

The Migration of Basketball Players in the Globalization of Sport: The Effect of Players' Migration in SBL

Peiru Wu, B.A..

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Abstract

In the new millennium, the globalization of sports becomes more prominent as the international migration of sport labors takes place all around the world. Baseball, football, and basketball are some of the fields in which examples of the international migration of athletes are common. Scholars in Taiwan have explored baseball players' migration, but few researchers have discussed the migration of Taiwan basketball players. This paper analyzed the factors that result in the migration of sport labors. Specifically, it discussed the reasons that bring about the migration of Taiwan basketball talents in Super Basketball League (SBL), including the outflow of players and the inflow of foreign players. SBL is the highest level of basketball competition in Taiwan, however, it faced its downturn during the 2006-2007 season. The situation became worse because of the out flow of the outstanding Taiwanese players. During the 2006-2007 season SBL began employing foreign players. What are the consequences of such migration on SBL? And how SBL dealt with the situation and following challenge? In addition to the factors that cause the migration of sport labors in SBL, this paper examines such influences and SBL's responses to it. I employed the in-depth interview as primary research method, and collected data from interviews of ex-SBL player, commentators, and team coaches. Based on the data, I propose the pros and cons of sport labor migration, with a hope to contribute to the improvement of the basketball environment in Taiwan.

Keywords: The globalization of sport, international migration of sport labor,
basketball, SBL