

## APPEARANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN SPORTS IN MONTENEGRO AS A CONSEQUENCE OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF MONTENEGRO'S INDEPENDENCE ON BERLIN CONGRESS 1878.

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*Review article*

### Abstract

Montenegro has been battling against many conquerors for centuries, and defended its liberty with many victims. Crown of that liberation battle was Berlin Congress in 1878 on which independence was recognized to this small country. That way, this very important event in the European history of XIX century, has become one of the most important dates in the independence history of Montenegro, which definitely solved the question of its international recognition. As a consequence of becoming independent, diplomatic branch offices are opened in the capital of Montenegro - Cetinje, among first those of the world most powerful states: England, Germany, Russia, Austro-Hungary, Turkey, the USA and others. There were 12 embassies in Cetinje at that time. The leader of Montenegro, Prince Nikola had a big family (eight daughters and a son) and through them he made family relations with several European courts which strengthened the position of Montenegro in Europe as well. Foreign diplomats introduced new habits and behaviours into the Montenegrin capital. Among other things, they introduced and promoted sport in Montenegro: golf, tennis, ice skating, skiing... so appearance and development of these, above mentioned sports in Montenegro after Berlin Congress was paid a lot of attention to in this time period.

**Key words:** history, capital, position, promoted, embassy

### Introduction

The Berlin Congress is one of the most important events in the European history of XIX century, and its decisions founded one of the most dates in the independence history of Montenegro. The Berlin contract is consisted of 64 articles. The decisions regarding Montenegro are included in the articles 26-33. The article 28 specifies the borders of Montenegro, (National encyclopaedia, 1925). The decisions made on the Berlin Congress definitely solved the issue of International status of Montenegro which became the twenty-seventh internationally recognized state in the world on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 1878 (Medlicott, W.N. 1979). In that time

period, because of getting international recognition of Montenegro's independence, there is intensified diplomatic activity with European states, which extremely contributed modernization of Montenegro in every aspect, as well as appearance and development of modern sport in it. Orientation of Montenegro towards East and West European countries contributed to introducing, accepting and developing sport movement there. The sports activities that used to be more elements, in this time period got a real form and preconditions for more intensive development that came afterwards.



Picture 1. Anton von Werner: "Berlin Congress". Final meeting of participants, July 13th 1878.



Picture 2. Map of a part of South-East Europe after decisions made on the Berlin Congress, 1878.

## Methods

Subject of our research is appearance and development of modern sports in Montenegro in the time period of its international recognition on the Berlin Congress in 1878, and all way to the beginning of the World War I, when development of sports was stopped at the whole territory of Europe because of the war. In this research, we used historical method as a set of research procedures on events happened in the past. Their implementation was made in several phases: Method of *heuristics* was implemented in the first phase, in the sense of gathering relevant data and including historical structure through primary, secondary and tertiary written sources. In the second phase- *critics of sources*, there is an approach to careful analysis of the above mentioned sources, as in the third, final phase- *exposition*, there is a review of results given by the analysis of the above mentioned sources.

### *Historical sources used in the research*

Although printing has a several centuries long tradition in Montenegro, starting with Oktoih Crnojevića, publishing in this area is renewed only during reign of Petar II Petrović Njegoš, and prosperity is made during the second half of the 19th century. Books, newspapers and magazines are printed and they occasionally have articles on sports and physical culture.

The first Montenegrin newspaper Crnogorac (A Montenegrin) appeared in 1871 and changed, two years later, its name into Glas Crnogorca (The Voice of A Montenegrin) in 1873. In the following time period, Cetinje got the newspapers Cetinjski Vjesnik and Ustavnost, which represented the most important source of information on sports in Montenegro.

Just before the World War I there were several daily newspapers and bulletins in the capital city in which there were occasional articles about sports and physical culture in general, which had a common name „gymnastics“ at the time. Besides the above mentioned, there are other magazines published in Cetinje: Orlić, Luča, Književni list, Zeta, Nova Zeta and Crnogorka, as well as expert magazines: Zdravlje and Prosvjeta. Besides Cetinje, there are also newspapers' publishers in Podgorica and Nikšić. In those newspapers there are periodical articles on sport events. A number of illustrations and documents used in this research is available in the National Museum in Cetinje and the Archive of Montenegro. A lot of significant information on the sport development in Montenegro was left by foreign travel writers, diplomats, army officials and writers, who were quite inspired to write about customs, lifestyle and sport competitions in Montenegro. Viala de Somier, who was a French officer, left some interesting notes on sport in Montenegro. He talked about it, with a lot of inspiration, in his book „Historical and political travelling to Montenegro“ (1994), in which his notes are full of descriptions on chivalrous competitions of the Montenegrins, with the elements of competition, sport and physical culture. Significant data on Montenegrin sport at the end of the XIX century was left by a Norwegian captain Henrich Augusto Angell, who travelled all around Montenegro in 1893 and left behind a travel writing „Through Montenegro on skis“. The original title is *Gjennem Montenegro paa ski*. The book was published in Kristiania (Oslo) in 1895 and it was dedicated to the Norwegian youths, as the example how they should fight for independence of their own country.



Picture 3. Picture on the covers of Angell's book "Through Montenegro on skis"



Picture 4. Norwegian captain **Henrich Augusto Angell (1861-1922)** inspired by Angell's book.



Picture 5. **Sculpture of a Montenegrin on skis, inspired by Angell's book.**

This book was illustrated by drawings of Montenegrin, mainly winter landscapes, and personalities from Montenegrin history, and on the cover page there is a photo of a skier, in the Montenegrin national costume. Angell was enchanted by Montenegrin landscapes and people, he was impressed by, at that time probably smallest metropole in Europe, where he was honoured by the Prince Nikola the Danilo's Cross of the Fourth Order. In the Empire of Montenegro, a writer Simo Matavulj often stayed, and in his work *Notes of a Writer* (1929) he gave a nice description of an athletic competition, organized in honour of Bularian prince Batenberg in Cetinje, in which a young man won (he joined the race self-initiatively).

In the above mentioned work he talks about the level of sport development in this area and quite a high level of physical condition of the Montenegrins. The writer Nenadović Lj. (1922) was also a common guest in Montenegro and wrote about it with a lot of verve. Among other things, he wrote about sport events that were a part of Montenegrin people's lives and which could be followed centuries through the history. A very respective source of information on development of physical culture in this time period are the books of historians: Jovanović, N.(1994) and Laković, Dj.(2000) which served as a valuable source of information as well.

## Results and discussion

A little after the Berlin Congress, whose decisions founded one of the most important dates in the independence history of Montenegro, the Montenegrin capital Cetinje, in this time period, had a very intensive cultural development thanks to successful diplomatic cooperation with European states, which was followed by different sports associations and clubs. It should be emphasized that the first golf club was founded in Cetinje in 1906 in the rooms of West Balkans today. That fact is especially noted by a sport historian Radunović, R.(1980) in his scientific work. This significant event had quite completed the rich sport history of Montenegro where, besides golf, modern sports like tennis, ice skating, skiing, etc, started to develop and to whose development, a special attention will be paid in this paper. Foundation of sports clubs led to maprince sports relations with European state, which represented the base of the Montenegro's sport history.

*Appearance and development of golf in Montenegro*  
A Golf club was founded in July 1906 in Cetinje, and a patron of this organisation was princess Milica, wife of crown prince Danilo, the oldest son of prince Nikola. According to Radunović, R. (1980): "the playground was located in the newly built part of Cetinje - in Nova Varos, nearby the building of Italian Embassy.



Picture 6: Princess Milica-Juta opened the golf course in Cetinje with a game of golf.



Picture 7: Foreign diplomats and family members at opening of the golf course in Cetinje.

At the solemn opening of the golf course, princess Milica-Juta played the first game (with military music support), and then members of the club played until sunset. This game was and still is the privilege of a small number of people, mostly from diplomatic choir and royal family members.

### *Appearance and development of tennis in Montenegro*

For tennis we can see that it was developed along with the west parts of Balkans.

Data for such claim were found in the magazine *The Graphic* (1906) published in England, the country extremely affected to this sport. A photo following the text „The Montenegrin prince playing tennis in Cetinje” was published there.

Below that title, the article says that the Montenegrin prince „hosted Mr Michael Kalt Zejtig and his officers in Cetinje during the summer visit of British Mediterranean Navy to Kotor Bay”.



Picture 8. The Graphic: „The Montenegrin Prince playing tennis in Cetinje“.



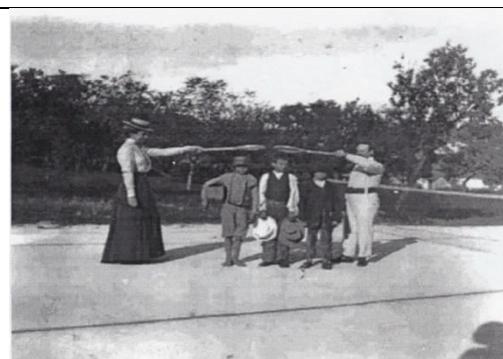
Picture 9. Article about Montenegrin Prince who is playing tennis, published in German magazine Zick-Zack.

The reception was followed by a tennis game which was organized by wife of a British delegate. Further, there is a data that the prince was wearing a complete Montenegrin national costume and that he was playing tennis well. A very similar information was published in the German magazine Zick-Zack the same year. At first, tennis was played by diplomats and the court suite. It was not available to many people.

As for the domestic press, there was an article published in the newspaper *Glas Crnogorca* (1903) which served as a referent source for this research. That Montenegrin newspaper published an article which informed the readers that a tennis court was opened within Italian Embassy. A certain number of tennis courts were preserved even today within former embassies in Cetinje.



Picture 10. Prince Nikola with his family and foreign diplomats by tennis court nearby Italian Embassy in Cetinje



Picture 11. Princess Natalija with Austrian diplomat at tennis court and children who collected tennis balls

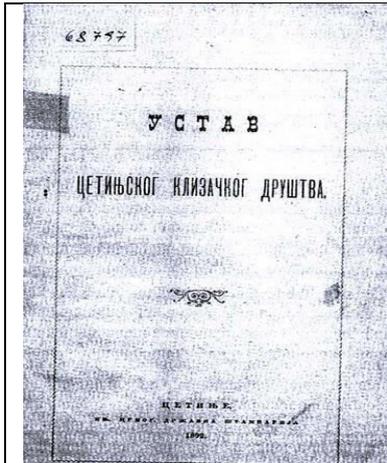
*Appearance and development of ice-skating in Montenegro*

Opening of new embassies in Cetinje, new habits and behaviours were introduced in the capital of Montenegro. Among other things, there were different sport associations founded, such as the Association for Gymnastics, Ice-skating and Fighting in 1891, with accent on the Ice-Skating Association which got its Constitution on October 30th 1892. Talprince about appearance of ice-skating, we will quote a lifelike description of the ice-skating rink given by a Norwegian Angell in his book „Through Montenegro on skis“ (1895).

Here is the description: „Who would believe to find an ice-skating rink, and quite an extraordinary one?

When you go past the Castle, and somehow manage to break through really frightening snowdrifts, then take a path along the Prince park, first you see the Prince’s Chapel with old Monastery, and right next to it, on the lea, there is a beautiful little ice-skating rink. And why wouldn’t there be an ice-skating rink? It is cold enough and there are enough sportsmen, and aqueduct is top hole.

Next to the ice-skating there is a changing room, as well as a bar room for receptions, and there is a new fire-fighting hose for watering ice every night, and oriental lanterns and torches-there is also a prince orchestra that sometimes plays. It is hard to build a better ice-skating“.



Picture 12. Constitution of Ice-Skating Association in Cetinje from October 30<sup>th</sup> 1892.



Picture 13. Austrian baroness Kun de Kunenfeld with her children at ice-skating rink under Orlov Krs in Cetinje in 1907.

### *Appearance and development of skiing in Montenegro*

The first skis was brought to Montenegro by the Norwegian traveller, the above mentioned captain of Norwegian royal army, Henrich Augusto Angell, who arrived to Kotor in January 1893 and then headed to Cetinje over Njegusi.

This world traveller was especially honoured for being received at the court of prince Nikola, where he was held for dinner. From Cetinje, still on skis, he continued to the North-West border of Montenegro, to visit Duga in Niksic and the places from which Montenegro fought for and defended its independence.

By the way, he went past Rijeka Crnojevica, Podgorica, Danilovgrad and Niksic, and everywhere he demonstrated the skills of skiing, and it had a great importance for propaganda of this sport.

People started to get interested where they could buy skis, so the first orders of those unusual boards were sent from Vienna to Montenegro.

At the end of January 1893 Angell finished his mission through Montenegro, he came back to Norway, and left a nice memory in Cetinje - his skis.

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### **Conclusion**

The above given data and analysis of appearance and development of sports in this paper refer to the fact that Montenegro faced with a significant progress in physical culture at the end of the nineteenth century. Although traditional forms of sport were present there for centuries, it can be said that the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century marked the foundations of modern sports associations. Sports paid special attention in this paper are: golf, tennis, ice-skating and skiing, because these sports were completely unknown in Montenegro before the Berlin Congress in 1878, when Montenegro was declared independent. Coming of foreign diplomats to Montenegro enable the appearance and development of these sports, but of course, not immediately. It took time for increasing diplomatic choir and gathering enough people who accepted and developed these sports. At first, only foreign diplomats, royal family members and court suite were practicing these sports. Only after opening of sport clubs at the beginning of the twentieth century, these sports became available to the citizens. Unfortunately, the beginning of the World War I in 1914 suddenly interrupted development of these sports as well as all progressive happenings in Montenegro and Europe.

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## **POJAVA I RAZVOJ MODERNIH SPORTOVA U CRNOJ GORI KAO POSLJEDICA MEĐUNARODNOG PRIZNANJA NEOVISNOSTI CRNE GORE NA BERLINSKOM KONGRESU 1878.**

### Sažetak

Crna Gora se borila protiv mnogih osvajača kroz stoljeća i branila svoju slobodu uz mnoge žrtve. Kruna te oslobodilačke borbe bio je Berlinski kongres 1878. godine na kojem se priznala neovisnost ovoj maloj zemlji. Na taj način, to je vrlo važan događaj u europskoj povijesti XIX stoljeća, postavši jedan od najvažnijih datuma u povijesti neovisnosti Crne Gore, koji je definitivno riješio pitanje međunarodnog priznanja. Kao posljedica osamostaljivanja, diplomatske grane su otvorene u glavnom gradu Crne Gore - Cetinje, među prvima među najmoćnijim svjetskim državama: Engleska, Njemačka, Rusija, Austro-Ugarska, Turska, SAD i druge. Bilo je 12 veleposlanstava u Cetinju u to vrijeme. Vođa Crne Gore, princ Nikola je imao veliku obitelj (osam kćeri i sina) i kroz njih je napravio obiteljske odnose s nekoliko europskih sudova koji su ojačali poziciju Crne Gore u Europi. Strani diplomati uveli su nove navike i ponašanja u crnogorskom glavnom gradu. Između ostalog, oni su uveli i promicali sport u Crnoj Gori: golf, tenis, klizanje, skijanje... pa pojava i razvoj ovih, gore navedenih sportova u Crnoj Gori, nakon Berlinskog kongresa joj je pridonio puno pažnje u tom vremenskom razdoblju.

Ključne riječi: povijest, glavni grad, pozicija, unaprijeđen, veleposlanstvo

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