‘Surinamese Lions’
Dutch newspaper representations on football players of Surinamese descent in Oranje, c. 1974-2018

G. van Campenhout, MSc.
PhD Candidate ‘Sport and Nation’
Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication
Erasmus University Rotterdam
vancampenhout@eshcc.eur.nl
www.sportandnation.com
@GeoCoreNL | @SportandNation
Erasmus University Rotterdam
Selfie posted on Instagram by Leroy Fer (Surinamese roots) with some fellow Dutch players, with public comments.
Established-outsiders in media representation

• Established-outsiders perspective: framework to examine the discursive construction of the (Dutch) ‘nation’ based on dominant (‘established’) and subordinate (‘outsider’) groups within Dutch society

• Critically reflect on processes of belonging and othering within (historical) representation by Dutch press

• Media tend to represent ‘established-outsider relations’ by routinely reproducing symbols of the nation, emphasising cultural differences with ‘others’ → I/we, us/them and home/foreign

Colonial history: Surinamese migrants in the Netherlands

Population of Surinamese origin in the Netherlands, 1975-2015

% First and Second generation migrants in the Netherlands, c. 2000-2018

- Second generation
- First generation

- % Migration background
- % Surinamese
‘Surinamese Lions’ in *Oranje*

Winston Bogarde, Gaston Taument, Michael Reiziger, Clarence Seedorf and Edgar Davids, EURO 1996. *Photo: O1#Group*
Methodology

DUTCH NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON CLARENCE SEEDORF IN RELATION TO ORANJE AND CABLE C. 1996-2016
Clarence Clyde Seedorf

- Born: Paramaribo, 1 April 1976
- Moved to NL at age of 2
- First callup for Oranje on 14 December 1994, aged 18

- Physically
  ✓ Big / Strong / Powerful
  ✓ Colour of skin

- Personality
  ✓ Attitude: self-confident / pride
  ✓ (Natural) Leader
Racial framing by media: ‘Cable’

- Edgar Davids
- Patrick Kluivert
- Winston Bogarde
- Michael Reiziger
- Carence Seedorf
Quarter final EURO 1996: France – The Netherlands

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZm09BzOA14&feature=player_embedded
• Missing penalties
  ✓ Against France, ‘96
  ✓ Against Turkey, ‘97
  ✓ Against Italy, ‘00
• Target of national banter

Dutch media representations
• Football skills
  ✓ Missing penalties
  ✓ Loosing possession of the ball
• Personality
  ✓ Self-confidence, speaks out → Arrogance
  ✓ Lack of self-reflection
= ‘Un-Dutch’
• Recognition: ‘Order of Oranje-Nassau’ (28 April 2011)
  ✓ Contributions to (Dutch) Football
  ✓ Foundation ‘Champions for Children’
Preliminary reflections

• Representations of footballers with Surinamese roots in Oranje seem to be mainly focused on performances (on and off the field), cultural differences and personal characteristics

• Football players of Surinamese descent in Oranje are represented by the press as (provisionally) Dutch if they meet the conditions of belonging; ‘established-outsiders’

• Migrant footballers need to, over and over again, reconfirm their belonging as recurrences of cultural differences in media representations marks them as ‘outsiders’
Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

G. van Campenhout, MSc.
PhD Candidate ‘Sport and Nation’
Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication
Erasmus University Rotterdam
vancampenhout@eshcc.eur.nl
www.sportandnation.com
@GeoCoreNL
@SportandNation