



Historical Development of Water Polo in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Abstract

The main goal of this paper is to review the development of Water polo sport in Bosnia and Herzegovina, or in one of the former Yugoslav republics. It shows the conditions under which it developed, its formation, development and termination of activities, and the re-launch of this sport in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Getting acquainted with athletes who formed the first clubs as well as the champions of Bosnia and Herzegovina through history to date. Water polo in Bosnia and Herzegovina can be divided into three periods, the first period from 1948 to 1966, the second period from 1985 to 1992, and the third period from 1996 onwards.

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Su Topunun Bosna Hersek'teki Tarihsel Gelişimi

Öz

Bu makalenin temel amacı, Bosna ve Hersek'te veya eski Yugoslav Cumhuriyetleri'nden birinde sutopu sporunun tarihsel gelişimini incelemektir. Bu araştırmada sutopunun hangi koşullar altında geliştiğine, oluşumuna, gelişiminin, faaliyetlerinin sona ermesine ve bu sporun Bosna Hersek topraklarında yeniden başlatılmasına değinilmiştir. Ayrıca tarih boyunca Bosna Hersek'in ilk kulüplerini kuran sporculara ve şampiyonlara yer verilmiştir. Bosna Hersek'teki su topunun ilk dönemi 1948'den 1966'ya, ikinci dönemi 1985'ten 1992'ye ve üçüncü dönemi ise 1996'dan itibaren olmak üzere üç farklı dönemde incelenmiştir.

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INTRODUCTION

Since its beginning, water polo has suffered numerous changes in rules, techniques, tactics and training, and it can freely be said to have grown into a popular team sport, going through all the stages that follow the emergence of a modern and dynamic sports game (Donev & Aleksandrović, 2008). Water polo as a sports game first appeared in 1869 in England. It is safe to say that at the beginning of the 20th century, the water polo game is transmitted over the Atlantic Ocean, and then around the world. This game is called foot-ball in the water, a little after the water polo. After a year, the interest of young people for such sports activity was expanding, so the London Swimming Association formed a commission that made water polo rules. In the great expansion of this new game, the Bournemouth Rowing Club played a major role, which in 1876 determined the size of a pitch of 50 yards and 7 players in one team, one head referee and two line judges. There were no goals in those games so that the players dropped the ball on to the raft of the opposing team (<http://vaterpolosvet.blogspot.ba/2009/07/istorija-vaterpola.html>). In 1876, William Wilson in Glasgow issued the first rules in a water polo game, where in the river Dee the first game was played, in which the boundaries of the playground were set (Donev & Aleksandrović, 2008).



Source: <https://sr.wikipedia.org/sr-el/waterpolo>.

In the coming decades, water polo has experienced an expansion and an incredible pace of expansion across Europe. The first international matches were played in December 1901 by the team MUE (Hungarian Swimming Association) against Vienna Athletic Sports Club (WAC) (Okicic, et al., 2012). Water polo on the American continent was appeared at the end of the 19th century. 19th century with slightly different rules such as playing some slightly different rules such as: playing in an indoor pool, instead of shooting at the goal, player with the ball touches the marked spot on the fence of the water polo court (<http://www.yugopapir.com/2014/07/istorijat-vaterpola-kako-se-domaci.html>).

In Europe, water polo first played in 1894, in the following order: Germany, Austria, Belgium, France and Hungary. In the Olympic sports family, water polo has been in existence since 1900 (except 1904.) and has been equally involved in other sports. The first Olympic winner was Great Britain at the 1900 Olympic Games in Paris, France. In 1926, the first

European Championship was held in Budapest, where the national team of Hungary won the first place (<http://www.yugopapir.com/2014/07/istorijat-vaterpola-kako-se-domaci.html>). After many years, the first World Championship was organized and in 1973 in Belgrade, the then Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the first world champions were Hungarians in front of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia (YUG) (Okicic et al., 2012).

History of water polo in Yugoslavia

In former Yugoslavia, water polo was mostly brought by students who studied in Hungary, Austria and Germany, where water polo sport was already well developed. In 1907 Sombor sports association first introduced water polo into its program of activities. In 1911, a championship was organized in Sombor with the participation of the team from Vojvodina and Budapest (Mihovilovic, 1952). The first championship of Yugoslavia was held in Bled in 1921, and the champion became the team of Sombor sports association. The best players of this championship Đorđe Lugumerski and Žigmond Tibor were also founders of the Vojvodina Swimming association, paying particular attention to the development of water polo (Okicic, et al., 2012).

Students from Zagreb, who studied in Vienna, established a water polo section in HAŠK in 1921. In the same year, the water polo section of the sports club "Ilirija" (Ljubljana) and the HŠK "Viktorija" (Sisak) were established. In 1922 Marine-sports club "Baluni" was established in Split (*today's Jadran*). In 1924, sports club "Jug" was established in Dubrovnik, and "Primorac", Kotor (<http://www.crowaterpolo.com/content/section/19/63/>). The first international performance of the Yugoslavia national team was held at the Slavic Championship in Belgrade on August 27, 1927 against Poland (8:0) and against Czechoslovakia (2:2). That same year, players played for the first time at the European Championship in Bologna (Mihovilovic, 1952). Water polo players of Yugoslavia celebrated their first appearance at the Olympic Games in 1936, as part of the national team of the former Yugoslavia, where they won the 10th place after two defeats and one victory (<http://www.vsb.org.rs>).

After the Second World War, water polo in Yugoslavia gained popularity and attracted many people. Clubs were founded all over the country, so the Yugoslav championships were regularly held, and since 1961 and the winter championships, which since 1973 took place as competitions for the Yugoslav Cup. The most prominent clubs were: "Partizan", "Crvena Zvezda", "Student", "Beograd" ... from Belgrade, "Vojvodina" from Novi Sad, "Bečej" from Bečej, "ZAK" from Kikinda, "Proleter" from Zrenjanin ... (from Serbia), "Mladost" and "Medveščak" from Zagreb, "Jug" and "Gusar" from Dubrovnik, "KPK" from Korcula, "Solaris" from Šibenik, "Jadran", "POŠK" and "Mornar" from Split... (from Croatia), "Primorac" from Kotor, "Jadran" from Herceg Novi, "Budvanska Rivijera" from Budva, "Bijela" from Bijela... (from Montenegro). Already in 1952 at the Olympic Games in Helsinki and in 1956 in Melbourne, water polo players won silver medals. In Rome in 1960, Yugoslavia won the fourth place, and in the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964, it won one silver medal. In this national team, some of the best players were: Mirko Sandic, Milan Muškatirović and Božidar Stanisić. At the Olympic Games in Mexico in 1968, water polo

players won the first gold. One of the best players of all time and member of the Hall of Fame was Yugoslavia's representative Mirko Sandić. He played 235 matches for the national team and scored over 250 goals. In his career he won a large number of medals, of which the most significant is the gold medal in the Olympic Games in Mexico in 1968. In 1973, the first World Water Polo Championship was organized, and Belgrade was the first local. Yugoslavia won the bronze medal in Madrid in 1986, and in 1991 in Perth became the Champion of the World (<http://www.yugopapir.com/2014/07/istorijat-vaterpola-kako-se-domaci.html>).

Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980 were boycotted by the United States and some Western countries. Then Yugoslavia took the second place following the United Socialist Soviet Republic. At the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984, Yugoslavia won gold where the United States was the runner up, thanks to a better goal difference. At the next Games in Seoul in 1988, the former Yugoslavia won another gold medal. One of the most deserving of the success of the team was Igor Milanović, the best center of all time, and also a member of the Hall of Fame in the American city of Fort Lauderdale, Florida (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_water_polo).

History of water polo in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Water polo in Bosnia and Herzegovina can be divided into three periods, the first period from 1948 to 1966, the second period from 1985 to 1992, and the third period from 1996 onwards.

First period

When it comes to the first period from 1948 to 1966, it can be said that there was a rich period of water polo, and that some players played for the national team of the former Yugoslavia. Water polo was played in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar, Prijedor, Tuzla, and at that time it's free to say the best water polo players in Bosnia and Herzegovina were from Trebinje. Since Trebinje is geographically close to Dubrovnik, and we know that good guys come from that city, good water polo players, which is the team of Jug. So some players from Trebinje were members of water polo club Jug, and vice versa. According to the information, the first match of clubs from Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in August 1946 at the national championship of Yugoslavia. The first sections in water polo that were called Torpedo, and later Mladost. In 1947, the first junior championship of Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in the water polo where Sloboda from Tuzla, Torpedo from Sarajevo and swimmers from Mostar took part (Kotjelnikov et al., 1979).

Water polo in Prijedor Bosnia and Herzegovina

Prior to the war, Prijedor was held an unofficial swimming event, mainly for various festivities. An improvised tower, five meters high, was placed on the bridge on Sana. from which jumps into the water were guided. Among the names that were recorded at the time as winners, or as prominent swimmers, are mentioned Sveto Popović, Hakija Kapetanović, Kamber Hrnić, Fehim Resić. After the war, Prijedorans were more turned to water polo, and considerably less swimming. Among the swimmers, the name of Reuf Dzankic was noted, and the list of fans of water sports, whose beginning and date from 1957 was quite wide. The

main initiator of the water polo competition was Veljko Stojanović, who, after all, in some other sports was one of the main beginners, especially in tennis. The chroniclers mention that in 1957 the first improvised playground on Sana was done, and it was transient. The ball was somehow heavy, it was not a water polo ball. Water was fast in some areas of the river, it carried everything in path. The first official match was played within student games, in nearby Ljubija. They met Prijedor and Banja Luka. In the pool, sized 15x12 m. Prijedor won 5: 2. It was the first official water polo game in records which was played in Bosanska Krajina. Interestingly, the colors of the banal team, among others, were also defended by well-known handball players Karadzic, Jovic, Prohaska the Prijedor team was represented by Stanislav and Marjan Zec, Josip and Nikola Čačić, Aleksandar Bojko, Milovan Mršić, Danilo Krainović.

The first real performance was played by the Prijedor at the Republican Championship in Sarajevo in 1959. In competition with Sarajevo and Trebinje, they were the last. At that time the club performed under the name Student. It was mostly made up of students who occasionally trained in Belgrade and Zagreb. Two years later Prijedorani were the homeowners of Bosnia and Herzegovina in water polo - they were the second among five teams. It was noted that there were about 1,500 to 2,000 spectators present in each match (Mirvic & Nurkovic, 2018). Occupied by other obligations, especially after completing the studies, the players gradually left the water polo, and so every next republican championship: 1962, 1963 and 1964. were a step back for the Water Polo Club Student.

In the short history of the Prijedor water polo, these prominent names are worth mentioning: Boro Bogović, Milenko Arežina, Veljo Stojanović, Danilo Krainović, Josip Čačić (long time captain), Nikola Čačić, Dušan Miljuš, Stanislav Zec, Adolf Zec, Marjan Zec, Tihomir Zabunov, Bogoljub Zabunov, Milorad Gaković, Tihomir Bosnić, Branko Kalember, Atko Babić, Aleksandar Bojko, Aleksandar Bujić all of them, as players or as organizers, have done enough to make water polo among Prijedor people live for at least a few years. As in lesser form, these sportsmen have done a lot for swimming: Stanislav Zec, Adolf Zec and Josip Čačić, who were also the fastest in modest swimming competition (Kotjelnikov et al., 1979).

Champions of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia:

- 1946. "Sloboda" Tuzla in Sarajevu
- 1947. "Torpedo" Sarajevo in Sarajevu
- 1951. "Sarajevo" in Trebinju
- 1952. "Jedinstvo" Brčko in Sarajevu
- 1953. "Jedinstvo" Brčko in Brčkom
- 1954. "Leotar" Trebinje in Trebinju
- 1955. "Mladost" Sarajevo in Sarajevu

- 1956. "Leotar" Trebinje in Trebinju
- 1957. "Sava" Brčko in Brčkom
- 1958. "Sava" Brčko in Trebinju
- 1959. "Sarajevo" in Sarajevu
- 1960. "Leotar" Trebinje in Mostaru
- 1961. "Leotar" Trebinje in Prijedoru
- 1962. "Leotar" Trebinje in Trebinju
- 1963. "Leotar" Trebinje in Novom Travniku
- 1964. "Leotar" Trebinje in Lukavcu
- 1965. "Celuloza" Banja Luka in Banja Luci.

Second period

The second period is the period from 1985 to 1992, which is the period of Incel from Banja Luka, Velež from Mostar and Bosna from Sarajevo.

History of water polo in Sarajevo - Bosnia and Herzegovina

During this period, the most information about the development of water polo in Sarajevo was obtained from the letter of Mr. Milorad M. Murisic. There is very little documentation about whether they were playing in the war or otherwise destroyed, we do not know very well, we have very little information. Accordingly, at the initiative of several enthusiasts, and Lakovic Stanisi, director of the construction cooperative Željezničar from Sarajevo, who was the president of the club, Tomanović Aleksandra - Leko, who was the coach and Špiridon Mustur, an engineer at Energoinvest, the vice president of the club, started a gathering of students studying in Sarajevo in the second half of 1984 - at least Milorad M. Murisic, in order to form a water polo club that would continue the tradition to the same club that had stopped activities in 1967. It began with optional training sessions with some swimmers or waterpolists from Sarajevo who would recreate water polo on the Adriatic (in Montenegro or Croatia) during the summer (Mirvic & Nurkovic, 2018).



Source: <http://www.dance.hr>.

The trainings were at the swimming pool of the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education, University of Sarajevo, first on the acquisition of power, and later a water polo ball and goals were acquired, and everything was easier. He recalls that we have gathered - Murišić Milorad, student of the Faculty of Law, born 1962 in Herceg Novi, Maslovar Zoran student of the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education, Primorac Kotor player, Krivokapić Saša from Sarajevo, played for the Riviera from Đenović, Brnjić Mario from Sarajevo in the summer, in summer, played somewhere in Makarska, Bjelica Danko from Sarajevo, played somewhere in Makarska or Baska Voda in the summer, had a family in Igalo, Vrbica Darko, a student, I think that from Sarajevo, Soljan Marino, student of the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education from Hvar, Stari Grad, I think he was a marathon swimmer, and later a swimming coach of Bosnia, Dragan Pejanovic from Sarajevo, played in Makarska in the summer, Baska Voda, Igrane or somehow Lakovic Zoran from Sarajevo, son Stanisa Lakovic, I think he was high school student, Nebojša Galic, Sarajevo, also played somewhere in the summer, Bajic Janko from Sarajevo, Forkopic Dario from Zenica, was an excellent swimmer at 100 meters, sprinter, Jurjevic Bozo, a student from Dubrovnik, played for younger selections of Jug from Dubrovnik. Krivokapic Goran from Kotor played with us, but I do not think he entered the team. Coach was Tomanovic Aleksandar - Leko, and in one game he was helped by Maslovar Zeljko from Kotor, brother of Zoran Maslovar. In that period, the Waterpolo Club Bosnia pays attention and pioneering categories that in 1989, 1990, 1991 form the backbone of the club. All this was under the view of the first coach of the pioneer category of Zoran Maslovar, later Zlatko Bibanović - biba took over. Sadadin Durakovic - Satko, Aleksandar Terzic - Bambus, Ljubic Miroslav - Sali, Mirza Isanovic - pasha who started playing in Baošić, Vernes Husaković, Hasan Rakanović, Sedin Salispahić, Dalibor Šandor, Edin Mirvić and Adnan Duraković come out of this generation. Swimmers from the swimming club Bosna also came, who were also excellent players: Damir Tabori, brothers Baralic Edin and Emir, Janko Gojković, brothers Mirko and Mlad, Štrunf, etc. In 1990 a large number of these young

players played and played in the second federal league of Yugoslavia. In Mostar, 1990 became the champion of Bosnia and Herzegovina and entered the second Yugoslavian water polo league, which was a great success for this club (Mirvic & Nurkovic, 2018).

History of water polo in Banja Luka - Bosnia and Herzegovina

Water polo in Banja Luka has been organized since 1956 when a group of Zagreb students with Dražen Jović brought the first water polo ball. Goals were made and Water polo club Mladost was formed as a section of Youth Cooperative. Waterpolo played exclusively in the summer because there was no indoor pool, first beneath Kastel on Vrbas and at the Green whirlpool in Vrbanja. At that time, water polo was played by students and high school students who trained handball and basketball. The first match was played in 1956 under Kastel, Studenta water polo from Prijedor, they beat Mladost 6: 5. A little later, the official formation of the club, which was noted in the *Krajske novine*. In 1959 a military pool was built in Borik and water polo is played at this pool. In 1961, Incel's hot water pool was built, and the water polo moves to this pool, and the club changes the name as well as the factory, first called Cellulose, and then Incel. Incela's tradition today extends our club under the name Vaterpolo klub Banja Luka. The club was a long-time member of the Second Water Polo League group West. The water polo representative of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mirsad Galijaš, with more than 100 appearances for the national team, also took part in Vaterpolo klub (Incel <http://www.vkbanjaluka.com/>.)

The water polo club Velež was just formed and composed of swimmers who tried their skills with a water ball that meant water polo and did not achieve a significant result and did not live in Mostar at that time. So there are no historical information for that period.

Third period

The difficult period is the period since 1996 and furthermore it is the period of the biggest burden and the maintenance of water polo in the young state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and later on the expansion and formation of the Waterpolo Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Neum Waterpolo Club from Neum who played in the second league of Croatia because in that period there is no Bosansko Hercegovska Liga, there are of course merits also the water polo club Incel from Banja Luka, and later Banja Luka. Water polo clubs are formed in Sarajevo by getting an Olympic pool that has all the conditions for playing water polo. Therefore, clubs are formed: Vaterpolo Club Bosna, Gradski klub vodenih sportova Sarajevo, which also has water polo, Vaterpolo Club Vidra, Vaterpolo Club Mladost, Vaterpolo Club Torpedo, Vaterpolo Club Akademija B, Vaterpolo Club Dabar. A cantonal federation has been formed, which has its championship, the Federation Council and the Federation of Republika Srpska and ultimately the head federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the State championships of Bosnia and Herzegovina are regularly organized. The association of Bosnia and Herzegovina has so far participated in International competitions in the senior and cadet categories. It can be said that water sports as a sport in Bosnia and Herzegovina are still in development, however, Bosnia and Herzegovina has good friendly ties with neighboring countries (Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro) and should expect the national team to join large competitions and fight equally for some of the medals.

CONCLUSION

In the first period (1948–1966) Bosnia and Herzegovina achieved the best results and was most spacious in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but this sport almost disappeared due to the lack of swimming pools and the departure of experts from this sport. The second period failed to reach the level of the first period, but laid the foundations for the further development of this sport. This period was interrupted by war events in Bosnia and Herzegovina, demolished pools and the departure of sports personnel. Third period since 1996, promises most for water polo to get his place in the sports family in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The largest foundation for the water polo players was from the period 1985 to 1992, with the largest load of water polo in Bosnia and Herzegovina. When it comes to professional management of the training process, the Faculty of Sports and Physical Education, University of Sarajevo, is responsible for the water polo as an object compulsory and equitable with football and other sports. The water polo federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has a plan to join and fight equally with all of its neighbors who are World, European and Olympic champions (Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro).

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