

ABSTRACT

Title: Post-Career Transition of Female Professional Basketball Players in the Context of the Czech Basketball Environment

Objectives: The aim of the thesis is to find out how former Czech female professional basketball players experienced the process of integration into mainstream life, the factors that influenced it, whether the process was de facto successful or still not completely finished, and to try to find the possibilities of potential facilitations in the period before or during the process by themselves, as well as by clubs or umbrella organizations.

Methods: The thesis applies a qualitative data research method using semi-structured interviews with six former professional basketball players. The collected data is then interpreted and compared.

Results: The process of transition from professional basketball to everyday life was successful for five respondents and for one respondent it was not successful or still not completed. Despite the fact that this is a highly individual issue, the research shows that in order to facilitate the transition on the part of female players, it is ideal to study during their careers and, if time permits, to gain at least some work experience, even if only part-time. Family shaping and influence from a young age, internal settings and priorities also play a major role. According to research, injuries experienced in youth also have a significant impact, as they remind us of the transience of a sporting career, which can end from one minute to the next, and female athletes subsequently think more about the back door.

The research also revealed little or no awareness of, or considerable scepticism about, organisations or projects that help with the integration of athletes into everyday life. At the same time, the respondents had never been prepared in any way by a club or umbrella organisation for the end of their career.

Keywords: women basketball, end of professional career, life adjustment, good governance, gender issues, transition from sport