

33 The first sports journalists

JOSEP M. LLADÓ

In his article, the experienced journalist Josep M. Lladó refers to the “first and outstanding Catalan journalists, fully dedicated to sports reporting”.

He reminds his readers that at the beginning of the century sports activities, in terms of strength, dimension or audience were in no way comparable to present-day sport. Nevertheless, sport increased progressively and gradually parallel to the number of journalists who were involved in it. On November 12 —Lladó recalls— the Union of Sports Journalists was set up in Barcelona, with Narcís Masferrer as honorary chairman. By 1935 the Union had 133 members. The author mentions a few: Emili Pellicer, Anselm López Marqués, Francesc d’A. Canto Arroyo, Jacint Bofarull, Rosend Calvet, director of “Barça”, Ricard Grau, director of “El Mundo Deportivo”, Joan Bert, Joan Fontanet, Carles Sindreu, Vicenç Loren and a long etcetera. Many of these reporters also practised some kind of sport.

Lladó goes into names and publications. “One must emphasise”, he says, the existence of “L’Esport Català”, managed by Antoni Vila, a “well written and conceived” publication. Neither does he forget the very first live broadcast of a football match by Joaquim Ventalló, who now at 93 can remember perfectly the list of the Barça players. The first graphic journalists and the numerous difficulties they had to overcome are recalled by the author, who promises to carry out a broader work explaining the history of Catalan sports journalism in greater detail.

40 “Xut!” and “El Once”, two basic names in humorous sports press

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JOSEP M. CADENA

Humorous sports press —according to the author of the article— is a journalistic phenomenon which is almost unique to Catalonia. To be-

gin with he refers to two weeklies: "Xut", which published its first issue on November 23 1922 and "El Once", after the Civil War. But Josep M. Cadena's analysis goes beyond that. He not only refers to the humorous press but also recalls some historic and social events in contemporary Catalonia. Sports weeklies effectively offer "a touch of humour to ease the heavy tension which affected the social body of Barcelona" between the 1920s and the 1930s.

Apart from these weeklies, Cadena also recalls the men who founded them: Alfons i Conrad Roure (Xut!), Antoni Dalmau (Papitu), Valenti Castanys (Destino), Bofarull i Mestre (Safareig deportiu), Antoni Rué, Miquel Sala Membrado and many others.

The author recalls how "El Once" was a Catalan weekly with Catalan roots. It appeared six years after the Civil War and the cartoonists Moreno, Puigmiquel, Mestres Roca and "Tinet", son of Valenti Castanys, drew in it. Other weeklies would later appear, including "Barra-bás", "El Hinchà Enmascarado" and "La Bimba".

51 Catalan classics of sports journalism

JOSEP MARIA CASASÚS

Sports reporting of a journalistic and literary nature is one of the genres which is characteristic of the modernising stage of journalism. The author of the article says that the incorporation of sports subjects in the 1920s and the 1930s "is one of the most representative traits of avantgarde phenomena".

126 After going over sports reporting in Catalonia, with the pioneering experience of "El Mundo Deportivo", the author recalls the first journalistic works in Catalan written by journalists who combined this speciality with several others. People such as Just Cabot (1899-1961), Lluís Aymamí i Baudina (1899), Francesc Madrid (1900-1952), Vicenç Bernades (1896-1976), Xavier Regàs (1905-1980) and Joaquim Ventlló (1899) and Antoni Vilà i Bisa (1888-1966), founder director of "L'Esport Català" etc.

Many of those Catalan journalists were linked to avantgarde artistic movements (Gasch, Soldevila, Villalonga, Foix). At that time writers as well as journalists were seduced by sport. The war interrupted that career. Years later, the interest in sports journalism was reborn and