

Synthèse

The Political Controversy of Kicking a Ball

Talented sportsmens and prestigious sport organizations always benefited from a huge popularity and | some used it to promote political messages, as shown by Lara Tinawi in The Observer in 2024 and by the | picture of Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Olympics taken from Wikipedia. It was however condemned in recent | years by Jonathan Liew in The Observer and in The Guardian.

How should politics be linked to sport ?

While it | leads to problems, examples show that it can be beneficial.

Sportsmen and organizations are not political figures. This is illustrated | in The Guardian by Monty Panesar not knowing the agenda of the party he was publicly defending and by Gerald | Ford, a US president and former sportsman who was not regarded as the brightest. Liew says that big sport organizations | follow the global opinion instead of standing up for themselves which leads to absurdities like banning Russia but not other | authoritarian regimes. He also highlight that their political decision are taken only to minimize financial loss. Tinawi also said that | football clubs do not want political topics being brought during matches. However she thinks that it is not fair towards | the players.

Protests during sports events can have a massive impact. The most memorable picture of the 1968 Olympics is | Tommie Smith and John Carlos raising their fists. It is said in Tinawi's article that Kaepernick's case is publicly known | and Jackie Robinson and Muhammad Ali are also remembered outside of their physical performances, and athletes can bring changes. Liew | states that countries can be quickly erased from the sporting world for political reasons. According to The Guardian, lots of | UK and US politics figures were also sportsmen.

The sporting world can bring benefits to politics. As said in The | Guardian, sport brings values and moral abilities that are much needed in politics, and even some sportspeople could be a | great addition to politics. Tinawi said that athletes can help to solve social issues, and that it is hypocritical that | it took Kaepernick's career but at least now NFL allows athletes to defend social justice. This can again be illustrated | by Tommie Smith and John Carlos who sparked again the debate on racism in the US. Liew also thinks that | if the ban of Russia starts a bigger and deeper change, it can lead to an increase in solidarity between | populations.

To conclude, even if it is unavoidable to have absurdities like Monty Panesar, athletes should still be allowed to | use their popularity to express political opinions,

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especially on social issues as they can have a massive impact on peoples' | ideology
and it was shown by the past that it massively helped social justice progress.

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