

MAKING OF A SPORTED SOCIETY: BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GAME 'FOOTBALL' IN KERALA

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Football came to Kerala in the last decades of the nineteenth century. It was the British army that introduced football in Malabar. It came to Travancore during the reign of Sreemulam Thirunal (1885-1924).ⁱ Pro.Bishop Boyle who came to India as the head of the chemistry department of the Maharaja's college at Thiruvananthapuram introduced football to some youngsters. Soon it grew up as their favorite pastime. It was in the *Kacherymaithanam* and university ground, where the players moved their feet. Prof. Boyel, who was crazy of football and was a player in Oxford University, was the first unauthorized coach of football in Kerala. He formed a college team but unfortunately he had to return England in 1911ⁱⁱ. After that his friend Prf. Bloss, the head of the department of English undertook the project in his shoulders to create the legacy of football in Kerala.ⁱⁱⁱ The Sreemoolam cup, organized in the name of Sreemoolam thirunnal was the first professional Football tournament in Travancore. Teams from Kottayam and Travancore actively participated in the tournament and the Maharajas college team was the winners of the first match. By 1914 the college team began to play outside Travancore also.^{iv}

Football became very popular among the Keralites in the first half of 20th century. In 1935 C G Herbert, Divan of Cochin, constructed a ground in Cochin by acquiring coconut plantations, to emerge in due course as the Stadium of Maharajas College. Rama Varma tournament was the first tournament held at Maharajas Stadium and clubs like Leaders club, States club and Youngsters club were established with the tournament. Around the same

time, the Hindu - Muslim - Christian club and the Central Travancore club were also established.^v

In the 1940's some other clubs were also constituted. Young Challengers, Rovers, Police Club, HMC, Town Club of Alappuzha, Traders club and flying Arrows club at Cochin, Spirited Youths club, Lucky Star club, Seesa Club and Brothers club in Kannur and Young challengers in Kozhikode were the popular clubs emerged.^{vi} It is seen that the culture of club football was adopted from Europe and that the miniatures of the European element were the symbols of modernity.^{vii}

In the second half of 19th century The CMS College Kottayam hosted for several football games, in 1884 and 1885. Professional teams like the CMS college team and YMCA team were formed in 1895.^{viii} Former Mysore Divan K Chandi, Rtd. Justice K Jacob and K Thomas were the important players of CMS college team. V T Chacko Valanjattil, V T Maani, V T Ipe, T I Mathew, T K Kuruvila were the important players of YMCA. Subsequently, Thirunakkara Ground, Union Club Ground and Ground of District Court at Kottayam emerged as the important centers of football in Travancore. The important tournament of that period was P. John Memorial tournament.^{ix} In 1909 a football tournament was organized for the jubilee of the Union Club. Gradually, three football clubs were organized under the leadership of K N Sankunni Pillai, K.A.Bava Rawuthr and K. N.Narayana Iyer, to emerge as the Town club, Kottayam.^x

Hindu-Muslim-Christian Club

Nawab Meeraan, an important icon player in the medieval Travancore, formed the Hindu-Muslim-Christian Club (H.M.C Club), along with B. Madhavan Nair and Isac Poothura;^{xi} and they also aimed at religious harmony behind the framing of HMC club. In 1945 the club was affiliated with Thiru-Kochi Association. The ship Singaro, which anchored during Second World War in Kochi, formed a navel team and so many matches are constituted between HMC clubs.^{xii} They played several national matches.

The role of M D seminary was an important one in the football history of Thiru Kochi. Col. G V Raja, Baselios Marthoma Mathews Pradhman Katholikka Bava and K. M. Mathew (*Malayalamanorama*) were the famous identity who played for M D Seminary. Later on, the M D Seminary Old Boys Association played a supreme role in the making of football players in Kottayam.^{xiii}

The Sporting Greens Club Was constituted by Thomas who early played in HMC club. Thomas Kuriakose, C I Shankar, K Ibrahim, Palathingal Mathayi, Kalathil Mathew, Erikad Thambi, Panamboonnayil P John, Alexander and Devadas were the important players.

Noorutholayude Velli Cup

The first Tournament of *Noorutholayude Velli Cup* was held at Thrissur in 1925. Sree Ramavarma, the king of Cochin contributed *Noorutholayude Velli Cup* in 1924 and that was the winning trophy of the tournament. In the victory party they poured whiskey and brandy in to the cup and the people who opposing liquor poured *Dasamoola Arishtam*.^{xiv} The mass adoptions of western styles were largely made during that time. The final was constituted between Banerjee Club and C M S High school team. T K R Marar, the sports writer of that time wrote a running commentary about the final.

The match was draw up to 88 minutes, The C M SHigh school team got a penalty kick at that time all people confirmed the victory of C M S High school team but ball blasted, organizers tried to arrange another ball, but that failed and the match was postponed to the next day and C M S High School team won the match and tournament.^{xv}

The running commentary of a game was the first experience for the native people and that was typical association of Victorian culture. The native people got the running commentary of global events only through the English medium in later years.

In the next year they organized it in a better manner, the Kattookaaran brothers framed a team with multiple brilliant players. Meanwhile the king of Travancore announced another trophy and the local football got a professional track in its nature. The Kattookaran football team was first constituted by Jose (owner of Jose Theater) in 1926 and they were the winners of the Tournament. Then Devasy and Kattookaran Varoo formed another team and the icon players were the former minister T V Thomas and K T Antony. For the first time a team to appoint a physio for football was the Jose team and the physio was C R Keshavan Vaidyar. This was another example of the adoption of European culture. The players were not playing for money at that time; they got the shelter, food and also silk Jubba for man of the match.^{xvi} Some buses in Thrissur town give free journey for players. The adoption of European games by the native society is a subtle process.

In Thiruvananthapuram, football teams were formed on the basis of caste. Thycadu club was constituted by Nairs, Palayam club by Ezhavas and the Pulimoottil club was the only club, which made selection process irrespective of caste. Other famous clubs were Young challengers club, Sporting youngsters, Rovers club Palayam, Golden eagle club at Thycadu and Petta youngsters club. Parameswaran Nair, Peter Pereira, Jessy Thomas Antony, Vincent, Lopaz Ratheem and the like were the icon players. Aravindan, the veteran sports journalist was also an icon player.

The Kattil Brother's team, constituted by the sons of Dr. A. G. John was an important team in the football history of Travancore. The name of the team was selected on the basis of practicing football in the ground that was made by clearing of the forest land. The doctor instituted a Football ground and Tennis court beside his home. A. J. George, Dr. A. J. Eapen, A. J. Josaph, A. J. Abraham and A. J. Philip were the sons of Dr. A. G. John. The team emerged champions by winning the Karthika football tournament, P John Memorial Tournament and Sree ChithiraThirunnal tournament.^{xvii}

Kerala Football Association

Col. G V Raja is the icon, who formed Kerala Football Association in 1942. In the early period it was known as the Thiru-Kochi Football Association. The Association was affiliated in 1942 to the National federation for football in India.^{xviii}

Football in Malabar

The natives of Malabar learnt the primary lessons of the game imitating the British army officials. Soon it acquired popularity in Kannur, Malappuram and Kozhikode. The birth ground of football in Malabar was the west hill football ground Kozhikode.^{xix} All Star Foils, Somerset Light Infantry and Dorset Regiment were the important military teams; Fr. Vergothini, T Aboobeker and T P Sadasivan were the main Organizers of football tournaments. Guruvaayurappan college ground, Mananchira ground, Malabar Christian College ground and Ganapath High School ground were the important centers of tournaments in Kozhikode.^{xx} Kottayi Achu, Layben, Aandi master, Faslum, Rahmath, Mohidin and Kadali were the icon players. Set Nagji tournament, Muhammed Abdurahiman memorial tournament and Young Challengers Centinal tournaments were the important tournaments. The concept of temporary gallery and Referee are from Kozhikode and Koyatti haji Introduced the concept of Temporary bamboo gallery.^{xxi}

In Kannur Young Challengers club, Young men's club and Kannur sports club were the important football teams in the early period and in 1930s several clubs like Lucky star, Spirit Youth club, Brothers Club and Gymkhana Club were formed. The games between Malabar and Cochin in 1942 were a turning point for the players of Kannur, which made them famous.^{xxii} Gomas Dicroze, Dr. P Madhavan, C. P Chandran and Raghavan were the famous players. But the most important aspect is that eight players of Cochin team were prisoners of war from Italy. Lucky Star was the most celebrated team at that period with the victory against Mohan Began. They bagged Cakkola Trophy and Set Nagji Trophy many times.^{xxiii}

The M S P camps in Malappuram were the main agency of football in the district. The early players of Malappuram were Kanjirala Muhammad Ali, Kollahtody Abdu Haji, K. Alippa, M. Usman, Achu, ChalitodiAlavi and MukkarKunjanukka.^{xxiv} In fact, the players of this generation were the pioneers in the field. Unfortunately, they have gone to the oblivion and are seldom remembered by the fans of football. In fact, they were the persons who laid the foundation stone for the future glory of football in Malappuram.

Tirur was the home of football in the Malappuram region. With the emergence of Ever Green Sports Club Tirur became the cradle of football. Football tournaments were the most popular festivals of Tirur. The Mammy Haji Memorial Tournament of early 1960s has been the collective memory of Tirur. Many national players participated in this tournament.

Another great centre of football in Malappuram was Tripanachi in Pulpatta Panchayath near Manjeri. Tripanachi was the football ground of the *Ernanadan* players. There was a well maintained football ground near the present market of Tripanachi. The history of football at Tripanachi is that of the sacrifice and industry of many a great pioneers. These players used to spend their own money to prepare the ground and train the players. In the forefront of the early players were the inspiring personalities like T.P Mummy kaka and T.K. Hassan Kutty.^{xxv}

Important tournaments of Malappuram are Y.S.C. Edarikode, Parappur Sevens, Samad Memorial Tirurangadi, Moosakutty Mulla Memorial Tirur, Royal Manjeri, Rovers Manjeri, Seeti Haji Memorial Edavanna, Rangam Wandoor, Neo Meghadhoot Melattur and the like.

It was Joseph alias Jaya who gave formal training for the first time to the football players of Malappuram. Joseph was serving in the army at Coimbatore. He introduced ball and boots among players.^{xxvi} From the very beginning there were certain changes in the original rules regarding the game. It was mainly in respect of the number of players in a team. The game of eleven members became that of nine or seven members. That is elevens became nines and sevens. The development and popularity of football in Malappuram was

astounding. Relegating all other games, both local and foreign, football became the most popular game in the area.

The first full-fledged football team of Malappuram was the Moidu Rubber Estate team formed in 1950.^{xxvii} In 1953 this team organized an all India football tournament at Malappuram. In this tournament many national level teams took part. From this national tournament onwards football became the game of games, and tournaments became festive occasions.

By the 1950's many town teams sprouted in Areecode. Pokkaru kutty's building was the earliest office of the football teams. The first town team had ten members. Here starts the organizational history of football. The members of these teams were the pioneers of organized football in Malappuram.^{xxviii} Decruse from Kannur was the outstanding player of the early days.^{xxix}

The town team of Areecode was divided into two: A and B teams. Their best player was Abdu Rahman. Even from these earlier days there was the practice of bringing players from outside to strengthen the team. Thus Jayaraj was brought from Kannur to play for the town team. The town team had outstanding players like Chola Abdu, Ibrahim, Ismayilukutty and M.P. Ali.^{xxx} Areecode has been the centre of football in Malappuram. Football has become almost synonymous to Areecode. It has become the hallmark of public life there.^{xxxi}

Towards the close of the third decade of twentieth century, Government High School Malappuram formed a football team. Kanjirala Muhammad Ali, the famous footballer of the period belonged to this team. It was he who brought modern techniques of football to Areecode. At Tazhattangadi in Areecode there was an *anapandi* (ground used as a shelter for captured elephants) and a ground near it. This ground was the first football ground in this area. When the owner started cultivating the field, the players turned to Moyipalli at Therattammal for a football ground. It was in this ground where games were conducted

regularly. This ground witnessed the training and play of many outstanding players. During the early years, the matches were between different areas and not between clubs.^{xxxii}

Sevens Football

Football came to India as a colonial product. Football made its appearance in Kerala during the closing decades of the nineteenth century and it has been among the direct impacts of British rule. Unlike other parts of Kerala, Malabar witnessed the rapid and charismatic growth of the game. It has been the nursery of football. This was not because Malabar was under British rule but of the presence of British soldiers and officials arising from the needs of suppressing the *Mappila* riots. In many parts of the Eranad and Valluvanad *taluks* the British had posted their police and army. For suppressing the *Mappila* riots the British had established separate camp for the Malabar Special Police. Following the Malabar Rebellion it was strengthened. A permanent camp of the Malabar Special Police was established at Areecode.^{xxxiii} This camp had a number of British officers. The pastime of these people was hockey, football and volleyball. The locals learned these from them.

There were plantations in different parts of Malabar owned by British entrepreneurs. These large estates, the Arthala tea estate, Kerala rubber estate, Karuvarakundu and Pullangode rubber estates had British managers and other officials. The Teak plantations and forest area of Nilambur also had British personnel working.^{xxxiv} These people used to find time for sports and games. Watching them playing, natives began to learn football. The people of Malabar were very quick in learning the game. In the beginning they played it as they liked. It developed as a pastime, not as a competition. It developed among the local poor. Slowly football had its systematic growth in Malabar. In fact the game of football was adapted to the tastes and needs of Malabar.

In the beginning people played football as they liked using crude balls on rough grounds. The earliest football was *Kettupanthu*, a handmade one. This was made of hay, sack, cloth and the like materials. All these would be folded into a sphere like thing and used

as ball. Even now village boys who can't afford to purchase a ball, prepare it in the same manner. They played bare footed as boots were luxury in those days.

It has already been stated that in Kozhikode, West hill was the nursery of football. Army teams like Somerset Light Infantry and Dorset Regiment were active participants in the tournaments conducted at Kozhikode. Samuthiri School which became the Guruvayurappan College, Mission High School which became Malabar Christian College, Commercial School and Chalappuram Ganapat School had famous football teams.^{xxxv} Andi master, Kottayi Achu, Kesavan Nair, Raghavan, Kadali etc were the famous players of the Age. Olympian Rahman was the greatest player of Kozhikode.^{xxxvi}

In the 1930's six or seven member teams were formed in Kannur. Early teams of Kannur included Lucky Star, Spirited Youths, Brothers, Gymkhana and Keltron. In 1943 a match was conducted between Malabar and Kochi at Kozhikode. Malabar team which won the match for a lone goal had four Kannur players. They were Decruse, P. Madhavan, C.P. Chandran and Raghavan.

Decruse was the star player in Malabar. "His legs were made of steel".^{xxxvii} He was among the best shooters of Indian football. Lucky star was the star club. Rahman, Devadas, Kokkan Pappu, K.P. Mukundan, Damodaran, James, C.M. Sivaraj, Ratnakaran etc were the star performers for Lucky Star.^{xxxviii} The greatest victory of the club was in 1952 Nagji Trophy, where it beat Mohanbagan. Spirited Youths and Brothers also have a history which boasts of great victories. Later Gymkhana and Keltron joined their League.

It is seen that the areas of Areecode and Tirur were the earliest centers of football in Malappuram. Melattur, Mampad and Malappuram also were the earliest centers of this game. Therattammal near Areecode has been synonymous with the growth of the game.^{xxxix} It was the crude grounds of Malappuram that gave birth to many great pioneers of the game. Tazhattangadi in Areecode had a small football ground. The early football players of this area were Ahammad Kutty, Poovanchery Kutty Hassan, and Rayin kutty Haji etc.

Poovanchery Kutty Hassan was famous as goalkeeper. The other outstanding players were A. Abdu Rahiman and K .V. Pokkarukutty. As early as 1944 Areecode had football teams.^{x1} K.V. Alikutty, NalakathKunhan and Cheryabdulla were the members of these teams. In 1944 Kanjirala Muhammad Ali and Palliparamban Abdu played a number of football tournaments in Areecode.

The sandy banks of Chaliyar saw the crude forms of football matches from an early period. The matches were between the teams of both the banks of Chaliyar. Malangadan Muhammad Ali was a famous player then.

Historical Background of Sevens

With the establishment of British paramountcy, the indigenous society adopted different kinds of socio cultural elements of the Europeans. Naturally, the modern Indian sports also emerged as the byproduct of British rule.

Sevens is an indigenous football game of Malappuram/Eranadu. Originated and developed at Malappuram, it continues to be the most important and popular pastime of the region. It is interesting to note that there are about 120 sevens tournaments held annually in Malappuram^{xli}. The uproar of sevens fills the football grounds of each and every village of Malappuram throughout summer season. Post-harvest paddy fields will turn in to grounds for sevens. It will continue up to the rainy season. Even during heavy down pour sevens will be played.

The current concern is as to why sevens was substituted by elevens, how this sports item was materialized, what are the forces that influenced the formation and development of a sport item and what is the present position of sevens.

By 1880 British government identified Eranad as a rebellious and highly sensitive area, warranting of constant presence of military. After the Malabar rebellion of 1921^{xlii} the British government strengthened its forces in the area. They established police and military

campus at Malappuram, Nilambur, Kolaparambu and Areecode. There was regular presence of British Military officials, who were very much aware of the physical fitness required, for which they played various sports and games like football, volleyball, basketball and ball badminton. Of these games, football is the easy grasping and less technical game. Naturally, the indigenous people easily adopted it.

The extensive forest wealth of Nilambur attracted the British and they appointed many top level forest officials. The Indian Forest Service (I F S) officers were very much alert of their physical fitness, to keep up which, they played with indigenous people.^{xliii} The purpose of such interaction with the native was to watch the natives closely and identify the 'turbulent', 'criminal' and 'anti - social' elements among the natives that may make maintenance of law and order easy. It was, in fact, a blessing in disguise to the natives, who absorbed the game and molded it in to their whims and fancies, from which, there arose different kinds of hybrid games in that area. Sevens is one of the most important among such games.

The British developed used the hilly lands of Eranad as rubber and tea plantations. Aspin wall Estate of Pullangode, Kerala Estate and Arthala Tea Estate of Karuvarakundu were prominent among such plantations.^{xliv} It led to the formation of permanent British settlements. These settlers organized different kinds of pastimes, for their entertainment. The laborers and the common people also participated in these pastimes actively, which gradually led to the development of closer harmony and associate ship.

Thus the forest wealth of Nilambur, the sensitive nature of Eranad and development of cash crop cultivation were the major reasons for the permanent appearance of British officials in Eranad. These factors paved the way for a drastic social change in Eranad. A new concept of 'labor' and 'labourism' emerged, the concept of specific or need based entertainment formulated, leading to the emergence of a new concept of nationalism among the natives.

It can be noted that the British concept of fitness was governed by the idea of 'high physicalism'.^{xlv} It led to the emergence of Rugby, Football and volleyball as the major team games. Of these, football emerged a popular game in toto.

The concept of high 'physicalism' is a need based one. It explains as to how a mode of entertainment or game can be used for strengthening the physical body and make a mode of physical exertion. As elsewhere, the Malabar Special Police (M S P) also generally considered physical sports and games as part of training.^{xlvi} Special training was given in rugby and football.

Generally the game rugby is played by 15 players. In 1838 there was an internal dispute among a regional rugby club at Melrose in Scotland that resulted in split among playing group.^{xlvii} As the tale goes, neither the new nor the old club had enough players to field a 15-member team. The alternative was the decision to form a seven-a-side match, instead of rugby by 15. It ultimately led to the emergence of the number "7". Thus, full physical development warranted the police and military camps to use the short number rugby, from which the high physical football 'sevens' emerged.

It is interesting to note that events of political significance also contributed to the popularity of 'sevens'. Attention can be invited to the murder of Stanly Patrick Eaton. Stanly was manager of Aspin wall Rubber Plantation at Pullangode near Nilambur. On 22nd August, 1921, during the high days of the Malabar rebellion, a violent mob that rushed to his bungalow, drew him out and beheaded him. Not only that, the violent mob played football using the beheaded head rolling like a ball on the ground. The rashness with which an offensive foreigner was treated by the natives added further strength and vigor to the 'sevens', widening the scope and popularity of football.^{xlviii}

Positive Factors of the 'Sevens'

a. Topographical Background

Topography plays a significant role in the development of any cultural activity – weather sports or games. The unique topography of Malappuram played no significant role less than this universal truth.

The topography of Malappuram was ideal for sevens football. A portion of paddy field named as '*kandam*', extensively found in the region, provides an exact topographical space for playing sevens. *Kandam* is a smaller space than the one required for a court of the elevens. The advantage of *Kandam* is that it can accommodate the lesser number of sevens easily rather than the higher number of elevens. The very name of 'Malappuram' is indicative of the nature of topography that plain surfaced places are rare, and that hills/mounts are many. Perhaps, this unique topography was the vital factor that boosted the popularity of 'sevens' in the Eranad region. Yet another topographical factor has been the small coconut plantations that are found in common in the region, which too serve the purpose of a 'sevens' court.^{xlix} Equally significant has been the banks of the river Chaliyar. During the summer season, the banks of the river have been utilized by the people as 'sevens' court. Even during the monsoon season 'sevens' tournaments are organized; Eg. The *Edavapathi* Cup.¹ It is indicative of the fact that the people who yielded to the changes in the climate utilized the same to keep up their craze in favor of 'sevens'.

Sevens is not a professional game. It can be played anywhere and organized at anytime, in short notice. The only inevitable factor in 'sevens' football is a ball/ball-shaped/round-shaped, less hard and movable structure. These factors led to its fast popularity, which spread to every nook end corner, without any discrimination. No wonder, the marginalized/ subaltern people in the region easily adopted the game that enabled them to emerge masters of the 'sevens'.

b. Cultural Factors

Historically, the unique culture of the Eranad region was influenced by fairs and festivals. Consequent on the campaigns of Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan, a major section of the Eranad society was marginalized out by the traditional Hindu society, with the unique cultural background. The emergent Muslim community, in its turn, shifted to other means of entertainment that played great role in the development of sevens in the region.^{li} Free from interference of mass media, the people molded their own technicality and format for the game that made sevens typically an indigenous product of the region.

c. Psychological Factors

The educational enlightenment of the colonial era acted as a psychological factor that boosted the 'sevens' as a popular game. Mention is made of the western sport education in the contemporary documents like the Kavalappara papers. The initiative in this line was taken by the pupils of the Punnathore and Kavalappara noble families, who practiced western sports at Newington College, Madras.^{lii} It was instrumental for the sprout of craze in Victorian sports and games, in the entire region. The marginalized sections of the society in the region naturally adopted football, the easiest of the Victorian games, with local modifications, that led to the spread of 'sevens'.

d. Material Background

The constant presence and pressure of the Malabar police, consequent on the early Malabar revolts and the Malabar rebellion of 1921 sowed anarchy over the entire region, in the form of economic crises and unemployment, affecting the youth brutally. It is said that the helpless parents of those times instigated their children to play sevens, hoping against hopes that the game might substitute their hunger and hooliganism. Thus, the 'sevens' developed tremendously, especially after the Rebellion of 1921. No wonder, by 1960s the players of the game began to earn financially as a result of the advent of professional

tournaments.^{liii} Here, the advantage was marginally high because the income from the tournament need be divided against seven people only instead of eleven. In due course, the subaltern sections in the region started adopting 'sevens' a profession. It enabled them to live on the 'sevens'. It is stated that a skilled sevens player can easily earn more than two Lakhs in a season, extending to a period of four months.^{liv}

The sevens', organized in temporary stadiums with temporary galleries provide employment, direct and indirect to many. All sections of the society are benefited out of it. Even the local areca nut cultivators, who sell out their trees, for higher prices, that serve the material for construction of the galleries, are benefited out of the games.

It is interesting to note that all cultural organizations of the region raise funds sufficient enough for their programs of the year through collection on behalf of the tournaments. The tournaments attract the inflow of commercial advertisements. The commercial advertisement activity also leads to the growth of the material conditions of the people during the season. Last, but not least, is the positive trends in the growth of sports equipment business. It is estimated that sports goods costing many crores are sold out during the season.^{lv}

e. Social Background

Interestingly enough, the elite Hindu and Christian sections of the society were reluctant to encourage the participation of their children in sevens and football, due to the false notions of castism. On the other hand, the Muslim community had no discrimination. The Muslims encouraged their children to participate in the 'sevens' from their child hood.

f. Football Hooliganism

Football hooliganism has no meticulous legal definition. The term was made by the media, the tabloid press specifically, in the mid 1960s and from that point forward they have

been very much adaptable and unclear in crediting the illegal name to various occurrences.^{lvi} Football hooliganism is seen by most to mean nastiness or clutter, including football fans. However there is certain confusion that has been manifested in hooliganism. Natural and characteristically low level issues are brought out by the fans or by football coordinates. The self-possessed groups that join themselves to football clubs and encounter groups from different clubs, now and then, distant in time and space, from a match, create unnecessary issues.^{lvii}

It is staggering to note that four persons were specifically executed by the sevens/football evil doers in the previous two years at Malappuram. Manaf from areacode, Latheef from Thirvali, Javed from Nilambur and Asainar from Manjeri were the fans, who were killed in this manner. The traditional sample of second kind of hooliganism is the Panchami trophy competition of Melattoor in Malappuram district. Bettings for gigantic sums that have been widening in the realm of games and recreations are additionally very basic in this field.

It may be simply concluded that the history of development of 'sevens' is the one that grew up from enjoyment to passion. One cannot deny the fact that the history of modern Malappuram can be identified with the multi-faceted - social, political, economic, cultural and hooligan relations of the sevens.

Journalism in relation to sports is worthy of being commended. Initially the character of sports journalism was factual and technical, that was appreciated much by the people. P. A Muhammed Koya (Mushthaque), who wrote in Mathrubhumi weekly^{lviii} was one among the initial sports columnists. Through his columns he could captivate the minds of his readers. The trend was kept up by the later columnists like Vimsi, Bhasi Malaparambu and T. Damodaran. Unfortunately in later years sports journalism deteriorated qualitatively, consequent on the induction of the celebrities as the reporters. In spite of these defects, it has

to be admitted that most of the sports reporters hail from the Malabar, Kamal Varadoor of Chandrika daily being the prominent among them.

The progressive political parties in India also patronized sports and games, as a part of their tact and diplomacy. The best example is the emergence of regions like West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura as the most powerful football playing states.^{lix} It can be finally concluded that football/ Sevens has been used as a tool of power, social relation, material wellbeing and cultural symbiosis all over the world.^{lx}

One and half century not only made football the most popular sport but a festival and a business too. Globalization made it a global sport but didn't weaken its national identity. Australians, Canadians, Brazilians all have their own verities in the game and they still survive. Sevens of Kerala is one with its own character, a local version of a global one.^{lxi}

British taught football to Indians. Malabar had a good number of British officers. The Malabar rebellion necessitated the strengthening of police in Malabar. There was a distance created between the people and the British officials in the post-rebellion period. British introduced games to them to lessen the gap and football got a momentum here.

The outstanding players of Malappuram are from the Muslim community. Its roots can be traced from the rebellion. Malabar Muslims were very poor. They were less educated, had a bid number of children too. Football was a means to forget his poverty. Like the players of Latin America, Liberia and Eastern Europe players of Malappuram find new movements to forget their miseries. It is not his physical strength but his mental toughness that made him move.^{lxii}

In the crude grounds of Malabar a smooth play with eleven members was not easy. Thus sevens got its chance to be the game of Malappuram. An economic factor also works here. The money divided among eleven could be done with seven and it was a relief for players.^{lxiii}

Football has become a business worth billions. English Premier League has earnings worth Dollar 2.5 billion a year. Malabar clubs and tournaments are earning not millions but huge amounts. The sevens tournaments collect lacks of rupees. Players are also getting good remuneration. Even matures can earn a good amount by playing the sevens.

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