

1923 - 2023

**Cent anys de la Federació
Catalana de Basquetbol**

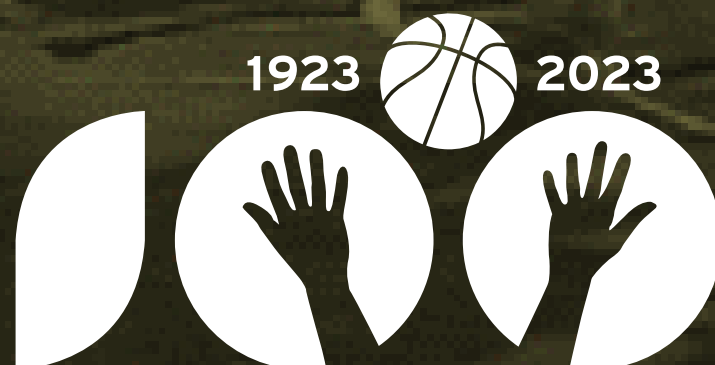
A 100 amb el Bàsquet!

Extended history

English



Federació Catalana
de Basquetbol



1 The creation of the Catalan Basketball Federation

The Early Days of Basketball in Catalonia, and the First Championships

In the early 20th century, basketball was a game familiar to numerous professionals in the world of teaching and sports. They used it as an educational resource in schools and gymnasiums. These early experiences (in the Garcia Alsina Gymnasium in Barcelona, in the Vallparadís School in Terrassa) in the early 1920s later took shape after 1922, with the efforts of Eusebi Millán at the Escoles Pies at Sant Antoni. Basketball went from being played in schoolyards to soccer fields. After several games, and a championship held at the Estadi Català in April 1923, the clubs decided to create a statewide federation, the National Basketball Federation. And so began the institutionalization and the developmental process of the sport in an organized, regulated manner. At the first meeting of the federation, which was held on 7 August, 1923 at Carrer Canuda nº26 in Barcelona (the address of Gimnàs Bricall), the CD Europa representative proposed the creation of the Catalan Basketball Federation. The procedures were put into play with the establishment of the Regional Basketball Committee, with Santiago Ferrer as its president. This body was to govern the destiny of basketball in Catalonia until the formal establishment of the FCBQ on 26 February, 1925. Its first meeting was held at five past ten at night at Ronda Sant Antoni nº2 in Barcelona, with the following participants: Messrs. Josep Espelleta, (Martinenc FC), Ricard Compte (Journalist), Ricard Pardiñas (CE Laietà), Emile Tiberghien (S.Patrie), Josep Escanet (At Bricall), Adrià García (CD Europa) and Antoni Mir (CD Europa). At this meeting the first Board of Directors of the FCBQ was elected.

President: Josep Espelleta Mercadal Secretary: Ricard Compte Pedrals Treasurer: Ricard Pardiñas Bonet Members: MR Emile Tiberghien, Josep Escanet, Adrià Garcia and Josep Rañe (US de Sants).

Events

1. From 13 April to 11 May 1924, the first championship to be organized by the FCBQ through its Regional Committee was held. Games were played on football fields, with teams of seven players. The following teams took part: CE Laietà, Atlético Bricall, Societe Patrie, FC Martinenc, US de Sants and CD Europa. The latter were to become the champions (Coma, Moncho, Font, Lagarriga,

Sasqueta, Palou and Ribas) in a competition replete with issues due to regulatory matters in the game that even led to some clubs leaving the competition.

2. 1 June 1924 marked the official opening of the Estadi Català on the mountain of Montjuic. Basketball was featured in the programme with an exhibition game between Athletic Bricall and US de Sants. The match started at 4.15 a.m. The initial “kick off” was given by the President of the Catalan Sports Confederation. The entrance fee for the event was 0.5 pesetas for stalls and 2 pesetas for a numbered chair.

3. On 21 December, 1924, a match was played in Tarragona for the first time, between members of the Tarragona Gymnastics Club.

4. The first documented game in Badalona was an exhibition featuring teams from Barcelona and organized by the FCBQ. This first match was arranged in the Ateneu Obrer court and was promoted by the club’s athletic section. It was held in March 1925 and players from Martinenc, Europa and Atlético Bricall all took part. Apparently, they ended up playing with 6 players per side, and the experience was not successful enough for the Ateneu players to be encouraged to form a team.

5. From 22 March 22 to 24 May 1925, the 3rd Catalan Championship was held with nine teams and the incorporation of CADCI, Gimnàs Tiberghien and AE Tagamanet. The championship title went to Martinenc FC. For the first time, a championship was held for sub-champions, with CE Laietà winning in the end.

6. In October 1925 a basketball exhibition was held in Valls with FC Martinenc and CD Europa on the court. The match was contested with baskets owned by the FCBQ and which were lent out for exhibitions in numerous Catalan towns. In Reus, under the organization of Reus Deportiu, a match was played between Martinenc FC and Gràcia FC on 21 February 1926.

7. The 4th Championship of Catalonia with the incorporation of FC Gràcia. The first and second team champions were CD Europa.

8. On June 18 1926, the sporting journal *Mundo Deportivo* dedicated its front page to a section on basketball, including a photograph of the champions, CD Europa.

9. In August 1926 the Martinenc and Gràcia teams staged an exhibition in Sabadell, where they competed for the Bar La Rambla Cup.

10. The 5th Championship of Catalonia was held between January and May 1927. Among the teams was FC Barcelona, which had been registered in the FCBQ since October 1926. The winning team was FC Martinenc.

11. In February 1927, the match between FC Barcelona and Gracia FC was suspended due to the non-playable conditions of the field. FC Barcelona had used an area known as "El Sol de Baix" (The Lower Plot) where it built a playing field for basketball among other facilities.

12. In March 1927, the FCBQ began the procedures for the Argentine team of the Hindu Club of Buenos Aires to play an exhibition match in Barcelona. Finally, on March 25 1927, in the FC Gràcia field, in front of thousands of spectators, a match was played between the Argentines and the Catalan national team. In a field measuring 30 x 20 meters, and with five players per team, the final result was 50 to 16 for the Argentine team. A conference was also held where the state of contemporary basketball and the latest regulations were discussed. These events were essential in the restructuring of the FCBQ and its championship.

Presidents

Santiago Ferrer Combeller

President of the Regional Basketball Committee (1924-25)

A property lawyer by profession. His links with basketball came from the CE Laietà, a team we know (thanks to the press) that he was responsible for. He was the Treasurer of the National Basketball Federation until 1929 and was the President of the Regional Basketball Committee until the formal establishment of the FCBQ.

Josep Espelleta Mercadal. 1925

He arrived at the FCBQ as a member of Martinenc FC, where he was responsible for the Athletics Section. A lawyer by profession, he was the first president of the FCBQ

Joan Trigo Serrano 1925-28

This multi-talented man was an athlete, a water polo player, a coach, a manager and a teacher. He was a name of reference in the development of physical education in schools, he was a teacher at the Escola Normal, as well as for sports in numerous disciplines and organizations. He was appointed as President of the FCBQ in

August 1925, and he left his position on the board on 9 October 1928. He was later to become the coach of the FC Barcelona basketball team.

Championships

THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF CATALONIA. FIRST AND SECOND TEAMS

Five Catalan championships were held from April 1923 to May 1927, and with the exception of the first game, which was held at the Estadi Català, the rest were organized by the Catalan Regional Basketball Committee and the FCBQ. The 1923 championship involved the participation of numerous teams with very important-sounding, grandiloquent names, although in reality there were only players from three organisations, the Escoles Pies from Sant Antoni, with CE Laietà, the Escoles Franceses from Barcelona and EC Europe. The latter was scheduled to play in the qualifying matches, however some matches were not held. The first champion was the team Societé Patrie, which was linked to the French School.

Facilities

ESTADI CATALÀ

This was a construction erected at the foot of La Fuixarda de Montjuic, where sporting events had already been taking place since December 1921. This was one of the initiatives undertaken with the aim of hosting the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1924.

THE CD EUROPA, FC MARTINENC AND UE DE SANTIS FOOTBALL FIELDS

The incorporation of organisations at the level of these teams meant that their respective football fields were the first facilities where basketball matches were held. The first basketball game was played at the CD Europa field (8/12/1922), the sporting journal La Jornada Deportiva in its edition of 17/11/1921 under the title "The New CD Europa Field" published an article on its location between the streets of Lepant and Sardenya on the Travessera, of over 712,000 square metres. The US de Sants team played the first game on the Carrer Galileu field. El Martinenc had a field between Carrer Freser and Carrer Industria. The first championships were played with seven players and on grounds 50 metres long and almost 30 metres wide. The playing fields were often near one of the sides of the field but there were no markings, besides from the lines on the pitch, the set up simply involved positioning the two baskets, marking out the area and getting on with the game.

THE CE LAIETÀ FIELD

The first grounds that the CE Laietà owned for their matches were in some open fields in what today would be on the side of the even-numbered properties on Carrer Viladomat, they were probably the first-ever facilities devoted solely to basketball. The club changed to another side of the street and moved to Viladomat Street nº 235 in the block formed by Viladomat-Rosselló-Calabria-Provença Streets, where it would remain until the mid-1960s. In the same area, El Patrie had its first field on Calle Mallorca, on the corner with Compte Borrell

THE FC BARCELONA FIELD. "SOL DE BAIX"

In 1926, FC Barcelona transformed a plot of land in the Les Corts neighbourhood, which was known as the "Sol de Baix", into a sports area. In 1927 work began on a basketball court on for the team's games. Curiously enough, their first match was suspended, as the measurements were incorrect; the FC Barcelona team had built a court with the measurements for five-a-side games. This was one of the first facilities that delimited the field of play with a barrier to prevent the spectators from entering the field.

Clubs

CD EUROPA

This club from the Gracia neighbourhood was present in the world of basketball from the very beginning. The team played in the first match in history, at home on 8 December 1922 and won the game. It participated in the championships of Catalonia between 1923 and 1931, winning the championships of 1924 and 1926, where the key players were: Moncho, Comas, Compte. Lagarriga, Font, Ribas, and Palou.

FC MARTINENC

This club began competing in the Catalan championship in its second year, in 1924, this being the first to be organized by the Catalan Regional Committee, the forerunner of the FCBQ. It played in its initial format until 1931, winning the championship in 1925. Julia, Camps Pich, Marco, Mateu, De Riquer and Prats, were the players. This title was revalidated in 1927, when Pallejà and Hierro also took part. It did not participate in the championships held between 1931 and 1934, and reintegrated into federation competitions in the 13th championship that was held between February and June 1935, where it was the champion in the 3rd Category.

Key Figures

Players

JOSEP PRATS PORQUET

He was one of the outstanding players in Martinenc FC in its two Catalan championship title games. He was also the first captain of the Catalan National Team in the match against the Argentines from the Hindu Club at the Gràcia FC field. The fact that he was the goalkeeper of the club's first-ever football team meant that in 1928, the FCBQ banned him from playing basketball, as it considered him to be a professional athlete.

Referees

ANTONIO MIR I FRANCISCO HERNÁNDEZ

These were the referees who arbitrated the games of the 2nd Championship of Catalonia, the first to be organized by the Regional Basketball Committee. Antonio Mir Vintró took up a leading position and formed part of a commission to draft a regulation in 1924. He was also in the first FCBQ selection of referees. He was responsible for this group up until the creation of the Professional Association of Referees.

Coaches

EMILE TIBERGHIE

Although born in France, he had settled in Barcelona since 1914. He was a gymnastics teacher who ran a gym on the Carrer Aragó. He was also a teacher both at the French Schools, with which he participated in the first matches in Catalonia, and at the Escoles Pies at Sarrià. Men's and women's basketball teams were even named after him and were associated with his gym.

BORIS CATALAN

The coach of the EC Europe athletics section, he was also responsible for initiating basketball practice sessions at the club at Gracia. He holds the honour of being the coach of the team that won the game acknowledged to be the first in the history of Spanish basketball, against CE Laietà - by 8 to 2.

Registrations

1923-24 No data // 1925: **132** Registrations //

1927: **196** Registrations Registrations - *Font Llibres d'actes de l'FCBQ*

2 The establishment of the FCBQ and the development of basketball. 1928 - 1938

The Creation of a new Federation-based Project and the Inclusion of Towns from beyond Urban Area of Barcelona.

The FCBQ began a new project that initiated a total change in its structure. It drew up new statutes and new competition regulations. In organizational terms, an executive steering committee was set up to make decisions in a more effective manner. A Catalan Professional Association of Referees was created for the first time. The new competition regulations adopted the regulations of the time: five players per team and courts of 28 x 16 metres. Other decisions also were made in order to further formalise the Catalan Championship, the courts were to possess certain structures: a barrier separating the court from the spectators, changing rooms in good conditions, and a first aid kit, among others. The players were to have uniform clothing and who was allowed inside the field of play it was also regulated, with strong insistence being made on the behaviour and respect of both the players and the spectators towards the referee. The Catalan Championship was also regulated in terms of categories, as well as promotions and relegations.

These transformations were the basis of the slow but steady development of basketball. The growth of competitions and clubs was fostered by the new legal framework that came with the new independent political institutions of the Spanish Republican government, and the idea of popular sport they brought with them. The end result was a significant associative impulse that facilitated a major increase in terms of participants in federation championships. Over forty teams joined the FCBQ, representing towns such as Sabadell, Badalona, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Mataró, Cornellà de Llobregat, Mollet del Vallés, Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Ripollet, Manresa, Caldes d'Estrac, Terrassa, Calella de Mar, Arenys de Mar, Rubí, Santa Coloma de Gramenet and Montgat.

The FCBQ opted for a championship model based on competitive criteria, with strict regulations for the clubs. The newest and most-popular teams merely passed through in these competitions, yet this fact facilitated the appearance of a new competition, the Agrupació de Basketball de Catalunya, where the most popular clubs and those with less financial backing found their place. The Federation of Young Christians of Catalonia also created its own competition after 1933, which was formed by parish groups from

many districts of Barcelona, and which resulted in a competition at almost the same numerical level as that of the federations. Finally, it was also on the margins of the FCBQ that women were included, the Women's and Sports Club of Barcelona being the main driving force in this respect. It was not until 1936 that the FCBQ was to include women in its competitions with the 1st Catalan Women's Championship.

The coup d'état of 18 July led to the sudden halt of development in basketball. At a federation level, activities were reduced to exhibition matches and competitions for the young, while competitions of the Agrupació and the Federation of Young Christians disappeared.

Events

1. The 6th Catalan Championship, held between March and July 1928 ended with the victory of CE Laietà. The title for that of second category teams went to US de Sants. For the first time, a team from outside Barcelona, CE Sabadell, participated in the competition, in the following championship they were to be replaced by Juventus.

2. On Saturday, 27 October 1928, a match was played under cover for the first time at the Casa Regional in Valencia, at Passeig de la Creu Coberta nº 43, (formerly the 'Alegria' - Cantonada Rocafort), between the teams of US Sant Andreu and Peña Sportiva Guimerà. The publication Gaceta Deportiva reported on the game. and the key players. UE Sant Andreu: Julia (11), Riquer (5), Rodoreda (8), Esteve (4), Marco. PE Guimerà: Piqué (2), Oriol (2), Lagarriga (2), Guasch (6), Sanmartin. The referee was Miquel Ros.

3. On 8 December 1929, a basketball court was inaugurated in the Barcelona Exhibition grounds. The game was between the Catalan national team with AS Ambrosiana from Milan. The final result was 42 to 29 with the Italians winning. AS Ambrosiana: SEsse, Miocus, Besorri (7), Canedini (13), Valli (22), Caccionigo and Valeso; Catalan team: Pla (1) (Laietà), Muscat (7) (Laietà), Gix (11) (Laietà), Colomer (10) (Espanyol), Ramis (Barcelona), Carbonell (Barcelona).

4. The first organized women's basketball competition was a social tournament at the Women's and Sports Club of Barcelona. Later, between June and July 1930, the Barcelona Exhibition Cup women's tournament was organized. The participants were, the Women's Club "A" and "B" teams (the champions), CE Laietà, S. Patrié, US de Sants, Tiberghien, CD Europa and US Hospitalet.

5. On 22 September 1931. The acts of the FCBQ include the transfer of the FCBQ headquarters from its location on Carrer Canuda nº 26

at the Gimnàs Bricall, to Plaça Bonsuccés nº 2, where a monthly rent of 25 pesetas was charged.

6. Between December 1931 and February 1932 a championship was contested in Tarragona with the participation of Semper Avant and Ben Forjats de Valls, CN Reus Ploms, Reus Deportiu and the Gimnàstic team from Tarragona. This event would lead to the creation of the Provincial Committee of Tarragona.

7. In May 1933, the FCBQ organized its first-ever children's championship. The rules: maximum age 16, height limit 1.60m, maximum weight, 55 kg. The competition was consisted of double rounds and the games were played on Sunday at 9.45. The following teams participated: US Cornellà, Gimnàs Tiberghien, Atlas Club, Athletic, New Catalonia (the champions), Unió Cristiana de Joves and Montseny.

8. In October 1933, the first Spanish Championship was held after many years, it was the most important competition at a national level. The champions and runners-up of the Catalan and central federations faced off in a double round tie. The tie ended badly, Juventus fell to Madrid's Rayo club by two points and the Iluro team left the court during the second half because it was not satisfied with the refereeing.

9. On March 28, 1935, a match was played for the first time, at the Sala Price venue, between the Catalan and Centre (Spanish) teams, with the latter winning. The event was organized by the newspaper l'Instat. Catalan team comprised: Maunier (5), Brotons, Font (6), Muscat (7), Tomás (8), Mitchel (3) and Martínez. Central team; Ruano (9), Ortega (11), E.Alonso (7), P.Alonso (4) and Arnaiz (2).

10. In May 1936 the FCBQ organized a Catalan Women's Championship, for the first time. Only four teams participated: CE Laietà (the champions), who were coached by Santiago Muscat, FC Barcelona, US de Sants and Esbart Magda from Santa Coloma de Gramenet. Noteworthy was the absence of the Women's and Sports Club which was focusing its attention on the Popular Olympics in Barcelona.

11. 26 February 1928 - The new US de Sants court was inaugurated, it was constructed inside the turfed area of its velodrome. The opening game was held between US de Sants and RCD Espanyol, the game ended with a 30-12 victory for Espanyol, with 28 points scored by their player Colomer. At the time, not even friendly matches were saved from problems. The article from the El Mundo Deportivo newspaper reads: "The fine point of the game came from Catarineu when words led to physical contact with Esteve, the turbulent captain of the Saints". Plaza, Gual, Jordana, Rius

and Esteve all played for the Sants team. The RCD Espanyol team comprised Domingo, Carreras, Rodriguez, Colomer and Caterineu.

12. On 3 April 1932, the first game between teams from Castile and Catalonia were held. At La Bordeta, RCD Espanyol lost to Real Madrid by 24 to 19. The match was played following the Catalan championship clash between Soci  t   Patri   and RCD Espanyol

13. 29 March 1933: the formation of the Provincial Committee of Tarragona is cited in the minutes of the FCBQ. The experiences that had existed since the end of the 1920s were collated. In short, the towns of Tarragona, Reus and Valls, where the teams of Gimn  stic, CN Reus Ploms, Reus Deportiu, Semper Avant and Ben Forjats from Valls and different schools held a competition that ended in the first provincial championship, but which did not continue. The board was as follows: President Joan Rios (Gymn  stic), Secretary: Alfredo Roca (Escola Treball Tarragona), Treasurer Josep Salaz, (Tarragona Business School). Its members were Francesc Capdevila (CN Reus Ploms), Ramon Verges (Sempre Avant, from Valls), Salvad   Montserrat (Ben Forjats, from Valls) and Anton Guerrero (Alumni of the Christian Schools of Tarragona). The only federated teams were Gimn  stic and CN Reus Ploms the rest were associate members.

14. In April 1933, the A.S la Bourse team toured different towns in Catalonia, in Sabadell at the Juventus field, in Barcelona at the Laiet   field, in Tarragona at the Gimn  stic field, and in Matar   at the Iluro field.

15. In the same month, on 6 April 1933, an indoor game was played between the first and second ranking teams of FC Barcelona and Soci  t   Patri   in the Gavina Blava Sala on Barcelona's Avinguda Mistral. Some media sources reported the event as the first indoor match, although a match had already been played there several years before.

16. After various controversies with the FCBQ, a new, professional, Catalan Association of Referees was created in July 1933. The first board was formed by: Miguel Ros Ricar (president), Pere Sust i Arim  n (vice-president), Ram  n Musolar i Sabater (secretary), Miguel Estrany Arrando (vice-secretary), Ramon Guinea i Vidal (treasurer), Francisco Bosch Saub   (accountant) Josep Fibla Ferreres (member)

17. May 1933: Provincial Championship in Tarragona.

18. Towards the end of 1933, a competition named the Tarragona Cup was held in the city of Tarragona. The event was repeated.

In the 1936 competition the following teams took part: Peña Mediterrània, Escola de Comerç, Fejocists, Peña Esportiva, Peña Bru, and the Escola de Treball "A" and "B" teams.

19. Des de finals del 1933, es disputa a Tarragona ciutat una competició sota el nom de Copa Tarragona que tindrà més edicions. A la del 1936 van jugar la competició la Penya Mediterrània, l'Escola de Comerç, els Fejocistes, la Penya Esportiva, la Penya Bru i l'Escola de Treball A i B.

20. On 11 March 1934, a women's tournament was organized by the newspaper *L'Opinió*, together with Barcelona City Council and the Government of Catalonia and was held anew. The Women's "A" and "B" teams, Atlas, US de Sants and FC Barcelona all participated. On 3 June, a festival was held at the Laieta field where a prize was given to the Women's "A" champions and a match was played between this team and a selection from the other teams. The former team won by 11 to 6 points. The key players were the Women's team (Femení) Tubau, Castelltort, Sugrañes, Morros and Valls. On the selection team were Ribes (Sants), Gómez (Atlas), Franco (FC Barcelona), Gasset (Sants), Jerez (Women's "B"), Carrillo (FC Barcelona), Hernández and Jordá (Altas).

21. 33. In May 1934, a night tournament organized by the newspaper "*La Veu del Vespre*" took place at the Sala Iris in Barcelona. The winner of the championship was Patrié, who defeated the Intendència team in the final game.

22. In June 1934 the Women's Sports Club travelled to Oran, Algeria for a game.

23. On 3 August 1935, the first-ever women's international match was held in Barcelona. At the "Piscinas y Deportes" field, the Argelia Sports team faced a selection of players from the Club Femení and FC Barcelona. Valls, Sugrañes, Mirapeix, Morros from the Women's Club and Cabanes and Franco from FC Barcelona, this followed a trip made by the women's team members to Oran, where they did take part in different athletics and basketball exhibitions.

24. In October 1935, the 2nd Spanish Championship was held on the playing field of the Municipal Park at Montjuic in Barcelona (on its tennis courts) with the participation of the first two classified teams from the championships from the Centre and Catalonia and the champion from Valencia. The final victory went to the Societe Patrie team.

25. The Girona sporting organisation, the GEIEG, who were already playing basketball, requested registration with the FCBQ in 1934.

26. On 18 and 19 July 1936, an assembly of the FEB was convened in Madrid. It was suspended but the president of the FCBQ who attended, was trapped in the city..

27. The outbreak of the war led to the holding of sports days, such as the one held on 5 September 1936 in the Sala Price for the the Anti-Fascist Militias. It was organized by the Catalan Basketball Federation. The press later reported that the event was a success, with the following games: Blue Team 31 - White Team 31; Children: Laietà 15 - FC. Barcelona 12; Women: County Selection 24 - City Selection 35; Patrié 28 - Laietà 25.

28. From 25 July 25 to 8 August 1937, the Popular Olympics were held in Antwerp, with the participation of a team comprised entirely of Catalans. Brotons, Martínez, Vila, Centelles, Dalmau, Mirambell, Redon and Rodon, who won the tournament. On the return journey, not all the players returned to Barcelona directly, some made brief tour of different French towns.

Presidents

Domènech Batalla Macià, 1928-1930

He came to basketball through Gracia FC, of which he was apparently a member of the board of directors

Emilio Rodríguez de Aguirre, 1930-31

He came to basketball through the club CD Europa, of which he was a member of the board of directors. He was also prominent in the world of athletics, the federation of which he was vice-president.

Àngel Truñó i Rusiñol, 1931-35

Barcelona 1895 - Prullans Pallars Jussà 1979. An architect and a building contractor. He was in charge of the Chair of Material Knowledge at the School of Architecture. He was also related to other sports, he was secretary of the Catalan Rugby Federation, a car racer and the President of the Stadium Motor Club.

Pedro Marí i Noguero, 1935-36

He was connected basketball through Athletic BC, of which he was president. He joined the board of directors of the FCBQ and was later appointed as president. The 18 July coup trapped him at an FEB meeting in Madrid.

Joan Bucheli i Sabater, 1936-39

The son of a Swiss father and a Catalan mother with Swiss nationality (the brother of the famous magician and the second owner of the store "El Rei de la Màgia", Carlston Carles Bucheli), he was connected to the basketball world through the Christian Youth Movement. He joined the FCBQ as its treasurer and was later the secretary. In 1936 he became president in the absence of Mr. Pere Mari Noguero, who was unable to return from Madrid, where he was at an FEB assembly, due to the outbreak of the Civil War. He was responsible for the first regulations that were published entirely in Catalan and which were accompanied by a brief history of basketball in Catalonia and which also contained numerous exercises for practicing basketball. The text was published in 1938 by the Commissariat of Physical Education and Sports of the Catalan Government.

Championships

THE CATALAN CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS

Although the first championship organized by the FCBQ began in May 1933, some championships had already been held previously, with the organisation's approval. In 1928 the first event being organized by FC Barcelona and known as the Miquel Soler Cup Tournament, after the manager of the Barcelona club. The teams competing for this first trophy were FC Barcelona, the 4th 1st Baccalaureate team, UGS Badalona, CD Europa, Unió Cristiana de Joves "A" and "B" (the team that was the champion), Societe Patrié, Escoles Franceses, CE Laietà, Escoles Aubà, Ateneu Montserrat and Tiberghien. This first tournament was followed by others organized by CD Europa (1930), Lawn Tennis Horta (1932) and Esportiva Mataró. In 1933, after the end of May, the first championship organized by the FCBQ was held under the following (maximum) conditions: age 16 years, height 1.60 metres, weight 55 Kg. 2 rounds were contested with the games being held at 9.45 on Sunday mornings. The first champion was the New Catalonia team. Later, championships were held until 1936 and the champions were the teams of BB Ripollet, AC Mollet and RCD Espanyol.

THE CATALAN WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

On 5 September 1935, at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the FCBQ, its member, Lluís Duprè presented a proposal for the Women's Championship of Catalonia, together with its regulations. However, it was not possible to organize the competition until May

1936. Four teams played in the event: US de Sants, Esbart Magda de Santa Coloma de Gramenet, FC Barcelona and CE Laietà, who was the champion. The reference club of the time, the Women's and Sports Club of Barcelona did not participate, as it was involved in the Barcelona People's Olympics project. The victorious team, Laietà, which was coached by Fernando Muscat, was made up of the following players: Tubau, Morros, Mirapeix, Carme Sugrañes, Aurora Jordà and Encarna Hernández.

THE MEN'S SPANISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Also noteworthy was the first-ever dispute of a Spanish Championship, in which the Catalan Champion and the sub-champion teams took part, these were Juventus from Sabadell and Iluro from Mataró. A controversy in the semi-finals led to the termination of the championship, although it was re-established in 1935 and played on the Montjuïc tennis courts. The championship, which was disputed by knockout rounds, ended with the victory of the Catalan team, Patrié. The following year the event was held in Madrid. The competition later became known as the Cup of "His Excellency the Generalissimo" and was subsequently named the King's Cup - La Copa del Rey.

Facilities

INDOOR BASKETBALL

The use of indoor courts was an obvious goal from the very first years of basketball in Catalonia. The idea of offering a better show, protected from inclement weather and on better quality surfaces, with spectators enjoying greater comfort, led to the search for suitable venues. The first indoor match we have evidence of was played on 27 October 1928. It was held at the **Casa Regional Valenciana**.

This game took place at the **Sala Gavina Blava**, a ballroom located on Avinguda Mistral nº 50, which had been inaugurated in January of the same year. FC Barcelona and Societe Patrié were the teams involved, with the victory of the former side by a close-run result of 30-29

The **Sala Iris Park** was another venue where basketball games were held, and is noteworthy for the Indoor Night Tournament that was organized by the Veü del Vespre media outlet in late April 1934. Participation involved teams from CE Laietà, Atlas Club, Penya Coratge, RCD Espanyol, Athletic, CADCI, Unió Cristiana de Joves and FC Barcelona. Basketball was played on this court even during the war.

Another indoor court was that of the **Sala Price**, which was inaugurated on New Year's Eve 1934 at the corner of Floridablanca and Casanova streets in Barcelona. On 28 March 1935, it was the scene of a basketball meeting, where the main match was held between Catalonia and Castile, in order to select the best players for the European championship being held later in the same year. This game was accompanied by a children's match between AB Juniors from Hospitalet and AC Mollet, and a game between the sections of Barcelona, in addition to a regional game. From then on this venue became a regular location for basketball games, and this function continued until the mid-1960s.

THE MARICEL PARK COURT

A large amusement park was built on Barcelona's Montjuic mountain. It was open between 1930 and 1936, it had a skating rink, although this area was used for other activities, including basketball games. One of the highlights was the Maricel Women's Tournament.

THE EXHIBITION COURT

On the occasion of the Barcelona exhibition, a basketball court was built on Avinguda Montanyans, next to the rear side of El Poble Espanyol. The Catalan national team's games against Ambrosiana from Milan and Foyer Alsacien from Molhouse were played on this court and it was the scenario for the Men's and Women's Exhibition Cup Tournaments that took place throughout 1930.

Other grounds noteworthy from the period were the Montjuïc Olympic Stadium, the Les Corts field, Sarrià field, the Iluro team field on Rambla Ferrer and Guardia de Mataró, Juventus Sabadell team field on Avinguda Francesc Layret. In Manresa, the first fields where basketball was played, apart from the football field, were those of Flor de Lis and Bonavista. However, the first important field was that of Blaqueig, on land adjacent to the Soler family company (Joan and Maurici, the two sons of the family were pioneers of basketball in Manresa) on the Passeig next to the Santpedor road, and where, from 1931, they held most of the local championship games and the federation competitions in which Manresa Basketball took part from 1932. In Tarragona, the first matches were held on the football field at Avinguda Catalunya, and in Valls in the Vilar field and Camí de la Xamora. In Reus, the Deportiu and Ploms facilities were also important venues.

Clubs

THE WOMEN'S AND SPORTS CLUB OF BARCELONA

This organisation, created in October 1928, was the first exclusively for women. Under the slogan "*Femininity, Sport and Culture*", it introduced women to the world of sport, although it also included cultural training through courses, conferences, literary competitions and its library. The aim was to ensure the comprehensive training of women. In terms of basketball, it was the first organisation where the sport was organized, firstly with social tournaments and with a large number of exhibitions throughout Catalonia, which usually coincided with competitions and athletic exhibitions, and secondly, with the organisation of a tournament celebrating the anniversary of its foundation, where many of the female teams created took part. It won the competitions organized for the Barcelona Exhibition in 1930, as well as the championship organized by the journal *Diari l'Opino* in 1934, and which at that time was presented as the Championship of Catalonia. Some of the women who were active in women's basketball in Catalonia were: the Castelltort sisters, Mirapeix, Sugrañes, Morros, Valls, Jerez, Tubau, Pascó, Altaba, Martínez-Sagi, Juncadella, and many more, given that club membership rose to more than three thousand.

JUVENTUS AC SABADELL

This basketball team was formed by a group of athletes from the club and it joined federation competitions as of the 6th Catalan Championship that was held between March and July 1928. The FCBQ accepted that it was the replacement team for CE Sabadell, who left the championship after a year. In its first year it was already the champion of Group "B" in the Catalan Championship. It also won the 11th Catalan Championship that was held between November 1932 and April 1933, which then allowed it to participate in the first Spanish basketball championship, losing the semi-finals against the Rayo Club from Madrid, who later became the champions. It was also the first team to score 100 points in an official match, in a classification tournament to enter and compete in the first category. It defeated UGE Badalona by 100 to 6, and 67 points were scored by the player Estop. The team continued to compete until 1936.

Key figures

Players

FERNANDO MUSCAT GARCÍA

(Tobed 1911 - Barcelona 2000)

Although born in the province of Aragon, he was later to arrive in Barcelona at a young age, and from 1923 he played with Laietà. To do this he had to become a member, and he learned to play on a 50 x 30 metre court with teams of seven players. His debut in the first team was in a match on 3 November 1927 when the teams were already adapting to the new rules for teams of five players and courts with measurements like those of their modern counterparts. He stood out as a mid-centre, due to his strong physique and his coordination. He was supportive at a defensive level, with a keen eye for the game, he was a good passer as well as a good basket shooter. After the war he went back to play at Laietà for one more season, to pass on his experience to young players like Kucharski or Navarrete, who were just starting out.

ENCARNA HERNÁNDEZ RUIZ

(Lorca 1917 - Barcelona 2022)

She moved to Barcelona with her entire family, and from a young age she began to practice basketball as well as other sports- She was known as the "Girl of the Hook", and she played for Atlas, and later for CE Laietà with whom she won the first Championship of Catalonia. After the Civil War, she played for CE Laietà, with the Women's Section as well as for FC Barcelona. She also took part in the Education and Leisure competitions with the Moix Llambés and GD Cottet teams.

Coaches

MARIANO MANENT

(Cordoba 1904 - Avilés 1993)

Although born in Argentina he began living in in Barcelona as a young man, he was one of the key figures in Catalan basketball in its early days. He played for Tiberghien and other teams, and was a respected referee for many years. He left arbitration to work as a coach at FC Barcelona. He also managed the Catalan team that faced the Castilian team for the first time in order to prepare the Spanish team that would later take part in the 1935 European championship. He was also the coach of this same Spanish team that was to win the silver medal.

Referees

PERE SUST I ARIMON

(Masnou 1908 - 1983)

He was one of the pioneers of Catalan basketball, and he participated in all aspects of the sport, as a player, a referee, a coach and a manager. He was a distinguished referee in the early days of the Catalan Championship and was the referee at the second international match between the Catalan national team and Ambossiana de Milan. He continued in this role until 1932. He dedicated himself to training to both members of the Women's and Sports Club and the men's CE Laietà team, which won the Catalan Championship in 1935. He was later a member of numerous FCBQ commissions and was always involved in promotional tasks.

Registrations

Registrations 1928 - **230**

Registrations 1936 - **735**

(35 feminine. No reference is made to categories in the male registrations).

3 The FCBQ under control. Difficult times of repression. 1939 - 1945

The Slow Recovery of Sporting Activities and the Difficulties encountered due to Political Control and the Interference of the Dictatorship in the Different FCBQ Organizations.

The FCBQ that emerged from the new political situation underwent a total transformation, it was placed entirely under the control of the Spanish Basketball Federation. This organisation assigned the President of the FCBQ and approved its board of directors. The clubs disappeared from the decision-making bodies. Spanish was once again the only vehicular language. The activities of the FCBQ were not reflected in the minutes until 1942, and even then with very little information, due to the favouritism of the management.

Due to the political structure defined in the Decree of 2 February 1941, the FCBQ was entirely dependent on the FEB, which in turn depended on the National Delegation of Sports of the Fascist organisations, the FET and the JONS and this body fell under the General Ministry of the Movement. The Youth Front, the Women's Section, the SEU and the CNS controlled the sports played by young people, women, university students and the workers, or "producers" as they were known. This entire network of organizations had a negative influence on the development of federation-run competitions.

The FCBQ resumed its activities with a great number of difficulties, the Catalan Championship, which was practically confined to the Barcelona regions, was restored. Despite the creation of the Territorial Delegation in Tarragona, the difficulties arising from the scenario in the country in the midst of the post-war period, plus the refusal of the Barcelona teams to make such long journeys, condemned the Tarragona teams to local competitions only. In both Lleida and Girona, activities were sporadic and focused mainly around the provincial capital. Only isolated cases, such as those of the GEiEG or AD Farnés, appeared in FCBQ competitions and had no permanence.

The difficulties were even more significant in youth and women's basketball. The former was practically non-existent in the federation due to the control of the Youth Front. With respect to women, although the federation regained a limited competitive structure through a very minority Catalan Championship, this ended up disappearing due to the interference of the Women's

Section. The need to complete social service obligations in order to process meant that leading figures left the Federation and went on to compete in Education and Leisure as producers.

Events

1. On 6 October 1939, the first post-war competition began in the Sala Price. The Pedro Conde tournament was the name of the championship, after the new head of the FEB, Pedro Conde, who was linked to the Fascist Falange party, and who held important political positions. The champion team of this first men's tournament was RCD Espanyol from Barcelona.

2. From 7 January 1940 and until April, the re-established Catalan Men's Championship was held in two categories with eight teams each. The 3rd Category Championship was held in March. The most remarkable fact is the non-participation of FC Barcelona, as there were serious issues in terms of moving the organization forward. Also noteworthy is the fact that this is when Club Joventut Badalona began to participate in federal competitions.

3. The FCBQ re-established women's competitions, and from May 1940, the Luis Humet Trophy (named after the FC Badalona Manager who had died in the Spanish Civil War) was disputed with only four teams; SEU, CE Laietà and UD Sants (the victors) and UD Gimnàstica, from Badalona. Later, in March 1941, the FCBQ also reinitiated the Catalan Championship.

4. In late June 1940, the first cup tournament of "His Excellency the Generalissimo" (previously known as the Championship of Spain), was held. The competition inaugurated the courts of RCD Espanyol of Barcelona in Sarrià. The final winner was CB Hospitalet, whose team comprised: Marcellí Maneja, Ramon Sanahuja, Pedro Vidal Coll, Rosell, Pere Escalera, Enric Piera, Francesc Rodón, Marcellí Ferrer Bisball, Gabriel Manzanares and Ventura. Their coach was Salvador Rovira.

5. Games between Catalonia and Castile (also known as "the Centre" depending on the scope of the federation) were re-instated. These events were central to many days of sport, and were a showcase for the top players. The first game was played in the Sala Price on 16 September 1940 with a men's and women's double match, and with victories for the Catalan teams.

6. In December 1941, the FCBQ sanctioned several teams for the question of professionalism or questionable amateurism. Particularly harsh sanctions were applied to RCD Espanyol. The

matter was known as *'The Case of the Greatcoats'* in reference to the main feature of the players' payments.

7. In early 1942, between the months of January and February, a federation delegation was once again founded in Tarragona. Later, in July, the creation of a delegation in Lleida was proposed, together with the appointment of Mr. Juan Manuel Randua as its representative.

8. In November 1942, the Catalan national team toured abroad and played three matches, in Grenoble, Geneva and Valencia.

9. In April 1944, the 2nd Category Women's Championship ended with the victory of CD Hispano Francès. However, they were stripped of the title, as the players were considered to be foreigners. The title went to the runner-up team, the US of Sants.

10. 20 August 1945 Mr. Carbonell informs the attendees about the calendar of the women's championship, it is approved, stating that only the teams of Hispano Francès, RCD Espanyol, SF de FET and the JONS and Liceo Francès will be taking part, withdrawing from the competition are: CD Manresa, UD Sants, CB Mediterrani, CE Laietà, UGD Badalona, FC Barcelona, Club Joventut Badalona, all of them due to the impossibility of being able to comply with the orders received from the National Sports Delegation, according to which the players must have completed their social service obligations in order to register. The clubs referred to above shut down their women's sections. Despite being the Women's Champion of Catalonia, RCD Espanyol was finally divested of its title and was unable to participate in the Spanish Championship because some of the players had not completed their social service duties. It was to be the last Catalan championship for several years.

11. Many sports facilities were used as military warehouses and junkyards throughout the war. After the conflict some time was needed to restore these amenities for use as sporting activities. With respect to basketball, CE Laietà reopened its facilities on 13 June 1939 with a double game between the men's and women's teams of US Sants and RCD Espanyol, from Barcelona

12. The competition scene slowly returned to normal, and inter-regional matches were even being played, such as the one that took place in Sants on 11 February between the Club Baloncesto Institución Montserrat (formerly Renaixement BB) and CN Helios from Zaragoza.

13. In the same month of 1940, the Sporting World Cup Tournament was held in the Sala Price.

14. In November 1940, a new competition began, the Barcelona Cup General Orgaz Trophy. The final was played on 22 December between Unió Manresana (the champions) and Club Joventut Badalona.

15. On 8 December, the women's teams of RCD Espanyol and US de Sants were due to play a match in Palma Mallorca at the El Tirador velodrome. According to the media accounts the event was impossible to hold due to a gale, and the match was played the following day at the Sa Punta field, with a victory for RCD Espanyol.

16. In June 1941 the Club Baloncesto Institución Montserrat (BIM) organized the 1st Aces Basketball Competition. The aim was to find the most technically-qualified player, after the completion of numerous trials.

17. Almost three years after its resuming activities, the FCBQ updated and approved its new statutes (31/01/1942). Its first article was clear and direct. Article 1. "The Catalan Basketball Federation is the body immediately below the Spanish Basketball Federation and it serves as a link between the latter and the sporting societies that exist throughout the Catalan region."

18. On 29 March 1942; the first international meeting was held. The Catalan team faced the team Urania Geneve Sportive. The victory went to the Catalan team by 28-11 at the Sala Price in a day that ended with a women's game between RCD Espanyol and the Catalan Selection.

19. In May 1942, the final phase of the women's championship of Catalonia was held, by qualifiers, at the Montjuïc court (Tennis courts). FC Barcelona was the champion. The team trained by Henry comprised: Olivart, Lazagabaster, Gasset, Miquel, Muntasell, Gari, Garcia and Moreno.

20. In June 1942 CE Laietà was the Champion of Spain in Zaragoza after a game against FC Barcelona.

21. In March 1943 the Spanish national team played against France in Toulouse. The Catalan team comprised Martínez, Sanahuja, Kucharski, Esteva, Maneja, Vidal i Carreras.

22. March 1943, the 4th Castile versus Catalonia event was held at the Sala Price.

23. June 1943 Women's Championship of Spain. RC Espanyol Champion.

24. June 1943 FC Barcelona, Champion of the Cup of the Generalissimo.

25. December 1943, the final of the 4th Barcelona Cup General Orgaz Trophy with a victory of FC Barcelona over RCD Espanyol.

26. March 1944, a new competition is created: The Hernan Cup, named after the company 'Manufactures Hernan', a ball-making factory.

27. The minutes of the FCBQ include the agreement to organize provincial games in accordance with the instructions received from the FEB. It is clear that although the creation of the delegation in Tarragona and a representative in Lleida has been announced, these institutions had not completed their project.

28. 29 June 1944 CE Laietà was proclaimed champion of Spain in Vigo, after defeating Real Madrid. The women's RCD Espanyol lost the final against SF Madrid.

29. On 16 June 1945, a new court was officially opened that was the main feature in important events for several years. The peculiarity of this new court was its location on the roof of a building located on the corner of the Viladomat and Gran Via streets in Barcelona (at the time named José Antonio Primo de Ribera). The building was a garage owned by Mr. Ubach and the court was also that of the CD Mediterrani club. The FCBQ arranged the transfer of two selection teams for the inauguration day with the company Deportes Gran Via, and it allowed them to organise the finals of the 2nd and 3rd category Hernan Cup. The condition for this deal was 20% of the gate fees.

Presidents

Julio Clavero Lon 1939-42

The Director of the RCD Espanyol basketball section, he joined the board of directors of the FCBQ in 1932. In 1939, he was designated to the post of President of the FCBQ by the Franco Regime.

Rafael Castejón Gómez 1942-54

He was one of the founders of the Juventud Valenciana team and of the Atlas Club. He was both the manager and secretary of the FCBQ in 1932. He was later appointed as president in place of Julio Clavero Lon, and he held this position until 1954.

Championships

THE PEDRO CONDE TOURNAMENT

This was the first tournament organized after the Spanish Civil War, in October 1939. It was named after the president of the FEB, Pedro Conde Esteve, a prominent member of the Falange who held several positions in the Franco government at the time. It was held at night in the Sala Price in Barcelona. Athletic BC, CE Llaientà, RCD Espanyol and CB Hospitalet all participated. The champion was RCD Espanyol.

THE BARCELONA CUP GENERAL ORGAZ TROPHY

After late October 1940, the FCBQ held this new competition. It was created to act as a precursor to the Catalan Championship for teams in the first and second categories, on a mandatory basis and on a voluntary basis for third category teams, results were decided by a play-off system. Although the first name given was the Barcelona Cup, that of "the General Orgaz Trophy" was soon added in honour of General Luis Orgaz Yoldi, who was Captain General of the Military Region of Catalonia. More than twenty teams participated in the first event. The first tie marked the return of FC Barcelona to official competitions, after they were unable to form a team in 1939. Their match pitted them against UE Manresana, who were eventually the first champions of this tournament. The finals of this championship were played as a single match and were a benchmark throughout the decade, in different settings such as the Sala Price or the 'Las Arenas' Bullring.

THE LUIS HUMET TOURNAMENT

This was the first women's competition organized by the FCBQ after the end of the civil war. The name of the tournament was in recognition of the manager of FC Badalona, who was murdered in August 1936 in Barcelona. The Badalona club provided the trophy to the winners. It was held from May 1940, with the participation of CE Llaietà, US de Sants, UG Badalona and SEU. The Unió Esportiva de Sants was the winner of this trophy and the key players were: Gasset, Montasell, Vadellos, Miquel, Mira, Icart, Garí and Martí. This trophy contest did not continue and only one more event was held in which the winning team was RCD Espanyol from Barcelona.

THE VICENTE LIGHTNING TOURNAMENT IN BADALONA

A private tournament, authorized by the FCBQ, was organized by the Unió Gimnàstica Badalona. The main characteristics were that it was a summer (pre-season) tournament, and both nocturnal and short-term. The games played as qualifiers and lasted only 20 minutes, except for the final. The first eight participants were Atlètic, RCD Espanyol, CE Llaietà, the "A" and "B" teams of Gimnàstica de Badalona, BIM, Joventut Badalona and Montgat. The success of the format ensured that it lasted until the early fifties.

THE HERNAN CUP

This competition took place from 1944, and was sponsored by Manufacturas Hernan, a company that exclusively manufactured balls for all kinds of sports. This competition continued to grow, and was held in the different categories of the Catalan Championship until the late 1950s.

THE WOMEN'S PRESIDENT TOURNAMENT

This tournament was first held in October 1941, so that younger female players could continue to have opportunities to play the sport. Registered players from the first teams were not allowed to participate. The name of the competition arose from the donation made by the President of the FCBQ, Mr. Rafael Castejon of the Champions Cup. Seven teams participated in the first event, and CD Sabadell won the finals. The tournament was held irregularly and disappeared due to the difficulties faced by women seeking to participate in federal competitions due to the issue of registration, and the inescapable obligation to have completed social service in order to register.

Facilities

THE MONTJUÏC TENNIS CLUB COURT

The tennis courts on the mountain of Montjuic were the venue for numerous basketball games: in 1935 the Spanish Championship had already been played there and after 1939, for a brief period, it was the scenario for several events, such as the Catalan Women's Championship, which was held in 1942, and which ended with the victory of FC Barcelona, it was also the scene of the tournament organized by the FCBQ on its 25th anniversary.

THE GRAN VIA COURT

This court was officially opened in June 1945 and was built on the roof of a garage owned by Mr. Ubach, at the corner of Carrers Viladomat and what was then the Avinguda José Antonio Primo de Rivera (now the main thoroughfare of Gran Via) in Barcelona. Its inauguration pitted two Catalan national teams against each other, and on the same day the finals of the 2nd and 3rd category Hernan Cup and the semi-finals of the Catalonia Youth Championship were held between FC Barcelona and BIM. The court was also the club venue for CD Mediterrani.

THE SWIMMING POOL COURT IN GIRONA

These were multi-sports facilities in the Park of La Devesa where the GEiEG held sports activities, including basketball. The team from Girona played in the 1930s on the dance floor of the city's swimming pool and occasionally they also played in grounds of the quarries, where the club practiced athletics. The organization later used the Camp de Mart sports facilities in La Devesa for basketball.

Clubs

CB L'HOSPITALET

A group of youngsters who played basketball in the city of L'Hospitalet ended up forming a basketball team called Atlètic Basket Juniors. They participated in the FCBQ competitions for the first time in the 10th Championship. During the 1935-36 season they won the sub-championship and the right to compete in the Spanish Championship in Madrid. The trip was possible thanks to the support of the local authorities, however only seven players (who ended up taking third place) were allowed to travel. After the war the club had to change its name, due to the Francoist ban on

names in a non-Castilian language, and it became CB Hospitalet. The team won the Championship of Catalonia and Spain in 1940 without losing a single game. The following season it was also champion of Catalonia and sub-champion of Spain. The team's key players were Pere Vidal, Marcellí Ferrer, Marcellí Maneja, Ramon Sanahuja, Francesc Rodón, Rosell, Enric Piera, Pere Escalera, Gabriel Manzanares, Ventura, Joan Canudas, Josep Benach, and it was managed by Salvador Rovira and Joan Villalva.

RCD ESPANYOL WOMEN'S

The RCD Espanyol women's team from Barcelona was one of the key figures during this period. It possessed all the characteristics that define women's basketball that were played during those years. The women's team was created well into 1940, and its debut match took place on 7 October, with a handful of veteran players, captained by Centelles. This team won several different titles: two of Catalan Championships and one Spanish Championship, and a Spanish sub-championship. It was also the main figure in events such as its participation in the Spanish Championship due to the exclusion of CD Hispano Francès, that was considered to be a foreign team, or the problem of registration, as none of its players had completed social service. This cost the team its chance to participate in a Spanish Championship, as well as the sanctioning of its delegate-coach Mr. Pedro Flores. The team's main players were: Cabanes, Barrera, Santiago, Herrera, Mira, Lorham, Marco, Tomas, Peón. Their main rivals were CE Laietà team of Les Bertran, Morrons, Jordá, Vazquez, Borrás, Solsona, Torremade; and the FC Barcelona team of Olivart, Miquel, Moreno, Montasell, Gari.

Key Figures

Coaches

FERNANDO FONT

(Ceuta 1915 - Barcelona 2002)

Font began playing basketball at the Santa Anna Escola Pia in Mataró. He moved to Barcelona and in 1932 he joined Societat Patrié, who he played for until 1936. In 1939 he joined the Sant Gervasi team Athletic BC, where he played for one year, and from 1940 he joined FC Barcelona which had revived, and where he played for three more years. After retiring from the game, he worked as a coach, marking an era in which FC Barcelona dominated the Catalan and Spanish Championship games. He was a coach for Espanyol and Sabadell's CB Orillo Verde. As a technician linked to the FCBQ, he was one of the forces behind the creation of a coaching school

where certification courses were held in the 1950s. He also had responsibilities at a technical level in the creation of federation programmes for promoting youth basketball.

Players

MARCEL·LI MANEJA

(L'Hospitalet de Llobregat 1921-2015)

Maneja was a man of repute during these early years. He was a player for AB Juniors and CB Hospitalet from 1939, he was a master of fast and intense, electrifying style. His image soon became synonymous with the headband he wore. He was a Champion of Catalonia and Spain with the team from L'Hospitalet. And his rapid play led to other clubs trying to sign him. RCD Espanyol managed to secure his talents by paying him a decent amount, although basketball was amateur at the time. The following year he signed for CC Catòlic, and finally for the Badalona team, Joventut, where he would retire in 1953 after marking an era with this team. He was also an international player in a period where there were not many games. Of note was his role in a match between Spain and the French team in Toulouse, where the local press headlined their articles "*Maneja, the King of the Court. An Arrow*". He also worked as a coach at US Sants, in both men's and women's teams, RCD Espanyol, Pedagogium and at the Tecla Sala e Hijos team.

MARIA 'MERY' MORROS NAVARRO

(Barcelona 1912- 1973)

A great sportswoman who joined the Women's and Sports Club at its creation, in 1928. She stood out in both athletics and basketball, being one of the most outstanding players of the 1930s. She continued to play basketball after the war at CE Laietà and at FC Barcelona, well into the 1940s. She was also on the board of directors of the FCBQ between 1942 and July 1945.

BLAS SORRIBES

(Barcelona 1912 - Barcelona ?)

A former player from the Montserrat BB team (as of 1939, Bàsquet Ateneu Montserrat BAM). He dedicated himself to refereeing from January 1941 onwards. The association's archives referred to him in the following terms: "Excellent for his energy and knowledge of the game, and his ability to direct national and international competition matches." He was one of the most popular referees of the 1940s and was present in the first category for a long time, participating in the finals of all FCBQ men's and women's competitions and State League games of 1947 (where he was never

recognized), the tournament of 25th anniversary of the Federation, Catalan national team matches such as the Palermo game, or the II Grand Prix City of Barcelona International game.

Registrations

1939 - 315 (men) - 24 (women)

1945 - No information available

4 The installation of the competitive structure and the expansion of participants. 1946 - 50

Competitions were during these years were mainly took place in the districts of Barcelona, thanks to the incorporation of clubs further and further away from Barcelona's inner city area. Specific groups were created for the areas of Mataró and Manresa with the aim of facilitating the establishment of clubs closer to Barcelona. During these years, even several clubs from the Tarragona and Girona areas joined, thanks to a certain implementation of their competitions. As of 1946, teams from Lleida began to compete in the Aragonese competitions in an attempt to access higher category competitions, such as entry to the "Copa del Generalísimo" where entry was based on classification in regional championships. This situation in Lleida was to remain until the creation of the "Lleida Basketball Federation" in August 1949, by the Spanish Basketball Federation. Women's basketball was one of the few negative points, the regulation of the Women's Section and its control over the players' ability to sign resulted in the disappearance of the Catalan Championship, which was not held again until the 1950-51 season.

Numerous factors made consolidation possible, one was European political evolution, as the Allied victory at the end of WW2 gradually calmed the acclamation of different organizations within the Fascist regime. These government entities turned towards positions with a greater emphasis on service, without losing their ideological basis. This change enabled the creation of many clubs under the Francoist government entity, 'The Front of Youth and Education and Leisure', which over the years would transform into independent sports clubs. Youth basketball also benefited, as it was now able to definitively move ahead with a competition that was essential for the stability of the organizations' first division teams. Another positive aspect was the beginning of a migratory flow towards the urban areas, and finally the incorporation of teams that sought to make a qualitative leap from the "Diocesan" competitions, which were organised by the Catholic group Juventud de Acción Católica Española (JACE), and which on a quantitative level were similar to those of the federations.

Basketball gradually gained followers among the population, and facilities with greater capacity began to be used for the most important events, such as bullrings. At the end of the 1940s, the FCBQ possessed an established competitive structure with different categories in the Catalan Championship for first and

second teams, with a stable youth competition whose participant numbers rose with every season. Two competitions completed the season: the Barcelona General Orgaz Cup Tournament and the Hernan Cup. This was a framework in which the most important clubs from Tarragona were fully integrated, it was complemented by occasional additions from Girona such as the GEiEG and Blanes.

Events

1. On 30 June 1946, the final of the Cup of the Generalissimo took place in the Las Arenas Bullring in Barcelona, pitting FC Barcelona against UE Montgat. In the same programme, both the final of the 1st category Hernan Cup and the tie-breaking match between the youth teams of BIM and CE Laietà were held to determine the youth champions. The key players for FC Barcelona were: Ferrando, Galve, P. Carreras, Martin, M. Carreras, Martin, Garcia, Duñach and Esparza. For the Montgat team: Pagan, Justen, Baró, Dalmau, Rodríguez, Solé, Ramia, Revill and Pujol.

2. First attempt to create a state league by the FEB. The competition was started by the first four classified teams from the Central and Catalan federations (FC Barcelona, Joventut Badalona, UE Montgat and JACE Calella, and it was contested between 5 January and 13 April in early 1947. Although the game ended with a victory for FC Barcelona, it has never been officially recognized.

3. On 29 March 1948, the Catalan National Team played a match against the C.A. Swiss Geneva team, who they defeated by 41-17 on the FC Barcelona court. The team players were: Carreras, Dalmau, Maneja, Ferrando, Kucharski, Pagam, Manolin Martin, Galve and Baró.

4. On May 16 1948, in Burgos, Badalona Youth won their first Spanish Championship against Real Madrid with a brilliant victory by 45 to 32. With this victory the green and black Hurricane was created. In a team trained by Pepe Vila, Kucharski, Maneja, Ollé, Valls and Gubern were the players.

5. On July 22 1948, an international women's match was played at the RCD Espanyol field, which pitted SEU from Barcelona against C.U.S. from Torino, the team, which was coached by Josep Vila, comprised: the sisters C. Nin and MT Nin, Soley, Elvira, Sierra and De Val.

6. On 26 September 1948: in the second leg of the semi-finals of the Barcelona Cup General Orgaz Trophy, held in Calella between the owners of the court and Sant Josep from Badalona. Castells, from Badalona scored two points in his own basket in order to

avoid extra time and go to the final of the tournament. The victory went to Sant Josep by six points.

7. On 10 August 1949 the FEB created the "Provincial Federation of Llèrida", whose first president was Mr. Jose Manuel Randua. In theory, the provincial competition allowed the winner play in the Spanish Championship, the highest competition at state level. However the champions in this first season, CE Huracans ended up playing in a new state competition called the FEB Cup, which was created due to the unequal levels between teams. It was similar to a second category Spanish Championship.

8. On 23 September 1949, the commemorative tournament of the 25th anniversary of the FCBQ, the 1st Barcelona City Council Grand Prize International Basketball Tournament was held at the Montjuic Tennis Club court. Villerbaune, Monaco and the Catalan "A" and "B" teams were the players. A month later, the FCBQ expressed its satisfaction with the success of this tournament at a meeting held on 28 October 1949.

9. From Thursday 13 July, to Saturday 15 1950, the 2nd Barcelona City Council Grand Prize International Basketball Tournament was held in the Las Arenas Bullring. Borletti, Virtus, Madrid and the Barcelona teams all took part, with a victory for the home team. The new features reported in the press was the wooden court and the transparent backboards.

10. In October 1950, six FCBQ players - Dalmau, Ollé, Bassó, Ferrando, Kucharski, Gonzalez - went to Toledo to compete in the World Championship against Argentina. This was a time when the international players were shared equally between the Centre, the Castilian federations and the FCBQ, and the distributive criteria was used over and above technical reasons.

11. In April 1946 the Portuguese team, Os Belenenses played several matches against CE Laietà and CE Manresa. El Laietà later returned to Lisbon at the end of July, a tour that it completed with two games against V. Gamma and Porto.

12. In 1946, in Tarragona, the 6th Night Tournament was held (it was later continued). The Tarragona Cup was also organized with the participation of Tarragona City Council and the Provincial Council.

13. During the 1946-47 season, when faced with the impossibility of competing in games with the rest of the Catalan teams, the teams from Lleida requested to be incorporated into the Aragonese competitions..

14. On 19 September 1946, two finals were played on the Gran Via court in Barcelona. The Barcelona Cup was disputed between the teams of UE Montgat and CC Hospitalet and the final of the El Mundo Deportivo Trophy was between the teams Mediterrani and CE Laietà. Mediterrani won by 31 to 27 and Montgat was victorious with a result of 59 to 38.

15. The situation of the Tarragona clubs, who had already placed themselves definitively in the federation competition structure did not lead to a stable federative structure in the Tarragona counties, hence the numerous announcements of new delegations and the appointments of representatives by the FCBQ, shown in the provision of 24 October 1946. Appearing in the acts of the FCBQ, with the designation of a new representative was the figure of Mr. Salvador Vidal who *“is entrusted with the launch, in the province of Tarragona, of the teams of the latter, these being affiliated; CN Reus, Ranas, Reus Deportivo, La Salle, AAEET de Tarragona, CD Vendrell, Tarraco, ABC and AEET de Valls. This championship will begin on 10 November and is integrated into the 2nd category A.”*

16. Between 1947 and 1948 in Lleida, with the cooperation of the government body Education and Leisure, three local tournaments were held under the title “José Ferraz Montanuy”. However the most successful local competition was the “Company Championship.”

17. On 20 April 1947. CE Laietà celebrated their 25th anniversary with the national team game, with a victory for the Spanish team by 43 to 29.

18. Although youth competitions began to become commonplace, an issue existed when applying federation regulations, as it referred to age. In July 1947 the sporting journal El Mundo Deportivo published a complaint filed with the FCBQ by RCD Espanyol for the incorrect criteria applied with a player from another team. The reaction of the FCBQ Competition Committee of the FCBQ was that it was *“Checking the matter, and faced with the probability that other clubs may have also selected players who did not meet the maximum age limitation of 18, as established by the regulations of the Youth Championships. This Competition Committee dictates the following failure:*

1st It remains suspended while the situation of the participating players is clarified.

2nd All the clubs that have taken part must present before next 15 July all the birth certificates of those players signed.

3d Once the term has elapsed and if these certificates have not

been presented, it will be understood that the club waives its rights.

4th Once in possession of the birth certificates, these will be studied in order to proceed with the pertinent ruling.

19. The CE Laietà team, which had lost many of its players to different clubs, suffered team difficulties during the 1947-48 season. The FCBQ exempted the club from participating in the Catalan Championship and reserved its place for the following season's championship.

20. In a round-robin playoff held on 18 and 25 May 1947, the Unió Esportiva Montgat's centre was controversially eliminated in the semi-final of the Spanish Championship by the Canaries team from Madrid, a side led by Jacinto Ardevinez, who was also at the time the President of the Spanish Association of Referees. Multi-working was very common at the time. The lack of a management structure, referees and coaches adapted to the new times caused setbacks with respect to the transformations taking place in basketball and demonstrated fragility.

21. FC Barcelona won the 1st Iberian Tournament in June 1947, defeating Lisbon in the final at the Portuguese Vasco de Gama club by 46 to 42.

22. In August 1947 Eduard Kucharski, who the previous year had rocked the world of basketball after signing with FC Barcelona, moved to Joventut for the 1947-48 season. However after one year he tried to go back, however he had to stop playing for an entire year due to the refusal of the Badalona team to let him go. After a whole season playing only with the national team and friendly matches, he eventually played with FC Barcelona again.

23. On 27 and 28 September 1947, the Italian champion team Virtus de Bologna played two games against FC Barcelona at the Les Corts football field, where spectators filled the stands and a wooden court was assembled on the turf. The first game was won by the Catalans and the Italians won the second.

24. In July 1948 Gimnàstic de Tarragona played an international match against Racing de Tolouse.

25. In October 1948 new FIBA rules were implemented, including, among others, the Three Seconds rule.

26. The Sala Price, which had been the focal point of basketball activities in the early 1940s, was no longer used for basketball,

due to its small size. At the end of 1948 and with the insistence and cooperation of the FCBQ, it was reinstated after being rebuilt with an area of 28 x 16 metres.

27. On 1 April 1949, at the Gran Via court, the Spanish national team played a warm-up match against a regional team led by Pepe Vila. The success of the day was so important that many people were unable to access the roof where the court was located and, according to the press reports, they had to make do with listening to the game from the street. The victory was for the Spanish selection side by 31-29.

28. On 29 and 30 May, FC Barcelona played and won an international tournament in Geneva, against the teams Stade Français de Paris, Club Geneve and Urania. What made this competition different was the participation of Kucharski, who was not playing with any team due to the refusal of Club Joventut Badalona to let him go, and the presence of Joan Dalmau, a player from UE Montgat who strengthened the Barcelona team.

29. The number of basketball competitions was ever-increasing, which explains why FC Barcelona, on the occasion of the organization's 50th year celebrations, faced Olimpique de Marseille twice on both the 26th and 27th of November 1949.

30. The Las Arenas Bullring in Barcelona was the scene of the final phase of the Spanish Championship. On 8 May 1950, FC Barcelona was proclaimed as the winning team, after beating Club Joventut Badalona in the final.

31. In a match on 22 October 1950, Spain played with six players from the FCBQ: Dalmau, Ollè, Bassó, Ferrando, Kucharski, Gonzalez at the World Championship at Luna Park in Buenos Aires. They lost four of the five matches played and the only victory was due to Yugoslavia's refusal to face the Spanish team.

32. Faced with the rise and importance of the Catholic, Diocesan competitions, which were also known as the OAR (Obra Atlético Recreativa). In November 1950, the FBCQ agreed not to authorize any sporting event associated with the Catholic youth organisation, the JACE, nor any player dependent on the Catalan body, so that they could not play in them. The FBCQ also decided to submit a report on the matter to the Spanish Federation. Defensive attitudes were taken with respect to the importance of the Diocesan competitions, especially in the Barcelona regions.

33. On 8 December 1950, Club Joventut Badalona won the Orgaz Cup by defeating FC Barcelona in the final, which was held at the Las Arenas Bullring. A tribute was paid to Miguel Carreras on the same day, in a match between the Catalan National Team and Espanyol. The day ended with a volleyball exhibition between Hispano Francès and ADC Bombers. As a sporting movement, volleyball was dependent on the FCBQ for a several years, until the creation of its own federation.

Presidents

Rafael Castejón Gómez 1942-54

Championships

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE (NOT RECOGNISED IN 1947)

Between January and April 1947, the first National League, organized by the FEB was played at state level, although later it went unrecognized. Eight teams took part, four from Catalonia: JACE Calella, UE Montgat, Joventut Badalona and FC Barcelona and four from Madrid: Real Madrid, América, Liceo Frances and Canarias. The competition was held over the weekend in two days so as to take advantage of the journey made. Saturday with one team and Sunday with another and in a double round. The América team withdrew despite having advanced in the competition. The resulting champion was FC Barcelona.

THE CATALAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP

A Catalan youth championship was held for the first time. According to the minutes of the FCBQ, the final of the first championship was between Joventut and FC Barcelona. This competition went ahead and established itself in the federation competition structure, although not without certain problems related to the signings and ages of the players. Other teams also won the title of champions with Pompeia, The BIM, which in 1950, after winning the title was invited to play a match in Madrid against Real Madrid in what could be called the unofficial Spanish Championship. The game ended with the Sants team winning by one point.

Facilities

THE "LAS ARENAS" BULLRING

Public acceptance of basketball increased and more spacious premises were needed, it could be said that the concept of 'the show' slowly began appearing in the world of basketball. One of the areas used was the Las Arenas Bullring in Barcelona. In 1946 the final of the Spanish Championship was disputed between FC Barcelona and UE Montgat. The media wrote of "a court, whose surface will be the subject of a rigorous disinfection." Tickets only sold for the area in the shade, while some newspapers wrote of almost 8,000 spectators at the game. As of 1950, the Las Arenas Bullring became a regular venue, as did its counterpart, 'The Monumental', thanks also to the goodwill of the Balañà family who managed the two venues. A new feature was introduced with an improvement of the technical characteristics of the court, using a wooden court and even transparent backboards. The use of bullrings for basketball was not exclusive to Barcelona, Girona, Olot, Manresa, among other towns, also used theirs for similar purposes.

THE LLEIDA FRONTON COURT

This architectural project was built in 1935 and inaugurated in 1942. It had initially been intended for the jai-alai, it was also used for other sports, such as boxing and also basketball during the 1940s. The Camps Elisis Pavilion subsequently replaced it as the city of Lleida's indoor sporting area. The Basque handball court finally closed in the mid-1950s.

Clubs

TARRAGONA'S CLUB GIMNÀSTIC

The team known as "Nàstic", from Tarragona rose to the first category of Catalan basketball in 1948, it was the first time that a club from Tarragona had ever competed in the highest Catalan category. The club, which had already been a centre for basketball in 1924, continued with the sport during the 1930s. In the 1940s, it slowly managed to establish a stable group. It also won public support, which helped the team gain promotion to the second Catalan category. To make its move to the top, the club signed renowned veteran players from outside Tarragona; Peon, Navarrete, Garcia, and Saez, who accompanied the local players Sierra and Hugas. The team was also managed by top-level coaches, such as Fernando Font and Pepe Vila. However the investment did not pay

off, and the team lost their category standing, while the financial difficulties that came from taking on players from outside Tarragona worsened its situation.

CLUB ESPORTIU HURACANS - LLEIDA

This was one of the key clubs in the evolution of basketball in Lleida, from its creation in August 1941. Its first team comprised: Bellart, Palou, Bademunt, Mateu, Roger and Vargués. As a club it went beyond basketball in terms of sports and it was also a social focal point in Lleida, acting as a cultural platform. The basketball team, the reason for the club's foundation, participated in the 1st Federated Provincial Championship in the 1942-43 season, and in the 1946-47 season, it took part in a championship in which teams from Lleida and Aragon competed, due to a lack of interest on the part of Barcelona teams, who were reluctant to travel such long distances.

WOMEN'S CLUBS

In the women's area, federation competitions disappeared, and clubs switched to educational and recreational competitions. The US Sants club became known as Garcia Vives and was one of the main teams, with players such as Pura García, - whose family business gave the new team its name. The Tarragonese Garcés and Sierra sisters were other players on the team. In Badalona, UG Badalona gave way to different teams; Ezequiel Giró, Bombas Prat, Mobba, were all teams where players like Lluïsa Giró, the Alañà sisters, Maria Gol were key figures. Other teams also stood out, with GD Cottet in l'Hospitalet. In Girona, the Bordils women's team was also a name of reference in the mid-1940s, with the support of CNS, El Hogar del Productor of Bordils, which counted among its ranks several true mould-breakers, such as Carme Jou, Joaquina Sau, Teresa Oliver, Empar Perich, Rosa Perich and Pilar Almar.

Key Figures

Coaches

JOSEP VILA I RUBIO

(Barcelona, 1905-1973)

Vila i Rubio was one of the leading coaches of this period. He played for Gràcia FC and FC Barcelona, where he also coached. In 1939 he joined CE Laietà, and was also the manager of CB Mediterrani and the Barcelona Women's Section team. He was acknowledged as one of the best coaches of the time. At the start of the 1947-48 season he replaced Josep Tomás on the bench of Club Joven-

tut Badalona. This first year led to his first Spanish Champion title and the beginning of a great career for the Badalona team. He also managed other teams, such as Gimnàstic de Tarragona, CB Metropolitano and GE La Seda.

Players

LLUÏSA GIRÓ I MARSAL

(Badalona, 1921-2015)

Giro i Marsal began his life in basketball at the Institut Escola de la Generalitat before the war, although he was also involved in other sports, especially athletics. In 1940 he joined the Badalona team, Unió Gimnàstica, which was coached by Pere Gol. He participated in the Catalan Championships until their demise. His team went on to compete in games for the Franco government's Education and Leisure organisation, while sponsored by the family business Ezequiel Giró. His skills led to his inclusion in the Catalan national team and also the SEU Spanish team. He retired in the late 1940s.

EDUARD KUCHARSKI I GONZÀLEZ

(L'Hospitalet, 1925 - Barcelona, 2014)

Kucharski Gonzalez was the player of note during these years. He joined CE Laietà in 1939, where he soon stood out due to his technical skills and abilities at shooting the basket. At a young age he joined the first team with whom he shared the titles Champion of Catalonia and Champion of Spain (twice). In 1946 he signed for FC Barcelona, following the path of two of his Laietà teammates, Navarrete and Galvez a year earlier. Under the management of Fernando Font, he achieved his second double championship. The following year he made a surprise move and signed for Club Joventut Badalona with which he was also champion of Spain. He then tried to return to FC Barcelona in the following season, however, faced with the refusal of the Badalona club to let him go, he spent a year playing solely with the Spanish national team and in friendly matches. He returned to FC Barcelona in 1949. His time as a player ended at CB Aismalibar de Montcada, where he worked as a player and also a coach, which took him to the First Catalan Category and the state league that was launched in 1957. As a player, he was the captain of the Spanish team that won the Mediterranean Games title in Barcelona. As a coach, he also led the Spanish team at the Rome Olympics, where he attracted the attention of Virtus de Bologna where he was to work as a coach for three years, until 1963 when he returned to Catalonia and coached CB Aismalibar for a year, before the club folded. He spent time with several players at La Peña, which he managed between 1964 and 1969. Under his watch the first League title went to the

Badalona team in 1967, with a cup in 1969. He later -intermittently- managed both Joventut and FC Barcelona (who won the King's Cup under him in 1978).

JOAN DALMAU I COMAS

(Montgat, 1924 -2006)

Here was a player who stood out due to his versatility. He was able to play well in any of the positions of the time, as a forward, in defence and as a midfield player. He was known as "The Cat", although it was loyalty that marked his career. His club was Unió Esportiva Montgat with whom he reached the final of the Catalan Championship, he also played in several Spanish championship games. He was an international with the Spanish national team on 38 occasions, and took part in numerous Mediterranean Games and in the 1950 World Championship in Argentina.

Referees

JOSÉ CARLOS VALLEJO ESCOLANO

(Fuentelsaz, 1920 - Barcelona, 2018)

After starting his sporting life in Zaragoza, at CN Helios, where he was involved in different activities, including basketball, Vallejo Escolano later he ended up in Barcelona for work reasons, and in October 1944 he began a lengthy career as a referee. By 1947, he had already arbitrated in the 1st Category, marking the start of a long list of finals and relevant games with the Syracuse Nats in 1956. Between 1957 and 1973, he was present in the Spanish State League. He was an international referee from 1955 onwards, starting in the Mediterranean Games. He retired at the Eurobasket event in Barcelona in 1973. He continued his links with the refereeing world as a FIBA Commissioner and with various tasks at the Catalan Professional Association of Referees. He took part in the creation of the Catalan School of Basketball Referees (ECAB) and was its first director, in 1979.

Registrations

No information is available about this period.

5

The FCBQ adapts to the new times. Opening up to the outside world. 1951 - 1955

The FCBQ adapted to the new times in search of an increasingly technical and qualified profile so as to definitively develop the game. A new organizational chart was drawn up with the creation of committees for different areas, gradually losing the favouritism that had characterized the structure. Economic, legal, international organization committees were all created, together with a technical body, a special committee for regional and youth basketball, and another for press and publicity, with county branches in Maresme and Bages, and a Professional Association of Trainers was also set up.

At the same time, relations with foreign teams increased exponentially beyond the Portuguese, French and Swiss sides. The most relevant event of all was a visit by the 6th US fleet, who used Catalan ports as stop overs. They took the opportunity to hold a series of exhibition games in different places in Catalonia. Lessons were learned about the original game, as well as new elements, such as the latest rubber balls.

The FCBQ sought to improve competitions so as to include the entire region once and for all. It became mandatory for all clubs to have a youth or children's team to participate in federation competitions. As of 1954, youths were to play in the same competition structure as the first club team and in a unified schedule at, ten, eleven and twelve o'clock (in the order of youths, then the second and first teams) The coaches of the first teams and the youth sides now had to have the corresponding qualifications issued by the Professional Association of Catalan Trainers, who had already held the first course in 1951.

The FCBQ was to re-establish the Catalan Women's Championship in 1951, showing their determination to ensure its progress and consolidate the event in the competition structure. Although there were few participating teams at first, numbers grew over the years, thanks to the return of those teams that had left to go to the government's Education and Leisure organisation in 1945.

Events

1. On 11 January 1951, an event occurred that would mark the future of Catalan basketball. A team of North American sailors from the ship 'Newport News' played a match at the Les Corts site against a Catalan team, and the next day they played another with the BIM, on its court in the Sants neighbourhood. It was the first of a series of exhibitions that were to be held by the personnel of the 6th US Navy Fleet over many years, while using regional ports as stop-overs. They played all over Catalonia and they showed us basketball as it was played by its creators. The naval team defeated the Catalan national team by 44 to 43. Martin, Gubern (6), Maneja (11), Navarrete (21), Damian Sanchez (5) played in the Catalan national team.

2. On July 9 1951, at the Sports Pavilion on Carrer Llança in Barcelona, some 12,000 people witnessed the first exhibition in Spain of the Harlem Globetrotters.

3. On 3 October 1951, in the minutes of the FCBQ records: The president reports with full satisfaction, that the administration undertaken for the acquisition of the flat have been crowned by success and at this moment he has the immense joy of announcing that yesterday afternoon the contract was signed for the apartment at Calle Casanova nº 55-57, Floor 5, namely office numbers 5, 6, 7 and 8. He also states that the rent is 1,890 pesetas per month, including water rates, which has been reduced by some 110 pesetas per month thanks to the good friendship that unites the attorneys Messrs. Roca and Barnils. The inauguration of the new FCBQ headquarters took place on 8 December 1951.

4. The club Regatas Flamingo went on a European tour, playing three games in Barcelona at the end of January 1952. They defeated FC Barcelona by 53 to 43 on 2 January at the Sala Price, on the 26th they beat the Catalan national team by 50-43 at the Llança street sports pavilion, before playing a final game at the Sala Price on the 8th (it had been suspended on the 7th due to rain in Badalona) with the town's team, Joventut, who they also defeated, by 52-36.

5. On 26 October 1952, the final of the Spanish Women's Championship between the Women's Section of Madrid and CD Hispano Francès was played at the Patin Apolo Skating Club in Barcelona, ending with a 32-20 victory for the Madrid side. The Hispano Francès players were: M.Nin (1), T.Nin (9), Soley, Colom (1), Mathias (3), Pueo (2), Jornet and Giovanni.

6. On 1 February 1953, a match was played in Lleida between the teams of Spain and Switzerland, which ended with the Spanish side

winning by 86 to 72. It was the first major event to be organized by the Lleida Federation. As a preliminary event, a match was played between teams from Lleida and Huesca.

7. The 1st City of Barcelona Cup was held at the Sports Pavilion on Carrer Llançà in Barcelona between 12 and 15 May 1955 with the participation of the Argentines from the club Gimnasia and Esgrima, with Virtus de Bologna, RCD Espanyol and FC Barcelona. The cup finally went to Gymnastics and Esgrima.

8. On 15 June 1955, El Picadero was once again proclaimed as the Women's Champion team of Catalonia in a competition played in a single round. The players were: Pascual, Pellejero, Declos, Sarrià, Rosales, Presutto, and Llacer.

9. From 16 to 25 July 1955, the Mediterranean Games were held in Barcelona, and basketball matches were held at the Palau d'Esports in Barcelona. The Spanish national team won the competition in which the young player from Mataró, Jordi Bonareu stood out above all others.

10. On 31 October 1955, the Philippine team, YCO Manila held the first of a series of exhibitions against Badalona's Joventut side. They also faced FC Barcelona and the Catalan national team on 3 and 5 November, in games organized by the FCBQ. The Philippines later played two more games on the 7 and 9 November against Joventut and Carol Sabadell. They continued their tour of Spain and played again on 27 November in Mataró and on 1 December at the Sala Price, against the Catalan national team in their last game.

11. The number of participants in the FCBQ competitions increased during this period; only slightly in the first team competitions (95 to 100 teams) and more importantly in the youth competitions that already had the consent of the Youth Front (18 to 29 teams). The appearance of children's competitions for the first time must be noted.

12. The matches between Catalonia and Castile (announced as the 5th) continued to be played as a way to appeal to the general public. This event was held on 18 March 1951 (it had been suspended on the 4th due to rain) in the Las Arenas Bullring. It was noteworthy that the Puerto Rican players Galindez and Borrás) who were studying, and who were also part of the Spanish National Team were already playing in Madrid. The chronicles refer to record attendance at this match. The programme was completed with a women's match between Hispano Francès and the SEU, while the final of the Youth President's Cup was disputed between BIM and Pompeia.

13. In March 1951, the Catalan Women's Championship was reinstated. Nine teams participated, all of which were linked to the different organizations of the movement; the Women's Section, SEU, Education and Leisure, and only one club of a sporting nature, the CE Hispà Francès, which was finally the champion. The rest of the clubs were the Barcelona Women's Section "A" and "B" clubs. Hospitalet Women's Section, SEU, Education and Leisure and the company groups, SEDA, COTTET and Bombas Prat. The subsequent championship was contested only by four teams: SF Barcelona, Hospitalet, SEU and Hispano Francès.

14. On 26 May 1951, the Catalan national team also played a friendly match against the Argentinian Palermo at the Las Arenas Bullring, who repeated the exhibition against FC Barcelona.

15. A new facility was the setting for the 3rd International Basketball Trophy, which was held between 15 and 17 June 1951 at the Sports Pavilion on Carrer Llança, where the Catalan national team had already trained before the tournament so as to familiarise themselves with the new court and its dimensions. Teams from Paris, Brussels, Heilderberg and Barcelona took part. There was such a proliferation of festivals, tournaments and matches of an international nature at the time that some of organisers ended up in debt, forcing the FCBQ to seek help from public institutions to prevent them from losing money. This is exactly what happened with the 3rd International Tournament, and Barcelona City Council covered the losses with a subsidy.

16. The FCBQ included the Manresa Cup into its official competitions. It was responsible for setting the date and recommended, but did not compel the champions of Catalonia, or the sub-champions to take part, it was rather the Manresa Delegation that had to reach an agreement with the team, involving it in the economic aspect as a whole.

17. Looking forward to the 1951-52 season, the FCBQ called the Delegates of Tarragona and Manresa in July to explain the issues they were facing, as well as the plan needed to improve the progress of basketball in those provincial areas.

18. The decision was made for the 191-52 season to rename the Barcelona Cup the "Catalonia Cup" in the future, with participation in the event being mandatory for all first-category clubs.

19. On 21 September 1951, the Badalona Youth Club inaugurated a new court. A change in the orientation of the court used in La Plana, due to the new urbanization of what was then known as the "Plaza de los Caidos", was used to carry out a series of reforms,

such as giving the court a cement surface and adapting it for other sports. The opening match of the new court was between Joventut de Badalona and the Catalan team.

20. The Creation of the School of Trainers was quickly launched, and in December 1951 the 1st Trainers' Course presented, in addition to the course regulations, with special emphasis on theoretical and practical subjects, as well as how to calculate a final score. The two-month course had a director, Josep Maria Barnils, as well as a large group of teachers and the input of prominent trainers of the time. The result of the course appears in the federation minutes of 29 June 1952. The first graduates in this FCBQ course were: Joaquin Broto Tena, with 208 points, Luis Centelles Roca, 208, Eduardo Kucharski Gonzalez, 205, Juan Borrás García, 200, Ernesto Pons Fornas 193, Pedro Carrera Bagaria 192; José Grau Más 190, Pedro González Adrio 187, Jorge Serra Falgueira 183, Antonio Tello Tello 183, Joan Roca Gorina 180, Antonio Gol Puig 177, Francisco Baró Carranca 176, Miguel Carreras Bagaria 182. It also lists some of those mentioned above as qualified trainers of a national category level: Kucharski, Broto, Grau, Pedro González, Miguel and Pedro Carreras, Centellas and Tello.

21. In January 1952, RCD Espanyol presented their latest player, Joaquin Hernández, otherwise known as "the Belgian" as he was the son of emigrants who had gone to Belgium, and he had played with the Brussels team in the 3rd Barcelona International Tournament. He was an outstanding player in team and he was recruited by Real Madrid.

22. On 20 April 1952 at the Sports Pavilion, in a matinee tribute to the Catalan Youth Champions of Badalona, the home team faced the Spanish National Team with the match ending with a 60-45 victory for the national team.

23. The publication *El Mundo Deportivo* of 21 May 1952 reported on the triumph of La Salle Manresa at the Manresa Children's Championship for the Conesa Jewellery Trophy.

24. On 31 May 1952, the Catalan National Team in another international, won a game against the Chilean team, UED Valparaíso, by 78-51.

25. On 4 June 1952 the agenda of the FBCB detailed all the information about the **2nd Course of Regional Trainers**. On the two sides, applicants and auditor students. The cost of registration was 100 pesetas for the first category and 25 pesetas for the second, without the right to take an exam. Director: Jose Maria Barnils, Director of Studies Fernando Font. Associated teachers: José

Mestres, Carlos Ferré, Ernesto Pons, Joaquin Broto, Luis Centelles. Course Secretary, Vicente Camps. Technique and Tactics: Fernando Font, Joaquin Broto, Luis Centelles. Elementary Medicine and Hygiene: José Mestres. Physical and Athletic Preparation: Ernesto Pons. The Rules of the Game: Carlos Ferré: General Principles and Regulatory Provisions: José Maria Barnils.

26. The agenda of the FBCQ record had, on 29 June 1952, the inclusion in its organizational structure, of Mr. Ernesto Segura de Luna, as a member of the Legal Commission.

27. On 12 July, the Joventut team from Badalona won the Hernan Cup by defeating Mollet by 61 to 35. The interesting fact was that the cup was contested as a lightning tournament.

28. After the overwhelming success of the previous year, the Harlem Globetrotters returned to perform exhibitions at the Sports Hall on 14 July 1952. As a preliminary event, the final of the Youth Federation Cup Championship was played between FC Barcelona and the BIM. Two days later the Harlem Globetrotters faced the Spanish team, who they defeated. The selection team comprised Catalan players and Galindez. The Catalan team played a preliminary match with the Celtic team, who completed the poster listings with the Harlem Globetrotters in their exhibitions.

29. On 26 October 1952, the final of the Spanish Women's Championship between the Women's Section of Madrid and CD Hispano Francès was held at the Club Patin Apolo in Barcelona with a 32-20 victory for the Spanish women. The Hispano Francès players were: M.Nin (1), T.Nin (9), Soley, Colom (1), Mathias (3), Pueo (2), Jornet and Giovanni.

30. A game was held on 30 November 1952 at "Las Arenas" in Barcelona between the Falcons (a team, who according to the press were the champions of the US armed forces) and the Catalan national team, with a final victory for the Catalans by 68-49. The Americans repeated their exhibition, in Badalona against Joventut on Monday 1 December, and were also defeated.

31. Between 28 December 1952 and 1 January 1953, Joventut de Badalona participated in the 3rd International Final Year International Tournament, City of San Remo Tournament.

32. The sport of basketball was now becoming popular and even toys related to the sport were being made. A fact proven by the advertisement of 5 January 1953 of the "Spanish Basketball" toy manufactured in Badalona by the Gorrión brand.

33. On 15 February 1953, a women's International game was held in Barcelona by CE Hispano Francès against the team U Sportive Metro, with a victory of 28-29 for the latter.

34. During the same month of February 1953, the FEB organized a competition under the title "The Pyrenean Cup Tournament" with the participation of Huesca, Cerbuna from Zaragoza, Antorxa and the Huracans from Lleida.

35. In March 1953, the RCD Espanyol of Barcelona held its 50th anniversary. As part of the programme a match was played against Real Madrid with a victory for the home side.

36. A Regional Association of Trainers was established for the first time. Its first president was Mr. Josep Grau Mas.

37. The Regional School of Trainers was established, its first director was Fernando Font.

38. On 26 April 1953, a tiebreaker match to decide the Catalan championship was held in the Monumental bullring venue in Barcelona between Club Joventut Badalona and FC Barcelona. The Badalona side won by 51-35.

39. On the 11 and 12 of April 1953, an international tournament was held with the participation of the Italians from Borletti and Club Joventut Badalona, (who were the champions) RCD Espanyol and the Barcelona National Team.

40. Between the 1 and 5 May 1953, the FCBQ organized the quarter-final match of the Spanish Championship that was held in the Monumental Bullring in Barcelona. This led to the classification of Club Joventut de Badalona and FC Barcelona, who played a semi-final that reached a third tie-breaker game that was played at the CE Laietà court, and that was decided after an extension in favour of Club Joventut Badalona, by five points. In the final, the Badalona team, led by Josep Grau, defeated Real Madrid in Valladolid and signed off on the perfect season.

41. The youth team of the BIM revalidated their title as Champions of Catalonia by defeating Club Joventut in Badalona by 48-42. The team, led by Jordi Serra, comprised: Barrientos, Rillo, Martí, Estrada, Llauradó, Pipó, Manueco and Marco.

42. On 20 June 1953, the BIM Club played a friendly match in Madrid against Real Madrid, the Youth Champion of Castile. The game ended with a victory by one point for the BIM team.

43. 34. On 1 September 1953, Argentina beat Joventut at the Sala Price by 88-49 in a basketball exhibition. On the 3rd they repeated the game in Badalona with another Argentine victory, by 43 to 34. And a third game was played at the night of the 4th at the Sports Pavilion on Carrer Llança, where the Joventut side was reinforced by Dalmau, Kucharski and Hernandez. The match ended with a score of 82-46, with victory going to the Argentines.

44. On 19 September 1953, RCD Espanyol won the Catalonia Cup (previously known as the Orgaz Cup) on the court of Club Pati in Vic. Defeating Club Joventut Badalona in the final by 40 to 3. The champion players were: Hernández, Lloret, Ferrando, Pallejà, Juanola, Carol and González.

45. The technical commission of the FCBQ designed the 1st Barcelona League at the Sala Price, after the venue had been renovated to adapt the old court to the correct dimensions of a modern basketball court. In the event, 16 teams were organized in four groups to play in this nocturnal tournament. The teams were: FC Barcelona, CP Sant Josep Badalona, CD Matarí, Picadero JC, RCD Espanyol, UE Montgat, Aismalibar, C. Samaranch, Club Joventut Badalona, BIM, CE Laietà, Educación y Descanso, Carol Sabadell, CB Metropolitano, SEU and the OAR.

46. The minutes of the FCBQ record the meeting of 23 September 1953: "The proposal of Mr. Fernando Font, Director of the School of Pre-Schoolers and the President of the Technical Committee, for a Youth Preparation Plan, which he wants to implement not only in the federation teams, but also in all the organizations that practice basketball, schools and the OAR"

47. At the end of 1953, and after a period in which basketball in Girona was completely outside the structure of the FCBQ - with the exception of the GEiEG - and under the organization of the OAR, the FCBQ visited different towns in Girona and began to propose the creation of a branch in Girona. This resulted in the appointment of Mateu Pell as FCBQ delegate and a few months later, Mr. Jordi Torruella was the President of the Association of Referees in the Girona Delegation.

48. A provincial competition was played in Girona in March 1954 under the watchful eye of the federation, however the unfortunate events that ensued almost led the end of its influence. The final between USPEAC Figueres and the team Hogar del Productor Girona was not held, as the Figueres team did not turn up. The problem stemmed from the fact that the FCBQ Delegate in Girona, Mr. Mateu Pell was also the manager of the Hogar del Productor team, or at least he had been until shortly before the start of the

championship. The Figueres team felt that they had been treated in an unfair manner by the entire organization in the finals, and they held the FCBQ Delegate in Girona responsible.

49. During the 1953-54 season, two women in the 3rd Trainers' Course were among the approved for the first time: Pilar Pueo Serra and Marisa Colon Soler.

50. On 27 December 1953, AD Mataró inaugurated its new basketball court.

51. Competition began to establish itself firmly in Tarragona. Added to the already-established teams of Reus Ploms, Reus Deportiu, CB Valls, CD Vendrell, La Salle Tarragona was a third category group of Club Catalonia Jesús (the champions), E.T. Valls, CB Amposta, CB Tortosa, E.T Reus and Frente de Juventudes de Tarragona. However, in the youth category they managed to establish a competition of their own known as "The Most Excellent Trophy of the Civil Governor and Provincial Head of the Movement."

52. In Tarragona, the Tarragona Cup was held between 1951 and 1955, where the teams from Salle Tarragona, Reus Deportiu, AAEET Tarragona, CD Vendrell, Reus Ploms, AAEET Valls, UDED Valls, FJ Valls, OAR Valls and AAEET Reus all too part, among others.

53. Women's basketball slowly re-established itself with the holding of local tournaments, such as that of Granollers, in which CB Granollers and other teams took part. The appearance of teams in Terrassa, such as the Juvenil Club, which played in friendly matches, permitted new teams from outside Barcelona to be included in the federation's competitions.

54. Catalan clubs also played and won tournaments abroad. Between 14 and 16 May 1954 in Antibes, the Joventut side won all the matches and was proclaimed as the champion.

55. The trips to matches during this year were not exactly comfortable. Joventut de Badalona played in the final of the Spanish Championship in Madrid on 6 June at eleven o'clock at night, at the Fronton Fiesta Alegre court. They left Badalona by coach and arrived in Madrid at three in the morning after 21 hours of travelling. 18 hours later they played and lost the final, according to the players the fatigue of the journey was key to their defeat.

56. The 4th Course of Trainers was organized by the FCBQ, three women took part and passed: Maria Teresa Rosales, Elena Diez Pellejero and Maria Rosa Pellejero.

57. In June 1954, CD Mataró celebrated its 25th anniversary on its new court, with an international tournament in which, as well as the hosts, the Italian team Virtus, Agruapció Hispania and RCD Espanyol all participated.

58. In the 1954-55 season, the FCBQ re-established the Children's Championship after many years of absence. The Champion was the Col·legi Sant Miquel. The following teams participated in the championship: A.A Santa Ana de Mataró, Liceo Francès "A" and "B", CB Carol de Sabadell, UE Montgat, CB Sant Adrià, CD Sarrià and CB Sant Cugat.

59. In October 1954, the 2nd Barcelona Samaranch Trophy League was held at the Sala Price, the final champion was Club Joventut from Badalona in both the Senior and Youth Categories.

60. The 1954-55 season saw the reincorporation of teams from the Lleida region into FCBQ organised competitions: AD Antorcha in the 1st Division and CD Huracans in the 1st Regional Category.

61. The creation of a Youth Committee in Lleida facilitated the organization of a Youth Championship in 1954, it was the only competition in this year, as no Senior Provincial Championship was held. In the first competition the teams of AEM, Joventut Carmelitana, Sicolirs Club, CD Huracans, INEM, CD Ilerda, Escola de Treball, San Lorenzo and the Col·legi Montserrat all participated. The latter was the champion and comprised the following players: Valderrama, Rus, Font, Giné, Sala, Dalmau and Callen. The following season, the championship was also contested, with the Sicoris Club team winning the finals.

62. International matches with North American teams proliferated throughout Catalonia. Two examples were in January 1954, when the UDED Aguilas team (in federal competitions the team also appears under the name UDED Valls) played a game, and in August of the same year in Olot, where SDCC Olot played a game against Baltimore.

63. Not just teams of the highest category played in games at the Sala Price. On 10 March 1955, taking advantage of the fact that there was no competition for an international match of the Spanish national team, the FCBQ organized the final of the Federation Cup at Sala Price with the teams JG Panaderos and Jospets with a victory for the former. The JG Panaderos team comprised: Arnau, Roca, Riera, Sitja I, López and Sitjà II. The Jospets team consisted of: Alsina, Mateu, Sala, Barcelona, Bernar and Osié. On the same day at the Sala Price, two games were played between Picadero

and Hispano Francès (women), and a youth game between FC Barcelona and CE Llaietà.

64. In April 1955 the finals of the 2nd Barcelona League were held at the Sala Price. The final victory for both the senior and youth categories was for Club Joventut de Badalona, who beat RCD Espanyol by 68 to 59 (seniors) and Carol de Sabadell by 54 to 35 (youth).

65. The 1st Barcelona City Cup was held at the Sports Hall on Carrer Llançà in Barcelona between 12 May and 15 May 1955 with the participation of the Argentinian team of Gymnastics and Esgrima, as well as Virtus de Bologna, RCD Espanyol and FC Barcelona. The cup finally went to Gymnastics and Esgrima.

66. 5 July 1955 marked the inauguration of the Municipal Sports Hall.

67. On 15 August 1955 the Harlem Globetrotters made their 4th consecutive visit. On this year they played their exhibition at the Municipal Sports Pavilion on Carrer Lleida.

68. October 1955 saw the appearance of a new women's competition organized by the FCBQ, the "Women's Autumn Tournament" which was held in preparation for the Catalan Championship. The first participants were Juvenil Club, A. Vallparadis, these two clubs from Terrassa, Sabadell, Pedagogium San Fernando, Liceo Francés, INSO, Sanllehi and Picadero.

Presidents

Rafael Castejón i Gómez, 1942-54

Ismael Almela i Sales, 1954-59

Born in Castelló, he was a textile industrialist who had excelled as a handball player, he joined the FCBQ in 1953 as Vice-President and the following year was appointed President by the FEB.

Championships

THE BARCELONA LEAGUE (THE JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH TOURNAMENT)

This championship was created before the disappearance of the Hernán Cup. The editions were held in the Sala Price, and always in the evenings, with the participation of the first category teams of the Catalan Championship. The subsequent games varied in their format, first with preliminary leagues that were organised into groups, while eliminatory matches were introduced later. The league was also played in the Youth Category. At the first event, which began in October 1953, 16 teams participated, and its first champion was Badalona's Club Joventut, in both categories.

THE WOMEN'S AUTUMN TOURNAMENT

Faced with the weakness and short duration of the Catalan Championship, the FCBQ created a preparatory tournament for the Catalan Championship called the 'Autumn Tournament'. This event, which was played for the first time in 1955, was of a short duration and it was held only three times, with all three with the final victory went to Picadero JC.

Facilities

THE BARCELONA SPORTS PAVILLION

Located in the area between the Gran Via, Llança and Sepulveda streets, it housed different sports activities after 1950, with a 200-metre track for bicycles, and where, in the middle there was a 36 x 18 m court for basketball matches. Thanks to its large capacity for between 7 and 10 thousand spectators (depending on the activity) it was the venue for international events. The debut

of the Harlem Globetrotters in Spain was held on this court in July 1951. International tournaments were also played there for both clubs and national teams, and friendly matches between Catalan and foreign teams. Its demise began after the construction of the Barcelona Municipal Sports Palace.

THE BARCELONA MUNICIPAL SPORTS PALACE

Located on Carrer Lleida in Barcelona, it was built for the Mediterranean Games that were held in Barcelona in 1955, where the Spanish team won a gold medal. With a capacity for almost 8,000 people, it became the venue for important games, such as the exhibition games of the Syracuse Nationals, who were NBA champions in 1955. The State Basketball League was also played there after 1957, when doubles days were played between Catalan and Castilian teams, and all the Catalan teams played their matches as locals at the palace. This continued for a while, until most clubs finally ended up with their own pavilions. The venue did not lose prominence as it was the location for the final of the European Cup, for both men and women. It was also the venue for Eurobasket'73 and the final was played on its boards. It was also home to the semi-final phase of Mundobasket'86, with RCD Espanyol being its last tenant and CB Unipublic Grupo Ifa, being the team left in Espanyol's place in the ACB.

THE AD ANTORXA LLEIDA SPORTS PAVILLION (CAMPS ELISIS)

The Camps Elisis Park in Lleida was built at the beginning of the 20th century. Within its grounds was a building that functioned as a theatre. From the beginning of the fifties, this facility became a sports hall, where basketball was played for many years. It was also known as the Sports Hall of AD Antorcha, and it was the scene of many important events, such as the match between Spain and Switzerland in February 1953 and 20 years later, the promotion of Medina Lleida women to the first state division.

Clubs

CE HISPANO FRANCÈS

The reestablishment of the Catalan Championship during this period led to the dominance of CD Hispano Francès, a club that was created in 1943, which had its facilities on Carrer Cerdanya-Providència in Barcelona's Gràcia neighbourhood. The team won three Catalan Championship titles and played in the final of a Spanish championship in 1952 that was held in a non-scheduled manner, at the Club Patin Apolo court. They were unable to compete in the Spanish Championship in 1945, even though they had finished

first without losing a single game in the Catalan Championship due to their team having foreign players. The team of the fifties featured players such as the sisters Maria Teresa and Catalina Nin, Maria Teresa Jornet, Pueo, Rosario Jovany, Marisa Colom, Alicia Mathias, Conchita Perez and Nuria Martinez and Rosa Soley. The club continued well and was highly important at a training level in different Spanish youth championships, participating in the first division State League, and playing in international competitions. The club finally separated from the CD Hispano Francès and it disappeared at the dawn of the 21st century.

CB AISMALIBAR

Aismalibar was a company created by the Swiss businessman Walter Ankil in 1934. In the mid-1940s he created an activity park for his workers in their free time, and a basketball court was among the facilities. He formed a team with factory workers and they played in the Social Work, Education and Leisure competitions. In 1951 the club entered federation competitions and players from outside the factory joined. It attained consecutive promotion in 1952 and 1953. In this year Eduard Kucharski was signed up, and with whom the team was promoted to the highest Catalan category. From 1957, the team competed in the 1st division State League and reached four finals of the "Cup of his Excellency the Generalissimo." The team finally folded in 1964, due to financial reasons due to the higher costs of playing in competitions that were becoming more professionalised each year. The disappearance of the club led to the transfer of coach Kucharski and several players to Club Joventut Badalona. The Aismalibar then became a sponsor of the Badalona club, but under the name of one of its products - 'Fantasit'. The best players on the Catalan circuit passed through its ranks: Nino Buscato, Alfonso Martinez, Hector Folgosa, the Puerto Rican Cuello, Jorge Guillen, Joan Riera - among others -, who was an employee of the company and who played until the club's demise, reaching the level of an international with Spain. The Montcada i Reixac club was not the only team that made the switch from the "producers" to federation competitions, the others were SD Espanya Industrial, Club Samaranch from Molins de Rei and Manufacturas Carol from Sabadell, who also reached the first division as CB Orillo Verde.

Key Figures

Coaches

JOSEP GRAU MAS

(Barcelona, 1914 - ?)

As a young man, in 1933 he was linked to the Unió Cristiana de Joves (UCJ) team both on the board, and on the court, as a coach. He was one of the best in this profession, and he also worked as a master coach. He directed Joventut in two different stages, from 1951 to 1953 and from 1959 to 1961, during his career with them the team he won two championships in Catalonia and one in Spain. At the same time, he worked as a teacher and a student in the first training course organized by the FCBQ, where he taught technique and tactics. He obtained the official titles of regional and national coach in this course. In 1953 he was appointed President of the first Regional Association of Trainers and was also a member of the management body of the first Regional Trainers School. While linked to the technical section of the FCBQ, he was also the coach of the Catalan National Team.

Players

JOSEP BRUNET VILA

(Badalona, 1930 - Barcelona, 2014)

Known as 'Bruno' this outstanding player from the Badalona club, Joventut between 1949 and 1962 was a tall man who played as a pivot, and who was so good he chose to opt out of training and making too much effort on the court. In his long career with La Penya, the team won all the competitions in which he participated, except the State League. He was a member of successful teams and accrued an enviable record; 4 times Champion of Catalonia, three times Champion of Spain and he also won (and on several occasions) the Hernan Cup, the Barcelona General Orgaz Tournament Cup, the Barcelona League and the Samaranch Trophy. He was an international in 48 matches with the national team and he ended his career at CP Sant Josep during their promotion.

CONXITA PASCUAL FONT

(Girona, 1922 - ?)

This player began in Girona, where she played in numerous games and competitions with the Women's Section. As a physical education instructor, she worked in different schools in the city (Carmelites, Escolàpies and Cor de Maria). She moved to Barcelona for family

reasons, where she continued working at different schools. At the same time, she was one of the players responsible for creating the Picadero JC basketball, the team where she played until the end of the 1960s and where she also coached the association's B team.

Referees

EDUARDO AZNAR ANTON

(1928 - Barcelona, 1984)

As a youth he began playing basketball in the junior team at FC Barcelona and A.C. Condal. In October 1947 he joined the Regional Association as a referee, where he soon stood out. In 1949 he was already refereeing first-class matches. In 1955 he made his international debut at the Mediterranean Games in Barcelona and was later to participate in the European Championships for teams and clubs, as well as the Olympic Games, with over 170 international matches. He was one of the most-respected referees in the State League. It is difficult to calculate the number of matches that he officiated, although in February 1954, when his name was proposed as an international referee, the number came to 409. At the end of the 1972-73 season, and after Eurobasket'73, he left refereeing for professional reasons, even though he was still a member of the Board of Directors of the Catalan Association of Referees until 1979.

Registrations

1951-52: 1.266 men - 26 women

1954-55: 1.543 men - 80 women

6 The FCBQ and the crisis in Catalan Basketball by the appearance of the 'National League' 1956 - 1963

The opening up of the Spanish State to the outside world, a fact that was already recognized internationally, was to facilitate the normalization of relations with many countries. At the same time, an era of industrial development began that caused profound changes in urban areas, together with a large increase in population. These areas had to be provided with improvements in all types of infrastructures to facilitate travel. There was also a change in the way free time was used, the appearance of small, affordable cars and the motorization of an important part of society. This transformed use of leisure time became the norm, and it that brought the previous societal model into crisis. It was a change shared among all kinds of entities, among which were those who focused on sport. All these transformations, together with the creation of a competition at a state level, the "National League" and the "Gonzalo Aguirre Trophy" (the former for the 1st Division and the latter the 2nd Division), caused Catalan basketball (led by the FCBQ) to undergo a crisis due to the division between those teams that opted for state-level competitions with new values, such as showmanship and semi-professionalism, and those teams that continued with an amateur philosophy and who were linked to Catalan competitions. This situation had a negative impact on the competitions organized by the FCBQ, from which the most important teams left, and which led the FCBQ to transform its championships to the new needs.

The transformations that took place at the end of the period, did so under a new legislative framework that resulted from the transformation of the former National Sports Delegation, which henceforward was known as the National Delegation of Physical Education and Sports. The enactment of a new Physical Education Law and the creation of organizations such as the "Technical Information Service", "Sporting Mutualitat and the National Institute of Physical Education. Advertising campaigns of a generic nature such as "We're counting on you" and specific campaigns, such as "Operation Height" were promoted. Mechanisms were also created to promote cooperation in the improvement of facilities, even in the private sphere, and which resulted in the appearance of indoor sports pavilions and the modernization of many facilities with improvements that underwent near total changes.

The most relevant factor in the development of Catalan basketball was the appearance of mini-basketball, which had initially been presented and managed from Catalonia, it was soon reinstated, and came under the control of the FEB, which created a specific body to do this; CN Hesperia, although over time, this too gave way and it ended up being controlled by the Youth Delegation. Work was undertaken on the consolidation of youth competitions. The children's championship was established and the women's championship was put in order. This latter act fact helped the recovery of the Spanish Women's Championship, which was first contested with the classic eliminatory system of the cup competition, after 1963 it was eliminated and the National League was created.

Another area of development was in journalism. The appearance of two men's competitions on a state level led sports-orientated newspapers and weeklies to focus on these competitions, and dedicate ever-more space to them, with plenty of graphic information. It also facilitated the appearance of a magazine dedicated exclusively to basketball: "Rebote. Solamente Baloncesto." which was published in Barcelona and which initially collaborated with the FCBQ.

The final event that determined the future of the FCBQ was the decision taken by the FEB, in late 1962, to create a new federal provincial organization throughout the state. This ended with the formation of the Girona and Tarragona federations and the conversion of the FCBQ into a provincial organisation for Barcelona.

Events

1. The Syracuse Nationals team, the champions of the NBA, toured Europe and played three games in Barcelona on the 14 15 and 19 May 1956. On the first two days the team easily won its games against a Catalan side and a Spanish national team. A game was played in Madrid, and on 19 May it played again against the Catalan national team. The game began at 40 to 0 in favour of the Catalans, however the final result went to the American players with a score of 111 to 98.

2. The disputes between Catalonia and Castile (or the Centre) were a major event this year and popular among the public. On 11 November 1956, one of these matches was played at the Municipal Sports Hall in Barcelona, and ended with the victory of the Catalan team by 56 to 48.

3. On 30 March 1957, the National League began its competitions at the Barcelona Sports Hall, with games between Aismalibar and Barcelona, and Joventut and Orillo Verde. The games were played over two days in Barcelona and Madrid and two games were played, so to make the most of the journeys made.

4. In June 1957 Picadero JC organized the 1st International Tournament in both the male and female categories, in an event that was to continue over time.

5. On 11 May 1958 the La Salle Josepets team were promoted to the first state division league. It was the champion of the Catalan first division and to make it into to the National League, it played a promotion game, at the beginning of June, with the second-to-last classified team from the previous promotional game, CE Laietà. They won their home games and had to play a tie-breaking game at the CB Metropolitano court in the La Bordeta neighbourhood. After defeating Laietà by 45 to 32, they gained their promotion and played in the National League during the 1958-59 season.

6. On 17 December 1958 the board of the FCBQ resigned, this was followed on the 28 December by the appointment of Mr. Ernesto Segura de Luna as its president.

7. In the Spanish Women's Championship, which was held in July 1960 in Zaragoza, the 2nd and 3rd position teams in the Catalonian Championship, Picadero and Cottet both participated. The latter was the champion of Spain and obtained the right to play in the European Cup, however its resignation for financial reasons allowed Picadero JC to become the first Catalan women's club to take part in a European competition, where it fell in the first round against the Morocco's Casablanca. The second leg was played at the Municipal Pavilion in Granollers.

8. After all the competitive transformations at a national level, the FCBQ decided to contest the Championship of Catalonia in the 1960-61 season in a single category and in eight groups, which were grouped together for geographical reasons: Tarragona, Girona, Manresa, Terrassa, Ribera and two mixed groups in Barcelona. This same season the Picadero Jockey Club was the Senior Champion of the Gonzalo Aguirre Trophy (still under the name of 1st Division) and was promoted to the National League.

9. In 1962 the youth team of CD Mataró was proclaimed the champion of Spain for the second time in a row. The team led by Antoni Serra featured young players such as Josep Maria Soler and Joan Martínez, who was to be a key player in the first team's promotion to the National League in 1963.

10. In 2 May 2 1963, the final phase of the Spanish Women's Championship was played at the Lluïsos de Gràcia court. It was the last game played until 1972.

11. During the 1956-57 season, the FCBQ had 2,143 registrations processed, the largest number in its history. Its competitive structure had not changed: a 1st Division with two groups, with the 20 best teams; a first regional category with three different groups and 37 teams, including representatives from Lleida, Tarragona and Barcelona; a second category with three groups and 24 teams, and finally, third category groups in Manresa and Tarragona - in addition to the Lleida group that pertained to the provincial federation. Youth competitions were booming, with over 64 teams from Barcelona, Tarragona and Lleida, as well as several incipient children's competitions, with 17 teams and the regularization of women's competitions. The second Autumn Trophy was contested and the Federation Trophy was created, in addition to the Catalan Championship event. This competitive structure (for the men's teams), was to change with the passing of the seasons, with the creation of the National League and the First National Division Gonzalo Aguirre Trophy (which later changed its name to the Second National Division).

12. Despite being in theory an amateur sport, signings and changes of teams between the most important teams were starting to become commonplace. July 1956 saw a flood of fixtures, the Martínez brothers moved from FC Barcelona to Real Madrid, and Mataró's Bonareu joined FC Barcelona..

13. On 7 July 1956, the final phase of the Spanish Youth Championship was played at the Municipal Sports Hall of Barcelona on Carrer Lleida. The teams classified were the champions and sub-champions of the Central Federation and the FCBQ. The champion was the team Colegio Estudio de Madrid (Nuere, Codina, Fuente, Montilla, Peiro) who won 58-53 against FC Barcelona (Melendez, Miró, Sebastian, Cano, Mateu, Lluch).

14. In the summer of 1956, the FEB together with the clubs involved, decided to contest a league at a state level. In March 1957, the 1st National League began to be contested, a fact that was to become key in the future of the FCBQ

15. In September 1956, a classic game was disputed, the Lightning Trophy in Badalona, it was organized by the UG Badalona.

16. The 4th Barcelona League Juan Antonio Samaranch Trophy was held. By way of interest, the prices decided upon for spectators, as recorded in the minutes of the FCBQ were as follows: entrance

for club members and participants 5 pesetas, boxes 8, court 1st row 20, 2nd row 15. The rest of the rows were 10 pesetas.

17. Between the end of November and the beginning of December, the American coach, Dayton M. Spaulding held different technical sessions and conferences to train and improve all the players on the Catalan basketball scene. He was hired by FEB.

18. In December 1956, at the FIBA Congress in Melbourne, a series of agreements were made with respect to the rules of the game that completely changed the style of basketball. For the first time, the thirty seconds possession rule for teams and 5 seconds for players appeared.

19. On December 20 1956, Joventut won the Samaranch Trophy at the Sala Price, defeating FC Barcelona in the final by 55-46. By way of interest, FC Barcelona had a North American player in its ranks; Belmore, a student who was in the fifth year of his Philosophy and Arts course and who spoke perfect Spanish.

20. On 16 May 1957, the newspaper *El Mundo Deportivo* reported the news proclaiming RCD Espanyol of Barcelona as the champion of Spain in the 1st Division, by beating Estudiantes de Vigo by 68-41. This was in a category lower than the National League and created at the same time.

21. The FCBQ suspended the entire match day of Sunday 19 May 1957 due to the dispute on the last day of the 1st National League. A competition that Real Madrid won, despite losing the last day at the Barcelona Sports Hall to FC Barcelona by 60-50.

22. The budget of the FCBQ for the 1957-58 season was 215,735 pesetas of income and 189,194.25 with respect to total expenses, this information was reported in the minutes of 1 July 1957.

23. In the 1957 season, CB Valls played its matches in the First Category of Group B of the Catalan Championship. The team was known by its rivals as the "Hazelnuts", as their coach, Tomás Redón and all the players were from Barcelona, except Roig, and even he had to travel to Barcelona to train, as the team trained at courts such as Jac Sants or even at the Sports Hall. Their season was a successful one that ended with their promotion to the 1st Catalan Division and the legal constitution of the CB Valls club on 27 May 1958.

24. In November 1957, the women's season began with the third Autumn Tournament. A noteworthy fact was the inclusion of two

Puerto Rican medical students, Acacia Rojas Davis and Rosalina "Talin" Ramos Padró, in the Picadero JC Barcelona team.

25. On 19 December 19 1957, Joventut beat RCD Espanyol in the final of the Samaranch Trophy by 43 to 41 at the Sala Price.

26. On 28 January 1958, CN Reus, which had inaugurated its gymnasium in late September of the previous year, used it for basketball matches for the first time. The programme consisted of three matches, one between the veterans from Reus and Tarragona, one for women between Picadero JC and CE Laieta and one for senior men, between the club team and CB Sitges.

27. On 3 March 1958, a provincial competition began in Girona: Adepaf Figueres, Grifeu Llançà, Banyoles, the GEiEG, CC Olot were the participating teams.

28. The Picadero JC organized the 2nd International Tournament, also in June 1958.

29. On 14 June 1958, Joventut de Badalona won the Spanish championship in Zaragoza by defeating Real Madrid in the final by 74-69. The game was broadcast by Radio Juventud with the voice of Justo Conde. The story goes, as it was explained many times by the narrator himself, is that with the clock was at zero and the Badalona player, Jordi Parra had two clear shots, just after scoring with the first shot, first the transmission and then telephone was cut off. When the connection was restored the game was already into overtime.

30. In December 1958, Aismalibar was the champion for the best basketball average in the Samaranch Trophy organized by the league system and with the participation of only the six National League teams.

31. On 2 April 1959, a tournament sponsored by the Barcelona Regional Government began in which Catalan National League teams were required to compete. It was played in four groups of four teams who then contested a round-robin phase for the first and second groups. The first-classifiers event ended with victory for CB Aismalibar and the winners of the second-classifiers event was CD Mataró.

32. FC Barcelona was the League and Cup champion in 1959, the team led by Jaume Isal had young players like Buscató, the Martínez brothers, Jordi Bonareu and others with more experience, such as Joan Canals.

33. In January 1960, a national magazine dedicated solely to basketball, "*Rebote...Solamente Baloncesto*" (Rebound, just Basketball), was launched in Barcelona. The publication was a reference source for all basketball players, until November 1978 when its last edition was printed.

34. The CIC Argentona team was both a special and an incredible case. It was formed by young players from the Immaculate Conception College in Argentona, yet the team managed to take part in the Catalan Championships from 1958, despite not being of legal age to do so. The condition imposed on them was that they could not be champions. However, during the 1959-60 season they won the two competitions organized by the FCBQ without losing a match. The FEB was asked for authorization by the FCBQ, and with the agreement of the other clubs, to allow the girls to compete in the Spanish Championship. The FEB denied this request, following the instructions of the Member of the Women's Section of this same federation. Players like Gallemí and the Famada sisters marked an era. Later, when their team was promoted to the National Women's League, the impossibility of continuing the sporting project for financial reasons caused the team to disappear. Some players went to play for CD Mataró, which took its place in the First Women's State Category.

35. The 1961-62 season was important for ADEPAF Figueres, firstly because of the renovation works on its court with the extension of the court and the construction of terraces and changing rooms, and secondly due to the club's achievements in Provincial Championship and the participation of North American players in the team, namely William L. Jackson and Richard Lewis, who were soldiers assigned to the military base at Pení. The Grifeu Llançà team also had a North American in its ranks.

36. In the 1961-62 season, CE Laietà won the Gonzalo Aguirre Trophy Championship and were promoted to the National League, which was their last experience in the state basketball elite ranks.

37. In 1962, the adventure of basketball began for the Parish of Sant Josep, in Girona. The appearance of mini-basketball and Ramon Sitjà's important dedication to the growth and development of basketball in Girona were essential factors in this aspect.

38. In the 1962-63 season, AD Antorcha, from Lleida, which was competing for the Gonzalo Aguirre Trophy in a group of six teams between sides from Lleida and Aragon, won first place. It then went on to compete in the sector phase of promotion to the National League. In the team, the player who also acted as team coach,

Jose Nora, was noteworthy. In Valencia, the side failed to qualify for a Final Phase that was disputed in Lleida in the Camps Elisis Pavilion, and that ended with the victory of CD Mataró.

39. Women's basketball reappeared in Girona in 1962, thanks to the team formed by the Girona Teacher Training School, over the years the project firmly established itself and its heirs went on to play in the first division.

40. 18 August 1963, Ricard Blanco was made the First President of the Tarragona Provincial Federation.

41. The appointment of Josep M. Rexach as the President of the Provincial Federation of Lleida took place in the city. This basketball player had a special interest in women's basketball, and he was to be an essential figure in its development.

Presidents

Ismael Almela i Sales, 1954-59

Ernest Segura de Luna, 1959-1972

(Barcelona, 1922 - Mataró, 2008)

A lawyer by profession, he joined the FCBQ in July 1954, to become part of its legal committee and the press and advertising commission. He also worked at the Volleyball Sports Committee, which at the time was under the control of the FCBQ. He later worked as its secretary. In 1956 he was the manager responsible for the FCBQ Legal Committee and relations with the authorities, and in January 1957 he was appointed Vice-President, until he became the FCBQ FCBQ President at the end of 1958. From here he supervised the adaptation of the federation to the new competitive scenario with the appearance of the 1st and 2nd division state leagues. In 1972 he was appointed President of the FEB, where he was until 1984. He returned to preside over the organisation between 1992 and 2004. He also held managerial positions in the Spanish Olympic Committee, FIBA Europe and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

Competitions

THE PRESIDENT TOURNAMENT

This new competition was created by the FCBQ in the 1956-57 season for men's basketball and in the women's case it was re-established as a competition under the same name had already

been organised in the early forties, with the aim of covering the entire seasonal calendar, and in the case of the women's teams, to try to create a stable structure that promoted their definitive incorporation.

THE 1ST CATALAN DIVISION 1957-58

This competition had been played for several seasons, however the FCBQ reformed it due to the flight of the main Catalan clubs to the State League. Although the Catalan Championship continued to be contested in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd categories, this competition was the last attempt to present a championship for 1st-level teams. The 1957-58 season involved twelve teams: La Salle Josepets (the champions), Montgat, CP Sant Josep, Calella, CC Badalona, Mataró, Pineda, BIM, CB Sant Adrià, SF Terrassa, CB Mollet and AC Josepet. The competition disappeared in the early sixties with the total restructuring of the Second Division Gonzalo Aguirre Tournament, with three Catalan groups, two of them with 16 teams and the subsequent reform of the Regional Championship of Catalonia.

THE JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH TOURNAMENT

This tournament, which had begun in 1953 as the Barcelona League was restructured in the 1957-58 season, due to the creation of the State League, and it was renamed the Juan Antonio Samaranch Trophy. In the first event under this name (the fifth since the 1st Barcelona League), the aim was to incorporate the Gonzalo Aguirre division into all the teams of the State League and subsequently those of the 2nd division after the 1961-62 season. The FCBQ decided to consider the winner of the trophy as the champion of Catalonia and requested the FEB to qualify the winning team for the Generalissimo Cup, however the FEB did not accept this proposal. This fact probably did not help the implementation of the competition, and only four more events were played and it was difficult to schedule

THE CATALAN CHAMPIONSHIP

From the beginning of the sixties onwards, and faced with the exodus of Catalan teams to state competitions, the FCBQ reconsidered the structure of the Catalan Championship, the competitive level had to take a back seat given the dominance of state competitions. It therefore transformed the Catalan Championship into a single category competition that was regionally divided in order to foster the economy and livelihood of the most popular and truly amateur clubs in Catalonia. This championship would be the beginnings of what was later to be the Regional Championship (once again) which was above the level of the Provincial Championship, and which

at the time was organized by the numerous different provincial federations that were created after 1963 (Girona and Tarragona) and the Lleida organisation that had already existed since the 1940s.

Facilities

THE LLUÏSOS DE GRÀCIA COURT

In July 1961, construction work began on the new building for the head offices of the Lluïsos de Gràcia club. This comprehensive reform included the construction of a basketball court on the second floor of the building, with small bleachers. The final cost of the project came to 4,665,536 pesetas of which 2,982,061 corresponded to the sports facility: the court, gym and jai alai court. The financing involved mainly came with contributions from members in the form of bonds and through a personal loan from the bank La Caixa. A donation of 450,000 pesetas was also made by the Provincial Council and a contribution from the National Sports Delegation of 1,616,000, 50% of which was non-refundable, and the remaining amount was a loan. Finally, the indoor court, the first in the city of Barcelona for a private entity, was inaugurated on 4 November 1962 and was the venue for State League matches and the finals of the Spanish Women's Championships

THE LA PLANA PAVILION

The obligation to possess an indoor court in order to be able to play in the State League led Joventut de Badalona to convert their playing court in La Plana where they had been since 1948, into a covered pavilion. This initiative was backed by the National Delegation of Sports, the Provincial Council of Barcelona and Badalona City Council. The pavilion had a capacity for some 1,500 people and it bore witness to the team's first State League win in 1967 and their subsequent debut in the European Cup. The sudden success of the club soon meant that the venue was too small, and ten years later the team went on to play its games in the new Ausiàs March Pavilion.

THE MUNICIPAL PAVILION OF GRANOLLERS

This sporting venue was inaugurated on May 23 1960. The following year it was the scenario for the preliminary round of the European Women's Cup between Picadero and Casablanca SC. It was later the home arena for CB Granollers games (a team that played an important role in the State League during the mid-seventies, until the Granollers club built its own pavilion in the 1980s.

THE GYMNASIUM OF CLUB NATACIÓ REUS PLOMS

Built on land owned by the club itself, it was funded by the National Delegation for Physical Education and Sports. It was inaugurated on 25 September 1957, together with a small swimming pool. The building allowed other sports such as hockey and basketball to be played. This organisation began using it in January 1958 and replaced and combined courts with the fields in the centre of the athletics track.

THE REUS DEPORTIU SPORTS PAVILION

This project was undertaken in the early 1960s and went ahead with the support of the National Delegation of Physical Education and Sports. A grant from this entity and a loan, for a total of 2,600,000 pesetas, ensured that it was officially inaugurated on 9 December 1962. It had a centrally-located main building of 32 x 16 meters for indoor sports such as basketball and a capacity for almost three thousand spectators. It was the headquarters of the association's basketball teams and also of a National Trainers' Course in 1963 and a final phase of the Spanish 2nd Division Championship.

Clubs

CIC ARGENTONA

This team, which was created in the mid-1950s at the Inmaculada d'Argentona school quickly progressed technically to become a team of repute. The age of its players, who were still at school, caused the team many problems when it came to competing. Faced with total superiority in the school competitions and the refusal of the FCBQ to let them participate in their competitions, it competed in the Education and Leisure competitions, where it was to win different championships. After 1958 the team was finally able to compete in the Catalan Championship, however, as many of its players were still under the age limit, its final classification was not accepted. As a result, in the 1959-60 season, despite coming first in the Catalan Championship, the team was not allowed to compete in the Spanish Championship where the second and third placed teams went; CE Cottet and Picadero JC. The former won the title and the right to compete in the European Cup but they withdrew, and the sub-champions, Picadero JC, were the Spanish representative. CIC Argentona's sporting career continued to be a success until the 1st Women's State Division in 1965. The economic unviability of the project, plus the lack of adequate facilities in Argentona led to the club's demise. CD Mataró offered the possibility of taking its place, and some CIC Argentona players

moved to the CD Mataró women's team. This team grew under the guidance of Josep Maria Solá, and led by Argentine, Carme Famadas, they broke the monopoly of Creff de Madrid and won three league titles in a row in the early 1970s.

LA SALLE JOSEPETS

This team was from the Salle Josepets School, in Plaça Lesseps, Barcelona. From 1952 onwards they were playing in the Diocesan competitions for the OAR, where they arrived after growing up and passing through categories in the school environment. From 1955 on they took part in FCBQ competitions, names like that of the coach, Mr. Valls, or players like Viza, Renau, Samsó, Verona and many others marked an era of success that had its climax with a promotion to the First Division of the State League in the 1958-59 season. This category was maintained for only one year and was lost in a promotion game with UE Montgat. It continued to play in federation competitions until the school closed altogether, due to the expansion of a ring road. The students were relocated in a new building belonging to the school of La Salle Gràcia. During these years it continued to produce quality basketball players, such as Miquel Albanell.

Key Figures

Players

ALFONSO MARTÍNEZ GÓMEZ

(Saragossa, 1937 - Barcelona, 2011)

A family move to Barcelona, for work reasons, led him to become a student at La Salle Bonanova, where he began playing basketball under the influence of his two older brothers, Miguel Angel and José Luis. In the youth category, he spent a season at RCD Espanyol, before moving on to play at FC Barcelona, where his two brothers were already playing. His height of 1.94 metres (6'4") made him the best rebounder of his time and also one of the best scorers (he was the top scorer of the State League three times in 1957 1958 and 1967) He passed through all the important teams: CB Aismalibar, Real Madrid, FC Barcelona and Joventut Badalona (with the latter three teams he was a League Champion) and also Picadero JC (with which he was Cup Champion), he was an international with the Spanish national team in 148 games, and he ended his career in 1976 at CB Breogan de Lugo after also playing for CD Mataró.

ANTÒNIA GIMENO I TRAVESSET

(Barcelona, 1941)

As student at the Pere Vila School in Barcelona, she began playing basketball in the playground. At the age of 14, Club Banesto became her first destination, where she played in the Education and Leisure competitions. She entered the Catalan Championship ranks in 1957. Her playing caught the attention of GD Cottet (which was later also known as INDO), and she signed for the Hospitalet club, which at the same gave work to many of its players. She was a member of teams who won different titles as Champions of Catalonia and even won a Spanish Championship. She was also part of the first Spanish women's team that played two matches in 1963, in Malgrat and in the Sala Price in Barcelona, against Switzerland. After the disappearance of INDO in 1965, she joined the ranks of Picadero JC, where she also coached until 1972. In her last year she played in Tenerife, in the ranks of OM. She worked as a coach on this island for more than 15 years, her work at the Asunción College being noteworthy. She later went through the FEB, where she coached different women's teams, as well as for clubs such as Cajalon Zaragoza, CN Canoe, Draft Gramenet, and finally for the promotion categories of CB Sant Just, to end up enjoying basketball in the 21st century at Escola Reina Elisenda, training the youngest students.

Coaches

JOAQUIM BROTO I TENA

(Barbastre, 1924 - ?)

A medical student (a profession to which he dedicated his entire life) in Terrassa. In the early 1940s he played for different Catalan teams, such as CB Mediterrani and CB Metropolità. In the 1st Trainers' Course, which was held in late 1951, he was the student with the highest score, and he went on to obtain regional and national training qualifications. It came as no surprise that in the 2nd course he was on the staff as a teacher. He was the coach of Club Joventut Badalona for two seasons between 1953 and 1955. The team won both a Spanish and a Catalan Championship and played in the two Samaranch Trophy contests. The following season he was recruited by FC Barcelona in an attempt to regain their lost prominence. Some reports refer to the contract as an offer that could not be refused. In reality, the first thing he found was a team weakened by the departure of the Martínez brothers who had transferred to Aismalibar and the signing of Espanyol's Joaquim Hernández by Madrid, when it had been initially believed that he was going to sign for Barcelona. After an unsuccessful

season he returned to La Peña in Badalona, and where in the two seasons he was technical manager (between 1956 and 1958) the team won a Spanish Championship a Catalan Championship and two Samaranch Trophies. He later managed CB Orillo Verde for two seasons in the National League, before returning to Club Joventut Badalona in the 1961-62 season. He was at this time totally dedicated to medicine, and he found it difficult to combine his profession with basketball. He formed a tandem team, with Joan Canals, however an unstable season led to their dismissal.

Referees

SANTIAGO FERNÁNDEZ PAREJA

(Barcelona, 1933)

A referee since 1954, he was soon to be promoted and he took part in matches of the highest category. As of 1959 he was an international on over 110 occasions and in all types of competitions. After retiring from the court, he remained linked to the world of refereeing in managerial tasks at the Catalan Professional Association, he was also the Manager of Arbitration of the ACB between 1992 and 1997 and from 2004 to 2005.

Registrations

1956: 2.143 registrations

1963: 2.446 registrations

7 The FCBQ and the new identity of catalan basketball 1964 - 1977

A new scenario in the presence of two different worlds, one that in theory is amateur, but which inexorably walks towards professionalism, and another that is truly amateur and defined by training will mark the path of the FCBQ, which will seek a way to adapt to the new needs of many Catalan clubs.

The Catalan Championships, which have always been subordinated to the national championships, with three divisions (1st, 2nd and 3rd division), evolved to the stabilization of a regional and a provincial championship. Finally, the Catalan Championship was reconverted into a championship that was known as a regional contest in a single category for all federations. This championship event, with teams from all regions was also possible thanks to external factors, such as improvements in road and transport infrastructures and an increase in vehicle acquisitions. A provincial championship was created below the regional structure that depended on each provincial federation.

The consolidation of mini-basketball, which was essential to increasing the number of participants, clubs and teams in competitions in the late 1970s, was undertaken outside the control of the FCBQ; first through the club CN Hesperia (under the FEB) and later, in from 1970 through the Youth Delegation. This action reduced federation control to the FCBQ Junior (created in the late 1960s) and Youth categories. The children's team with players who were still of school age, was also finally controlled by the same delegation and it disappeared from the FCBQ program.

The difference between those teams that competed at a higher level and the rest was transferred to the training competitions, and this forced the FCBQ to create groups division clubs in the various categories it controlled; the Junior and the Youth. The champion and sub-champions represented Catalonia at the Spanish Championships. At the same time, the Catalan championships were disputed for promotion purposes among the remaining participants. Meanwhile, the world of women's basketball in 1977 was that of a booming sport that had begun to strip itself of the corsets that had been restricting it for over thirty years. Women's basketball sought to copy the male competitive structure, although it faced many difficulties, due to a lack of players and teams, despite the small positive social changes that women were gaining. Where progress

was most noticeable was in the appearance of lower category competitions, where youth teams were incorporated from 1973 onwards.

The death of Franco, the dictator at the end of 1975 marked the beginning of a process of political transformation that was also to affect the world of sport. The last two years of this era saw the scrapping of the regime's organizations and a void that was to be occupied by other institutions. The FCBQ would involve itself in the field of the smallest categories, gathering school-age basketball players in its competitions, to then transform them into the backbone of the federation project in the coming years, together with the reunification of all the federations.

Events

1. The modernization of facilities during this period was one of its main characteristics. On the one hand, the professionalization of basketball led many leading teams to acquire indoor courts, or example CD Mataró with their new Pavilion in Mataró, Picadero JC in Barcelona, FC Barcelona's Palau Blaugrana, Auxias Marc in Badalona, which belonged to La Penya and also that of Sant Josep, the Pavilion of the Congost of CD Manresa, and that of Pineda de Mar among others. On the other hand, the pavilions in towns that were not linked to elite basketball, but where that game was played, such as that of El Castell, the CB Manresa court, that of Sferic (Terrassa) court, the Joana Ballart court in Valls, the Balaguer municipal court, those of Ripollet and CB. Mollet. Girona also had a Municipal Sports Pavilion as of April 1964.

2. The final phase of the 1966 Generalissimo Cup was played in the new stadium of the Sferic Club in Terrassa.

3. The North American coach Ed Jucker visited Barcelona in July 1966 and gave theoretical and practical lessons for 10 days in the Lluïsos de Gràcia pavilion.

4. A league without foreigners existed only in theory since during the in the 1966-67 season, as clubs were able to nationalise their players. The season ended with Joventut de Badalona's victory, the first in its history. Led by Kucharski, the main players were, Lluís, Buscato, Alfonso Martínez, Enric and Narcís Margall, Guifré Gol, Rojas, Joan Fa, Moliné and Oleart.

5. The FCBQ organized the first day of Catalan Basketball on 16 June 1968. Different matches were played in all categories, the most noteworthy being the final of the Women's President Cup

between the BIM and Picadero JC teams, mini-basketball matches and the international match that ended the day between the men's Picadero JC and the Romanian National Team. The closing ceremony was the parade of all the affiliated clubs and the award ceremony for the champions.

6. In April 1969, the men's European Cup final was organized between TSSKA of Moscow and Real Madrid at the Sports Hall on Carrer Lleida in Barcelona. Although the story changes depending on who is telling it, it would appear that the public ended up cheering for Tska, to the surprise of the Soviets, after several controversial decisions by one of the referees. After extra time, the victory went to the Soviets.

7. During the 1972-73 season Manresa had two teams in the national league, the CD and the CB. This was also the last season in which Picadero JC took part under the name of Filomatic. Economic problems were to lead to its demise. The women's team continued to play under different names.

8. Ignis Mataró was a team led by Josep Maria Sola and had Maria Carmen Famada as an outstanding player (she was twice declared the best player by the players themselves), broke the Castilian monopoly in the Women's League and won three consecutive titles, in 1972, 1973 and 1974. The women's team from Picadero, who survived the disappearance of the club, took it over, despite the difficulties to keep going. They first did so with the support of the authorities under the name of PICEFF, and then, thanks to the financial support of different commercial brands the first EVAX side, was the dominant women's team at state level in the final years of this period, thanks to players like Neus Bertran, Rosa Castillo and their coach, Maria Planas.

9. On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, the FCBQ organized the 1973 Eurobasket event, which was played between the end of October and the beginning of November. The Preliminary Phase was played in Badalona and Barcelona and the semi-finals and the finals were played at the Municipal Sports Hall with great success in terms of spectators, thanks to the classification of the Spanish team that came to play in the final against Yugoslavia. The budget for this competition was 19,022,000 pesetas. A Centenary Trophy was also organised among its affiliates, which was divided into three levels and different categories. The Special Group, with the following champions: CB Joventut Schweppes (Senior), FC Barcelona (Junior) and CB Mollet (Youth); Provincial: Ignis CD Mataró (Senior), La Salle Josepets (Junior), CB Joventut Schweppes "B" (Youth); Women's Single Category: Grup Barna.

10. The FCBQ organized a women's basketball week in April 1977, where the most important event, due to its international nature, was the final match of the Women's European Cup at the Barcelona Sports Palace. The victory went to Daugava Riga from Latvia (then still part of the USSR) against the Clermont Francès by 76 to 53. Uliana Semenova was a noteworthy player in the Riga team.

11. 1964 was the year of the demise of CB Aismalibar. The rapid professionalization of top-ranking basketball led the sponsor company to end one cycle and begin a new one. This was with the sponsorship of the Badalona Youth Club with a company product: Fantasit. A transfer of players and coach took place between Montcada and Badalona

12. In April 1964 Girona had a Municipal Sports Pavilion .

13. The 1965-66 season saw the disappearance of the second teams, a regular feature of the federation competitions, and they were replaced by the "B" teams.

14. In the 1966 - 67 season, a new competition appeared at state level, the Third Division Pare Millán Trophy. This brought 24 Catalan teams into two groups, of which two were from Girona; CB Blanes and Grifeu Llançà. This event, added to the fact that there were two second division groups with 24 Barcelona teams, gives us an image of the difficulties that the FCBQ were facing in terms of controlling competitions of a certain level.

15. Staying with the 1966-67 season, the FCBQ divided the youth teams into two competitions due to the difference in level: one with those teams who chose to play in the Spanish Championship and the other at provincial level. The champion of the first group was Joventut Kalso and the Champion of the Provincial Competition was CB Caldetes.

16. In June 1967, the 1.80 (5´9") Tournament was held at the Sports Palace in Barcelona, where different teams comprising players who did not exceed this height faced each other. The United States of America won the competition.

17. In 1968 Picadero JC won the Spanish Cup for the second time. They were headed by Josep Maria Esteve, and the team players in the game were Codina, Alocen, Albanell, Soler, Nora and Fa. That same year, in November 1968, the club inaugurated its pavilion on the Travessera de Les Corts in Barcelona.

18. In April 1968, the FCBQ included a representative of the women's clubs on the Board of Directors for the first time, in the form of Albert Tobal Rubiella, the Manager of Picadero JC.

19. The Championship of Catalonia Samaranch Trophy was disputed for the last time in the 1968-69 season.

20. In the 1968-69 season, the Girona federation organized a third division group with 8 teams, however CB Blanes did not take part. The Costa Brava team, which had always participated in FCBQ competitions, was forced to play in Girona and, as it disagreed with this decision, it temporarily abandoned federation competitions.

21. In November 1968, the Mataró Sports Pavilion was inaugurated. At the beginning of the 1968-69 season, what is now known as the Vell Congost was also opened, it was built in record time so that CD Manresa could play its National League games in an indoor court.

22. Between 14 and 18 May 1969, at the Palau d'Esport de Mataró, the qualifying phase for the 16th European Championship of national teams was contested, between Bulgaria, Switzerland, Belgium, the United Arab Republic (Egypt) and Spain.

23. Between 14 and 18 May 1969, the Spanish Children's Championship was played in Santander, which ended with the victory of the Catalan Champion, the La Salle Josepets. This is how the event appears in the federation memoirs, although the press of the time refers to La Salle Barcelona.

24. On 30 April 1971, the Municipal Pavilion was inaugurated in Balaguer and shortly after this the final phase of the Junior Men's Championship was played there, which ended with the victory of CE Laietà.

25. In June 1971, the Joana Ballart Pavilion at CB Valls was inaugurated. At the time the club was the top team in the Tarragona regions.

26. In the early seventies, after the ban on foreign players, the nationalization of foreign players became fashionable, and following the path marked by Real Madrid, FC Barcelona nationalized first Norman Carmichael and then Charles Thomas, a player signed at the CP Sant Josep de Badalona and who had been the top scorer in the National League. Over time the story would reverse with the de-nationalization of these players.

27. During the 1973-74 season, the FCBQ hosted junior female

competitions for the first time. The 1st first Team Champion in this category was CIBES, and the 2nd Team Champion was CC L'Hospitalet.

28. In the 1974-75 season, the Catalan Championship was restored under the name of the Regional Championship with the participation of teams from the different provinces due to the serious difficulties that there had been with holding a single provincial competition, due to the great differences in levels between the teams.

29. During the 1976-77 season, the FCBQ re-established competitions for the developmental categories of the youngest school-aged children. The minutes of the FCBQ stated that in order to process registration a birth certificate or the Spanish government 'family' had to be presented in order to prevent fraudulent practices.

30. On 18 February 1977, Catalan was re-established as the vehicular language in the acts of the FCBQ

31. The 1977-78 season was the first in which the FCBQ had a Women's Youth Category Competition, the Lleida and Girona provincials also introduced this category.

32. In 1977, the Mateo Pell Memorial was contested for the first time in Girona.

33. The CB Tarragona club was founded by a group of young players from the Gimnàstic de Tarragona team.

Presidents

Ernest Segura de Luna, 1959-1972

Joan Fa i Vilaró, 1973

Andreu Ponsirenas i Martorell, 1973-79

(Badalona, 1919-2011)

He was linked to Sant Josep de Badalona from its creation, where he was a player, coach and leader of the club, and its president, for 10 years. He joined the Board of Directors of the FCBQ as a representative of the 2nd Division, in a role that he also undertook for the FEB.

Championships

THE STATE 3RD DIVISION

This competition was created by the FEB in the 1966-67 season and was played until 1980. It was the competition of reference for most of the amateur Catalan teams. It continued to change as time moved on, and was initially of a regional character, before becoming sector-based, sharing groups with Aragonese and Balearic teams. Its umpteenth transformation in the state competitions, with the appearance in 1978 of a First B team and the reform of the second division, plus the reunification of the Catalan federation certified its demise.

THE ANGEL PARRA TROPHY

This contest was created in the 1970s to finalise a season mediated by the short duration of those third division competitions held for the teams that did not manage to qualify to compete in the promotion stages. It was a regular event until the reunification of the federation led to the reestablishment of the Catalan Championship, which was disputed in categories, and the third division disappeared.

Facilities

THE CLUB JOVENTUT BADALONA PAVILION

The Ausiàs Marc Pavilion was built by the Badalona Youth Club and opened on 30 September 1972. It was specifically made for basketball, and had a capacity for 5,000 spectators, who were located close to the field of play, this made it a venue with a passionate, motivating atmosphere for their team. It was the venue of the 1973 Eurobasket event and a final phase of the King's Cup in the 1980s. It was witness to Joventut winning the league in 1977 and the Korac Cup in 1990, shortly before the team left the location to play at the Olympic Pavilion in Badalona. In 1996 the pavilion was acquired by Badalona City Council.

THE SANT JOSEP PAVILION - BADALONA

The promotion of CP Sant Josep de Badalona to the State First Division meant that it had to play its games at the Pavilion of La Plana, which it shared with the La Peña team. The construction of this pavilion began in August 1969, and it was officially opened on 14 March 1970. The first match had been played on 17 January of the same year against CD Mataró Molfort's, which ended with

the victory of Sant Josep by 86 to 85. The pavilion continued to host first division matches until the 1982-83 season, even though Sant Josep left the first division for financial reasons. It was the arena for games played by the team Circol Catòlic Badalona, who were later known as Cotonificio Badalona, in both national and European competitions. In 1979, it was also the venue for the final stage of the Queen's Cup. The club's women's team played there as hosts, despite not playing in the first division.

THE JOANA BALLART PAVILION

This pavilion built by CB Valls on the old skating rink of Valls, between 1969 and 1970. It was funded mainly with contributions from Mr. Antonio Gallardo and the members of the sports clubs, together with other public bodies, which had not managed to cover all the expenses. The pavilion was named after Joana Ballart, the wife of Antonio Gallardo, and apart from the sports court, which had four vestibules, one for referees, a warehouse and an infirmary, it had capacity for 1,200 spectators. A three-storey building was also built, with a lobby, bar, club offices and a gymnasium. It opened on 20 June 1971 and was to become a pavilion where the spectator support for the local team was almost palpable. Their Valls women's team reached the Women's 2nd League the men's team reached the LEB Silver Division. It was also the scenario for the reestablishment of the Catalan national team in 1980, in a game against Euskadi.

Clubs

CÍRCOL CATÒLIC DE BADALONA

This organisation was founded near the Church of Santa Maria de Badalona on 19 March 1879. The first basketball activities held there took place in 1933, when the Federation of Young Christians of Catalonia created its own competition. Youngsters from the Fejocist group of the Church of Santa Maria were to take part in these championships until 1936. The Basketball Section was officially created after the civil war, and was registered in FCBQ competitions from the start. The first club team soon attained positive results, and reached the 1st category of the Catalan Championship, where it would play until the early 1950s. The team later marked its presence in the State Second Division Gonzalo Aguirre Trophy. Just when it seemed that the team was beginning to decline, after its relegation to the third division in the 1969-70 season, the presidency of Domènech Tallada gave it a boost, and in the 1973-74 season it played in the highest state category, the first division, and for the first time.

The team played its games on the CP Sant Josep court and was led by Aito García Reneses to become a side of some repute, thanks to its intense style. It reached European competition levels and the first final of the Catalan National League in 1980. The professionalization of the team was too much for the structure of the Círcol Catòlic and only the appearance of a sponsor, the Cotonificio company, allowed the team to continue in the first division. A definitive break occurred in the 1982-83 season when, in December 1982, a new organisation was created, Básquet CC Badalona, which continued to compete as Cotonificio, before finally moving to Santa Coloma de Gramenet. It was sponsored by the spirits manufacturer Licor 43. Círcol Catòlic de Badalona re-created its basketball section in 1984 and resumed competitions in the FCBQ, beginning in the last category of the Catalan Championship, and over the years it managed to regain top level positions in Catalan competitions. Its teams included the players Josep Maria and Pere Costa, the sons of the latter, Joaquim and Joan, Josep Lluís Cortes, Josep Maria Oleart, Dani Fernandez (later to be a noteworthy manager in Catalan basketball), Andrés Jiménez and Joan Pear, among others.

CREFF GIRONA

This team was created in the 1963-64 season at the Girona teacher training school under the name Magisterio Gerona. Later, under the auspices of the Women's Section, which supported it from the 1966-67 season onwards, the club changed its name to CREFF Gerona (Recreational Centres of Feminine Physical Education). It finally managed to compete in the First State Division in the 1968-69 season. The demise of the Women's Section led to the end of the team, as it could not find any financial support to help it continue. Its games were played at the city's Devesa Pavilion, and it was led from the bench by Manel Sarasa, Angel Brea and Giron. Among its players, two stood out, who went on to become international players with Spain: Carmen Vilagran and Dolors "Lolita" Iglesias.

MEDINA LLEIDA

As in the case of Magisterio Girona, its the origins can be found in the town's teacher training school, which in 1965 created a team that played in the provincial competitions under the leadership of Josep Maria Reixach, a strong man in the Lleida basketball world. The team slowly transformed, and it gathered up new players. Under the Medina name it steadily grew until it was one step away from moving up to the first division in the 1971-72 season. Finally, in the 1972-73 season it made this move in a final game that was played at the Antorcha Pavilion in Lleida, where it defeated PEM de Barcelona in the final match. It was the team of reference for the people of Lleida, who supported them, filling the Camps Elisis

Pavilion, match after match. The team's player included the Rubin de Celis sisters, Abella, Calvet. Izco, Guasch, Oliva, Ros, Noguera. It continued in the first division until its demise in the 1977-78 season.

Key Figures

Coaches

ANTONI SERRA ILLAS

(Mataró, 1939)

Serra i Illas began playing basketball at school, before moving on to CD Mataró. While still a player, he began his career as a coach both at the Escola Pia Santa Anna and at CD Mataró. He coached the Mataró youth team, which in 1962 was proclaimed champion of Spain. The following season he managed the club's first team in the second division and gained them promotion to the first division. He was in charge of the club's first team until the 1969-70 season, a period in which the club became a constant in the National League. In 1970, he went on to manage CD Manresa team, who at the time were playing in the second division. They also achieved promotion and he maintained their status, continuing with the team, who went on to compete in the Korac Cup in Europe. During this period he was also a Spanish youth coach, winning a silver medal in the 1973 Eurobasket contests. In 1977, he signed with Joventut de Badalona, with whom he won the league and achieved a record number consecutive wins; 34 - a number that is yet to be surpassed. In 1979, Josep Lluís Nuñez's FC Barcelona with Jordi Bonareu from Mataró at the head of the club's basketball section, gave him the opportunity to take FC Barcelona to the highest level. He stayed with the team until 1985, giving prominence to a new generation of young players, and winning two leagues and four cups. Later, between 1985 and 1991, he managed the Procesator Mataro team in the First B division. With Pamesa Valencia he advanced the team into the ACB and the CB Mallorca leagues. He retired from the world of basketball in 1991.

JOSEP MARIA SOLÀ

(Mataró, 1948-2021)

He studied at Escola Pia in Mataró, where began his life in the world of basketball, playing in all the club's training categories. From a young age he dedicated himself to training, and in 1966, the year in which he obtained the professional title of Provincial Coach, he began with the Women's "B" Team at CD Mataró. Known as the Rubricatus, they competed in O.A.R. and children's club

competitions at CD Mataró. He followed up professionally, and became a regional and national coach. In the 1967-68 season, he became the coach of the first CD Mataró women's team, which competed in the First Division of the State League, and would continue to do so until the club's demise in 1977, and after having won three league titles. He maintained his links with the club and managed several men's teams in the organization until 1985. He went on to manage CB Argentona and later, CB Cabrera, a team that he left in January 1992 to return to manage the Women's First B team at CB Mataró until 1993. He later signed up to ADCC Mataró, where he worked as a coordinator until 2001. He was also an FEB technician, and was one of the managers of the senior and junior women's teams between 1972 and 1979.

Players

FRANCESC 'NINO' BUSCATÓ DURLAND

(Pineda de Mar, 1940)

He began playing at school age in Pineda de Mar, before moving on to the town's first team, UER Pineda de Mar, in 1955. He combined basketball with work at his family's bakery. He stood out in the Catalan championship in its first division games, especially due to his ability to score easily and his excellent shooting skills. He scored 37 points in a game against La Penya and 28 against FC Barcelona. The creation of the State League led to FC Barcelona signing him up in 1957, which for "Nino" meant something of a personal odyssey, as he made the trip back and forth to Pineda every day to work in the family bakery. At FC Barcelona his team won both league and cup championships in 1959, however the dismantling of the "professional section" of the Barcelona club in 1960 saw him move to Aismalibar in Montcada. He played in this club until 1964, when it disappeared, and he then joined the Badalona Youth Club, where he played until his retirement, after winning league (1967) and cup (1969) championships. He was an international 222 times, and he took part in three Olympic Games, eight Eurobasket events, he won a silver medal in 1973 and participated in three Mediterranean games, he also played seven games with the European team. After his retirement he worked as a coach at Joventut Badalona, FC Barcelona and CB L'Hospitalet. He was also a basketball teacher at the INEFC in Barcelona until 2005.

MARIA DEL CARME FAMADAS SOLER

(Argentona, 1944)

She began playing at her school in Argentona in 1955 at the age of 11. In the first year the children played on a school court that their parents and they only played friendly matches. The following

year the school team decided to compete, and it signed up for the competitions organized by the government body Education and Leisure. The team's players were all under 16 years old and they went on to win a championship. In the 1958 season she played in FCBQ competitions, although without the right to classification. She was Champion of Catalonia in 1960, but could not compete in the Spanish Championship, as the FEB did not acknowledge the title because the players were legally too young. She continued to play at CIC Argentona until 1965, when they finished second in the final phase of the Second Division Spanish Championship and they rose to the First Women's Division. The lack of adequate facilities in Argentona, plus the economic unviability meant that the team did not debut in the first division. Their place was occupied by CD Mataró, where she went to play, together with other players from CIC Argentona. She played for twelve years at Mataró, during which she won three State Leagues in 1972, 1973 and 1974. She was also named by the AEBI (the Spanish International Basketball Association) as the Best Spanish Player in 1971, 1972 and 1973. She was an international with the Spanish team in 28 matches. In 1977 the women's CD Mataró disappeared, but she still continued to play, first at CB Vilassar de Mar and then with CB Argentona, until 1982.

JOSEP MARINE GUIRAL

(Barcelona, 1932 - República Dominicana, ?)

A basketball player at Lluïsos de Gràcia in the lower categories as well as in the Barcelona youth team from 1947 to 1949. In 1949 he entered as a referee in the ecclesiastical competitions of the Barcelona OAR where he arbitrated for 11 years until his entry into the FCBQ in 1960. Given his experience as a referee it is not surprising that the following season he was promoted to first category. He refereed in first division matches until 1980. In 1964 he was an international referee in around 90 matches, the last of which was at the Moscow Olympics. He later served as President on the FCBQ Board of Referees at the beginning of the 1980s.

Registrations

Registrations 1964

FCBQ: 2.266. Lleida 161, Girona 153, Tarragona 275

Registrations 1976

FCBQ: 4.260. Lleida 380, Girona 853, Tarragona 603

8 The reunification of the FCBQ. 1978 - 1982. Towards an Institutional Standardisation

The transition from authoritarian rule to democracy, with the establishment of a new political model, was to result in the development of a new democratic sports legislation. This legislation separated the world of sport and physical education from the political apparatus. This process was not without controversy in some fields, especially in the educational sector. In Catalonia it came to have its own character, as a result of the restoration of the Statute of Autonomy with regional government bodies. It was to create its own legislative framework, with full powers in the field of sport and youth.

With respect to the federation, the first matter addressed was the calling of an election in which a candidacy led by Pere Sust i Sagau was presented. His main aim was federative unification, and modernization at both administrative and sporting levels, as well as organization in territorial delegations. He was appointed president on 18 September 1979.

The federative unification process took place, although not without certain problems, and at the same time that the Catalan competitive structure was being transformed. The organisation continued to centre on transformations at a state level. The creation of a First "B" Division was to mean that the second division would once again be a territorial competition with the expansion of groups. This, together with the disappearance of the State Third Division, led the FCBQ to change the sports structure once again. The regional and provincial championships both disappeared, and were replaced by the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Category Catalan Championships in both the men's and women's sections.

The autonomous legislative framework was developed during 1981, firstly with Decree 22/01/1981 on the registration of clubs, and then later with the order of 22 May 1981 on rules for club registration.

School sport was one of the most complicated issues to sort out, due to the main actors involved: the politicians responsible for establishing the new legislative framework, the sports federations that granted themselves a monopoly on the practice of their sport and finally the schools themselves. The ADECE was created in Spain, and in Catalonia, the ICEE (Catalan Institute of Physical Education and School Sports). Finally, the FCBQ was to restore, although not exclusively, the competitions for children and it would

begin a very important task with respect to basketball schools in Catalan clubs.

All of this activity was to be undertaken at the same time as work was being carried out to unify all the provinces into a single FCBQ. New federation statutes and regulations were drawn up in accordance with the new legislative framework, all of which were to be approved by the clubs in different assemblies. The whole process ended with the approval of the new FCBQ Statute on 28 June 1982, which was presented by the FCBQ President, Mr. Pere Sust and the provincial area presidents; Lluís Tió i Sacristan, Manuel de Vega Santos and Joan Canals i Piguem. Once approved and legalized, the presidents of the provincial areas became the presidents of the territorial areas and vice-presidents of the FCBQ. The first meeting of the new FCBQ took place on 27 October 1982 and it was recorded in the FCBQ minutes book under the number 1.

Events

1. 1978 was a success for the Catalan teams in terms of the women's teams; the Picadero team won the First Division League Title and the Queen's Cup. In the second division, CBF Vilassar gained promotion to the first division, although it later voluntarily fell out. The A.D. La Casera de Figueras team won the Spanish Youth Women's Championship. CD Hispano Francès was the Junior Champion of Catalonia and came third in the Spanish Championship, In regional terms, CP Sant Josep Badalona was the Regional Champion and Olimpia Esport Club, the Provincial champion.

2. The FCBQ Referee School was created on November 7 1979. Its first director was Mr. José Vallejo Escolano.

3. On 23 April 1980, the re-established Catalan National Team played a match in Valls against the Euskadi National Team. Led by Eduard Portela, the players were: Joaquim Costa, Joan Creus, Miguel Lopez Abril, German, Delgado, Epi I, Alcañiz, Filbá, Gregorio Estrada and Jiménez. The game ended with Catalonia winning by 102-84, the following day the event was repeated in Valls, and Catalonia won again. The Catalan National Team played two games in Euskadi and on 29 April, it played another against the USSR at the Ausiàs March Pavilion in Badalona.

4. The Catalan National League was created for clubs in the Men's First Division. It was held between October and November 1980, and was organized professionally, with the signing of an agreement with a company that managed all the advertising aspects. It also

had a sponsor, Banc Condal. The agreement involved dividing the profits of the competition equally between the participants and the FCBQ. The First League Champion was FC Barcelona, after defeating Badalona's Cotonificio in the final.

5. The first Youth Tournament organized by CB Hospitalet was held in 1980. Later, with the demise of the Youth Category, it became a Junior Tournament.

6. On November 5 1981, the final of the first Catalan Women's National League was played at the Palau Blaugrana 2 (formerly the Picadero Pavilion) between Comansi and CB CIBES, with the former team winning by 73 to 52. Also held for the first time was the First B - Second Division game between RCD Espanyol and CB L'Hospitalet with a victory for Espanyol by 85-83.

7. In 1982, matches were held in Lleida and Balaguer for promotion to the First B League. RCD Espanyol and Sant Josep, from Girona were two of the teams to gain promotion.

8. Between June 8 and 10 1982, the Catalan women's team played three matches against Yugoslavia in Barcelona, Figueres and Castellar del Vallès. The team led by Maria Planas and Rafel Mora, lost the first game by 71-95, in which Rosa Castillo, Anna Junyer, Roser Llop, Rosa Sánchez, Carmen Fraile, Martínez, Ferré, F.Garcia, Bobis and Borrás played. In Figueres they lost 66-84 and in Castellar 74-84.

9. From 19 June 1982 onwards, the Barcelona-82 International Trophy was disputed, with the participation of the national teams of France, Czechoslovakia, Brazil and the Catalan National Team.

10. In the women's sector, the 1981-82 season featured the victory in the Catalan Championship and in the Spanish Children's Championship of the team GE Badia Solè, which was headed by Francesc de Puig, whose group of young players were to make history in Manresa and Catalan basketball, and where the player Nina Pont made her mark. A few years later, in 1985, she was be the first Spanish player to go to the United States, where she played in the University Champion Old Dominions team.

11. On February 15 1979, Mr. Albert Gasulla presented a motion to the FCBQ Board of Directors, in which he requested the change of the Spanish word *Bàsquet* for that of *Basquetbol*.

12. In 1978 the women's team of A.D. La Casera, from Figueres won the Spanish Youth Women's Championship. The team, headed by Rafel Mora, featured players such as Anna Junyer, Roser Llop,

the Pi sisters, Vilaboy, and Reixach among others. The following year it won the Spanish Junior Championship and the Regional Championship of Catalonia, while during the next season they repeated the Spanish Junior Championship and gained promotion to the First Division, after being first in the Second Division group and first in the promotion phase that was disputed in Coslada.

13. The 1977-78 season saw great success for women's basketball at the old Picadero venue, with EVAX as both the league and Queen's Cup Champion.

14. On 18 September 1979, Mr. Pere Sust i Sagua was appointed as the President of the FCBQ, its Vice President, Josep Maria Alberich i Llaveria, Secretary, Francesc Mumbrú i Planas, Treasurer, Enric Piquet i Miquel, the Competition Committee comprised Jordi Grau i Mora, the Promotion Committee, Lluís Vial i Oliveras; Committee of Representatives Francesc A, Mestre i Coll.

15. In the 1978-79 Intima Cup season, the team AD La Casera de Figueres became Junior Champion of Spain and the same players were the Champions of the Senior Women's Regional Championships, moving up to the Second Division. In the youth category, CD Hispano Francès was the Spanish Champion.

16. In the 1979-80 season the CB Intima team (formerly Picadero) was the League Champion and the Queen's Cup Champion. The team AD La Casera Cataluña was champion of its second division group and also of the final phase of promotion to the first division. At the same time they were also Spanish Junior Champions. The Tarragona Gymnastics Club was the Women's Regional Champion and moved up to the State Second Division.

17. Tribute to the former president Angel Truño i Rusiñol.

18. In the 1980-81 season, La Salle Barcelona were promoted to the 1st Division of the State League. This could be called the last non-professional event of this league. The college team was more in favour of the American university concept than the professionalism of the category. This La Salle team comprised players from the different La Salle schools of Catalonia, and the key players of the elite season were: Collins, Puig, Blanco, Berruezo, Tramullas, Marsal, Sala, Martin, Rouco, Dosaula and Estrems, who were managed from the bench by Joan Rovira.

19. In women's basketball in the 1980-81 season, the First Division League went to the Comansi team of Maria Planas. CIBES Peter Pan attained promotion to the 1st Division under JM Gavaldà. The team comprised Chelo Martínez, Torrent, Ferré, M.Castillo, Mones,

Cati Martínez, Lidia and Gibert. Another Catalan club that gained promotion to the 1st Division was CD Hispano Francès, with Dolors Carbonell, Elena Blazquez, Silvia Tisaire, Teresa Obis and Merche Romero, among others, and which was led by Enric Prat.

20. During this period, all the territorial bodies significantly increased the number of registrations issued, thanks in part to the definitive incorporation of the smallest categories, Girona went from 1,055 to 2,678, Lleida from 519 to 1022 and Tarragona from 658 to 1318.

21. On 28 June 1982, after the ratification of the different territorial federations via their respective assemblies, their presidents requested the approval of the statutes of the new FCBQ. Their first meeting was on 27 October of the same year.

Presidents

Andreu Ponsirenas i Martorell, 1973-1979

Pere Sust i Sagau, 1979-1984

(Barcelona, 27 de novembre del 1941)

With a family background in the world of basketball, his father Pere Sust i Arimon was one of the pioneers of basketball in Catalonia, he started playing at the Maristes Sant Joan School in Barcelona. He later played for CE Laietà, with whom he won the Spanish Youth Championship and promotion to the first division. He also worked as a coach at Maristes Sant Joan and CE Sant Joan. Where made his greatest impact was as a sports leader; he was President of the FCBQ (1979-84), President of the FEB (1984-1991), he was also a member of FIBA I, on the Spanish Olympic Committee. He was part of the Organizing Committee of the Barcelona '92 Olympic Games. He was Secretary of Sports of the Catalan Government (1998-2000), a Patron of the Catalan Basketball Foundation, the President of the Catalan Association of Sports Managers, the Catalan Olympic Committee and the Catalan Sports Foundation.

Championships

THE CATALAN NATIONAL LEAGUE

The first event was held in 1980 and sponsored by the Banc Condal. It was played by teams from the Men's 1st Division using the league system, with a final played at the Palau d'Esport sports palace in Barcelona between FC Barcelona (the champions), and Cotonificio, from Badalona. The following season, the National League was

expanded to First Division Women's Teams and to the men's teams from the 1st B and Second Division. The competition adapted to the new environment of professional basketball and the emergence of new competitions. Appearing in the Catalan National League were the LEB, LEB2, EBA, LF2 and the LF Challenge, which were always held in accordance with the number of Catalan teams in each competition, and with the exception of the EBA League, it was generally disputed over a few days, and with a semi-final and a final. The Catalan ACB League, to use its current denomination, has been held 42 times since 1980, and the Catalan Women's League 33 times since 1981. The Catalan League LEB Or, has been held 22 times since 2000. The Catalan Women's 2nd League 18 times since 2003. The Catalan EBA League, which previously went under other names (1st Division B and Second Division) has, since 1981 been held on 40 occasions. The last competition to appear was the Women's Challenge League, which was disputed for the first time in 2021.

Facilities

THE CB GRANOLLERS PAVILION

The construction of the new CB Granollers Pavilion is a clear example of how basketball was becoming ever-more professional. The creation of the ACB meant that the pavilions required to hold the new competition would have to meet a series of conditions, not only in terms of spectator capacity, but also to cover media needs when broadcasting the games on radio and television. This factor made it unviable for the club to continue in the old municipal pavilion. The construction process began in December 1984, with the laying of the first stone, and the pavilion was finally inaugurated on 2 March 1986. Despite being a private initiative of CB Granollers, it still had the financial support of several public bodies. CB Granollers, after several changes, was unable to continue competing at a professional level and 1993 was the last year of the club in the ACB.

In the same period, in the early 1980s, other private and non-professional entities built covered pavilions in which to carry out all their activities. This was the case of Barcelona teams such as Jac Sants, SE Sant Medir, and towns, such as CB Olesa, CB Ripollet, and in Lleida the Maristes team, where the forerunner of the city team that reached the ACB played.

Clubs

PICADERO JC

This club was founded in 1951, and had different sports sections, although basketball was the most prominent. Its men's team played in the State First Division until the demise of the club in 1973. It won two King's Cup titles. The women's team dominated in two different periods. First in the 1950s, when it won seven Catalan Championships, and later in the 1970s and early 1980s. Under the Picadero name they won the cup in 1973. Despite the disappearance of the club, the women's team continued to compete under different names, PICEFF, EVAX, INTIMA and COMANSI, and they played in different facilities, the court of Sant Josep College in Hospitalet de Llobregat College, the Blau Grana 2 (formerly that of Picadero) court and even the Palau Blau Grana. Up until 1983 they had won five league and five cup titles, they were managed by Maria Planas and later by Neus Bertran, who had also been a player. Leading players from the scene such as Rosa Castillo, Carmen Fraile, Fina Garcia, Anna Junyer, Roser Llop, among others, passed through the team's ranks.

AD CATALUNYA LA CASERA

This Figueres team comprised a group of young players and was led by Rafel Mora, who marked an era in which players who were still young and officially at a junior age also played in senior competitions. The team won the Spanish Youth Champion title in Zamora in 1978, the following year it won the Junior Championship of Spain and also the Regional Catalan Championship, and it also won promotion to the Second Division. In 1980, they were once again Spanish Junior champions and State Second Division Champions and were in the promotional phase to the First Division, which was held in Coslada. The following season, in 1980-81 they played in the First Division as ADEPAF Figueres, and managed to retain their position. The key players were: Anna Junyer, Roser Llop, Maria Prats, A Corominas, Rosa Vilaboi, Ioa Cros, Pietat and Montserrat Pi, E. Brugada, C. Selleras, Neus Heras and Nana Puc. The following season, with the loss of Anna Junyer and Roser Llop, who had signed to Comansi de Barcelona, the team lost their category standing, although it was later recovered in the 1984-85 season, where it played under different names - Caixa Girona, Valvi among others - until the 1988-89 season.

LA SALLE BARCELONA

After the disappearance of the Salle Josepets team at the beginning of the 1970s, the team continued under the name Salle Barcelona.

The project was successful and they beat higher-category teams while reinforcing their rank with players from all the La Salle schools from the many areas of Catalonia, such as Freixenet (Manresa), Gainza and Davesa (Girona) among others. The team finally managed to move into the National League. This team was led by Joan Rovira and comprised: Collins, Puig, Blanco, Berruezo, Tramullas, Marsal, Sala, Martin, Rouco, Dosaula and Estrems. It disputed a competition with professional teams featuring players from overseas. The team that played its games on the indoor court of La Salle Bonanova was closer to the concept of American college basketball than to a professional mentality and it was the last experience of this type in the State First Division, which was soon to form its own competition with the creation of the Association of Basketball Clubs (ACB).

Key Figures

Players

ROSA CASTILLO ARAUJO

(Barcelona, 14 de febrer del 1956)

She began at a young age at the Penya Esportiva Montserrat (PEM) team in Guinardo. The team, headed by Maria Planas, managed to compete in the first women's division in the 1973-74 season, however ensuing financial infeasibility meant that the team did not play during the following season. She signed for the women's Picadero team, where she played until 1984 under the different the names of several company sponsors, PICEFF, EVAX, INTIMA, and COMANSI. During the 1984-85 season, after the merger of her team with the El Masnou side, she played in the league with Natural Cusi Masnou. Between 1984 and 1989 she played for CB Cantaires, from Tortosa, in the 1989-90 season she returned to Masnou, and after recovering from a serious injury, she joined Dorna Godella in the 1991-92 season. She was Cup Champion on 11 occasions and the same number of times in the league. She was also European Champion with Dorna Godella. She was named best player by her teammates in 1975, and in the 1979-80 season. She was an international with the senior national side on 113 occasions, and played in six Eurobasket events. A knee injury prevented her from continuing to play, although she still played several games in the 1992-93 season with CN Reus Ploms.

JOSEP MARIA MARGALL TAULER

(Calella, 17 de març del 1955)

He started playing basketball in Malgrat de Mar, like his brothers Enric and Narcís. He went to play for Joventut de Badalona, where

all three were in the first team in their debut season of 1972-73. Popularly known as "*Matraco*", he stood out for his wrist work and his excellent shooting. He played with the Badalona team for 19 seasons, until 1990. He was Cup Champion in 1976 and League Champion in 1978. On two occasions he won the title of the Prince of Asturias Cup (1987-1989) and the Korac Cup (1981 and 1990). He later played one season at Valvi Girona and two at Festina, before leaving the sport in 1993. He was an international with the Spanish National Team on 188 occasions, he also played with the Junior (27) and Youth (9) teams. He was Junior European Sub-champion in 1974. He won the Senior silver medal in the Eurobasket contest in Nantes 1983, as well as in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles 1984.

IGNACIO 'NACHO' SOLOZÁBAL IGARTUA

(Barcelona, 8 de gener del 1958)

He began playing basketball at the Barcelona school, Els Maristes of Sant Joan. The lower categories of FC Barcelona were to be his destiny, and in 1975 he had already played with the first team of FC Barcelona. He was their point guard until 1992. He was noteworthy for his mastery of play and his assists, he also ran the counterattack and finished with an excellent left hand. He was Cup Champion on nine occasions and League Champion on six. He also won the European title of Korac Champion in 1987, the Recopa in 1985 and 1986, and the Club World Cup in 1985. He was an international with Spain in the Youth and Junior categories, with the Seniors he played 142 games and won the silver medal in the 1983 Nantes Eurobasket and in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Coaches

MARIA PLANAS MONGE

(Barcelona, 12 de juliol del 1936)

She started playing basketball in the Guinardó neighborhood of Barcelona. At the beginning of the 1950s, she competed in the Catalan Women's Championship as an INSO player. Later she began coaching at her former club, Penya Esportiva Montserrat (PEM). She led the club's senior women's team, in which the sisters Mercedes and Rosa Castillo were noteworthy, and which reached the National League in the 1973-74 season. She later he coached the Picadero team in the 1977-78 under the name of Intima, and with them came three league and three cup championships. She later managed CB Hospitalet, and CB Cantaires, from Tortosa between 1986 and 1989, again winning three leagues and three more cups. She finally managed the El Masnou Basketball team,

with which she also won the League. She was the Spanish team coach between 1979 and 1984.

RAFAEL MORA I LÓPEZ

(Sant Cugat del Vallès, 6 de març del 1938 - 3 de gener del 1994)

As a player he spent most of his career at Grifeu Llança, where at the start of the 1959-60 season, he quickly became a coach. He stayed with the team until 1972. He also excelled as a teacher at the La Salle School in Figueres. He later took a group of young players from this city who went on to win the Spanish Youth and Junior Champions in 1978. They were promoted from the Regional Championships to the Spanish First Division, first under the name AD Catalunya la Casera, and then as ADEPAF Figueres. He led with the team with an iron will, his side being known for the quality of their game, their physical superiority and their intensity throughout each match. He continued to be linked to Adepaf Figueres until the 1987-88 season. The following season he played 13 games at CB Girona SAD, otherwise known as Valvi Girona, in the ACB. He was also state selector in lower women's categories.

ALEJANDRO 'AÍTO' GARCÍA RENESES

(Madrid, 20 de desembre del 1946)

As a player he trained at the team Estudiantes de Madrid, where he played until 1968, when he signed for FC Barcelona, playing for the latter until 1973. He was renowned as a coach, as while already a player he had begun coaching Esparraguera in 1972. He then spent the 1973-74 season at Círcol Catòlic Badalona (later CB Cotonificio) until 1983. His work at the Badalona club was decisive, and he managed to ensure their position as one of the stars of the First Division. They reached the finals of the Catalan First League and also at European competition levels. This was a team recognized for its defensive intensity and physical effort. He was one of the first coaches to apply player rotation. From El Cotonificio he went on to manage La Peña, between 1983 and 1985. He subsequently signed for FC Barcelona, where he was to stay until 2001, with a one-year gap during which he worked as Technical Manager. With FC Barcelona, he won 9 Leagues, 4 King's Cups a Prince of Asturias Cup, a 'Recopa' and two Korac Cups. In 2003 he returned to Badalona to manage Club Joventut de Badalona until 2008, winning a King's Cup, a FIBA Eurocup and an ULEB. He managed other teams, such as CB Malaga, CB Sevilla, Gran Canaria and Alba Berlin and Basquet Girona after 2022. He was also a state coach in lower categories and led Spain to the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008, where they won the silver medal.

Àrbitres

VICENÇ SANCHÍS I ROSIQUE

He was a player in the teams CB San Fernando Hospitalet, CB Santfeliuenc, CB L'Hospitalet and Santiago Apostol. He also worked as a coach in the promotion categories of the Sant Ramon Nonat School. In 1976 he joined the Catalan Professional Association of Referees, and four years later he was refereeing first division matches as an assistant, and from 1982 as a head referee. He was an international referee from 1984 until his retirement in the 1997-98 season as a referee on the Galician committee. As an international he arbitrated in all kinds of events; European Championships, World Cups, the Olympic Games and matches in international club competitions of many kinds. After his retirement, he was appointed FEB coach, and he also worked as a FIBA referee instructor.

Registrations

Registrations 1978: 7.592

Registrations 1982: 20.562

9

The FCBQ.

Modernisation & expansion.

1983 - 1999.

From a unified federation, a process was to be initiated with the aim of professionalizing and modernizing its structures. The main point was to be the differentiation between management and executive bodies. The creation of an executive management that would lead the numerous federation departments, which were also headed by professionals sought for improvement in all areas of the FCBQ. These improvements included the Competitions Department, with the transformation of these events in accordance with the needs of the clubs, for example the expansion and confirmation of the fourth division categories in the promotion competitions and the subsequent creation of competitions by levels, as well as the creation of new categories with the Under-23s and others. Improvements were also implemented in the Technical Department, with the creation of technical programmes for both men and women. With respect to women, there were two different levels: the high-tech category, known as Century 21, and another that focused on the rest of the clubs and players. While in the men's case, a follow-up programme was created with the aim of monitoring and training players for the Catalan promotion teams who were later to dispute the championships in Spain. In the Promotion Department a group dedicated exclusively to the promotion of Basketball Schools throughout Catalonia was created, which provided information and material, while training coaches and basketball school managers. In this regard the FCBQ also made progress in the area of training courses for coaches. In the administrative area, new technology was adopted in order to bring the federation closer to the clubs, especially those further away from the numerous headquarters.

At the same time, it expanded its field of action through different campaigns, the first of which was named "Basketball in the Street", and thanks to which baskets were put up in many towns throughout Catalonia, and thousands of balls were handed out. The "Basketball in Prisons" campaign was also pushed ahead, with the corresponding authorities, and which culminated with the creation of a basketball team in Barcelona's Model penitentiary, CB Llibertat. In 1992, the Catalan Basketball Foundation was created with the aim of perpetuating what now forms and still remains part of Catalan basketball history, preserving its heritage and encouraging and promoting it in all aspects: be they historical, cultural, sociological or legal, as well as in sport. It also made a marked effort at its 75th anniversary celebration. Between 1997

and 1998, both Eurobasket '97 and the Final Four of the European League (in 1998) were organized and accompanied by other cultural events.

The overwhelming success of basketball from the mid-1980s increased the number of registrations significantly, especially in the women's field. This fact was seen on Catalan competition scene which experienced an increase in the number of participants thanks to the creation of new clubs. However, always in accordance with competitions at a state level. The creation of the ACB; a fully professional competition, forced the clubs to create the SAE sporting bodies organisation, and maintain a structure of lower categories outside of the ACB. With the arrival of the last decade of the 20th century, the FEB created new competitions; the Spanish Amateur Basketball League (EBA) and later, the Spanish Basketball League (LEB). Below this was the Inter-regional Championship of the 1st division, which since 1999 in Catalonia has been known as the Catalonia Cup, and it is the highest regional category.

The FCBQ made a very important qualitative and quantitative leap at all levels: players, coaches, referees and also in administrative terms, with the expansion of its headquarters and the increase in workers. The budget went from some 65.5 million pesetas in 1984 to almost 672 million in 1999.

Events

- 1.** The First Catalan Basket Meet was held in 1983.
- 2.** The 1st International City of Barcelona Basketball Tournament was held in early September 1983.
- 3.** The "Street Basketball" campaign was officially launched on 16 March 1985.
- 4.** Between June and September the World Club Championship was held, it was organized by FC Barcelona with the cooperation of the FCBQ.
- 5.** The 1986 Mundobasket'86 Semi-final Phase was held in Barcelona.
- 6.** In 1987 the 25th Mini-basketball Anniversary was held.
- 7.** The Barcelona City Tournament Christmas 1987 game was held between Catalonia and Yugoslavia.

8. The CB Llibertat team from Barcelona's 'Model' prison played outside the prison confines for the first time, in Olesa, in March 1988.

9. On 23 and 27 May 1990 the regional branch of Girona organized the 12th Women's Spanish Youth Championship. The final victory was for the GEiEG and the local player Meritxel Buil was the tournament's top scorer.

10. In 1990 the Microbank Masnou was the Women's League and Cup Champion. In the regular league, the first place went to the BEX Women's Team, which comprised players who were training for the Barcelona Olympics and which did not qualify for the play offs for the title.

11. In the summer of 1990 the first Andres Jiménez Campus was held, it was aimed at boys and girls whose families had economic problems.

12. On 10 and 11 April, the final of the European Women's Cup was played at the Palau Blaugrana.

13. On 24 May 1992, the Catalan Men's Team played a match against the Croatian team in Badalona. It was the second match played by the Croatian national team in its history. The profits from this match went to help the creation of the Catalan Basketball Foundation.

14. On 8 December 1992, the Catalan Basketball Foundation was officially established.

15. The FCBQ programmed a pilot test of 3x3 competitions for the first time during the first quarters of 1993. Later, in April 1993, it approved the project of organizing 3x3 championships.

16. Women's basketball began to stand out again at a club level with the promotion to the Women's League of CE Universitari. The ACES Hospitalet later also competed in this competition.

17. April 1994 Joventut de Badalona became the Euroleague Champion.

18. Between 31 July and 8 August 1995, the 1st Basketball Coaches Forum was held in Vic. The main purpose of this event was to introduce base coaches to a training programme based on the age of the players.

19. In 1996, TDK Manresa were the winners of the King's Cup. They later went on to win the ACB League in the 1997-98 season.

20. On June 24 1997, the opening ceremony of Eurobasket '97 was held at the Olympic pavilion in Badalona, featuring a performance by the Els Comedians theatre group. Major events relating to the Eurobasket event were; the Euro Jamboree Pasarelle '97, the International Legal Colloquium, the International Basketball Medicine Congress, the 1st International Competition of Basketball in Creative Arts, Basquetfoto'97, Filabasquet'97, the cinematic festival "Basketball in Cinema" and numerous international clinics. Between 21 and 23 April, the FCBQ organized the final four of the FIBA Euroleague.

21. In the 1998-99 season the women's team of Santa Rosa de Lima managed to advance in the Women's league. It was also the last year of the historic Hispano Francès team, which did not compete the following season.

22. La temporada 1998-99 l'equip femení del Santa Rosa de Lima aconsegueix ascendir a Lliga Femenina. També va ser l'últim any de l'històric Hispano Francès, que la temporada següent ja no va disputar competicions.

23. On 12 June 1999, the FCBQ introduced 'Minibasket Day' in Catalonia.

24. 23. The lower category Catalan teams (*Cadet, Infantil and Mini*) were the great dominators of the Spanish Regional Team Championships. Between 1986 and 1999 they won 54 of the championships they played (84 in total), the women's teams that won most of these titles stood out, doing the good work promoted by the FCBQ in 1987 through the Women's Modernisation Programme.

Presidents

Pere Sust i Sagau, 1979-1984

Enric Piquet i Miquel, 1986 -2010

(Barcelona, 24 d'abril del 1928 - 11 d'abril del 2021)

He began playing basketball after being influenced by his older brother, an athlete who was involved in several sports at the Industrial School. They try to create their own team of young players, but they were unable to do so, and they offer their talents to both UE de Sants and FC Barcelona due to the proximity of these clubs to the family home. At the age of 14, he started working for

the company Hijos de Francisco Sans, which had a basketball team that played in the Education and Leisure competitions. Matches and training sessions were held at the CE Laietà field. A year later, when he stopped working at Hijos de Francisco Sans, he joined CE Laietà. In 1946, CE Laietà requested a leave of absence from playing in FCBQ competitions due to a lack of players, as many had left for other clubs. Enric Piquet played this year with the Riegos y Fuerzas del Ebro team in the Education and Leisure League. The following year he competed with the Laietà teams until 1958. While he was playing, he also joined the Board of Directors of the club, where he worked until he was appointed President of the FCBQ. He was at the head of the FCBQ for the first time in the 1973-74 season. He was later appointed Vice-President of the FCBQ, and as such replaced Pere Sust when the latter won the FEB elections. He was re-elected president from 1986 to 2010, his term coinciding with the modernisation of the FCBQ and the boom in Catalan basketball. The creation of the Basketball Schools was promoted under his mandate, the introduction of basketball throughout Catalonia, the implementation of different technical programmes for the improvement of players, the creation of the Catalan Basketball Foundation and the construction of a new headquarters for the FCBQ. He was also president of the UFEC. Notable among many awards was that of Catalan society's highest honour, the Saint George's Cross, as well the Olympic Order.

Championships

THE CATALAN CUP

The FCBQ, which was the federation responsible for the competition of the 1st Inter- regional Division at a state level. The Catalan Champions of this contest went on to compete in a promotion phase in the EBA League and in the 2nd Women's League. In the 1999-2000 season the FCBQ changed the name of the championship to the Catalonia Cup, making this the highest-level competition organized by the FCBQ. This is a competition for both men and women that continues to be contested today. After a regular phase, the champions are chosen in a final event. The champion teams in the women's field are names of reference in Catalan basketball with CB Olesa, CB Valls, Sant Adrià Femení, Reus Deporti, Santa Rosa Lima Hora, Joventut les Corts and O Viladecans BF among others, the same being true for men; CB Cornellà CB Vic CB Granollers, CB Mollet, BC Andorra among others, have all played. Since 2017, the All Star contest has been disputed in both categories, (it was only interrupted during the pandemic) with the aim of promoting the Catalan Cup, thanks to the participatory agreement between the FCBQ and the local broadcasting network.

THE MUNDIALET PASSERELLE 1986

This competition was organised by the Catalan Government's General Directorate of Sport and the FCBQ, as part of the Mundobasket'86 event in Spain. The aim was to promote an initiative called "Operation Passerelle" that allowed those players who left mini-basketball to continue. The competition took place between 21 June and 3 July 1986 and featured international selections from the regional communities and counties of Catalonia, there were 32 men's and 16 women's competitions. It was disputed in different phases, with preliminaries, semi-finals and finals in different venues throughout Catalonia. In the men's category the champion was the North American team, and at the women's level the Catalan team, led by Josep Bordas and comprising the following players: Elisabeth Cebrian, E. Alujas, G. Calderón, C. Gonzalez, C. Caspa, M. Planas, ML. Bisetti, M. Erra, A. Martin and P. Monje.

THE EURO JAMBOREE 1997

This competition was organized on the occasion of Eurobasket '97. Five players and a coach participated from each of the 50 European federations affiliated to FIBA and from the 19 Autonomous Communities of the Spanish State. FIBA wanted to use the celebration of the Jamboree to disseminate the Passerelle regulation used to regulate the contested matches throughout Europe. The competition took place at the Alt Redimit Center (CAR) in Sant Cugat del Vallès between 23 June and 7 July. The sports director of this jamboree was former player Nacho Solozabal. Apart from friendly matches, the programme (in which the teams were formed with players of different nationalities to encourage coexistence) also included training sessions and other types of events and cultural visits.

Facilities

THE NOU CONGOST PAVILLION

This facility was built to comply with ACB regulations and it replaced the previous Congost venue that had hosted CD Manresa's matches since 1968. The final investment came to 670 million pesetas and construction began in October 1990. The building has a modern design, however it is very functional and has a capacity for 5,000 spectators, the minimum required by the ACB. It was officially inaugurated on 11 September 1992 for the finals of the 13th Catalan League contest. Although the preliminary matches of the same competition had already been played on 6 September for the

quarter-finals of the same competition between Valvi and Andorra (the first match played) and TDK Manresa against BFI Granollers. It bore witness to the club's greatest historical feat on 4 June 1998 when, in the 4th game of the play off, CD Manresa defeated Tau de Vitorià by 77-75 and won the ACB League championship for the 1997-98 season.

THE FONTAJAU PAVILLION

This venue opened on 4 September 1993 to some 5,500 spectators and with the appearance of Moses Malone in the opening events, making the "Zero" basket shot in the first game; a friendly game between Valvi Griona and Paok de Salonika. Over the 29 years of its history the pavilion witnessed the Girona SAE Basketball matches until the team's demise, and with historic events such as the FIBA Eurocup title (won by Akasvayu Girona in 2007), the creation and development of the Uni Girona team, and the recovery of ACB basketball with Marc Gasol's team, Bàsquet Girona.

THE SERRALLO PAVILLION

The construction of this municipal facility began in early 1994 with a final investment of 300 million pesetas. It has an area of 2,000 square metres and a capacity for 1,600 spectators which can be extended to 2,000 with retractable stand seats. It was officially inaugurated on 31 August 1995, and the following day it hosted the Catalan League match between CB Tarragona and Valvi Girona, and on 3 September, the final between Joventut and FC Barcelona. Today it is the home venue of CB Tarragona and it has been witness to the most relevant events in the history of the club and its participation in the LEB OR.

THE ELEVENTH OF SEPTEMBER PAVILION

This building was constructed in 1986. It was the headquarters of the team CE Lleida Esportiu Basketball from its creation in 1997, and from where it passed through the EBA and LEB categories until its promotion to the ACB league. The rules of this last competition however meant that they had to play ACB games in another pavilion.

THE BADALONA OLYMPIC PAVILLION

This municipal facility was built to hold the basketball events at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, where the final between the USA "dream team" and the Croatian national team was played. It was inaugurated on 19 September 1991, and since then it has been the home venue of the Badalona Youth Club. With a capacity of 12,000 spectators per month, matches from all competitions, League

ACB, ULEB Cup, FIBA Eurocup and Catalan Leagues have all been played there. It was also the venue of the King's Cup for the first time in 2023.

Clubs

CE LLEIDA BASQUETBOL

The story of this club began in the 1993-94 season, when the Maristes Montserrat Sports Club of Lleida put together a formidable squad and reached the 1st Category Championship of Catalonia and promotion to the second division, the team continued until the 1996-97 season but without achieving promotion. In the summer of 1997 the CE Lleida Basketball team was created, and an agreement was reached with the Manresa SAE Basketball and its Executive President Valentí Junyent and CE Lleida Basketball took the place of La Unió Manresana, with a series of players loaned by Manresa. The team led by Pere Romero comprised; Benedé, Ariño, Montáñez, Bordas, Aranda, Bernadó, Salesa, Momotiuk, Lou, Montas, Álvaro Martínez, Amtat and Mesa, and they changed the from the Marista School venue to the court of Eleventh of September Pavillion. In the 1999-2000 season the club obtained a new sponsor, the supermarket chain Caprabo, and the FEB awarded it one of the two new places that had been created in the LEB League. In the first season, the team was completely renewed, with new coach Edu Torres and nine players, with the brothers Sergi and Roger Grimau, Jaume Comas and Albert Oliver. In its first season in the LEB, the team lost the semi-final of the play off and finished third in the competition. The following season was historic, and the club finished first in the LEB League by defeating Minorisa Manresa in the final play off and CB Granada in the final, while gaining promotion to the ACB league, in which would play four seasons (in 2001-02 in 2004-05) It later played in the LEB League between 2005 and 2009 for one more season in the EBA and from 2010 to 2012 when the club disappeared due to financial problems. In 2012 it attained two Catalan League ACB Championships and three LEB Championships and participated in European competitions for two years.

CB TARRAGONA

The club was created in September 1978, when a group of players and the coach of Gimnàstic disagreed with decisions taken by the club's management. The first of its presidents was Pere Ferrer, who was also a young player of 23 at the time. In the 1978-79 season the club competed in the third division and played its matches in the youth pavilion. The club, which in the 1980-81 season played in

the first Catalan category, gradually began to incorporate teams to play in lower categories, as well as a women's team. Their first success was promotion to the 2nd Division in the 1987-88 season. In the 1990s the club opted to grow, with outside fixtures, and it obtained important sponsors such as the multinational company DOW. In the 1990-91 season it contested a promotion phase to first B in Cáceres. One young player, Berni Alvarez, was gaining prominence in the team. The following season signed to Gandia. In 1992, the Youth pavilion required renovation to align with First B regulations requirements and an American, Mitch Smith was signed. With the emergence of the EBA League, the club joined the category, and from 1995 it played its games in the new Serrallo stadium. Despite making a great effort to professionalize the team, it failed to rise in the ranks. In the 2000-01 season, in the new LEB2 competition, it was the leader in the regular phase and lost the play-off final against CB Cornellà. Finally, in the 2002-03 season, the club reached the LEB, (currently known as the Oro) and throughout the first decade of the 20th century it competed between this league and the LEB Silver. It was to fall back in the next decade and remained between the LEB Silver and the EBA leagues.

CB CANTAIREs TORTOSA

This women's team was formed in 1968, with players such as Montserrat Montanyà and Pili Monclús, their first successes came in the early 1980s when they won the Provincial Championship. Under the presidency of Jordi Angelats the team soon moved ahead. In the 1984-85 season, the club competed in the 1st Division B league and finally achieved promotion to the first division in a final stage played in Tortosa. In the team led by Xavier Tubau, players were signed from outside Tortosa, such as Carmen Fraile, Alicia Barragan and others. The team always trained in Barcelona and only travelled to Tortosa to play, an event that was to continue until it left the first division. The club made a commitment to reach out beyond the local area, and for several years it comprised of no more than the senior women's team, with players and coaches who were either foreigners or from outside the town. This strategy of external recruitment to the ranks led to positive results on the sports field between 1986 and 1989, when they won three State Leagues and four Queen's Cups. However in the end the team was economically unviable, despite their immense public support in Tortosa and their sponsors, such as Sabor d'abans and Caixa Tarragona. In the 1990-91 season the team played its last season in the first division. In 1991-92 the club returned to its origins and started from scratch in the last category of the Catalan championship.

CLUB BÀSQUET FEMENÍ DE BARCELONA (UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA)

The club was created, in the 1986-87 season after taking on many of the players from the lower teams of CB L'Hospitalet who had shut down their women's teams. A group of parents chose to create a new team that went on to play at the University of Barcelona facilities thanks to parental connections with the institution. The club debuted with teams in three categories; Senior, Junior and Youth. The first was made up of the same junior players and by some of the players' mothers, who sat on the bench, but who never played. The senior side was champion of the Second Category of the Catalan Championship, and without losing a single game. The same players were Junior Champions of Catalonia and they came in fourth place in the Spanish Championship. The juniors won the Catalan Championship, and were 5th in the Spanish Championship. It was the successful start of a history of 21 seasons, until 2006, when, for financial reasons, the club disappeared. The club that had played under several denominations, and passed through different pavilions (Joventut Les Corts, Guinardó and the Blaugrana Palace 2), was champion of the Women's League in the 2002-03 and 2004-05 seasons and of the Spanish Super Cup in 2005. They were also champions of the Catalan League on seven occasions. In lower categories they were five times Spanish Junior champions, and three times Cadet and Infant Champions, as well as Champions of Catalonia, and on various occasions, in all three categories. It is not surprising that later, players such as Sandra Gallego, Laia Palau, Nuria Martínez, Mata Fernandez, and coaches such as Josep Lluís Rios, Miguel López Abril, Carme Lluveras and Silvia Font ended up playing in the organisation's first team.

Key Figures

Players

ANNA JUNYER GENOVER

(Figueres, 4 de juliol del 1963)

Although she also played other sports such as tennis, Rafael Mora finally convinced her to play basketball with the AD Catalunya La Casera team, with whom she was proclaimed Spanish Youth and Junior champion. At the same time the side also played in the Senior Competition, gaining promotion in the early 1980s to the First Women's Division under the name ADEPAF Figueres. After a year in the first division she signed for Picadero de Barcelona, where she played until 1985, when the team was located in El Masnou. She later played for CB Cantaires de Tortosa for four

seasons, and subsequently for Dorna Godella, a team with which she won two European Cups. Her record includes participation in 8 Spanish Leagues, 8 Cup Leagues and 9 Catalan Leagues. As an international player in several different categories with the senior team, she played 139 games. As she did not want to participate in the FEB project with the BEX team to prepare for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, she was unable to compete. She later worked as a coach at different clubs, CE Universitari, CB Montcada and RC Celta. She later joined the FEB technical squad, and is currently the coach of the women's 3 x 3 team.

ELISABETH 'BETTY' CEBRIÁN SCHEURER

(Reus, 6 de febrer del 1971)

She arrived from CB l'Hospitalet to the 21st century project that began in Manresa, at the Badia Solé School under the supervision of Francesc de Puig. She then played at CB Cantaires de Tortosa (Raventos Catusus). She later joined the Banco Exterior d'Espanya (BEX) Women's Team, which was created to prepare a generation of players for the Barcelona Olympics. The team competed in the First Division Women's League, but did not have a run at the title until 1992. She then went on to continue her career at CB Godella Costa Naranja, CE Universitari (UB FC BCN) in different periods, as well as at Celta Banco Simeon and the Estudiantes team. She also participated in the WNBA with the New York Liberty team in 1998. She won a Queen's Cup with the BEC and four state leagues with Costa Naranja Godella, RC Celta Banco Simeon and the UB FC BCN team. She was an international player 252 times with the Spanish national team, winning the gold medal at the Eurobasket in 1993 and the bronze medal in 2001 and 2003. She was the first president of the Association of Basketball Players (AJUB) between the years 2000 and 2006.

JUAN ANTONIO SAN EPIFANIO RUIZ, 'EPI'

(Saragossa, 12 de juny del 1959)

He entered Barcelona thanks to the signing of his brother Herminio with the FC Barcelona first team. He joined the club's youth team in the 1974-75 season and did not leave until his retirement in 1995, in the last match of the final against Unicaja, in which he played for 26 seconds and scored the last two points on two free shots. During his career he became one of the best European basketball players of his time. Hardworking and intense, he was a safe bet that his teammates could rely on in difficult times. He was a League Champion 7 times, and played 10 times in the King's Cup, 7 times in the Catalan League, once time at the Super Cup of Spain and the Prince of Asturias Cup, 2 times at the European Cup, once at the Korac Cup, once at a World Cup and once at the European

Super Cup. He was a Senior International on 239 occasions with Spain, he won the silver medal at the 1983 Eurobasket event and the silver medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games and a bronze medal at the 1991 Eurobasket event.

JOAN 'CHICHI' CREUS MOLIST

(Ripollet, 24 de novembre del 1956)

Basketball was a tradition at home, as his father, Jaume Creus, had been a player for CB Ripollet, Carol de Sabadell and CB Uralita, among others, and had even played in games with the Catalan national team. Joan started playing at Escola Sant Gabriel de Ripollet before moving to his local team, CB Ripollet, where he made his debut at the age of 17 in the first team in the second division. In the 1975-76 season, he signed for CB L'Hospitalet, who played in the state's top division, and he stayed there until 1999, when he retired at TDK Manresa. In his career were 24 seasons in which he demonstrated his intelligence and quality in game management, winning two leagues and three King's Cups as well as being the player with the most minutes logged in the history of the ACB. He played 28 matches with the Spanish National Team between 1983 and 1988, winning a silver medal at the 1983 Eurobasket event. He was later a coach of the FEB with the national team and from 2008 to 2016 he was the Technical Director of FC Barcelona.

JORDI VILLACAMPA AMORÓS

(Reus, 11 d'octubre del 1963)

He lived in Badalona from an early age and he began to play basketball at the local Salesian school. He received a call from Barcelona to participate in a try-out session with the club while he was still playing in the children's category. Although afterwards he signed with Joventut, his local team, which saved him a long trip to Barcelona. He made his debut in 1980, not yet having turned seventeen, with the first team of La Peña, under Manel Comas, who wanted him as a playmaker. This was fundamental to improve his ball control and dribbling, and other aspects. These skills would end up confirming him as one of the best guards ever in Catalan and national basketball. He played for 17 years (until 1997) at La Peña, and during those years he won 2 ACB Leagues, a King's Cup, 2 Spanish Super Cups, 2 Korac Cups and the 1994 European Cup. He was capped 158 times as a senior player with Spain and won a bronze medal in the 1991 European Championship in Rome. He also holds the Spanish national team record for scoring in a match, with 48 points, in the 1990 World Cup in Argentina against Venezuela. After his retirement, he was the President of La Peña between 1999 and 2017.

Coaches

MANEL COMAS I HORTET

(Tiana, 29 de novembre del 1945 - Barcelona, 17 juny del 2013)

He began training at Basket Badalona, where he was also a player in the early 1970s. Later he was second coach to Aito Garcia Reneses at Badalona's Círcol Catòlic between 1977 and 1979. In the 1979-80 season he made his debut as first coach in the National League, with CB Mollet and from there, and almost without a break, he coached Club Joventut Badalona (1980-82), Cotonificio-Licor 43 Sta Coloma (1983-85), CB Zaragoza in two different stages: 1985-87 and 1990-92, he coached CB Granollers (1987-90), Caceres (1992-93), Baskonia (1993-97), FC Barcelona in 1997, and Caceres again (1997-98), Basquet Manresa (1999-2000), once again in Badalona, with La Penya (2000-2003), CB Valladolid (2003-2004). CB Murcia (2005) and Real Betis Basketball (2005-09). He won the Korac Cup with Joventut in 1981 and the King's Cup in 1995 with Baskonia, as well as the Recopa in 1996. He was also a coach at the FEB, at the head of the Spanish Junior Team.

RAMON JORDANA I DOT

(Torelló, 9 de setembre del 1953)

A trainer since 1983 in the women's promotion teams of CB Torelló, he was champion of Spain and Catalonia Cadet in the 1987-88 season. From 1990-91 he moved on to the 21st Century qualified training programme, where he worked as a coach and manager between 1990 and 2013, managing hundreds of players who were fundamental in the development and success of women's basketball. He also led the Junior Spanish team, with whom he achieved different successes. He began the 2013-14 season as the coach of Spar City Girona, but he submitted his resignation before finishing the season.

CARME LLUVERAS I PUIG

(L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, 19 de setembre del 1969)

She was a basketball player for CD Hispano Francés and CB Cibes. From 1980 she began to train CB Hospitalet teams, first in the junior category and later in the Senior category. In 1984, she joined the Comansi Masnou coaching team and was the first coach of the El Masnou team for three seasons (she won a cup and a league title), she later she directed CB Dorna Godella, AD Vigo, CN Reus Ploms and Basquet Draft Gramenet. In 1995 she went on to manage the AE Hospitalet men's team, which later became CB Aracena, and she raised it from the Catalan Championship League to EBA level. In 2000 she returned to lead the women's

CE Universitari, University of Barcelona team until 2004, and with which she won the Spanish League and three Catalan leagues. She was subsequently a volunteer assistant at Unicaja Malaga and the General Manager at Ros Caseres between 2006 and 2012.

Referees

JOAN CARLES MITJANA LECHUGA

(Barcelona, 15 de juny del 1961)

As a player, he began at CD Sant Joan de Barcelona and also worked as a coach in training categories at Sant Ramon Nonat, the Pare Manyanet and the Esportiu Sant Joan schools. He began his career as a referee in the 1977-78 season. From 1984 to 2012 arbitrated in the ACB, at over eight hundred matches. He was an FIBA referee from 1985 onwards, making his debut in the Danish School Championship. He led matches in all types of international competitions for clubs and national teams; the World Championships, the European Championships, the Olympic Games (he refereed in the Women's Olympic Final at Barcelona'92). He was later the director of the Catalan Referee Committee and the Coordinator of FIBA Referee Programmes.

Registrations

Non data for 1984.

1987: 59.093

1999: 54.610

10 **The FCBQ in the 21st Century**

The FCBQ now had a stabilized, competitive structure that adapted to the needs of the clubs. It now began to look for new paths for its own growth and that of basketball in Catalonia. In terms of sport, the regions of Lleida and Tarragona finally managed to attain a fully-established, and expanding promotion competition, one that was favoured by the sporting achievements of the region's professional teams, which in the case of Lleida, reached ACB level. Girona was also to experience significant growth also at the level of clubs, teams and registrations, and with a professional team as a point of reference, as a constant, whether male or female. Despite this, the FCBQ would continue to insist on basketball reaching out to all regions in the territory, and was to launch the "Basketball Everywhere" campaign with the aim of bringing basketball closer to the towns and neighbourhoods where the sport was still absent. The registration situation went from 54,610 registrations in 2000, to 78047 in the 2021-22 season and with a record for women of 27,351. These figures were consolidated the following season with a record number of teams registered in federal competitions, with over 5,000 games and 2,200 games at weekends. The new FCBQ projects sought to expand services to its members. It entered the field of projects, with the investment, construction and management of sports facilities with a dual aim: to hold facilities for basketball and to ensure an economic performance that would result in both the promotion of basketball and especially in the funding of training through basketball schools. This initiative was even to lead to the creation of a series of companies that provided services in the creation and the maintenance and management of sports facilities. The result was that the FCBQ was able to build and inaugurate its new headquarters, in June 2005, the heritage of all its associates. The economic crisis that began in 2008 slowed down the process, and meant that some of these initiatives had to be abandoned. As of 2010, the FCBQ began with a clear line of work that focused on the application of new technology. This ranged from the creation of a new website, with different sections that facilitated the administrative tasks of the clubs, to the contribution of different tools for their management, and the use of social networks: Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram Flickr and Vimeo. These new technological innovations were also applied to the numerous committees, such as the Referee Committee, with a virtual classroom. Other innovations were made available to the clubs and the agents, with training and educational material and the chance to take training sessions online. At the same time, the FCBQ was also to incorporate service projects, such as the

BQVolunteers, who too part events of all kinds, BQSolidarity, where the FCBQ was to support clubs and organisations in projects to help sports for children in developing countries, while BQHealth was created to reduce accidents among athletes and prevent injuries.

Finally the FCBQ not only sought to confirm all this work, but also the way in which it was to be expanded in the future so that basketball could develop even more. This is why it created a “Strategic Action Plan” Project for 2018-2023. This initiative has ensured that a whole series of measures aimed at improving basketball continued to expand, from the implementation of the Digital Act to the creation of a new application that allows viewers to follow games live and access a whole series of services for the clubs Collaboration with the Xarxa media company facilitated the rebroadcasting of Catalan competitions both on TV and streaming. The “Demand Change” campaign which was launched to give women greater visibility, and which has already carried out several activities, among others, the Mentorship Program for coaches and the promotion of the history of women’s basketball. Other actions have included BQValour, BQVeterans and Group Debate. In short, in 2022 the FBQC is now a benchmark as a sporting federation both in the sports organization and in the field of technology.

Events

1. In 2000, the first-ever City of Basketball contest was held in Lleida. This event was created by the Catalan Basketball Foundation, which nominates a town in Catalonia where sporting, social and cultural activities and events related to basketball are held throughout the year. After Lleida the host towns have been: Girona, Mataró, Tarragona, L’Hospitalet de Llobregat, Badalona, Manresa, Castellar del Vallès, Sitges, Blanes, Tortosa, Vic, Terrassa, Castelldefels, La Seu d’Urgell, Granollers, Sant Fruitós del Bages, Sant Cugat del Vallès, Calella, Reus, Balaguer and Banyoles.

2. On 27 June 2002 at the Palau Sant Jordi venue in Barcelona, a double clash between Catalonia and Croatia was held for the men’s and women’s senior teams. In both games, victory went to Catalonia. The attendance record for a basketball game in Spain was broken, with 16,471 spectators. The men’s team was led by Buscató and featured; R. Grimau, O. Junyent, J. Comes, R. Esteller, E. Moraga, R. López, A. Mumbrú and Pau Gasol. In the women’s team, which was headed by Ramon Jordana, the key players were; L. Antoja, M. Fernandez, M. Xantal, L. Camps, L. Pascua, N. Jordana, S. Gallego, L. Palau, C. Lima, I. Pons.

3. In 2003, FC Barcelona won its first Euroleague Championship, the second came in 2010. Other Catalan teams that also won titles were Club Joventut de Badalona, which was the Champion of the FIBA Eurochallenge 2006 and the 2008 UKEB Cup, and Akasvayu Griona, the Champion of the FIBA Eurochallenge in 2007.

4. On 21 June 2004, a double clash in both the men's and women's Catalan team against Lithuania took place at the Palau Blaugrana, ending in victory for the men's team and defeat for the women's team.

5. On 4 June 2005, the FCBQ inaugurated its new headquarters at 27 Rambla de Guipuscoa in Barcelona, leaving their former premises in Carrer de Casanovas, where they had been for almost 54 years.

6. On 30 June 2005, a Catalonia-Cuba double contest was played at the Olympic Pavilion in Badalona, with a victory for the Catalan men's team and a defeat for the women's team, in which a tribute to Betty Cebrian was held.

7. Between 16 and 17 May, the 1st Women's Nations Cup was held, with a victory for the Catalan national team, who repeated their triumph in 2010 and 2011.

8. Between 6 and 7 June 2008, the 1st Cup of Nations was played in Girona, with the participation of national teams from Portugal, the Basque Country, Galicia and Catalonia. Ricky Rubio played for the Catalan National Team for the first time. Two more similar events were held, and Catalonia won the third of these in 2010.

9. At the end of 2008, the 'Basketball Everywhere' campaign was launched to promote basketball in towns and neighbourhoods where basketball was not yet being played.

10. In March 2009 the Girona region branch of the FCBQ organised the "Basketball Solidarity" food collection campaign in cooperation with the Catholic charity organisation Càrites Diocesana in order to help alleviate economic difficulties for those families most in need.

11. The FCBQ organized the second Cup of Nations in La Seu d'Urgell on 22 and 23 May, 2009.

12. In May 2009, UNI Girona was promoted to the Women's League for the first time.

13. On 30 November 2009 The FCBQ presented the “Take care of your body, take care of your mind” initiative to seek the integration and coexistence of abused women through the practice of basketball.

14. In April 2010, the Girona region branch of the FCBQ entered into a participatory agreement with www.Radioesport.CAT for the production of an internet radio programme to talk about Girona and Catalan basketball.

15. On 7 October 2010, the FCBQ launched its own Youtube Channel.

16. In September 2011, the Catalan Basketball Foundation reached an agreement with the Catholic charity body Carites to carry out a campaign to collect food throughout Catalonia.

17. From 16 to 19 February 2012, the King’s Cup was held at the Palau Sant Jordi venue in Barcelona, the event was organized by Barcelona City Council. The FCBQ collaborated by organising a series of activities aimed at promoting basketball among younger children at the Basketball Zone at the Arc del Triomphe with a play area and 3 x 3 games.

18. December 2012 - January 2013. The 50th edition of the Molinet Tournament was held

19. In November 2013 the FCBQ presented the mobile app for Catalan Basketball.

20. The BQVolunteers organisation was created in November 2014.

21. 15 February 2015, a photo for history, two Catalan brothers, Pau and Marc Gasol, starred in the opening All-star NBA event.

22. In April 2015 for the first time Spar City Girona (UNI Girona) became the Women’s League Champions.

23. In October 2015 BQHealth was created for physical training and the prevention of injuries in Catalan basketball.

24. 2016: the 1st All-star Catalan Cup.

25. In 2017, the Capital City of Women’s Basketbal event was created in order to enhance the role of women in the sport. The first town to host the event was Sant Feliu de Llobregat. It was then followed by Girona, Igualada and Malgrat de Mar.

26. In 2017, the Catalan Basketball Foundation celebrated its 25th anniversary.

27. The digital minutes, a joint ACB and FCBQ project, began its use in a pilot test during the 2017-18 season. In the 2018-19 season it was used in the Fourth Division and Catalan Cup competitions, before being gradually extended to others.

28. 18 March 2019, the 2018-2023 Strategic Plan of the FCBQ was approved.

29. In March 2020, the COVID pandemic brought Catalan basketball to a complete halt. The FCBQ used its website to provide nutritional advice to prevent problems during confinement BQSalut in addition to: a psychological management guide for those quarantined due to infectious diseases, basketball and cinema (films featuring the sport of basketball) and documentaries and short films with basketball as the main feature, together with collections of articles and interviews related to basketball, as well as a selection of books featuring basketball.

30. The #Demand Change campaign was presented in May 2021.

31. September 2021, a new free app with many functions, from live match scheduling to enabling coaches to call in players for a game.

Presidents

Joan Fa i Busquets - Desembre del 2010 - juny del 2019
(Barcelona, 13 de setembre del 1943)

He started playing at the La Salle School in Bonanova, before playing for CT Barcino, Club Joventut Badalona and Picadero JC de Barcelona. He was League champion with Joventut in 1967 and Cup Champion with Picadero in 1968. He was an international with the Senior Selection on nine occasions. He was joined the FCBQ in 1979 and passed through both the competition and appeal committees, he was also the Secretary and Vice-President of the FCBQ, as well as a member of the FEB. In 2016, he won the first elections held in the FCBQ (until then, only one candidacy had always been presented 175 clubs out of the 419 with the right to participate voted, and he obtained 109 votes). He resigned in 2019 in order so that his vice president could become president and run for re-election in 2020.

Ferran Aril i Duran - Des del juliol del 2019
(La Seu d'Urgell, 3 de gener del 1956)

He began in the world of basketball as a player, first at the La Salle in La Seu d'Urgell, and then AE Sedis Bàsquet. He also worked as coach and as a president between 1982 and 1986. From 1982 he was part of the Lleida Territorial Delegation of the FCBQ, of which he was later president. He held this position for 26 years, the same number as he was Vice-president of the FCBQ, until his appointment as its president in 2019. He was also a member of the FEB in its delegated commission and he has been a member of the Executive Commission since 2019.

Championships

THE 3X3 CHAMPIONSHIP OF CATALONIA

The 3x3 Catalan Championship was contested for the first time in the 2021-22 season *The 3x3 Academy* (Senior and Junior), *Alan Team Timechamber* (Cadet), *Bapa Team* (Children), *Xavineta* (Mini) and *Bimbas* (Pre-mini) were the winning teams in the male categories, while the female champions were the *29 Stars* (Senior), *Felip The Pig* (Junior), *The Pink Panthers* (Cadet), *Cengsacionals* (Children), *Actitut Positiva* (Mini) and *UEM Girls* (Pre-mini).

This competition was a version of the 3x3 circuit, the first event of which was held in the 2017-18 season, in which there were more than 15 venues and 4,500 players.

ESCOBOL

The FCBQ created this new competition in 2016 as part of its Basketball Schools programme, it was aimed at children from these schools and was not concerned with results or classifications. Its aim was to bring all the key players; players, coaches, referees and parents, closer to the regulated competition scene, and act as the link between the basketball schools and the federation 'Pre-minis' competition. It was organized in two phases, with criteria of proximity, and with a final meeting organised by regions every two weeks. The regulation used was that of a 'pre-mini' adapted rule. There are five different Escobol organisations in Catalonia; Barcelona, Tarragona, Lleida, plus Girona and the Central Regions.

Facilities

THE NORD BARRIS PAVILLION

This venue was built in record time between June and October 2001, so that CE Lleida Basketball could play in the ACB. With capacity for some 5,000 spectators, it was later expanded. Until the club's demise, it was testimony to four seasons of CE Lleida Basketball in the ACB and their participation in European competitions, before moving on to compete in LEB, except for one season in the EBA until the club folded in 2012. It gave continuity to the new team that was created, Força Lleida Club Esportiu, which now competes in the LEB OR and is seeking promotion to the ACB league.

Clubs

AE SEDIS BÀSQUET (WOMEN'S TEAM)

Basketball in La Seu d'Urgell began in an organized manner in the late 1950s with the team UD La Seu d'Urgell. In 1969, the Sedis Sports Association was created, bringing together different sports sections, including basketball. In the seventies, with the appearance of women's teams, women joined the organization. These teams consolidated the decade of the eighties, and in the 1990-91 season the senior team achieved promotion to First B in the phases played in Huesca. In the 1991-92 season, the team was sponsored by the CADI Cooperative the first time and it disputed the promotion phase to the Women's First Division in the 1994-95 season, which was held in La Seu d'Urgell between 23 and 27 June 1995 (without attaining advancement), with a team in which Nina Pont and Maria Jose Castro both stood out. It disputed a second promotion phase in Godella in 1997, finishing 4th. Finally, in the 2000-01 season, the team achieved promotion to the Women's League in a final stage that was played in Irun and Hondabarria. They came fourth (the promotion actually resulted from the transfer of rights from AE Center Sanfeliu). From 2001 to the present, the club has played in the Women's League and played twice in the semi-finals, the last time in the 2018-19 season, in which they came third in the regular league and also reached the semi-finals of the cup. After the best season in the club's history, it debuted in European competition in 2019-20, which was suspended due to the pandemic. The team has won five Catalan Leagues: 207-2015-2016-2021-2022.

SANT ADRIÀ (WOMEN'S)

This club was created in 1994, with the merger of two clubs: CB Amor de Deu and CB Sant Adrià 104. After years of work it won

a Catalan championship for the first time in 2006, and it was to have its greatest successes in the Children's Category. They were also Spanish champions in the Junior (2), Cadet (3) and Children's Categories. The organization's first team was Catalan Cup Champion in 2006 and went on to play in the Women's 2nd Division League, however financial difficulties forced it to leave the category in the 2010-11 season. It was Catalan Cup Champion again in 2014 and again in the Women's 2nd Division League, until it was promoted to the Women's 1st Division League, where it played between 2017 and 2019, before returning to the Women's 2nd Division League, where it is today. The team has been the Champion of the Catalan Women's 2nd Division League seven times.

UNI GIRONA

The Uni Girona team was created in June 2005 as a merger of two Girona teams that were competing in the Catalan Cup; Club Esportiu Sant Eugenia de Ter (CESET) and CB Vedruna. Since then their experience has been filled with ups and downs. After a season in the Catalan Cup it went on to compete in the Women's 2nd Division League. It came second in the 2007-2008 season and was defeated in the semifinals of the competition. In 2008-09, after finishing first in their group, they beat UNB Onebasa de Navarra and were promoted to the Women's 1st Division League. The team, led by Anna Caula (who led the team until the 2013-14 season) featured players such as Anna Carbó, Marta Xargay and Astou Traure among others. In the Women's 1st Division League they won the championship game in the 2014-15 and 2018-19 seasons, as well as the Queen's Cup in the 2020-21 season.

CB GIRONA SAE

This club emerged from the parish of Sant Josep, in Girona, where basketball began to be played in 1962. The Sant Josep team passed through all the Catalan categories, and in the 1981-82 season it disputed the 1st B State League, which was a step on their journey. In 1985, the team was sponsored by Valvi the supermarket chain, and at the same time it acquired its 1st B placing from CB Hospitalet. Finally, in the 1987-88 season, with Joaquim Vidal as its president (the owner of Valvi supermarkets), the team achieved promotion to the ACB. The next move was the transformation of the team into a newly-structured 'public limited sports company' (SAE) and the creation of CB Girona SAE. This club contested the ACB with different sponsors until the 2007-08 season. During these 20 years it had coaches such as Alfred Julbe, and Trifon Poch. However its best years at a sporting level were its final ones. In 2007 the team was FIBA Eurocup champion in a historic final four contest that was held in Fontajau and led by Svetislav Pesic, with Catalan

players such as Victor Sada and Marc Gasol. The economic crisis of 2008 and the bankruptcy of team sponsor Akasvayu led to the demise of the SAE. Despite this, basketball continued in Girona with the CB Sant Josep de Girona team until 2013, and later with the Club Escola Bàsquet Marc Gasol side, from 2014 until, under the name Bàsquet Girona, the team returned to the ACB in the 2022-23 season.

Key Figures

Players

MARINA FERRAGUT CASTILLO

(Premià de Mar, 11 de febrer del 1972)

She was trained during the first generation of the project that was later known as Century 21, playing with Fontvella Manresa. From 1989 she played with the BEX team that comprised top-level young players who were training for the Barcelona Olympic Games. Until 2011 she played in a variety of teams, starting with Costa Naranja Godella and continuing with Canoe, Ros Casares Valencia Godella, Filtros Mann, Perfumerias Avenida, Hondabarria Irun. She also played abroad, in teams such as Mirande. Limoges and Aix Provence Francesos, Santo Andre Brasiler and the New York Liberty team of the WNBA, and with whom she reached the competition finals. With this extensive track record, she notched up 6 Spanish Leagues and one Brazilian League and five Queen's Cups.

LAIA PALAU ALTÉS

(Barcelona, 10 de setembre del 1979)

She began playing basketball at Club Joventut Les Corts in Barcelona. While still a child, she signed for the team CBF Barcelona Universitari, which was later to go under different names; CB Femení Universitari and also UB FC BCN. She played until 2004, winning one State League and four Catalan Leagues. She subsequently played for the team CJM Borges Basket in two different periods (2004-06 and 2017-18), winning two leagues and three cups. At Ros Casares Valencia (2006-2012) she played in five leagues, 4 Queen's Cups and four Supercups and a Euroleague. With CCC Pokowicce (2012-13) she played one league and one cup championship. At USK Prague (2013-2017) she participated in 4 leagues, 2 cups, a Euroleague and a European Super Cup. She played with Jayco Rangers Australia (2017) and in Uni Girona (2018-22), the team that marked her retirement, after winning a league, a cup and a Spanish Super Cup. Her shirt now hangs in the Fontajau sports

facility. She is the player to have played the most internationals, with the Spanish national team (314 games), she won 12 medals in all possible competitions, European (three gold medals), the World Cup and the Olympic Games. She also played in different matches with the Catalan Nationals.

SILVIA DOMÍNGUEZ FERNÁNDEZ

(Montgat, 31 de gener del 1987)

Her basketball career began at CE Mireia de Montgat before passing through Gitanjali de Badalona and Badalona BBC. She then went on to the children's team at the University of Barcelona. In the 2002-03 season she made his debut with the organization's first team and participated in five games in the Regular League. She was later to play for Estudiantes in 2005-06, Perfumerias Avenida (2006-11 and 2015-2023) Ros Casares (2011-12) UMMC and Katerinburg (2012-15). Her record includes 8 Women's Leagues in Spain, and 3 in Russia, 5 Queen's Cups and 2 cups in Russia; 4 Spanish Super Cups and a European Cup and 3 Euroleagues. With the Spanish National Team was an international 201 times and won 8 medals. At the European championships she won 3 gold medals and 2 bronzes, while at the World Cup, 2 silvers and one bronze medal and one bronze medal at the Olympic Games. She was also an international also in the lower categories, being European U20 Champion and U18 Sub-champion twice.

PAU GASOL SÁEZ

(Barcelona, 6 de juliol del 1980)

De família basquetbolista –el pare (UE Gaudí) i la mare (CB Cornellà) Pau came from a basketball family, both his father (at UE Gaudí), and his mother (at CB Cornellà) were players, he started playing basketball at the Escola Llor in Sant Boi de Llobregat, from where he went on to CB Cornellà, and later, to FC Barcelona. He debuted with the first team in the 1998-99 season in which he helped it to win the League. He won it again in the 2000-01 season, as well as the King's Cup, and was the MVP in both finals. He was selected number three in the 2001 Draft by the US team Atlanta, but he was transferred to Memphis, where he began a long career in American professional basketball that led him to also play in the L.A. Lakers, the Chicago Bulls, the San Antonio Spurs and the Milwaukee Bucks. He was the first Catalan to play in the NBA, the first non-North American rookie, the first Catalan to win a championship ring, which was followed by a second. After 18 seasons, an injury took him away from the courts and he did not get to play with the Portland team. He returned to FC Barcelona in 2021 to train and recover for the Tokyo Olympics. Finally, he played 16 games with FC Barcelona in the ACB, helping it become champion and

he played 7 games in the Euroleague. He was an international 216 times with the Spanish team, winning eleven medals, he was in three European championships, a World Cup and he won two silver medals at the Olympic Games. He was also Junior World Champion. During his career he played matches with the Catalan National Team, the match he played against Croatia in June 2002, marked the attendance record for a basketball match in Spain with 16,471 spectators.

RICARD 'RICKY' RUBIO VIVES

(El Masnou, 21 d'octubre del 1990)

He began playing in his home town team, and from where he moved on to Club Joventut Badalona. He was quick to stand out, and Aito Garcia Reneses gave him his debut, while he was still in the ACB Cadet Category, becoming the youngest player to debut in this competition. He played until 2009 in the Badalona team, winning a King's Cup, a ULEB Eurocup and a FIBA Eurocup. In April 2009 he announced his intention to participate in the NBA Draft and he came fifth, to be chosen by the Minnesota Timberwolves. This situation, plus his termination clause, strained his relationship with La Penya and led to his transfer to FC Barcelona, the most important in the entire history of the ACB. He played two seasons with the Barcelona team and won one Euroleague, one League, two Cups and two Supercups. At the end of the 2010-11 season, he joined the Minnesota team, where he played until 2017, later playing for the Utah Jazz, the Phoenix Suns, Minnesota and the Cleveland Cavaliers teams. He has been an international 157 times with the Spanish team, winning a world championship and two Eurobaskets, he won the silver and bronze medals at the 2008 and 2016 Olympic games and another bronze medal at three other European championships. On an individual level he was the MVP at Europe U16, the best emerging player of the ACB 2006-07, the Best Young Player of Europe at FIBA 2007-2008-2009, and MVP in the 2019 World Cup.

JOAN CARLES NAVARRO FEIJOO, 'LA BOMBA'

(Sant Feliu de Llobregat, 13 de juny del 1980)

His older brothers played basketball, and this led him to enter the sport from an early age. He joined CB Sanfeliuenc, and in the Children's Category he later moved to FC Barcelona. He made his debut in the ACB with the Barcelona team under Aito Garcia Reneses on 23 November 1997, and he played his last match in the semi-finals of the play off against Kirolet Baskonia at the Palau Blaugrana on 10 June 2018. He played only the 2007-08 season in the NBA, with Memphis, taking part in the All Star Rookie game, a competition for which he was chosen nº40 in the second round

of the 2002 Draft by the Washington Wizards. With the Barcelona team, he won 8 Leagues, 7 Cups, 5 Super Cups, two Euroleagues, a Korac and 12 Catalan leagues. He is the player who has played the most matches with the Spanish National Team, totalling 253. He has won ten medals in different competitions of note, a World Championship, two European Championships and was awarded two silver medals and a bronze medal at the Olympic Games. On an individual level, he was 5 times in the ACB Ideal Quintet, 3 times MVP in an ACB final, the player who has scored the most triples in the Euroleague, and who has been more times in the Euroleague dream team than any other player. He has also played matches with the Catalan National team.

RAÛL LOPEZ MOLIST

(Vic, 15 d'abril del 1980)

He began at CB Vic before moving to Club Joventut de Badalona, where he played until 2000. He made his debut in the ACB League in the 1997-98 season, and throughout his career he played in 430 games, for Badalona and Real Madrid (2000-02 and 2006-09), Akasvayu Girona (2005-06) and Bilbao Basket (2011-16). In the 2001 NBA Draft he was chosen in position 24 by Utah Jazz, with whom he signed in 2003 and where he stayed until 2005, although injuries to his knee did not allow him to continue. He was also a player for BC Khimki (2009-11). His achievements include an ACB League and a ULEB Cup with Real Madrid and a League with BC Khimki. With the Spanish team he was an international 72 times, winning a gold and a bronze medal in the European Championships and a silver medal in the Olympic Games. He was European Champion and World Champion with the Junior Team.

Coaches

ANNA CAULA PARETAS

(Girona, 6 d'abril del 1971)

A basketball player for CB Salt and the GEiEG, among others, As a coach she started in the lower categories of the GEiEG before embarking on a lengthy career with the Gironis CE Onyar, CB Banyoles, CE Maristes Girona and CESET teams. She directed the Uni Girona team since its creation in 2005, helping it to achieve promotion to the Women's League in the 2008-09 season and continuing until 2014. She was also a technician for the FEB, leading the U-20 women's national team, with which she was European Champion in both 2012 and 2013, and Sub-champion in 2014. In 2015 she entered the world of politics, and from 8 June 2021 she has been the Sports Secretary of the Catalan Government.

LUCAS MONDELO GARCÍA

(Barcelona, 28 de juliol del 1967)

BC Tecla Sala in the town of L'Hospitalet de Llobregat was the team where he started playing basketball, before passing through the lower categories of CB L'Hospitalet. As a coach he worked in different clubs, CC L'Hospitalet, Center La Torrassa, CE Universitari, AE Center Sanfeliu and BF Viladecans and at CB Olesa. He gained their promotion to the LF and continued in the team until 2010, winning two Catalan Leagues in 2008 and 2009. In 2010, he went on to manage the Perfumeries Avenida de Salamanca team, who he made league and cup champions, as well as the Euroleague and European Super Cup champions on one occasion and the Spanish Super Cup on two occasions. Between 2012 and 2016 he was the coach of the Shanxi Flame Chinese team and won three league titles with them. Later, from 2016 to 2019, he managed the Russian Dynamo Kursk team, with whom he won a European League and a European Super Cup. Since 2019 he has been training in Japan at the club Toyota Antelopes. He was a national U19 and U20 coach between 2009 and 2011, winning a European U20 championship and two European U20 championships in 2010 and the U19 World Cup in 2009. Between 2012 and 2021 he led the national team in 152 games and won three European Championships (2013, 2017 and 2019), he won a silver medal at the Olympic Games (2016), and at the World Cup (2014) and two European (2015) and World Cup (2018) bronze medals.

XAVIER PASCUAL VIVES

(Gavà, 9 de setembre del 1972)

His career as a coach began in the lower categories of CB Gavà, before he moved on to CB Cornellà. He managed CB Santfeliuenc in the Second Division (1997-99) and was later at CB Olesa for two seasons, and who he helped gain promotion to the EBA League. Between 2001 and 2004 he was the coach of CB Aracena in the EBA, LEB2 and LEB, before joining the technical organizational staff of FC Barcelona in 2004. During this period he won three Catalan Leagues, two from the EBA (CB Olesa and B Aracena), one LEB Catalan League (CB Aracena) and one Prince of Asturias LEB2 Cup (CB Aracena). In his first season with the Barcelona team, he coached the second team in the EBA League and was the Technical Director of Base Basketball at the club. In the 2005-06 season he was Dusko Ivanovic's Assistant Coach in the first team. He made his debut as a first-team coach after the sacking of Ivanovic on 29 February 2008, and he continued in this position until 2016. During this period he managed 369 ACB matches (with a 77.2 % victory rating) and he won four leagues. He was also Cup Champion on five occasions, four times Super Cup Champion

and a Euroleague Champion once, in addition to seven Catalan Leagues. In 2016 he signed with the Greek club Panathinaikos, and was League and Cup champion in 2017 and 2018. His 2018-2019 season started with the Greek team, but in December 2018 he was dismissed. Since 2020 he has been in charge of the Saint Petersburg club Zenit, who were proclaimed League and Russian Super Cup Champions in 2022.

PEDRO MARTÍNEZ SÁNCHEZ

(Barcelona, 29 de juny del 1961)

As a basketball player in the lower categories of the EU Gaudi club, among others, he started working as a coach for schools, before moving on to CB Sant Josep de Badalona, and from there to the Club Joventut de Badalona junior team, with whom he was champion of Spain in 1987 1988 and 1989. In the 1989-90 season he made his debut in the ACB as an assistant coach to Herb Brown, the latter's resignation on March 10, 1990 led him to lead the team to the final season and win the second Korac Cup in the club's history. The first game he led was between La Peña and CAI Zaragoza in Badalona. To date he has now led over 950 matches in the ACB, working with the following teams: Basquet Manresa in three periods (1990-94, 2014-15 and 2019 to the present day). He has also worked with Joventut Badalona (1990 and 1994-95), CB Salamanca (1995-96), CB Granada (1997-98), C Ourense Basketball (2001), Gran Canaria, in three stages (2002-5, 2009-14 and 2019), Baskonia (2005 and 2017-18), Estudiantes (2006-7) CB Girona (2007-08), CB Sevilla (2008-09), Valencia Basket (2015-17), and in the LEB League, with Menorca Basket (1999-2000), and Tenerife (2001-02). He was ACB Super Cup Champion with Baskonia and in the ACB League with Valencia Basket. He also won the LEB Prince of Asturias Cup with Tenerife. He was FEB's coach in 1993 as Lolo Saiz's assistant coach in the Senior Team and was the coach for the Under-23 Team in 1994.

Referees

JOSÉ ANTONIO MARTÍN BERTRÁN

(Barcelona, 13 d'agost del 1964)

He first played for his school teams at La Salle Condal. He began refereeing at a young age in Sports Council competitions, before moving on to the Catalan School of Basketball Referees and from there to the Catalan Professional Association of Referees in 1982. In 1988 he made his debut at the ACB, where he continued until 2020, when he retired. He holds the record for the number of matches arbitrated in ACB competitions at 1,160 officiating in 10

King's Cup finals, 3 Spanish Super Cup finals and 24 final play off matches. In the 2021-22 season he was appointed as the director of arbitration at the ACB. He was an international at FIBA after 1996 and a Euroleague referee, he arbitrated in championship of all kinds.

YASMINA ALCARAZ I MORENO

(Figueres, 7 de febrer del 1989)

A basketball player and the daughter of a basketball referee, who was arbitrating at the Catalan Professional Association of Referees in the 2004-5 season. In 2015 she advanced to the state competitions in Group 2 and in 2017 to Group 1, refereeing in LEB and Women's League games. She took part in the final of the Queen's Cup on two occasions. She was also part of the all-female referee trio that arbitrated a Spanish game for the first time, in this case in the LEB League. She has been an FIBA referee since 2017 and took part in the 2018 Mediterranean Games, in the 3 x 3 Competition and in 2022, in both the qualifying phase and the championship games of the World Women's Championship.

Registrations

2000: 54.610

2001-22: 78.047 (50.696 i 27.351)

Fotografies / Fotografías / Photographs

Autors/es / Autores/as / Authors

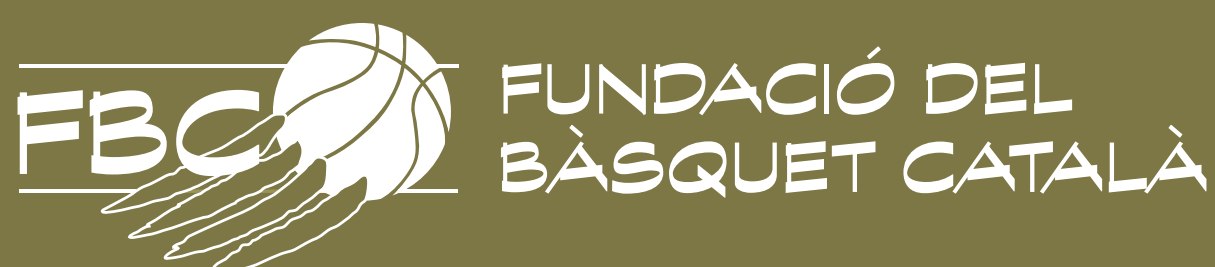
ALBERO I SEGOVIA, ALFREDO, BERT,
JOAN I JOANA BIARNÈS, BONET, BRANGULÍ,
VALENTÍ CANADELL, CLARET, SALVADOR
CRESCENTI, JOAN DOMÈNECH I RODRÍGUEZ,
DOMINGO, FONT, GAMISANS, E. GARCIA, GASPÀR,
GIL, KIM, LEDESMA, MARROYO, MASIP, MERLETTI,
FRANCESC OLIVÈS, PÉREZ MOLINOS, PÉREZ
DE ROZAS, SAGARRA, NARCÍS SANS PRATS,
SOLANES, RAMON TARRIDA, VALLVÉ, VELA,
GENÍS VERA, JOAN I MARIA VIVES ROVIRA,
T. CHECA, M.A. CHAZO, S. IGLESIAS, R. ROVIRA.

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ARXIU FOTOGRÀFIC DE BARCELONA (AFB). FONS PÉREZ DE ROZAS
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HEMEROTECA FUNDACIÓ BÀSQUET CATALÀ
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