

Football Museum, in São Paulo, pays tribute to goalkeepers and puts Barbosa at the centre of the debate on racism in Brazil

"Reaction Time - 100 years of goalkeeper Barbosa" connects the trajectory of Moacyr Barbosa, Brazilian goalkeeper at the 1950 World Cup, the anniversary of the goalkeeping position, and the anti-racist cause in Brazil

Reaction time is the name given to the time it takes for the athlete to start the defensive movement after perceiving an attack towards the goal. It is a primary mechanism for the goalkeeper, a position that celebrates 150 years of existence in 2021. In the new temporary exhibition of the Football Museum, the expression takes on another dimension by bringing the goalkeeper Moacyr Barbosa (1921-2000) to the centre of the debate.

Barbosa had a long professional career, with great success in the teams he played in, but the memory of his career is still stuck in the 1950 World Cup defeat to Uruguay. In the year he would have turned 100 years old, his career has been retold from a different perspective. With the help of the memories and the archive preserved by Tereza Borba, his adopted daughter, the curators problematize the hegemonic narrative of the goalkeeper's responsibility for the "Maracanazo". From there, they also discuss the consequences of this narrative for the history of football and for the trajectory of Barbosa himself, evidence of the racism that structures football and Brazilian society. The reflections and debates proposed by the exhibition invite the public to act to change this structure - because the "reaction time" to racism is now.

The exhibition is a turning point in the anti-racist agenda assumed by the Football Museum since its foundation. This movement is now deepening after the events of 2020, such as the Black Lives Matter. **"Reaction Time - 100 years of goalkeeper Barbosa"** is sponsored by SporTV; and supported by EMS Pharmaceuticals through the Federal Law of Incentive to Culture. It has Poker Esportes as a partner and the Observatory of Racial Discrimination in Football, Coletivo Pretaria, and Malik Esporte e Cultura as content consultants.

The curatorship was a participatory process involving specialists and representatives from different sectors of the Museu do Futebol. About 50 people were consulted over six months of work, coordinated by anthropologist Daniela Alfonsi and advised by Marcelo Carvalho, from the Observatory of Racial Discrimination in Football, and former taekwondo athlete and member of the COB athletes' commission, Diogo Silva. The research was conducted by historian Marcel Tonini and the team from the

Brazilian Football Reference Centre, the museum's department responsible for collections and research.

The exhibition brings together extensive research based on interviews with experts, journalists, goalkeepers and biographers. It also brings content from Vasco's Memory Center and the personal collection of the Barbosa family, which was digitized and will be made available to the public by the Football Museum. Based on photos from Barbosa's career and audios from interviews he gave throughout his career, an exclusive video revisits the athlete's career, with comments from former goalkeeper Aranha.

Data from the Observatory of Racial Discrimination in Football, a map of actions to combat racism in football and an anti-racist manifesto permeate the exhibition space.

History and interactivity - The exhibition also presents stories and curiosities about the goalkeeper position and its evolution over the decades, besides, of course, many spectacular saves. Hope Solo, Philipp Heerwagen, Ilgner, Joe Hart, Gianluca Pagliuca, Neuer, Schmeichel, Taffarel, Oliver Kahn, Buffon, Casillas, Lloris, and several other goalkeepers give testimonials in the videos displayed throughout the exhibition.

The interactive experiences, which are a trademark of the Football Museum, are also present in the exhibition. In the installation "Contracampo Vision", the public stands under an official-sized crossbar as if it were the goalkeeper. In front of him, on a ten-meter widescreen, the visitor-goalskeeper sees the opposing team's players pressing the defence in moving plays, free-kicks and penalty kicks.

In another interactive installation, the "Radio Big Area", the visitor chooses a memorable defence of Jefferson, Dida or Barbara, of the Brazilian teams, to record audio narration, as if he were a radio announcer. The material is sent to the visitor by email afterwards. Important detail: due to the coronavirus pandemic, the installation works by command on the visitor's mobile phone, without touching any equipment in the museum.

Rarities - Among the objects on display, such as photographs of Barbosa, gloves of Aranha and goalkeepers Thaís and Monique, and classic goalkeeper shirts, a piece of the goalposts used in Maracanã during the 1950 World Cup stands out. Made of wood and with square corners, the goals that witnessed the "Maracanazo" were replaced in 1968 to meet the new requirement for cylindrical, iron posts on official pitches. The Maracana management called in Barbosa and the press to mark the change and record when the goalkeeper took the crossbar that had sheltered him at crucial moments of his career with his bare hands.

The legend, fed by journalists of the time, is that one of the goals stayed with Barbosa, and he would have burnt it years later as barbecue wood. What is certain is that the other one went to the small city of Muzambinho, in the interior of Minas Gerais, and was used in the amateur field of the town until it became a collection of the local Casa de Cultura. This piece, donated by the institution to Tereza Borba in 2014, will now be displayed in the Football Museum's new exhibition.

MORE INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS

Communications Department - Football Museum of Brazil

Olga Bagatini | olga.bagatini@idbr.org.br - +55 11 98154 0397

Renata Beltrão | renata.beltrao@idbr.org.br +55 11 99267 5447