

REPORTING OF THE CROATIAN ONLINE MEDIA ON THE TORCIDA: CONTENT ANALYSIS OF SLOBODNA DALMACIJA AND VEČERNJI LIST

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to investigate how Slobodna Dalmacija and Večernji list, as Croatian online media, report on the Torcida fan group. It was crucial to make a comparison of methods, patterns and characteristics when reporting on regional and national online media in Croatia. The paper presents a detailed theoretical framework based on sociological research, as well as previous research that studied media coverage of fan groups. For the purposes of this research, the method of content analysis was chosen. The sample of this research is a total of 109 articles from the Slobodna Dalmacija and Večernji list in the period from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, in which Torcida is mentioned. Online media most often uses informative headlines when reporting on Torcida but use sensationalist headlines when it comes to negative and violent fan behavior. Although positive patterns have been detected when reporting on the Torcida fan group, journalists still violate ethical principles to a certain extent when reporting on conflicts with rival fan groups and the police.

Keywords: Torcida; media reporting; croatian online media; sensationalism; sports journalism.