

Development of Non-Olympic sports in Kharkov region during the existence of the Ukrainian SSR

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Purpose: the attempt to investigate the history of formation of Non-Olympic sports in our region is made on the basis of the analysis of number of archival documents and materials of periodicals.

Material & Methods: the analysis and generalization of the sourced base on the matter.

Results: features of the development of the sports branch during the entire period of the existence of the Ukrainian SSR are analyzed.

Conclusions: it is established that the development of Non-Olympic sports of the Soviet period began in the 20th of the XX century. Chess and checkers, military-sports kinds (in the conditions of militarization of the country in the 30th of the XX century) and different types of single combats became the most mass among Non-Olympic sports in the region. The level of training of sportsmen of Kharkov was such high that they made the basis of national teams of the Ukrainian SSR, and also were the part of national teams of the Soviet Union.

Keywords: Non-Olympic sports, mass sports, military-applied sports.

Introduction

Sport is one of the leading fields of activity of the person what is designed to form number of psychophysical qualities of citizens of Ukraine, irrespective of age, sex and physical capacities in modern conditions. Near classical and initial kinds of sports the special place is taken by its Non-Olympic versions. Despite of lack of their recognition by the world sports organizations, both in Ukraine, and beyond its limits, they become rather popular every year. Strangely enough, but in this area the modern Ukrainian state has a uncommon experience, origin of the separate directions of Non-Olympic sports began during the interwar period. Despite of certain degree of amateurism, Non-Olympic sports over the years won the admirers more and more whom the Soviet ideology turned into peculiar reserve of Olympic teams, which presented to the USSR at the international competitions. At the same time the formation and development of Non-Olympic sports in USSR was the evidence of intensive sports construction, that there was sport designed to form "the builder of the bright future", for which was one of platforms of demonstration of corporal perfection and number of physical qualities of representatives of the first-ever socialist state.

The historiography from this perspective is presented mostly by books what sports societies and federations released on the occasion of different memorials and anniversaries. The short historical review of development of this sport or the sports organization held, and also the most outstanding sporting achievements were published at them [1]. The chronological review of development of Non-Olympic sports on the Kharkiv region is presented in the monograph Yu. Grot and M. Oliynik [11–13]. However this multi-volume is devoted, mostly, to the description of victories of the Kharkiv sportsmen and almost does not pay attention to questions of reorganization of separate sports in our region. The Kiev researcher Yu. Ty-

moshenko uses widely data on Non-Olympic sports. However its monograph is limited to chronological framework of the 20th – the 40th of XX cent.; the facts have to illustrate reorganization of all sports branch of the Ukrainian USSR, but not its certain regions [18]. The considerable part of materials is stirred on pages of the local press. The people, who informed in this perspective, were authors of such articles: sports journalists and sports functionaries of our region [14; 16]. Problems of development of sport were often discussed in these publications; the results of previous years were summed up. All this allows making complete the situation of development of this branch.

Authors prepared the row of scientific development, which is devoted to the single question of development of the sports sphere within the research project "Theoretic-methodological characteristics of development of Non-Olympic sports" [17].

Communication of the research with scientific programs, plans, subjects

The work is performed within the research project "Theoretic-methodological characteristics of development of Non-Olympic sports", number of the state registration is 0115U002372.

The purpose of the research:

to characterize comprehensively the process of reorganization and development of Non-Olympic sports on the Kharkiv region throughout the whole Soviet period of the history of Ukraine.

Material and Methods of the research

The spring base of the research is made by documents which are stored in the State archive of the Kharkiv region, the Cen-

tral state archive of public reunification of Ukraine and the periodic press. Official documents are submitted in funds of the Committee on affairs of physical culture and sport at the Executive committee of the Kharkiv regional council of deputies of workers (P-5756), Council of the union of sports societies (P-5757), the Kharkiv regional executive committee (P-3858), the Kharkiv district executive committee of councils of working, country and Red Army deputies (P-845) but other. Resolutions of the committee on physical culture and sport of the USSR, statistical data on development of the branch in the areas, any results of sports competitions, reports on work of volunteer sports societies and so forth are stored here. Articles about sports competitions, about problems of development of separate sports, interview with outstanding sportsmen were systematically published on pages of the local newspapers "Chervonyi prapor", "Leninska zmina", "Slobidskyi kray", "Sotsialistychna Kharkovshchina", "Vechirnyi Kharkiv".

Results of the research and their discussion

Gorodki, kettlebell sport (at that time it was not divided with weightlifting), motorcycle sport, chess, checkers and acrobatics can be considered as pioneers among Non-Olympic sports on the Kharkiv region. The Kharkiv provincial council on physical culture had data about 61 chess-checker clubs, in which there were 1480 chess players and 693 draught-players, on the beginning of 1926. [7, sh. 14].

Checkers and chess became one of the most mass sports in the area through branching of network of their circles. Pupils of the Kharkiv chess school in different years became prize-winners of republican, allied and international competitions. For example, fifteen-year-old M. Steinberg, the first of young chess players of the USSR won European cup among juniors in 1967 in the Dutch Groningen.

The beginning of reorganization of the military and sports sphere which gradually began to be associated with protection of the fatherland, but not with sport on the end of the 20th, the XX cent. The Bolshevik ideology provided the formation of the closed military society, where each of its members was ready not only to protect the Homeland from the hostile capitalist environment, but also to rise by protection of any unfortunate people, that is to export socialist revolution out of borders of the USSR. The Kharkiv region before the war was one of the leaders of military and sports preparation what results of military and technical examination of 1936 testify to: 266 178 members of the Komsomol passed successfully examinations from twenty three types of preparation. Kiev (364 859) (296 183) and Donbas areas were only ahead it [15, sh. 20–27]. The idea of combination of sports and military component of physical training gained the considerable popularity among the Soviet youth with introduction in 1931–1932 of the all-Union sports complex "Prepared for work and defense" (known as the complex PWD). Multi-discipline event of PWD became urgent again due to the escalation of opposition of the capitalist and socialist countries in the 60th – the first half of the 80th of the XX cent.

Tourism and mountain climbing begin to develop actively in the late twenties. The Soviet power positioned tourism as the most "valuable means of ideological and political and physical education, improving and active recreation" [10, sh. 1]. Sports functionaries noted that tourism promotes) hardening

of organism, endurance acquisition, formation of skills of orientation and movement on any area. "Tourism, sports fishing and other improving actions captured 292 thousand persons according to the Kharkiv regional executive committee, the state for 1971. 20 houses of the hunter and fishing, 156 improving sports centers and 98 tourist bases" were used for carrying out this work [9, sh. 11].

The national dam, the Russian hockey (field hockey), Rugby, sailing, scuba diving, and sports orientation extends beginning from the 1960th, on the Kharkiv region. Security of the Kharkiv region with water resources allowed creating extensive network of yacht-clubs. 15 sport-clubs on sailing, each of which totaled more than one hundred visitors was affected in the middle in 1987 on the Kharkiv region. Only one yacht-club of the plant named after Malyshev "Frigat" trained 800 sportsmen for the period from 1965 for 1985 [14].

Sports clubs which represented sports, new for the Soviet person, begin to appear in the 1980th with the approach of "Perestroika", opening of "iron curtain" and change of negative attitude to all western in Kharkiv: martial arts, baseball, water skis, windsurfing, American football, athleticism, bodybuilding, skateboarding, sports bridge, renju, and others.

Different types of single combats received the greatest favor among Kharkiv citizens. The karate club at Kharkiv state university under the leadership of Luyis Karvakhal was one of the first cells of martial arts. Its visitors studied the mixed types of single combats in the context of development of skills of self-defense. Enthusiasts continued to do the chosen sport mostly illegally after prohibition of martial arts in 1981. So, such sections masked under groups of gymnastics of wushu or athleticism or existed with illegal status in Kharkiv in the first years of reorganization. The club of oriental martial arts which became the center of their development in our city was created only in 1989 on the basis of sports complex of the city committee on physical culture and sport. It was created by representatives of karate, wushu, taekwondo and hand-to-hand fighting.

Any competitions were arenas of sports actions: any separate sports competitions within the sports contest of the people of the USSR, sports contest of the Ukrainian SSR, regional and club sports contests, and also the sporting events which are devoted to days of health and remarkable social and political events.

In the conditions of formation of the informal case of professionals, beginning from the 70th of the XX cent., the Kharkiv athletes always made the basis of national teams of the Ukrainian SSR repeatedly supported the national team of the Soviet Union.

Sports institutions mostly were localized in the city and the regional centers. If 31720 persons were engaged in auto-motorcycle sport, gorodki, hunting, tourism and mountain climbing, chess and checkers for January 1 in 1940 in Kharkiv, then in 34 districts of the area is three times less – 9953 persons [4, sh. 1–4]. Functionaries called the absence of sports instructors and stock as the reasons of such state of affairs sports.

Difficulties, with which sports enthusiasts faced during a day of the so-called "the developed socialism" in the village, which are brightly illustrated in the report of the chairmen of Volunteer sports society "Kolos" M. Baky to the vice-chairman of

council of ministers of USSR N. T. Kalchenko of May 11, 1975: "... Most collective farms, state farms and organizations of the republic, have even no simplest constructions for the organization of classes on physical culture and sport. One stadium is the share of 40 collectives of physical culture or of 90 villages and of 2,6 thousand working at the village; one gym – on 53 villages and 14 thousand working. More than 200 rural regional centers have no stadiums, and 133 stadiums which are constructed in regional centers due to cooperation of means with a total cost of 11,5 million rub, actually have no owner, from year to year collapse... for the last 3 years (1973–1975. *Author's note*) the debt of the organizations which hold society makes 2 million 770 thousand rub". [2, sh. 11]. Let's notice that the 70-80th of the 20th century consider the optimum years for the development of sport, when both the state, and the subjects of housekeeping, spent solid funds for reorganization of sports infrastructure of the republic.

The management of bodies of physical culture and sport constantly acted as the USSR as "the poor relative", eliciting money for reorganization of sports infrastructure at the prosperous branch ministries during the whole existence of Ukrainian. So, the Committee on physical culture and sport at Council of ministers of the USSR sent to sketch about sports constructions of the Nikopol inter-collective-farm sports club "Kolos" after the publication the written appeal to the different ministries with request to learn and introduce this experience in the newspaper "Pravda" of June 23 in 1980 the [3, sh. 144]. However business executives, being guided by self-preservation instinct, well understood that it hardly should be responsible for bad providing sports collectives, and here for workers it is necessary to be responsible for non-performance of operational performance or plans of capital construction of housing by all severity of the law.

The attention was paid to one and all sports in the Soviet Ukraine. It is confirmed by official documents of the sports organizations. For example, the resolution of committee of physical culture and sport at council of ministers of the USSR of February 26 in 1969 "About introduction of new only All-Union sports classification for 1962–1972" through decay of requirements of rather sports results entered new to all existing sports in the Soviet Union without their division into different categories [5, sh. 1–124]. However, the Soviet sports functionaries allocated mass (popular) types of sport. Chess and checkers are set off to them near football, volleyball, and track and field athletics. Tourism traditionally contacted the recreational sphere. Allocation of the Olympic sports from others in archival documents is traced from 1969.

Sports clubs were organized at the enterprises and institutions, sports clubs which could exist as independently, and to be the part of Volunteer sports societies (VSS). In 1939 the following VSS worked in the area: Avtomotor, "Bolshevik", "Berevisnyk", "Skhid", "Dynamo", "Zdorovya", "Znannya", "KIM", "Kolos", "Chervona zirka", "Lokomotyv", "Metalist", "Blyskavka", "Mukomol", "Kharchovyk", "Spartak", "Budivelnik", "Temp", "Vrozhay". They represented amateur-sportsmen, who worked in different spheres of the national economy and united by the branch principles. So, VSS "Petrel" which united members of labor unions of the state trade and public catering, communication, consumer cooperation in 1951, presented members of student's labor unions in the 60–80th of the 20th century. The submission of VSS "Dynamo" (law-enforcement bodies), "Lokomotyv" (The southern railroad)

were invariable. The quantity of VSS changed constantly during the second half of the XX cent.

There were gradually certain activities of sports societies. For example, VSS "Dynamo" a little strong teams in such sports as sambo, sports orientation, multi-discipline event PWD, gorodki; VSS "Spartak" – checkers, trampolining, modern pentathlon, rugby; VSS "Avangard" took the leading positions in training of climbers, acrobatics, hockey with ball.

Specialists of All-Union volunteer society of assistance of army, aircraft and fleet famous to the ordinary citizen as VS-CAAF went in for military and applied and technical sports (plane, model aircraft, parachute, glider, automobile, motorcycle, radio sport, sea, shipping-model, and auto-model). For example, the Kharkiv organization contained 34 regional and city committees with 3989 primary organizations and 1 000 099 members of society in 1968 [8, sh. 35].

The network of the educational organizations worked for the purpose of development of military-applied sports among members of society: Kharkiv, Kupyansk, Chuguyev, Balakliya automobile clubs (automotorcycle sport), Sea club (sea sport), air-sports club (parachutists, glider pilots, and pilots-sportsmen), club of office dog breeding (animal trainer, instructors of guard dogs). 21 also worked regional sports-technical club in Kharkov areas in 1968. 18576 drivers, 20728 motorcyclists for the sports sphere, armed forces and the national economy of the republic trained their efforts since January in 1966 till July in 1968 [8, sh. 36]. The fact says that the team aviation and sports club of VSCAAF (V. Barkov, V. Surayev) became the world champion on model aircraft sport about quality of training of sportsmen in 1976.

VSCAAF acted as the competitor of the Kharkiv regional automotor club which had less extensive network of clubs; however quality of work of the last was very high. Such data confirm it: sportsmen of club established 20 automobile and 3rd motorcycle records of the USSR, and also 22 (cars) and 44 (motor) records that made 87% of total auto-motor-records on the Ukrainian USSR. Here Kharkiv citizens V. K. Nikitin, T. G. Popov, Ye. O. Lorent but other were marked out during 1951 [6, sh. 5].

The sports movement, since first years of establishment of the Bolshevik power, acted as the way to emancipation of the woman. The greatest club, which worked in the city at the beginning of the 20th of the XX century – "Society of physical culture of Balabanov", totaled 430 persons of who third was made by women [16, p. 23]. The number of female persons who did Non-Olympic sports only grew in the subsequent. The greatest percent of girls and women was among visitors of such sports clubs as acrobatics, tourism, chess and checkers. Women were presented as well in other sports. So, 534 women went in for auto-motorcycle sport in January 1 in 1940 in Kharkiv that made 16% of total of sportsmen [4, sh. 1–4]. Also one of the strongest Ukrainian hockey (field hockey) teams – the women's team "Avianinstitut" was considered in the 1970th in the early eighties.

Conclusions

Therefore, functionaries did not distribute sport on Olympic and Non-Olympic sports throughout the long period the Soviet sports. The utilitarian purpose of sport consisted in preparation of large number of the young people, who are capable to

protect the country from attack of any enemy. Because of it, such much attention was paid to the development of military-applied sports. Also it was considered as means of ideological education of the Soviet citizens. Regardless to the importance of sport for the Soviet society, the sports sphere constantly felt shortage of funds for the development. Checker and chess became the most mass among Non-Olympic sports, in view of branching of the network of club and the number of their visitors. The attention to different types of single combats

considerably grew during the reorganization under the influence of the so-called «western trends». The level of training of sportsmen was extremely high that allowed our countrymen to compete regularly at allied and world competitions.

The subsequent researches need to be aimed at the development of separate kinds of Non-Olympic sports on the Kharkov region both during the existence of the Ukrainian SSR, and at the time of the existence of independent Ukraine.

Conflict of interests. The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests.
Financing sources. This article didn't get the financial support from the state, public or commercial organization.

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Received: 05.11.2016.

Published: 31.12.2016.

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