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# Calendar of holding sports competitions as a source in study of features of development of domestic sport in the 30s of the XXth century

**Abstract. Purpose:** Based on the analysis of a number of archive documents made an attempt to investigate the dynamics of development of Olympic and non-Olympic sports in the first decades of the Soviet period of the Ukrainian history. **Materials and methods**: The analysis and generalization of sources on the subject. **Results**: The features of the development of sports industry of the USSR in the 30-ies of 20th century are analyzed. **Conclusion**: it is proved, that the development of the sports field was caused by primarily political factors; equal attention was paid to Olympic and non-Olympic kinds of sports.

**Keywords:**kindsof sport, calendar of sportsevents, sports chart, sporting competitions, sportsmen.

**Problem statement.** Research of becoming and development of domestic twenty-four hours in the last years becomes more popular. The crisis phenomena that inherent to all spheres of modern Ukrainian society, did not go round a side of athletic-sporting industry of our state. During overcoming of difficulties, caused by a difficult socio-economic and military-political situation in this country, we once again turn to experience of past generations which are forced to overcome the number of problems for the sake of reformation of domestic sport. The account of errors credible incidents which took place in the 30sof the XXth century, will allow to economize resources for more swift and effective updating of sports area of modern Ukraine.

Thus a retrospective study of becoming and development of domestic sport in soviet times is original empiric foundation on which will be erected new building which must answer the necessities of present time.

Illumination of process of installation of sport inhered for researches of soviet period underline attention to the questions of management, marking, sporting activity of sporting achievements of the Ukrainian sportsmen [2,4]. Modern researchers try to reconsider the historical legacy of soviet period [1,3,5].

**Connection of the research with scientific programs, plans, themes**. The paper is done within the research project "Theoretical and methodological characteristics of the development of non-Olympic sports."

**The aim** of this research is an attempt to characterize the dynamics of Olympic and non-Olympic kinds of sports in the USSR in the 30-ies of 20th century.

**Materials and research methods**. Among the variety of dissertations, monographs and scientific articles devoted to this problem, the special place belongs to the archived materials the analysis of which allows to educe the real format of historical events of the past [6]. Exactly, the archived documents come forward as a primary base of any research. Application of analytical in general lines, logical, empiric methods allows not simply to feel the atmosphere of time, but also realize the narration of phenomena which became history.

The use of analysis of content makesscientific labour maximally narrative, clear and realized.

From between the large array of funds of the Central archive state public associations of Ukraine (farther - ЦДΑΓΟ), a main place is occupied by party documents, as plans, decisions, reports, and the like, leading structural subdivisions which took care forphysical culture and sport. Then planning activity regardless to the high degree of formalization, contains very valuable information which touches the dynamics of functioning of physical culture and sport in Ukraine in the 30s.

For realization of dynamics of preparation and exposure of sporting abilities and skills of the Ukrainian sportsmen, achieved for the twentieth birthday of bolshevist domination, it is worthto analyse the calendar of sporting events for 1937.

**Results of the research and their discussion.** Structurally the calendar of sporting events(farther for comfort - KCZ) contains information about the sports, form, time and place of conducting of competitions, andso on [6, p. 24–29.]. The calendar register of sports in this document is structured not after alphabetical but on the priority principle. Such hierarchy allows to define the degree of importance of sporting directions that cultivated in USRR and in URSR in the 30s.

The specificity of realization of sporting measures was based on spatially-calendar basis, embracing by itself terrain and aquatic space. Airsports now among civil competitions in this document are not marked. Character of competitions and relay races, by plan of their organizers could reveal the maximal amount of talented sportsmen in the condition of achievement of high results by them.

Calendar factor varied within the limits of March - December of current year. It means that a sporting year began at early spring and closed at the beginning of the winter. In the set interval of time organizers tried to include all possible types of control of physical possibilities of sportsmen, regardless of varieties of kinds of sport.

A gymnastics stood on the first place. Exactly in the USSR in 30s - considered a sport queen. And not surprisingly. In fact physical drills demonstrate corporal perfection. The rightness of their implementation needscoordination of work of all groups of muscles which are the guaranteeof correct development of all organism.

A spring heat allowed to organize and conduct a competition on outside court. However it should be noted that gymnastics is only one from all list marked in KCZ December type of sport.

In April - May individual- team championship revealed the champions of cities and areas. Summer period foresaw realization of mass-sporting gymfests within the limits of cities and districts. Finally, late autumn republican competitions

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were planned, what completed trade-union championship of all-union scale.

On the second place was swimming stood in a sporting register. Besides overcoming of aquatic obstacles, this sport was complemented by diving and water-polo. To the competitions cities were brought over where swimming pools were: Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk. It is not difficult to guess that teams of these cities were the strongest due to a corresponding infrastructure. As a rule exactly, they presented a republic on the inter-republican and all-union competitions. For the swimmers of rural and district scale the open reservoirs were used in daylight for saving time of an year. Republican competitions in watersports that years took place in Dnipropetrovsk. Obviously the annual rotary was existed of accepting city which physically could provide sportsmen with necessary sports buildings. All-union championship was held at the end of July in Moscow. Inter-republican competitions - at the end of autumn in Leningrad.

Followings on a calendar are kinds of competitions which allow to unite them in the power sports. They were: boxing, wrestling and weightlifting. Traditional monthly limbering-up of boxers and wrestlers- championship of cities and URSR, later on the all-union championship in Moscow. By the way, during all-union competitions in boxing of 1937 in feather-weight (57 kg) the gold was won by an youth from Kharkiv, student of Institute of sports Anatolii Greiner (1916 - 1990).

Attention was payed to the name of the third power type of sport. In KCZ weight lifting is considered as a "barbell", although as seenthis type of sport foresaw a competition only of weighters, but notweight -lifters. Thus unlike boxing and wrestling, competitions in a barbellifting were less protracted. Obviously force and skill the weight-lifters cultivated throughout a year.

Fencing, unlike the previous kindsof sport of that year did not foresee all-union competitions and carried especially regional character.

The cycle racing in those times had the name bicycle. Cycling raceslasted almost a whole year. Evidently such method of movement was claimed. Cycling competitions began from middle of March and lasted to the end of September. On an initial phase (in spring) they were held for the lines of GTO, later carried administrative-territorial character within the limits of UKRAINE. In summer were all-union competitions. In autumn was all-Ukrainian championship. A "bicycle", as a type of sport, included for itself cycling races, cycling cross, and also track and a figure ride. Regarding to the small numbers of cycle tracks regional and republican championships took place in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk and on Donbas.

A next step in a sporting pantheon was occupied by track-and-field. For sovietauthorities it was personification ofrun, that is whythis sport was brought over as many as possible participants. Next to regional, the military menheats tookplace for the lines of GTO and BGTO.

The running relay races of cities and areas were completed by all-republican championship in Kharkiv. All-union competitions were traditionallyheldin Moscow. Itisworthto pay attention to ideological colouring of track-and-fieldevents. Afterthecompletion of all important competitions, the September heatswere settled down in honour state holidays and party leaders. Thus every participant of heat subconsciously showed respect to the soviet system anditsleaders doing thecontribution in building up theradiantfuture.

Thegamesports at that timewere presentedby football, handball, tennis, gorodki, volley-ball, basket-ball and rugby. Actually, exactly in such sequence they are transferred in KCZ. Most respected among them was certainly football which in KCZ considerablymore attention was paidthan to others. Considerable attention was paid to thesportsstaff. During March-April trainers passed the two-monthskillimprovement courses. By the way, the same measures (but for mastersofsportand judges) were takenin relation to track-and-field athletics. Thus, these two types of sport, unlike others foresaw permanent further qualification training and improvement of qualification for coachesand judges.

Duringqualifying games in football the Olympic system was used which foresaw bringing in of widerange of soccerteams of different level. Absence of such approach too ther sports did football by more Olympic kind of sports competitions.

Nextwas the summer republican championshipheld by round robin. Cup-tie of the USSR washeld from May, 24 up to June 30 in 1937. August-September was devoted to all-union championship for determination of the strongest team of Soviet Union. That year Moscow "Dynamo" became the first, and Kyiv "Dynamo" took the third place. Thus, football from the amateur sport, during one short season was transformed into professional or, at least, semi-professional.

Competitionin handball, gorodki, volley-ball, unlike basket-ball and rugby did not haveall-union meaning. Routine competitions at the level of cities and areaswereended with republican championship in Kyiv. Thus in organization of volley-ballevents the paralogism of realization of games was, to some reason, noted. The March-April championship of Ukraine, even at the level of public organizations and labour collectives outgrew in summer championship of cities.

The competitions in tennis, basket-ball and rugbytook place on a fully logical administratively-regional chart, by the final stage were the all-union competitions. Only one feature: all-union championship intennis was individual and not team.

Relay races were also consideredregional in rowing andsailing, which got the name "rowing-sail". Beginning in Julychampionships of cities, competitions had the intermediate trade-union stage which passedoverto the September all-Ukrainian championship.

The individual sportsincluded equestrian, auto-motorcycling and also chess and checkers. Pretty queerly combination of physical and intellectual varieties of sporting competitions in KCZ wasgiven exactly in such sequence. Meanwhile, equestrian races keptlimits of an area andwere heldin those cities where hippodromes were located. Relay races in auto-motoevents were more various. For their realization existing roads were used and motorways, that saved money, but created inconveniences for the civil participants of traffic.

This type of competitions began in a middle of Spring and lasted up to the middle of Autumn Auto-moto included: motor races, motor cycle races, car races of championship of cities, autoclubs, republican and all-union autocompetitions. Notable is that all forms of auto-competitions were completed by the militarized autumn cross-country autorace (probably devoted to the anniversary of October revolution) during military parades in the cities of Ukraine, and winners - on the Red square in Moscow. It is worth to pay attention, that regardless considerable financially-organizationalexpences on realization of competitions, auto-moto among the technical sports waspaid maximal attention to. You can add to it the

service of motor mechanics, cost of gas and oil materials, spare parts, logistics in providing of racing motorists' needs. Obviously reason that is a militarist constituent of auto-motorcycling, in fact, in the case of war rapid re-deployment of manpower and technique is possible on a condition of presence of specialistsin extreme driving oftechnical means. In this context we can compare inexpressive competitions in equestrian sport and bright enough of auto-moto. Evidently soviet authorities in the conditions of the expected war considered the Artiodactyla means as archaic, as compared to "ferrous horse" equipped by the supermodern types of fire-arms.

Next to aspiring to physical perfection of workers and peasants, attention was paid in Ukraine to intellectuals as well. This function in a sporting area was performed by chess and checkers. Schools of soviet chess-playershad not yet been formed in that time and that is why thi sport carried an amateur character. In chess and checkers were played by both men and women. The selection of the best was held on a standard chart: at firstqualifying rounds within the limits of the union republics, afterwards there was a republican final, then an all-union tournament. At that an all-union tournament was conducted also among women, demonstrating by that of gender equality declared by soviet ideology.

A hunting belonged to the individual sport. Holding of regional and all-union competitions took place within the limits of hunting-season but in summer and fall seasons. Ability of well-aimed shooting was combined with skills of training of fore-paw friends, that is why alongside with firing the all-union exhibitions were conducted in dog-breeding. Plugging of hunting in the list of sporting competitions was not casual. A man with a gun in a peace-time perfects the abilities. For human a hunting is a hobby. In the case of beginning of war the skilful marksmen and dog-breeders are transformed to the rank of the most claimed specialists from the cohort of the mobilized.

In summer the all-round competitions were conducted in the context of verification of base physical skills of citizens who are "ready to labour and defense". As it is known the all-round complex GTO was included to all-union sporting classification. The summer and winter events existed which presented the complex system of body-conditioning which the wide strata f population were attracted to. Beginning from 1931 in the USSR annual competitions were held on both regional and all-union scale. Namely in 1937 the summer program of GTO was planned in UKRAINE. The end of the 30s summarized the first soviet sporting six-year plan. It is evident now that competitions in this events of sports were conducted at first among the most skilful persons who showed the greatest results in days gone by. Individual and team championship of badge-holders of I-st ranking of voluntarily societies and fhysicalculturists fluently passed into regional and all-ukrainian competitions for the badges of 2-nd ranking of GTO.

Amateur competitions became the final part of KCZ in 1937. Rural sport stood on the first place. Regarding that collective farmers were busy, timely and physical impossibility to take up the systematic trainings, and accordingly to go in for sports professionally; for them there were the planned competitions in all-round. Interesting is the fact that the collective farm competitions were conducted at once atthe republican level. The winners of a collective farm sporting games of Ukraine could participate all-union spartakiad meet in all-round and sporting games.

It should be noted that bringing peasants in sporting activity created certain discomfort in their lives. They were to be distracted from agricultural works, got permission and money from the chairmen of collective farms for participating in competitions. That is why archives are abound in numerous queries, in relation to transference of competitions and forbid to use agrarian workers for training sessions and competitions and the like.

The last step of final part of KCZ belongs to spartakiad meets among the students of schools anduniversities. What concerns schoolboys is that the compilers of calendar paid attention only to town schools. Afterconducting of town contents winners rode to all-ukrainian spartakiad meet. Obviously such measures took place in a vacation period which meanwhile for somebody was delayed to September. You can see that inspite of certain indignation of children and parents, in relation to absorption of vacations by going in for sports, such approach allowed to reveal the most talented young people, create sporting reserve and form the professional orientation for the young generation.

Interinstitution competitions, unlike school ones had a certain specificity. Students presented not secondary schools but public committies (that time ministries) the departments of which they belong to. It provided more high-quality financing and provision of juniors a sporting inventory.

In July relay races among public committees in gymnastics, that traditionally held in Moscow came forward as final and at the same time were chronologicly middle part of sporting activities foreseen for 1937.

An eventual phase were the September university games in which students-sportsmen defendedhonour of own alma mater.

Vacation time for sporting trials was rationally planned taking into account beginning of academic year where no measures in the sphere of physical culture and sport were not planned.

Without regard to certain failures and hard centralism during creation of all-union and regional sport in Ukraine and USSR in an intermilitary period, party authorities put considerable efforts with the purpose of realization of principle of healthy way of life in all strata of society. Theobtained experienc will be used in the further years of soviet history. Exactly, this factor allowed to apply the number of standard charts in education of sportsmen, their aspiring to victory in sports competitions.

Conclusions and the prospects for further research. Summing up the conducted research it is worth to say that a process of realization of sports measures in Ukraine at the state of the end of the 30s had clear and careful thought out of organizational and logical structure. The heads of the sports and physical culture industry when planning KCZ tried to take into account the maximum amount of human and objective factors, which concerned the sportsmen, kinds of sports and specificity of their holding. Regardless to a financial deficit, bad infrastructure, certain social indifference, the soviet party bodies considered sport to be the important mean of education, ideological influence on society and effective form of forming of reserve of Red Army. Next to classic kinds, there developed the artificially created non-olympic sports, which were of mass character somewhere. For sports authorities that was not important. Nevertheless in that time neither the USSR nor none of soviet republics took part in official international or olympic competitions. Among priorities in

development of sports area in the USSR of intermilitary period was more important the social but not the bourgeois-selfish constituent.

In spite of such sporting autarchy itself, it was succeeded to lay the foundations of future sports schools, create a skilled base for swift flight of domestic sport in the second half of the XX-th century in Ukraine

Further researches should be directed to study the characteristics of non-Olympic sports in Ukraine during the second half of the 20th century.

### LIST of abbrivations:

**БГПО/BGTO/ -** be ready to labour and defensive

ВЦРПС is All-union central advice of trade unions

ΓΠΟ/GTO/- ready to labour and defensive

ДІФКУ - the State institute of physical culture. Presently - ХДАФК (Kharkiv state academy of physical culture).

UKRAINE - the Ukrainian socialistic soviet republic (the name of Soviet Ukraine is from 1919 to 1937)

UKRAINE - the Ukrainian soviet socialistic republic (the name of Soviet Ukraine is from 1937 on 1991)

PC4A - the Working-peasant red army (the name of soviet military powersfrom 1918 to 1946)

The USSR -Union of soviet socialistic republics.

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