition, the mini basketball event system has not yet fully penetrated into various regions and schools. The inter school competition using adult competition rules is still the mainstream of primary school basketball competitions in many regions. This requires the basketball association to issue relevant policies, cooperate with the education department, unify the competition form of primary school age, refine the age level division, so as to build a mini basketball competition system with Chinese characteristics.

4.3 Optimize the "people-oriented" reserve talent training system

Spain's reserve talent training model focuses on improving players' cultural literacy, which can

strengthen players' understanding, respect and understanding of the game itself and the composition of the sport, [10] including teammates, coaches, techniques and tactics. Compared with Spain, in the process of selecting basketball reserve talents, China puts too much emphasis on physical quality and talent factors, while ignoring psychological, social and educational factors [11]. The mining and training of reserve talents is a complex and dynamic process. In addition to physical factors, many factors such as training effort, coach level, basketball IQ, training efficiency and the desire for excellence are the key to the success of basketball players. The education concept of "people-oriented" in Spain is an urgent need for us to learn. The trend of China's reserve talent training mode is the combination of sports and education. It should be clear that reserve talent training needs to be rooted in schools. The accumulated role of culture and education on basketball talent training cannot be ignored. Schools and social resources must be integrated to realize resource sharing and resource transfer between sports schools and strong schools of basketball projects, Achieve the goal that strengthening schools with basketball projects can cultivate medium and high-end basketball talents, and gradually from point to area, truly complete the reform of "combination of sports and education", and build a reserve talent training system of "meeting needs and diversified subjects".

4.4 Expand the influence of media power and establish a big data player file and player tracking system

Spain, the United States and other top basketball countries obtain basketball talent information mainly through media reports, coach recommendations and tracking data reports of athletes on the Internet. Among them, paying attention to athletes' competitive performance, data and game videos on the Internet is the simplest and direct way [12]. Different from Spain, China currently adopts the athlete evaluation method of sports grade system. Teenagers need to obtain the ranking in the national or provincial official competition in order to obtain the athlete certificate of level 2 or above. However, as a team event, this evaluation method obviously can not represent the real strength of athletes. Therefore, the basketball association should cooperate with news media organizations to make personal technical statistics on young players by using modern webcast software and data statistics platform software under the background of big data, analyze the structural characteristics of athletes' competitive ability by using the correlation of big data [13], and rank the players' personal performance from high to low according to the standard, publish it and update it in real time, So as to build a personal technical statistics platform for players in mini basketball league. In addition, the news media should maintain close communication with echelons at all levels to ensure that players with excellent performance enter the club's attention list in advance and form a player file and tracking system. In this way, taking the comprehensive, accurate and open personal technical statistical data ranking of small basketball players as the basis for judging the sports level and basketball level, it can not only provide an objective reference basis for basketball coaches in junior middle school, senior high school and even universities to recruit and train new players, but also virtually form an atmosphere of benign competition in the domestic youth basketball industry.

4.5 Stimulate the enthusiasm of social capital and promote the development of mini basketball cultural industry system

Compared with Spain, at present, Chinese mini basketball training and mini basketball event are just in the initial stage, and there is a big gap in the development of related industries. It is faced with problems such as insufficient joint force of various promotion departments, low degree of consensus, and insufficient degree of cooperation between administrative power and market orientation. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a linkage mechanism between promotion departments and improve the convergence and integration of policies among departments. In the process of multi-body participation in mini basketball events, we should realize the government leading and national participation, integrate public resources, actively explore and encourage social forces to participate in special development, and realize the special and universal development of mini basketball in school physical education in the form of government purchasing services from social forces. In addition, with the sharp increase in the popularity of the mini basketball industry, a large number of social capital began to seek a good opportunity to layout the mini basketball industry chain. Therefore, the Basketball Association's relevant promotion policies for mini basketball should fully stimulate the participation enthusiasm of social capital, mobilize more social resources to invest in the mini basketball industry, and promote the birth of a large-scale new industrial chain in this field. At the same time, while vigorously promoting the industrialization of mini basketball in terms of system, China Basketball Association needs to pay attention to guiding the vigorous development of mini basketball culture, integrate mini basketball

culture and industrialization, and form a youth industrial system in line with the characteristics of Chinese sports culture [14].

5. Conclusion

In response to the call for "Basketball Dream" and "sports power dream", the new China Basketball Association led by Yao Ming is accelerating reform in the fields of national team construction, CBA League, youth and social basketball development. Facing the opportunity of multiple policy guidance, through the formulation of various documents and rules, Chinese mini basketball has stood at a high level of development. The development of Spanish mini basketball is always permeated with the core meaning of "people-oriented", which is closely related to the process of education. The key to the development of Chinese basketball is to be based on China's actual situation, boldly absorb foreign excellent experience, be down-to-earth, and continuously promote the formation of a new pattern of basketball development in China with the improvement of mini basketball.

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