Research on China’s University and College Sport: An Analysis of the Expression, Reconstruction, Development of University and College Sport in Three Periods

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Abstract

This study chose China’s university and college sport in three periods as the object of study, adopted historical studies that analyzed literature of sport in institution, interviewed by communication with experts for gaining original data, and selected Tsinghua University as the case to analyze its sport in different periods.

The study purpose was to focus on China’s university and college sport in three periods, by reviewing literature and implementing interviews, summarize the emergence (the 1890s – 1937), the reconstruction (the 1950s – 1970s), and the development (the 1980s – present) of sport in higher education institutions. The study broadened the research perspective on university and college sport, identified the characteristics of it in different periods, and generalized a couple of developing models of it at present.

This study attempted to expand the horizontal dimension of the research perspective on sport in China’s higher education institutions. Diachronically, it exhibited university and college sport in different historical periods. Synchronously, it explored the internal elements of sport in higher education institutions one historical period. The case studies summarized the choice and exploration in the models of developing university sport in the period of high-level sport teams.

The conclusions of this study summarized in the following points. From the 1890s to 1937, sport in institutions acted as the initiator and participant of sport in China. The sporting level of it represented the highest level of sport in China. In the 1950s to 1970s, university and college sport was restructured and sports colleges that trained teachers and athletes were
established. The restructure of university and college sport was a consequence of political movements. The separation of sport from education system resulted in the separation of sport from education. The policies were the major elements dominating the development of university and college sport since the 1980s. With the guiding policies, high–level sport teams became the main vehicle of university and college sport. With the policies on sport teams in higher education institutions, Tsinghua explored its way of integration of sport with education and gradually formed the Tsinghua Model in sport.