

Analyzing the athletics results of the 6th and 10th Pan Arab Games: A historical and analytical study of the Iraqi results

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to compile, evaluate, and compare Iraq's athletic performances in the 6th Pan Arab Games of 1985 and the 10th Pan Arab Games of 2004, in order to present it to future generations and document part of our history in this field. The specific objectives of this research are to identify the results of Iraq in athletics in the 6th Pan Arab Games of 1985 and to identify the results of Iraq in athletics in the 10th Pan Arab Games of 2004. Finally, the results of these two events will be compared and discussed.

KEYWORDS

Athletics results; Sports events; History of sports.

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the best and most effective ways to unite Arab youth and provide them with the tools they need to shape the future of the Arab world with their young, healthy bodies and enlightened brains is through sport (Taresh & Alwan, 2022). The most cherished activity that draws young people's minds, improves their ethics, improves their social ties and removes differences between them is sports. The youth of all these Arab nations are keen to bring together this intermittent activity in organized tournaments, as several Arab sports teams used to exchange visits in a variety of sporting events (Alwan, 2022). It takes place every year in one of the cities of the Arab nations, and in order to accomplish this, they look to the Council of the League. Big sports events like Pan Arab Games are the best way for young people to come to know one another, call for intellectual unity, and to develop respect for others (Al-Mounjee, 1989; López et al, 2019).

This is in line with the letter and the spirit of Article 2 of the Charter of the League of Arab States. As it was decided by the Fourth Conference of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports, which was held in the United Arab Emirates in 1981, Morocco hosted the 6th Pan Arab Games after a nine-

year break from taking part in these Arab tournaments (Aldousari, 2004). The 6th Pan Arab Games, which featured several countries including Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Sudan, Algeria, Kuwait, Syria, Jordan, Libya, Bahrain, Lebanon, Qatar, Democratic Yemen and Arab Yemen, the Sultanate of Oman, Iraq, Somalia, Palestine, Djibouti, Mauritania, the United Arab Emirates, and Morocco, was once again assigned to Morocco (Al-Attwani & Alwan, 2023).

The 6th Pan Arab Games in Rabat in 1985 saw a level of participation unmatched by any other Arab tournament. The event saw two notable occurrences after it was put on hold for nine years. First, the involvement of all 21 Arab League members. Second, for the first time since 1953, Arab women were permitted to compete in tournaments. Because Egypt's membership in the Arab League had been suspended since 1979, Egyptian athletes did not participate in the event. The event took place from August 2 until August 16. Athletes of both genders (n=3442) competed in the games. Morocco was at the top of the medal table, and Tunisia and Iraq were second and third, respectively.

Men's academic programs saw the beginning of tournaments in 18 different sports. The women's curriculum consisted of seven games: gymnastics, athletics, swimming, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, and sailing boats, which were added to the games for the first time. For the first time, athletes from Qatar, Yemen, Somalia, and Djibouti took part in the tournament's events. Athletics, boxing, basketball, cycling, horse riding, football, golf, gymnastics, weightlifting, handball, judo, wrestling, swimming, tennis (racquetball), table tennis, sailing, volleyball, water polo, archery, and karate were the sports played during this tournament (Khalaf, 2014). Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Palestine, Oman, and Mauritania are among the countries that took part in this event. Weightlifting, freestyle wrestling, Roman wrestling, boxing, shooting, athletics, and cycling are all Olympic sports. People with special needs could also participate in the following sports at the 10th Pan Arab Games of 2004: Table tennis, volleyball, beach volleyball, badminton, judo, rowing, taekwondo, swimming, gymnastics, tennis, horse riding, and non-Olympic sports including chess, kickboxing, karate and basketball.

2. METHODS

The purpose of this study is to compile, evaluate, and compare Iraq's athletic performances in the 6th Pan Arab Games of 1985 and the 10th Pan Arab Games of 2004, in order to present it to future generations and document part of our history in this field. The specific objectives of this research are to identify the results of Iraq in athletics in the 6th Pan Arab Games of 1985 and to identify the results

of Iraq in athletics in the 10th Pan Arab Games of 2004. Finally, the results of these two events will be compared.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 displays Iraq's performance at the 6th Pan Arab Games (1985). This tournament has awarded a total of 11 medals. The following table lists the quantity and type of medals awarded during this tournament, as a chart. Table 2 shows the presentation and analysis of Iraq's performance in the 10th Pan Arab Games, held in Algeria in 2004.

Table 1. Number of medals the Iraqi athletes won at the 6th Pan Arab Games (1985)

| Athletics | Medals | No. of medals | Athletics | Medals | No. of medals |
|-----------|--------|---------------|-----------|--------|---------------|
| Men | Gold | 1 | Women | Gold | \ |
| | Silver | 3 | | Silver | 3 |
| | Bronze | 1 | | Bronze | 3 |

Table 2. Number of medals the Iraqi athletes won at the 10th Pan Arab Games (2004)

| Athletics | Medals | No. of medals | Athletics | Medals | No. of medals | Athletics | Medals | No. of medals |
|-----------|--------|---------------|-----------|--------|---------------|-----------|--------|---------------|
| Men | Gold | \ | Women | Gold | \ | Disabled | Gold | 2 |
| | Silver | \ | | Silver | \ | | Silver | 5 |
| | Bronze | 2 | | Bronze | \ | | Bronze | 3 |

We present the data in the form of a medal count chart. When looking at Tables 1 and 2, it is evident that the athletes' performance in the tenth tournament is better than the results in the sixth tournament. When looking for the true cause for the higher results and the number of medals, the researcher discovered that it was due to the participation of athletes with special needs.

The following results are drawn from this study. First, sports achievement is directly impacted by wars and political conflicts, demonstrating the strong and significant connection between politics and sports. Second, lack of administrative strength and low enrollment in international courses lowers the quality of athletic competition. Third, there was absence of official records of Iraq's performance in the 1985–2004 Arab athletic competitions. Fourth, the absence of sports offices is the source that records Iraq's involvement and performance in athletics during these

two periods. Finally, due to the wars that Iraq faced at that time, there is a lack of current equipment and sports equipment, which has a detrimental impact on the level of sport.

4. CONCLUSIONS

In light of the findings, the researcher advises that attention is paid to the technical-administrative side, which should be developed in line with the evolution of training to attain worldwide success (Chappelet, 2008). In order to enhance the level of training to the highest possible level, it is also important to pay attention to the provision of supplies and contemporary equipment for training. The need to maintain unique archives for each event and make them available to researchers in this subject is stressed by athletics federations and special committees. The ongoing involvement of sports teams in competitions held outside of the country helps to broaden their experience and education. It is also important to offer highly qualified instructors and administrators, who are constantly subjected to scientific courses that advance their knowledge.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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