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‘On Neerlandistiek and investigating sporting culture in the Netherlands’

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Today:

My research

• Early Dutch football culture – ‘discourses of values’
• Cultural organisations
• Sport today

The IVN, Neerlandistiek and me

• My place in Neerlandistiek
• Thoughts on the future of the IVN and Neerlandistiek
IVN 19e. Colloquium Neerlandicum Invitation:

‘in een hyperdivierse constellatie is het begrip ‘norm’ relatief

EXAMPLES OF LANGUAGE CONNECTED TO PLAYING ATTRIBUTES

POSITVE

• Vuur – Fire/Vim
• Snelheid – Speed
• Hardwerk – Hard work
• Geestdrift – Enthusiasm
• Samenspel – Teamwork
• Hechtheid - solidity

NEGATIVE

• Slapheid – Laxity
• Fors(ch)heid – Robustness
• Ruwheid – roughness
• Futloosheid – Listlessness
• Weining Sportief (elementen) – Unsporting (things)
A ‘discourse of values’ within football:

a set of ideas, practices, concepts, language and sporting rules which was linked to either a positive image or negative one.

Linked to other ‘discourses of values’ in wider society
Sparta Rotterdam – Ajax Amsterdam (2-1, 03.03.1918)

Referee Willing was in charge, and this was fortunate because without his firm hand the play of the Amsterdammers would have been even less pleasant. People know what we think of the Amsterdammer’s system. The “hacking”, the pushing and the throwing which these “amateurs” make use of, is so reprehensible that even the most neutral spectator said to us yesterday: “I am happy that Sparta have won, if only because of the unpleasant play of the Amsterdammers”.

De Maasbode, 04.03.1918

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Waar sommigen klagen over te forsch spel, moeten wij als onze meening mededeelen, dat wij met die opvatting in haar algemeenheid niet kunnen meegaan. Wel gebeurden er hier en daar, en voornamelijk van de zijde van Ajax, enkels op zichzelf staande dingetjes, die beter achterwege hadden kunnen blijven, maar de wedstrijd als geheel was stellig niet te wild of te ruw.

Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant, 04.03.1918

MY ENGLISH TRANS.
While some complained about play that was too forceful, we would like to impart our opinion, that we do not share in this general view. There happened here and there, and more from Ajax’s side, some isolated incidents, that would have been better not taking place, but the game as a whole was certainly not too wild or too rough
Sparta Rotterdam – Ajax Amsterdam (2-1, 03.03.1918)

Het wedstrijd gisteren, in Rotterdam was mooi en spannend. Er mag niet gezegd worden dat Ajax een nederlag heeft verdiend: een gelijk spel ware beter resultaat gewest in deze strijd van elkaar volkomen gelijkwaardige combinaties.

Algemeen Handelsblad, 04.03.1918

MY ENGLISH TRANS.
The match yesterday in Rotterdam was beautiful and exciting. It cannot be said that Ajax deserved to loose: a draw would have been a better result in this match of completely equivalent teams.’
Sport is a site where ideas and thoughts about the world can be made tangible and given physical meanings.
A Report on School Football

De commissie acht beoefening van het voetbalspel door schoolgenooten onder de deskundige leiding van een onderwijzer, leider of een door hen zelf gekozen aanvoerder van groote waarde in de lichamelijke opvoeding en voor de karaktervorming der mannelijke jeugd en meent, dat dit spel meer dan eenig ander, dat aan de lichamelijke ontwikkeling ten goede komt, verbreed diende te worden.

De Maasbode, 21.02.1910

MY ENGLISH TRANS.
The committee considers that football training for school pupils, under the expert leadership of a teacher, a leader or a self chosen instructor, is of immense worth in the physical formation and the character building of the male youth, and [the committee] is of the view that this game, more than any other, which benefits physical development, should be spread.
NEDERLANDSCHE VOETBALBOND (N.V.B.)

• De Nederlandsche Voetbal en Atletiek Bond founded in 1889, name changed to N.V.B. in 1895.

• Became ‘Koninklijke Nederlandsche Voetbalbond’ (K.N.V.B.) in 1929.

• Controls football in the Netherlands today.
Cultural organisations – Early Dutch Football

- Different organisations in football – different values
- Linked to the wider world – not separate
- Connected to control, authority and power
- Is sport really good for us?
The IVN and Me
My personal view of what ‘Internationale Neerlandistiek’ could be:

a field of study, rooted in friendship and collaboration, which intends to promote and support diverse research and experimentation, in all areas of life, using the cultures (broadly speaking) of the Low Countries (broadly speaking) as a site to address contemporary international issues.
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