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ARCHAEOLOGY AND FOOTBALL

F I F A

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

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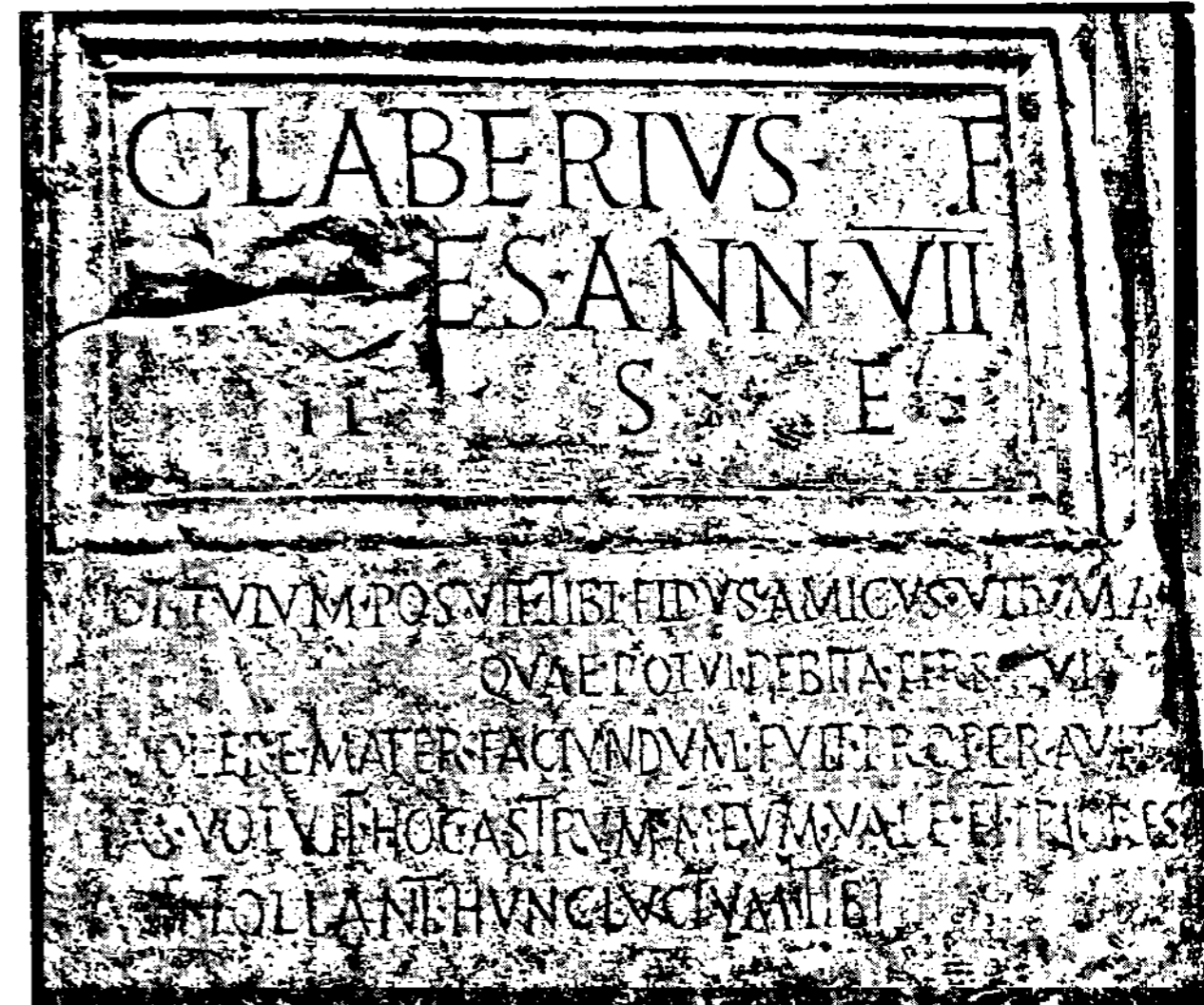
1. ARCHAEOLOGY AND FOOTBALL

By Lj.Nisavic, Belgrade (Yugoslavia)

Information of particular interest to archaeologists and football fans, but above all to football writers, has come to light.

An amateur archaeologist, Josip Britvić of Sinj (the Dalmatian Coast, Yugoslavia) who has for more than 20 years been studying the inscription on a stele dating from Roman times (2nd Century A.D.) is trying to prove that a type of football was played in this part of the Balkan Peninsular 2,000 years ago. As an argument in support of his hypothesis, he draws the attention to the ball held by the young man shown on the stele (see the photograph on the first page), particularly as this ball is made up of hexagonal sections, in the same way as the football of today.

Detailed information of this archaeological discovery was published in the largest Yugoslavian sports daily "Sport" Belgrade, on 9th April, the day on which the Jubilee celebrations of the Yugoslav Football Federation (founded in Zagreb in April 1919) were held.



LOWER PART OF THE STELE WITH THE INSCRIPTION WHICH LED TO DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS BY ARCHAEOLOGISTS



THE STELE DISCOVERED IN SINJ (YUGOSLAVIA)

The stele in question has been on the face of a building in the Dalmatian town of Sinj for more than 300 years. A hundred years ago the German archaeologist, Mommsen mentioned it in an article he published in the C.L.L., a work edited by the Academy of Sciences in Berlin.

Mr. Britvič's studies are based on proving that the German archaeologist translated the text on the epitaph incorrectly and he is publishing a book on the subject this summer. He intends to mention in his publication all the evidence pointing to the fact that the monument is dedicated to a young man having played football and who is holding a football in his hands. According to certain other well-known Yugoslavian archaeologists, it is probable that the ball in question is made of leather, (!) in several sections. Moreover it is known for certain that in Dalmatia, (Adriatic Coast of Yugoslavia) so rich in Roman monuments, several ancient ball games were played which were known as "këndi", "kida" or "chola".

In any case, the discovery and interpretation of the archaeologist Britvič has attracted much interest and confirms that in the Roman epoch in particular, ball games played their part in the entertainment of the European youth.

2. INTERNATIONAL REFEREES AND FIFA

by Dr. H. Käser

The Structure of FIFA

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association, FIFA, is the world football authority and only National Associations can be affiliated to FIFA. At present 135 National Associations are affiliated, 133 as full members and 2 as provisional members, who can only be given full membership at the next FIFA Congress in May 1970. These 135 National Associations are arranged in six Continental Confederations, each Confederation consisting of the affiliated National Associations in that Continent. The six Confederations are, Europe, South America, North and Central America and Caribbee, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. But the proportion of the number of players or teams in a given Continental Confederation to the total number of players in the world varies widely from 75 % for Europe down to 3 % in Asia/Oceania and 2 % in Africa.

The Operation of FIFA

The principles by which FIFA governs the game of football all over the world are settled at its Congresses, which are

legislative assemblies held every two years. But the actual laws of the game, to which players all over the world must conform, are not determined by FIFA but by the International Football Association Board. This consists of representatives of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and of FIFA. Each of the four British countries has one vote and FIFA has four votes. Any new law or new change in a law only becomes valid if it is passed by a 3/4 majority. This means that a change is only valid if 1 vote or 0 votes are cast against it. It also follows that no change can be approved if FIFA votes against it.

FIFA is directly responsible for the organisation of two world-wide competitions each of which takes place once every four years, the World Championship - Jules Rimet Cup and the Olympic Football Tournament. Each competition occupies two years from the draw of the preliminary matches to the completion of the Final Match. The competent Committee of FIFA makes decisions on any problems arising out of the conduct of these competitions or any other problems that may be referred to FIFA by Continental Confederations or National Associations.

The Administration of these competitions and of decisions reached on any other problems are carried out by the Secretariat of FIFA in their office at Zurich.

International Referees

They have a personal obligation to FIFA to ensure that they are in first class physical and mental condition when they step on to the field to take charge of an international match, so that however hard the match may be, however partisan or excited the crowd may become, the referee maintains a high standard of efficiency and control right to the end of the game.

They have an administrative obligation to FIFA. They must arrive at the place where the match is to be played at least one day before it is due to be played. They must satisfy themselves that the field of play and the ball are in order just as they would in a National League match. Within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match they must send in a report of the match on the proper official form, first to FIFA and to the Continental Confederation if they are organising the match and require a report.

Their third and most important duty is to referee each game strictly in accordance with the laws of the game, which must be interpreted in the same way all over the world. The referee must also hold the scales of justice fairly between the two sides and exercise his authority without fear and without favour.

The referee is, in a way, the key in a match, he must assert his authority with a velvet glove but inside that glove there must be the iron hand of strict control.

(Summary of a conference given at the Course for African Referees at Addis Abeba in January 1968.)

3. QUESTIONS BY THE PRESS AND ANSWERS BY SIR STANLEY ROUS

FIFA President Sir Stanley Rous is frequently requested to answer questions submitted to him by journalists from many countries of the World. Below are a set of eight questions submitted to him from an East European journalist together with his replies. They may be of interest to others.

(The Editor)

1. Question:

The events of last year show, that rough play is the chief characteristic of today football especially on great international games, cup-ties. Even the matches at the Olympic Games at Mexico were rough and undisciplined. The World Cup final is nearing. Great sums of money are at stake. Does FIFA intend to deal with the problem of good sportsmanship in the near future? What is your opinion about this problem?

Answer:

I don't agree: Hundreds of thousands of matches are played without any trouble. The Press and Television sometimes exaggerate the situation by referring to troubles.

The statement about Olympic Games football matches is not true. The last tournament was the best ever. Fewer troubles occurred, only in final Hungary v. Bulgaria were players difficult to control. Too many fouls.

FIFA is constantly dealing with lack of sportsmanship and the introduction of unfair tactics. Courses for coaches, trainers, managers and referees are organised. Letters sent to National Associations asking them to take firmer action and punish those who are guilty of bringing the game into disrepute. Before every tournament, World Cup, Olympic Games, continental tournaments, and regional games, directors, trainers, coaches and referees meet to hear from me, as President, requests for fair play.

We have introduced a "Fair Play" trophy in tournaments organised by FIFA. It was won by Japan in the recent Olympic Games.

2. Question:

The Referees are generally afraid of taking a hard line on the big matches and letting themselves sometimes even be pushed around just that they should not send any players off the field. Their only effort seems to be that the game could go to the end "somehow". So they cannot penalize rough play, ungentlemanlike conduct etc. Does FIFA intend to do anything in the matter of refereeing during the World Cup preliminary and final rounds?

Answer:

Your statement again is unjust. A few referees may act as you describe, but officials of National Associations, observers appointed by FIFA and UEFA who submit reports help to "eliminate" weak referees. FIFA has just issued a "directive" on this matter of discipline.

For the Mexico World Cup only the best referees recommended by FIFA's Referees' Committee will be appointed. They will assemble about eight days before the opening for training and instruction. But one must remember that they will all be international referees of experience and must be treated as such.

3. Question:

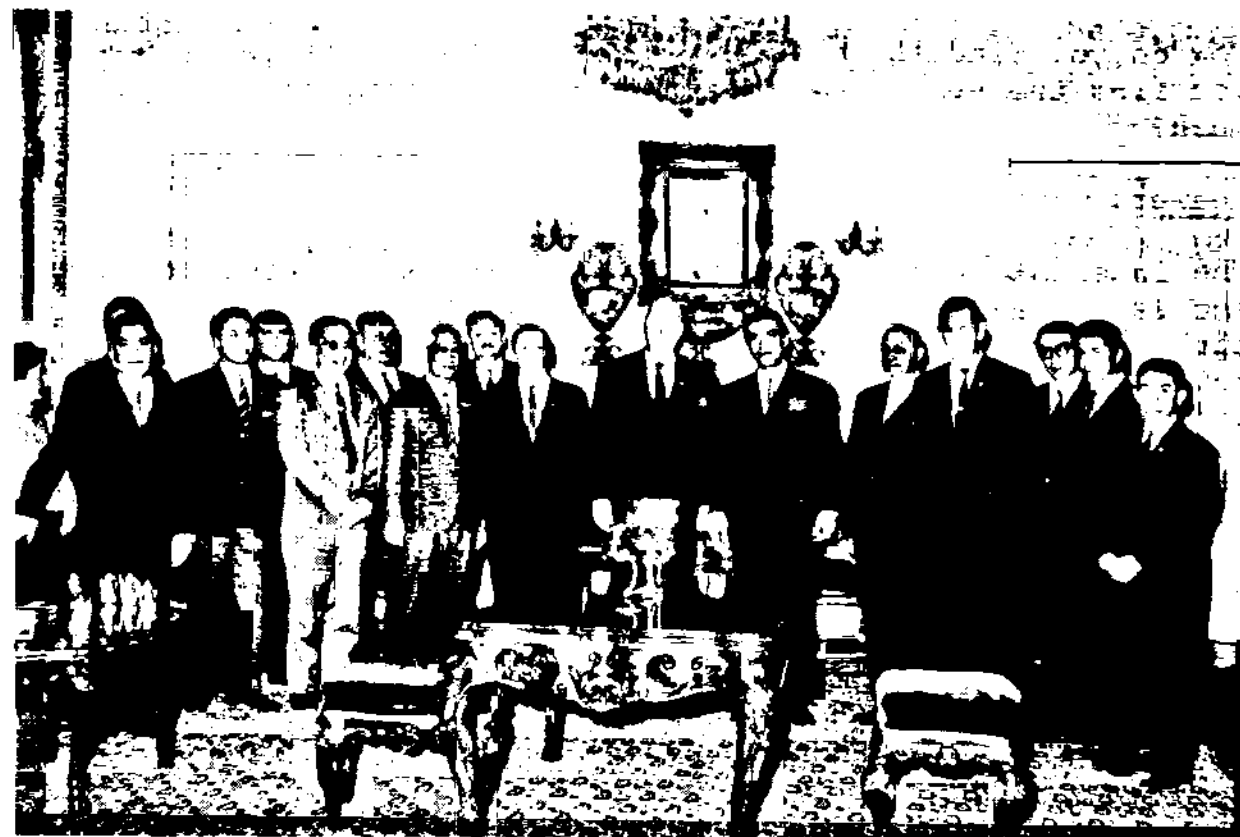
Do you hold your opinion, that there is no necessity to change the Laws, for example that an intentional rough foul on any point of the field should be penalized with a penalty? Do you find it enough to give a simple free-kick for an intentional rough foul at 18 yards from the goal? Everybody remembers how Brazil lost his best player - Pele - at the last World Championship as a consequence of a midfield roughness. Ought not something be done to make intentional roughness more risky?

Answer:

I would not change the Laws of the Game for ten years. Constant changes prevent their universal interpretation by players, coaches and referees. The Laws are perfectly good: It is their application which is sometimes at fault.

Intentional roughness should be penalized according to the provisions of the Laws. Clever players like Pele, Best, Law, Eusebio know that if they "hold" the ball and try to dribble past four or five opponents they will tackle them strongly but fairly. If the tackle is done in a manner contrary to the Laws the referee should act promptly.

FIFA REFEREES' COMMITTEE MEETING IN TEHERAN, FEBRUARY 1969



Reception given by His Highness Prince Gholan Reza Pahlavi, President of the National Iranian Olympic Committee.



Official Opening of the Session by H.E. Major General Khosrovani, Deputy Prime Minister, in the presence of Iranian Sports and Football Association Representatives and Iranian Referees.