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**THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SPORT IN DONBASS AT THE
TURN OF THE 19th–20th CENTURIES**

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The article is devoted to the question of development of physical culture and sport in Donbass in the turn of 19th – 20th centuries. The aim of this work is the historical investigation of the main trends and features of historical development of sport and physical culture in Donbass in the end of the 19th – beginning of the 20th centuries. The accent has been made on the main directions of Donbass sport culture in this period. The emergence of the physical culture and sports movement became one of the new and progressive directions in the development of the national culture of the 19th century. Donbass sport culture was represented by such sport trends as cycling, wrestling, fencing, tennis, weightlifting, football and etc. It has been concluded that the Donbass sports movement developed in close connection with the activities of the leading industrial enterprises of the region and was an important element of the culture of leisure activities for the residents of Donbass. There is no unequivocal opinion about the existence of a single founder of Donbass sports. The most significant contribution to the development of sports and physical culture in the Donbass region was made by V.D. Dancic and A.A. Podgaysky.

Key words: Sport, Physical Culture, History of Sport, Donbass, Culture.

Physical culture and sports are integral elements of any cultural space since they are directly related to the most important cultural value – human

health. The development of physical culture in Donbass at the end of the 19th – beginning of the 20th centuries is a bright and original page in the history of both Donbas culture and Ukrainian culture in general. The development of sports in Donbass in the 19th – early 20th centuries was due to both common features associated with the cultural life of Ukraine and the USSR and specific features of the region.

The aim of this work is to investigate main trends and features of historical development of sport and physical culture in Donbass in the end of the 19th – beginning of the 20th centuries.

Data on the development of Donbass sports culture is presented in the works of A. Matyushin [3], I. Chernenky [6] and Ye. Yasenov [8], as well as in a number of sources based on preserved archival data (including photographs and periodicals on sports topics) [1; 2; 4; 5; 7].

The emergence of the physical culture and sports movement became one of the new and progressive directions in the development of the national culture of the 19th century. In the second half of the 19th century amateur sports clubs which included nobles, wealthy townspeople and representatives of the intellectuals began to emerge. Often the initiators of the formation of such clubs were extraordinary and talented individuals. In addition to sporting events clubs were often places for business negotiations. It was in the club format that the first steps were taken in the development of cycling, wrestling, fencing, tennis, weightlifting, football and other sports areas.

In the 1870s the first bicycles appeared in Russia. It was a high-quality and expensive product of the foreign industry of Western European countries. Largely due to advertising publications in newspapers of that period cycling began to develop more intensively than other sports. The sport journals “Velosiped”, “Samokat” and “Cyclist” published since 1892 contributed to the popularization of cycling [4].

The first historical information about the development of organized sports in Donbass dates back to July 16, 1896, when the charter of the “Group of Slavic scooters” was approved in Slavyansk. The actual founder and ideological inspirer of the group was V. Besspalchev. Subsequently, due to life circumstances he left Slavyansk and the group broke up. In 1989 a representative office of the St. Petersburg Cycling Society appeared in the city.

Many researchers associate the emergence of a full-scale sports movement in Yuzovka with the name of engineer Valerian Danchich, a graduate of the sports school of Dr. V. Krayevsky in St. Petersburg [1].

While still a student V. Danchich was engaged in weightlifting and was a fairly successful athlete. He turned to the administration of the Yuzovsky plant with a request to provide an opportunity to engage in weightlifting in the premises of the school of the Novorossiysk society. Having received consent V. Danchich purchased weights, dumbbells and barbells at his own expense.

In the middle of 1900s the first weightlifting sports club in Donbass appeared in Yuzovka. The members of the club staged performances, showed strength numbers and fights on the belts. V. Danchich also achieved the construction of the first sports facility in Yuzovka – the cyclodrome on the Larinskaya side (cyclodrome is the outdated name of the stadium or racetrack where cycling competitions are held), one of the best bicycle tracks in the Russian Empire. The length of its circle was more than half a kilometer. The metropolitan newspaper “The Sport” wrote about the cyclodrome in very enthusiastic terms in 1902 [5].

Cycling has always been a difficult sport from a technical point of view and at the beginning of the 20th century not every person could buy a bicycle and appropriate ammunition, as well as pay membership fees. These factors have held back the development of cycling. The creation of

the Yuzovsky cyclodrome is the most important historical starting point for organized urban sports. At that time the fans of the village did not go to football, but to “ride a bicycle”. The two most significant names in the history of Donbas sports those were associated with the cyclodrome – Valerian Danchich and Alexander Podgaysky (he was a manager of the cyclodrome). Thanks to V. Danchich not only a cyclodrome appeared in Yuzovka but also a cycling and athletic society has been organized at the plant.

In the autumn of 1900 the first training races were already held at the cyclodrome and soon after all-Russian and international competitions took place there. In addition to Yuzovka in Donbass there were such sports facilitated in Druzhkovka and Mariupol.

After a strike in mid-September 1903 engineer V. Danchich was declared “unreliable”. The administration fired him from the plant and offered to leave Yuzovka. The sports equipment of V. Danchich’s circle was distributed to random people. The British ordered to blow up the cycle track, and in its place they built a football field with a small tribune for spectators (this is the site of the current Metallurg stadium in Donetsk [6, p. 11]). Mostly Englishmen and some Russian clerks trained here. In 1903, Valerian Dmitrievich moved to Gorlovka where he took the position of senior mining engineer at the Korsun’ coal mine of the South Russian Coal Industry Society. Under him sections on freestyle and Russian wrestling, weightlifting sections, as well as the first football teams have been organized in Gorlovka.

After the departure of V. Danchich new sports clubs began to be created in Yuzovka. The first such a club which involved wrestling, barbell, gymnastics, and football was organized in 1903 by young workers of the metallurgical plant Artem Filin, Nikolai Ryzhkov and Pavel Zagoruiko [6, p. 13].

In addition to A. Filin's club other sports organizations dedicated to weightlifting and wrestling are widely known in Donbass. In 1903 after winning the 7th All-Russian Weightlifting Championship Kharkiv resident Nikolai Lukin organized a weightlifting club in Mariupol.

In the spring of 1903 the cyclodrome passed into the hands of two managers – A. Podgaysky and S. Andiaiopolsky. They introduced cash prizes for competition winners. All participants in sports events were provided with uniforms. To attract the public often the demonstration of technical innovations (races with a tandem bicycle, competitions with a motorcycle, recording the results of the competition using an automatic stopwatch) were used. All these elements were innovative and interesting for the residents of Yuzovka. Frequent guests of the Yuzovsky cyclodrome were the best racers from other cities: Edwards (St. Petersburg), Zhukov (Yekaterinoslav), A. Sedov (Odessa), Z. Kulichenko (Simferopol), Tolmachev and Bryzzhev (both Luhansk), Khmurov (Kharkov), Kostin (Rostov-na-Donu) [8].

In subsequent years there was a noticeable falling interest in cycling in Donbass. The population of the region acquired new sports interests and hobbies – football, athletics, gymnastics, weightlifting which made it possible to actively engage in sports not for individuals but for hundreds and thousands of people.

After Pavel Zagoruiko on the eve of May 1, 1907 hoisted the red banner on the factory chimney the authorities began to closely monitor all meetings including A. Filin's sports club. During one of the police activities a search was carried out and the members of the club were sent to prison for a week. Then the activities of the club were banned due to the participation of its members in the revolutionary movement.

A. Filin was forced to resign from the plant but did not interrupt his sports activities. He became the founder of the football team "Vperyod"

which later became known as “Kalmius”. The activities of this football team marked a new stage in the development of Yuzovka’s football and the sports movement of the city as a whole [3].

At the beginning of the 20th century the most popular sports in Yuzovka were cycling, weightlifting, gymnastics, wrestling and football. At first football was an exclusively sports game of foreigners working in Donbass and teenagers who imitated them. For the first time, the inhabitants of Druzhkovka learned about football in 1901, when the French, Belgians, Germans, Poles played a game with a real leather ball in the Toretsky settlement.

Various sports societies existed in Yuzovka on an irregular basis. The authorities understood that scattered sports circles especially one of them on the “inaccessible to control” Rykov side on the left side of the Kalmius River could become a source of the birth of revolutionary ideas. Therefore, in the Yekaterinoslav Governorate General it was decided to create a sports society in Yuzovka on a strict charter basis. On September 30, 1911, the vice-governor of the Yekaterinoslav province Tatishchev signed the charter of the Yuzovsky sports society – the first regular sports organization in Donbass. The main task of the society was to unite all existing sports clubs as well as to promote the development of physical culture and sports in the region, to strengthen and restore the health of the population. It was from September 30, 1911 that the history of the sports movement in Donetsk began. The society developed various sports but football was the main one. A. Filin’s club also stepped up its activities.

At the beginning of the 20th century English specialists who worked in Yuzovka organized professional sports tournaments for themselves and for the people – sports entertainment for all interested [7, p. 251]. The British set up playgrounds and tennis courts near their homes. Hunting was a separate sport in which not only men but also women participated.

On the initiative of A. Filin on June 18, 1917, the official opening of the workers' sports society "Vperyod" took place in Yuzovka (among its 105 members there were 9 women which was very progressive for the beginning of the 20th century). According to A. Filin himself in the summer of 1918 members of the Vperyod sports society in full force went to the front.

Football was actively developing in such Donbass cities as Konstantinovka (society "The Sport"), Kramatorsk (factory club "Casino", "Kramatorsk sports society"), Bakhmut ("Bakhmutsky club of sports fans"), Slavyansk (football team "The Sporting"), Mariupol (football team at the plant "Nikopol"), Gorlovka (football team "FOGAZ"). Nikita Khrushchev as a former Yuzovka worker recalled in 1961 that in his youth he played in the local football team [8]. The strongest was the team of English athletes which since 1908 had an established composition, a systematic training process and a schedule of long-distance meetings. In 1911 the Yuzovskoye sports society was created.

In 1913 the Yuzovskoye Sports Society became part of the All-Russian Football Union as one of the founders of the Donbass Football League created in April of the same year. The Yuzovskoye Sports Society established the Donetskiy Bassein Cup which lasted until late autumn. The development of this football movement was hampered by the outbreak of the First World War as well as the revolution and civil war. A full-fledged revival of football and cycling in Donbass took place already in the post-war period. The first sports festival was held in Yuzovka on April 30, 1923 [2].

In general, the historical development of physical culture and sports in the Donbass region at the turn of the 19th – 20th centuries was represented by various areas such as wrestling, track and field athletics, cycling, football, fencing, tennis, etc. But the dominant position was occupied by cycling and football. The Donbass sports movement developed in close connection with the activities of the leading industrial enterprises of the

region and was an important element of the culture of leisure activities for the residents of Donbass. There is no unequivocal opinion about the existence of a single founder of Donbass sports. The most significant contribution to the development of sports and physical culture in the Donbass region was made by V.D. Dancic and A.A. Podgaysky.

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