

## Underclass Kids Changing Their Lives Through Sports

### -- Based on the Textual Content of The Movies Glittering Feathers and In the Octagon

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#### Abstract

**The two films "In the Octagon" and "The Shining Feather", which are adapted from true stories, both tell the stories of children from the lower class in China who change their destiny through sports. This paper tries to take the image and text content of the two films as the main research objects, the possibility conditions needed for the children at the bottom to change their destiny through sports as the research problem, and text analysis as the main research method. The study concludes that there are three main conditions needed for the underclass children to change their destiny through sports: the support and companionship of coaches, the motivation of the group and their own deep cultivation, and the upgrading of tournaments and the building of platforms.**

#### Keywords

**Sports; Destiny movies; The Shining Feather; In the Octagon.**

#### 1. Introduction

Recently, the movie "In the Octagon Cage, directed by and starring Wang Baoqiang, has been shown in major theaters across the country. It mainly tells the story of the main character, Xiang Tenghui, who leads the mountainous children to change their destiny through sports, and the group of youngsters who do not succumb to their fate and are bold enough to fight for their lives has left an indelible impression on the people, who are as tenacious as wild grasses.

According to Prof. Tian Maijiu's theory of item group training, fighting combat sports as a kind of sports competition confrontation program[1], through direct physical confrontation with the opponent. Children from the mountainous areas of Sichuan Province, under the guidance of coaches, have been practicing systematically for a long period of time, and have been given the opportunity to come out of the mountains and make a name for themselves in regional, national, and world-class fighting events and their destinies have been changed as a result of the upgrading of the tournaments.

Not coincidentally, the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games tribute film "Shining Feathers", "to the Hunan Anhua County in 20 years for the country to send a lot of athletes, seven of them dozens of times won the badminton championship as the background of the real deeds"[2] about China's central Hunan mountain group of a group of children in the coach's hard guidance through the badminton. The story of a group of children in the mountains of central Hunan, China, who changed their destiny through badminton under the diligent guidance of their coach. In Anhua County Badminton School, this group of mountain village children in the enlightenment of the coach Wen Zhentian's painstaking guidance under the hard work of learning and practicing, contact with municipal competitions, observe the provincial competitions, enter the provincial team and participate in national competitions and even the world-class championships, the Olympic Games.

Globally, soccer is the number one sport in the world as it is known to the general public. In Argentina, "soccer is a sport for the rich, but for a boy from a lower-class family, it is both a passion in the heart and possibly a ladder out of poverty." [3] Such cases are numerous, the most typical is just passed away more than two years of the ball king Maradona, "he grew up in the lowest social class, suffered from poverty and discrimination since childhood, his soccer story is almost the epitome of the growth and development of the South American and African football stars." [4] This shows that the practice of sports in China and abroad is sufficient to prove that children from the bottom of the social strata can change their destiny through sports. Children from the lower class grow up with limited material conditions, and the backwardness of education limited by the material environment puts these mountain children in an intergenerational predicament, but fortunately there is still the path of sports that can get them out of this predicament. What is the power of sport, and what are the conditions required for the children of the lower classes to change their destiny through sport?

## 2. Research questions and methodology

### 2.1. Research questions

For different people, sport has a different power. For Nelson Mandela, "the power of sport is unparalleled, it inspires and unites people, it is more powerful than governments." [5] For Zhang Xinjun, the Chinese golfer who played in the 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games, sport can change one's destiny. Once a typical rural boy, he went to the city to work as a teenager, and it was only when he worked as a security guard at a golf club that he had the chance to get in touch with and practice golf, a sport that is difficult for ordinary people to access. After unimaginable hard training, his athletic talent was eventually discovered by Bó Lè, and after joining a professional sports team and achieving a series of outstanding results, he became a member of the national team. Zhang Xinjun was able to realize the power of sports to change his life because he had the opportunity to play a sport, trained hard and at a high level, was discovered and guided by Bó Lè, and had a change of identity as a result of upgraded competitions. Sometimes sports can change not only an individual, but also a group of people, and possibly a group of children at the bottom of a backward mountainous region.

So, what conditions are needed for the children in mountainous areas to change their destiny through sports, and what is the relationship between these conditions? Is the author carefully watched the "octagonal cage" and the "flash of feathers" two realistic sports-themed film after pondering the question, the two films are different from the same place may be the answer.

### 2.2. Research methodology

This paper takes textual analysis method as the main research method, takes the image and textual content of two films as the main object of analysis, collects and arranges the image content and textual content of the two films, inductively analyzes the content of commonality, so as to summarize the corresponding conditions.

## 3. Findings and Analysis

In the public's perception, it seems that those who practise sports do not do well in their studies, and it is only through their performance in sports that they go on to higher education and employment, but this is indeed a way for them to change their destiny. In the remote mountainous areas where the regional economic development is relatively backward, sports is one of the few live branches of destiny for the children in the mountainous areas to get in touch with the outside world. By analyzing the plot contents of the two films, the author found that the children at the bottom of the mountainous areas learn systematic sports knowledge through the coach of Bole type, make their own efforts to let their sports talents appear and improve,

and realize the platform leaping up through the tournaments every day, so as to let the light of sports shine into their lives gradually and make their destinies turn over.

### 3.1. Sponsorship and accompaniment by Coach Bohle

The reality of the situation of children in the mountains is fraught with many challenges, in particular the economic conditions that are so tight that the transmission of poverty can occur at any time.

In the movie "Octagon Cage", these children in the mountainous areas of Sichuan Province, the family situation can be used to "four walls" to describe, want money no money, want cattle no cattle, want land no land. They seldom have the opportunity to eat a full meal, wear warm clothes, sleep in a soft bed, kinds of reasons make the parents can not be around to take care of, it is the coach to the Teng Hui to take these children out of the mountains, give them a way out of life. Hard to guide them to receive professional systematic training, teach them to perform and combat skills, so that they have the opportunity to earn money through the legitimate way, but also let them have the opportunity to play a higher level of tournament, so as to contact with more new things and a broader world.

In the film "Shining Feathers", the sad badminton coach Mr. Wen sat on the bench downcast, his mind recalling a scene that just happened, the parents of the students in the mountain villages due to family economic reasons have to take their children back home, one more person can share a lot of domestic work farm work, which makes the vitality of the boiling badminton court instantly silent. In order to retain these sports prospects of the village children, the coach first to the village children's home visits, persuasion, and discuss with their loved ones to vacate their homes for the village children placed accommodation, the village students' parents are willing to let their children continue to practice. Coach to take care of these children's food and clothing and living at the same time, but also shoulder the heavy responsibility of teaching and training, weight physical training, technical and tactical guidance, go out to observe the game, and so on.

One is the coach of the folk fighting club, one is the badminton coach of the county feather school, they are introducing the light of sports for the children in mountain villages to change their destiny. According to previous studies, the training of an athlete has a long period of time, "the training cycle of soccer, basketball, table tennis, etc. is 10-15 years, and the training cycle of judo, weightlifting, etc. is 5-8 years"[6] Without the coach's guidance and financial support, how can long-term specialized training be possible?

The coach, in addition to funding the material conditions needed for training, is there for the journey. The road of sports is also full of many uncertain risks, with injuries, illnesses and abandonment. In the former investigation of China's outstanding athletes sports, the problem of injury has become an important factor affecting the career development of athletes[7]. The coach is the guide, but also in the mountain children thorny process all the way to accompany, escort! Sports far road is long, there are public opinion storms can not continue the problem, Enbo Fighting Club children in the mall to play the game of the video was misunderstood, resulting in the closure of the Enbo Fighting consolidation; there is also a commercial contract deception problem, Suki, sloppy contract so that it had to listen to the club's irregularities resistance, the body suffered misfortunes; and her father suffers from serious illness can not be at ease with the game of the issue, Shanshan's father is seriously ill, which makes her worried and unable to prepare for the long-dreamed World Championships. Even with all the difficulties, there is still a coach to accompany her!

### 3.2. Group Motivation and Self-Deepening

In order to get out of their current predicament, they have a firm grip on the rope of sports desperately climbing upwards, not fighting alone, but with a group of people like themselves.

In the film "octagonal cage", at first there are many mountain children bare upper body hard training scenes, the initial stage is in the sand field to make full use of the site conditions for training, with the refinement of the training content, venues, appliances have been improved. Later, with the improvement of economic conditions, there is a special indoor training place, with good protective gear, sandbags, protective pads, a group of new mountain children in the hard practice. Whether in the sand, or indoors, they all sweated and swung together, and after practicing they sat down together to eat, gossip, and motivate each other to persevere! They grow up together and know each other better, precisely because they are accompanied by teammates who spend time together, like Sloppy accompanied by Suki, striving for better improvement before the tournament.

In the movie "flash feathers", the mountain village children boarding in the coach's home, together with food, housing homework in the sports school also train together, from the mountain village to the county feather school is together, to the provincial team training is also together. In the meantime, they understand each other better, they have had a strong motivation, but also had a warm visit, Shanshan because of her father's serious illness at home in bed, in order to subsidize the family stopped training to help out in the hometown tea factory, the coach and his teammates to make her smile, to be able to go back to continue to train, we are even more joyful.

Groups of people in the same situation provide a sense of atmosphere to move forward, and most of all, it is their own weekday hard work and long-term perseverance in cultivation. After the group practice, they would also give themselves extra practice to make their own techniques more comprehensive, skillful and more comfortable to use. Suki is still striking against the sandbags when everyone is sleeping, and practicing the ground techniques against the dolls before preparing for the battle; Shanshan is actively consulting Sister Jiu Hong for her advanced techniques until late at night, and practicing with the heavy racket given by Sister Jiu Hong on weekdays. It is their years of unremitting practice, so that they have a systematic understanding of the content of the sport, but also allows them to have a higher level of competitiveness, to be able to achieve good results in the tournament.

### 3.3. Upgrading the Event and Building the Platform

"The road of life is long, but the crunch is often only a few steps, especially when one is young." How does one make a decisive leap forward after meeting the financial support and companionship of a valued coach and after a long period of systematic hard training? In a way, "striving to achieve better athletic results on a bigger field is the basic way for athletes to gain higher commercial value, and a powerful lever to pry their commercial value to better development." [8] The possibilities that can be encountered vary from event to event, and the ability to participate in and even win such competitions is especially critical! This is one of the most important steps in the life of a child in the mountains!

In the movie "In the Octagon", they start out as exhibition matches in an entertainment venue against teammates they have spent time with, with moves and routines long known and progressively more realistic in their presentation. Later, because they did not help their former partner's anniversary show, they ended this seemingly real fight in the entertainment field, thus starting the real fighting competition in the open ring. Some mountain children with that "backwater fight" of the courage and hard athletic strength, the fierce competition in various tournaments, trophies and medals fruitful, and the opportunity to participate in national and even world tournaments, from the fight clubs to the professional tournament, players they have upgraded by virtue of tournaments into a huge potential for business value, social value. They have also become role models for those who come after them, passing on their experience, lifting up their juniors, and passing on their spirit!

In the film "flash of feathers", they began to compete in the county sports school badminton hall, selected the best players to the city to participate in the competition, the results of the performance of the better selected to the provincial team for more systematic training, and then to participate in the provincial and national events, and even the international and world-class tournaments. It is in the county feather school practice to a certain level, to the city to test, and then have the opportunity to enter the provincial team to further enhance the possibility of participating in a higher level of events, to the provincial tournament, the national tournament to compete, so that they have so many tournaments precipitation, technical content of the filling. Entering the provincial team is an important step in the life of mountain children, from the village to the county and city is not easy, to the provincial team is a once-in-a-lifetime.

Whether it is a club or a professional team, if you want to go further, you need to compete in tournaments! It is because with the upgrading of the tournament, the foundation of life will be built up, from the forgotten corner to the shining stage, from the unknown to the household name, and from then on, the destiny will change radically.

#### 4. Conclusion

The movie "Octagon Cage" and "Shining Feathers" are both based on true stories, drawn from reality, and the artistic plotting and use of footage allow us to feel the fate of the children in the mountainous areas has changed dramatically through sports. There is the generous funding and selfless dedication of the Bole coach to solve the material problems, is the "food and clothing parents"; and preaching and teaching, teaching the length of the sport, but also accompanied by all the way, caring for the care, is more of a teacher of the scripture teacher. There are group incentives, they have a common life situation, but also have a common practice content and common goals, fighting together; more personal own deep plowing and perseverance, because there are years and years of cultivation, only to come to the amazing harvest, because there are long-term perseverance, only to come to the life-changing opportunities. The upgrading of the tournament holds the possibility of changing one's destiny. If you can qualify and have the strength to participate in key events, and even get a better ranking in key events, your own economic value and social value will be highlighted, and the possibilities of your life will become bigger and bigger, and the next road will be very different from the previous one.

Sports can be used not only for recreation and leisure and to strengthen the body, but also to change the destiny of backward mountain children. First, the training of grass-roots coaches should be increased. Mountain schools are also short of high quality physical education teachers, so developed regions can provide more support so that children at the bottom of the ladder can have the opportunity to get in touch with and practice sports, thus tapping and cultivating sports talents for the country. Secondly, the construction of athlete groups can be done by upgrading the infrastructure of mountain schools, such as the construction of sports venues, creating more space for collective activities, and through exchanges and sparring with peer athletes from outside provincial and municipal sports schools, improving their abilities and developing friendships, thus creating more possibilities to go beyond the mountains. Finally, there is the event platform, which provides special funds to support and carry out various sports events, so that children in mountainous areas can have the opportunity to learn about and participate in the events, and grow up in the events.

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