Soccer’s Influence on Serbia

General goal: I want to inform my audience

Specific goal: I want to inform my audience about Serbian’s sense of nationalism, the influence of soccer in day to day life, and to inform about racism in Serbia

Thesis statement: In this speech i will inform you about how soccer Influences day to day life, sense of nationalism, and racism in the culture of Serbia.

Introduction

I. attention getter: Who here follows their favorite sports team?

II. Listener Relevance: Imagine having so much passion for your team that you’d be willing to flood the streets in celebration after a win, or join a riot and attack opposing fans after a loss or an illegal move. This is reality in Serbia along with many other parts of Europe.

III. Speaker Credibility: I became interested in this topic after doing research for my culture essay and finding several articles about soccer. Looking further in depth to soccers influence on Serbian culture I came across an article about an unmanned drone flying an Albanian flag into Serbia’s stadium in a recent game which resulted in a brawl between players and fans this is what I chose as my artifact that represents the culture.

(show visual aid)

IV. Thesis statement: In this speech I will inform you about how soccer Influences day to day life, sense of nationalism, and racism in the culture of Serbia.

Body

Listener relevance: Even though soccer may not get the spotlight here in America it is known as the world’s most popular sport.
A. Soccer plays a huge role on the day to day life of the Serbian culture.

1. According to one of my interviewees Dorian Vulleta, “Every little kid in Serbia or basically anywhere around there that enjoys sports wants to be a soccer player. Even teens and adults who don’t play competitively come together for pick up games all the time.” (D. Vuletta personal communication, oct. 25th 2014)

2. Serbians gather for soccer events like we get together for basketball, or football games except instead of being fans of individual teams they’re united in supporting their countries team.

B. The game is taken so seriously they often end in riots or streets filled with celebrating fans

1. For example, the Serbia vs Italy riot in a European championship qualifying match.

According to Paolo Bandini, a reporter for theguardian.com “Italy’s Euro 2012 qualifier against Serbia in Genoa was abandoned after seven minutes when the away support threw flares on to the pitch and into the home supporters’ section.” (P. Bandini, retrieved October 29, 2014) Just seven minutes of play the game was suspended as Serbs fought riot police and threw objects at players.

(Show Visual Aid)

Transition: Now that we’ve seen how passionate the Serbs are about their soccer team let’s talk about how the sport impacts their sense of Nationalism


Listener relevance: Understanding the meaning of nationalism helps explain why the Serbs are such passionate fans.
A. Since the soccer teams are representative of entire countries, political statements are often displayed during the games.

1. An example of this is the shown by the artifact I chose, the flag flown into the stadium showing “Greater Albania” which includes a controversial part of Serbia known as Kosovo. Serbians and Albanians have feuded for years over Kosovo’s independence which has never been recognized by Serbia. ([http://www.cbc.ca/sports/soccer/drone-disrupted-soccer-match-awarded-to-serbia-by-uefa-1.2811361](http://www.cbc.ca/sports/soccer/drone-disrupted-soccer-match-awarded-to-serbia-by-uefa-1.2811361) Retrieved October 26th 2014)

2. The flag flying ended with riots in the streets along with flares being shot and objects thrown at Albanian players forcing them to flee and forfeit the match. This altercation between fans and players is a good example of the devotion and sense of pride Serbians feel toward their home country

B. Another way to interpret nationalism is that it means having a belief that your country is superior to another. In Serbia this belief can be seen through examples of prejudice and racism.

1. The pride Serbians have for their countries team is so strong opposing players fans are often banned from home games for security purposes.

2. According to Jelena Wochink a reporter for the guardian.com “Since the 1980s, former Yugoslav (Serbian and Croatian in particular) football fan clubs have been the chief instigators of violence at domestic and international football games.”(J. Wochink, Retrieved October, 29th 2014)

3. If you were too attend a game in Serbia you could expect to here derogatory chants, jeered versions of other countries anthems, along with the Serbian National Anthem. Which are all done in attempt to appear superior to the other country. There really is no crossing the line when it comes to remarks made by Serbian fans. For example, “In 2005, Serbian football fans held up
banners referring to the Srebrenica genocide in a World Cup qualifier against Bosnia-Herzegovina.” (J. Wochink, Retrieved October, 29 2014)

**Transition:** So in conclusion,

**Conclusion:**

I. Soccer Influences day to day life, sense of nationalism, and some racism in the culture of Serbia.

II. we’ve seen examples of racism, acts of violence out of pride for ones home country, and how soccer impacts the lives of everyone in the country

III. The next time you go to a big game or think your teams rivalry is intense think about the other side of the world and be grateful you can watch your favorite teams play safely.
References


