

Historical Development of Skiing: Case Study in Durmitor Area

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is the history of skiing, while the main goal will be the historical development of skiing in the mountain Durmitor area in Montenegro. The study consists two goals. The first goal is the emergence of the first ski in the Montenegro and benefits that are brought. The second and the main goal is the occurrence and development of skiing and ski sports in the territory of mountain Durmitor. During the making of this study, the authors used descriptive method with consulting of competent literature. The previous authors' experience in this field was also so useful. Moreover, the author used the analytic method and parallel method that is the most productive if you make some inferences about some appearance. The main outcome of this study was showing of historical progress of ski sports in the territory of mountain Durmitor from early beginnings to the modern Olympic skiing. Skis and ski sport were early appeared in the region of Mount Durmitor. The mountain and the region around it, are very rich with slopes with Olympic diameter, with plenty of snowfall and long winters. However, lack of financial investment, channeling money to other centers, led to the fact that the skiing in this area is at a low level.

Key words: ski sport, development, competition, Durmitor area

Introduction

Durmitor area is located on north-east of Montenegro Crne Gore and its size is 1852 m². It is hill- rocky area dominate by mountain Durmitor (the highest peak is 2522 m), and it is rugged by very deep canyons of rivers Tara, Piva i Komarnica. Over this area, 18 glacial lakes and one big artificial lake hick resulted from building of hydroelectric power plant Piva. The area is split into 3 municipalities with centers in Žabljak, Šavnik i Plužine, in which there are 13800 residents.

National park Durmitor which is famous by magnificent natural beauty, geomorphological and hydrographical characteristics and very rich wildlife. The biggest international award for natural and anthropological values of national parka "Durmitor" represents its entry in register of world cultural and national heritage at UNESCO. Canyon of river Tara which is long 68 km i sporadically deep over 1000 m, was registered in 1977. This review work is consisted of 4 parts. In the first part the sole appearing of first snow shoes is mentioned, as well as developing of skiing in the world. In the second and third part the short retrospect on development of skiing on the territory of the former Yugoslavia and Montenegro has been done. In the forth part of work the coming of first snow shoes and later development of recreational and competitive skiing in the area of mountain Durmitor is mentioned.

Development of Skiing in the World

Ski sport vuoriginates from the need for easier sroosing over snovvy areas. That affected the appearing of first skii especially in areas with plenty of snovv precipitation. Contemporary man noticed that he was moving more easily through the snow if he tied to his feet something bigger made from various

materials such as animal leather, wood, brushwood etc. That is ho snowshoe were made. The next step in thinking was that it wold be easier to glide on snow than to walk in snow shoes to which the snow is being glued. That is how primitive skii appeared.

On oldness of skii testify cave drawings in Salavrug near Oneško lake and in bay of North Norvvay, Rodo. That drawings vvith characters of skiers are old from 4000 to 5000 years. Near the place called Musom in marsh areas of south Norvvay the skii old around 2500 years have been found (Lund, 1996).

The biggest role in development of sports skiing had Norvvay. The first skii competition in running and and dive was held in 1770. In Kristijanija (today's Oslo), and in 1875 the first skii club vvas established. In 1883 the first competition vvas held in place Holmenkolen near Oslo, which is today the most famous skii center. Skiing was especially developed in the district of Telemark, where in the middle of XIX century broythers Hamestvajt i Sondre Nordhajn gave the skii ne shape and tie and thus contributed a lot to development of skii sport. The name skiing comes from Norwegian word ski which means shiver, the name telemark comes from Norvvegian district Telemark, a kristijanija from Norvvegian town Kristijanija, today's Oslo. In 1910 in Norwegian town Kristijanija International skii committee has been established. This comittee used to prepare the first rules for the international skii competition (Taylor, 2015).

Skiing was introduced even on the first Winter Olympic games in 1924 in Chamonix in France, where the first World championship in skiing as held in 1937 (Lutz, 2015).

Development of Skiing in Former Yugoslavia

The first snow shoes of former Yugoslavia appeared in republic of Slovenija. As well as with the neighbouring countries

those came from Nordic countries. Edmond Čibej i Rudolf Cvetko are considered to be the pioneers of skiing in Yugoslavia. In 1888, Čibij brought the first original Norwegian skis in Slovenija, and Cvetko was one of the first educated skii teachers in school of Matijaš Zdarski (Denda, 2009). In republic of Croatia the development of skii sport is entitled to dr. Franje Bučar, who brought the first skis in homeland in 1895. In 1909 skii section as a part of a club from Zagreb HAŠK was organized. In 1918 ski club Zagreb was established. In republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina, more precisely in town Sarajevo the first skii section was established in 1920. After World War II Sarajevo expands development of skii sport. In 1984 XIV Winter Olympic games were held and Sarajevo becomes an olympic city. In republic of Srbija the first skii competition was held in 1939 the first skii club Beograd was established in 1934.

Yugoslavian winter-sport federation was established in 1922 with centre in Ljubljana. It consisted of 6 sub-federations. In 1923 Yugoslavian take part in an International competition in Krkonoše in Czech republic for the first time, when Yugoslavian winter-sport federation becomes a part of Federation of international skiers-FIS. In 1924 the first Olympic Winter games were held in Chamonix in France, where Yugoslavian group also took part. In 1964 in Yugoslavia there were 354 ski organizations and around 62000 organized skiers. That number was growing in the following years until the falling apart of Yugoslavia.

Development of Skiing in Montenegro

In 1893 ski shoes came to Montenegro and they were brought to Cetinje from Kotor via Njegusi, or even better used by captain of Norwegian military Henrik Augusto Angel. About his coming and staying in Montenegro in "Voice of a Montenegrin" was written: "There have been a few days that in our area mister Henrik Angel, a military captain from Norway has been going or, even better flying through snow. Those are a meter and half long woden poplats, by which you can go through the heaviest snow and even alongside hill". Angel's staying on Cetinje and his excursion across Montenegro contributed a lot to popularisation of skiing.

The first skii association was established, which is considered to be the oldest in Yugoslavia. Anent establishment of this association, jubilar ceremonial general meeting of Skiing association was held in september in 1973 in Durmitor (Paunić, 1991). Remembering Henrik Angel and his staying in Montenegro, Montenegrin people, respectively, sportsmen paid their debt to this extraordinary man, a big skii enthusiast, by building a memorial in Mountain hut in Ivanova korita, on 29 September 1984. This memorial makes the future generation remember Henrik Angel, who inspired the development of this sport in our area and forming of the first skii club in Cetinje by his coming to Montenegro in skii shoes. Besides, he represented Montenegrin customs in his books "Through Montenegro in skii shoes", "Sons of black hills" and others published at the end of XIX century in Norway, and later, through their translations represented life and customs in Montenegro to world public.

During his staying in Nikšić he met a young doctor Novak Ognjenović, who was educating in Moscow, but was on duty in Nikšić. Novak was very polite towards Angel, as well as a big fan of skii shoes, so Angel endowed him one pair, realizing how useful they are for his job. During those days in Nikšić, a local carpenter started making skii shoes. The intense interest for skiing in Kolasin was shovled in 1932 when lieutenant Ev-

genije Džamonja, who was on duty in Kolasin's garrison made the young from Kolasin interested in skiing. There were skiing activities in other places, such as Berane, Herceg Novi, Pljevlja and Žabljak.

Development of Skiing in the Region of Durmitor

Massif Durmitor, which is rising in height (2522 m) from lake area (1400 m), is a determinant of this ski area. The area is sprawled from Gornja Bukovica through Ranisava, Pošćanski region, Šljemen, Savin kuk, Karlica, Lokvice, Razvršje, Žabljak, Zmijinjje jezero, Štuoc to the sole coastal of Tara, respectively, to village Tepca. Village Gornja Bukovica and urban center Žabljak are macroidentifications of zones Gornja Bukovica i Žabljak, where building of bigger commodity parts are predicted for ski activities. Alpine ski tracks and cable car parallel to their function for this area, are set on relation Gornja Bukovica-Žabljak. This area makes two ski zones-Gornja Bukovica and Žabljak.

The first skiers went to Žabljak in 1924. That was a group of tourists from Zagreb. Their coming to Durmitor which is later published in Zagreb newspapers, aroused big amazement in Durmitor area. People was fascinated by their fluency while moving through very deep snow. In Žabljak in 1925 carpenter Uroš Vojinović was the first one to make ski shoes, who was educated on Cetinje. Then Đuro Janković started doing the same. Later Gojko Samardžić improved his work to that extent that they were the same as those from factory, say villagers (R. Šamšal, personal communications, November 10, 2002).

The forming of the first ski club on Žabljak dates from 1933, and is connected with three members of ski club Zagreb and those are Vrbaški, Levačić i Crndak who, in the second half on February after exhausting journey in ski shoes from Pljevlja to Žabljak, tried winter climbing on Bobotov kuk (2522 m). Newly formed ski association was very big at the beginning. As first skiers from this area are mentioned dr. Cibilić and teachers Jovan Vuković and Veljko Durković. The most prominent skier from that period was Đordije Milić, who surmounted Durmitor slopes with ease. Radoman Šamšal was one of the pioneers of Durmitor skiing. He started competing in 1939 until 1972. When he said goodbye to his competition career at the age of fifty. He was the winner of many competitions. He was competing in Alpine and Nordic disciplines, but downhill was his specialty where he was a big rival with Milo Rakočević Pif teacher from Kolašin.

The World War II had an impact, on other human and sports activities, as well as on skiing. After it, or more precisely until 1949 in Montenegro there were Ski association and Mountain association as two different associations. From Ilija Čučilović's archive we can conclude that by the end of 1950 Mountain association and Ski association joined into one common association called Mountain-ski association of Montenegro. Analogically, with an aim of forming new associations, during the same year the majority of mountain-ski associations were established (shorten for MSA) which had canton and covered the areas of majority of cantons. Majority of these associations were officially registered in 1951. During that and the following years the following associations were established: MSA Durmitor-Žabljak, MSA Vojnik-Šavnik, MSA Javorak-Nikšić, MSA Ljubišnja-Pljevlja, MSA Vojo Maslovarić-Ivanograd (Berane), MSA Komovi-Andrijevića, MSA Visitor-Plav, MSA Zelenit-Gusinje, MSA Gorštak, kasnije Bjelasica-Kolašin, MSA Subra-Herceg Novi, MSA Orjen-Kotor.

As Ilija Čučilović says, the first president of MSA Durmitor

was Tanasije Gašić originally from Godijelje, contemporary member of the closest management of canton committee of Communistic party. The first secretary of this association was Ilija Čučilović originally from Gornja Bukovica, contemporary member of canton committee of the young and clerk of national committee canton. Very soon after the establishing of MSA Durmitor people acceded to becoming members and gathering of all of these who wanted or had interest or who used to ski. In that sense, more organized work was set, so in 1951 first republic championship in u downhill, slalom and Nordic running was organized (I. Čučilović, personal communications, November 12, 2002).

As Vuk Šibalić and Radoman Šamšal say, the most prominent Alpine skiers from Durmitor after World War II are: Radoman Šamšal, Tomaš Popović, Branko Nikitović, Radoman Zarubica, Vajo Karadžić, Dušan Zorić and others. In 1950 a new generation lead by Vuk Šibalić comes on the scene. There are Mima Baranin, Mišo Karadžić, Drago Šamšal, Vuk Jauković, Savo Delić, Milika Baranin, Vojo Šibalić, Nikola Kovačević, Milosav Stijepović, Momir Grbović and others. Among postwar “Norsemen” the most prominent ones are: MSA Durmitor Radisav Jauković, Radoman Zarubica, Branko Nikitović, Radoman Šamšal in patrol running (running of 3 km plus shooting from rifle) and others. In pioneer category, the most prominent were: Vuk Šibalić, Ratko Baranin, Milosav Četković, Mirko Stevović, Luka i Nikola Šamšal, Kale Delić and others (R. Šamšal, V. Šibalić, personal communications, November 15, 2002).

People from Durmitor came to an idea that Žabljak, as the center of ski canton should have a ski jump, as other ski center in Yugoslavia had. That idea was realized in 1961 and Žabljak got 2 ski jumps. The small one was 25 m long and the maximum result achieved on it was 23 m and the big one was 50 m long and the result of 52 m was achieved on it. Both records were set by rivals from Slovenia.

As Mihailo Milašinović, a rival from Gornja Bukovica says, ski in Gornja Bukovica had the best organization, the biggest density and the biggest success during the period from 1970 to 1980. In that period in the school Bukovica, Mitar

Ostojić worked as a teacher of skiing. The school had numerous generations of students and talented skiers. In that period, the president of Mountain-ski association of Montenegro was Danilo Jauković, originally from Gornja Bukovica, national hero, general on YPA, commander of Second army area. In Bukovica in that period there were many high school students and those waiting for job and "earning for existence "after finished schools. Big migration after 80s had big influence on ski (M. Milašinović, personal communications, November 26, 2002).

The special place, as well as “cherry on top” of Durmitor ski is reserved for Zorica Popović, who as the best ant the most prospective Montenegrin rival with the best achieved results in Montenegro until this century. She started competing in 1995 in category of juniors. Since 1996 she started competing on the level of former Yugoslavia where she was an absolute champion in all categories so far. She was the first competitor from region with scored FIS points. Also, she was our first competitor who won some international competition. She was proclaimed for the best young sportsman for 2000.

Conclusion

Huge ski potentials are not even near to be used, and to be used we need big financial means for development of mountain tourism on Durmitor. We should prepare tracks for registration. For now, there is only one speedway on Žabljak which is registered for organization of biggest ski competitions, as well as those international. Durmitor area has perfect conditions for development of Alpine and Nordic ski so because of that we should do everything that is socially possible currently so that we can use those natural advantages. I consider that in that sense touristic organizations of municipality of Žabljak should show more caring about making the staying in ski centers possible for young skiers with convenient usage of cable cars and other objects. This, together with organization of certain competitions, would represent a certain guarantee that in the next period trend of development of ski sport on Durmitor will continue even more than until now.

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