

Soccer Players and Other Heroes in Latin American Sports Poetry

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An introduction to the images of soccer players and other athletic heroes in selected sports poetry from various Latin American countries. Three major conclusions: 1) Poetry, along with other sources, is useful in assessing how Latin Americans value their sports and their sporting heroes. 2) Soccer is the most important sport across Latin America, but, to the degree that poetry is a valid indication, baseball, auto racing, boxing, bullfighting, (even) chess, and more are highly popular in some areas. 3) Some Latin Americans sense that perhaps poets, above all, are capable of capturing the spirit that sport, especially soccer, truly represents and evokes. The latter argument may be itself an especially useful indicator of the “meaning” of sport among Latin Americans.