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THREE DECADES OF IMPROVING: THE JOURNEY OF THE FACULTY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS OF KHERSON STATE UNIVERSITY

The study explores the origins and development of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports at Kherson State University (KSU). KSU's sports team has excelled in various disciplines, including rowing, kayaking, gymnastics, and more. The university has forged fruitful partnerships with Kherson Professional Sports College and “Invasport” for disabled athletes.

Kherson State University offers specialized training in Secondary Education (Physical Culture) and Physical Culture and Sports, reflecting its commitment to these fields. Training in these areas began in 1994. Currently, the faculty accommodates around 400 full-time students, including 250 bachelors' and 38 masters' candidates, along with 170 part-time students. Over 100 students are enrolled according to state quotas.

The faculty boasts over 25 highly qualified educators, including two professors and 16 associate professors. Graduates contribute significantly to the pedagogical landscape, embodying the faculty's ethos with integrity and cultural awareness, thus contributing significantly to the state's advancement.

Keywords: faculty, sports achievements, competitions, history of sports, teachers, graduates.

Степанюк С., Коваль В., Грабовський Ю., Городинська І., Руденко В. Три десятиліття удосконалення: шлях факультету фізичного виховання та спорту Херсонського Державного Університету. У статті здійснено аналіз передумов створення та розвитку факультету фізичного виховання та спорту Херсонського державного університету. Визначено, що спортивний колектив ЗВО досягнув значних успіхів у розвитку таких видів спорту, як веслування академічне, веслування на байдарках і каное, гімнастика, спортивне орієнтування, кульова стрільба, гандбол, волейбол, легка атлетика, настільний теніс, стрільба з лука, баскетбол, боротьба і інші.

Виявлено, що задля плідної роботи ХДУ вже не один рік співпрацює з Херсонським фаховим спортивним коледжем, який є базовим учбовим закладом факультету фізичного виховання і спорту та Херсонським обласним центром з фізичної культури та спорту інвалідів „Інваспорт”.

З 1994 року і по сьогоднішній день на факультеті здійснюється підготовка фахівців за такими напрямками: 014.11 Середня освіта (фізична культура) та 017. Фізична культура і спорт. На сьогоднішній день на ФФВС навчається близько 400 студентів денної форми навчання (більше 250 осіб – бакалаври і 40 – магістри; заочну форму навчання обрали 11 студентів.

Тисячі висококваліфікованих фахівців, підготовлених на факультеті, успішно працюють сьогодні на педагогічній ниві, впроваджуючи у життя набуті знання, генеруючи сучасні ідеї, моральністю, культурою й сумлінням підтверджуючи високоякісну марку свого факультету. Сукупний внесок усіх, чия доля пов'язана з факультетом, у становлення й розвиток нашої держави важко переоцінити.

Показово, що у складний період колектив факультету, у складі 25 висококваліфікованих викладачів (з них 2 – доктори наук та професори, 16 – кандидати наук і доценти) трьох кафедр, зумів зберегти та примножити свої багаторічні традиції, не розгубити кадровий потенціал. Усе це вигартовувало і зміцнило справді заслужений авторитет і загальне визнання.

Ключові слова: факультет, спортивні досягнення, змагання, історія спорту, викладачі, випускники.

Formulation of the problem. In the realm of modern national history studies, there is a discernible shift towards a comprehensive analysis of the historical evolution of specific Ukrainian regions and branches of social life. This necessitates revisiting overlooked figures and reassessing certain historical epochs. Such an approach, characterized by its thoroughness, breadth, and reliance on scientific inquiry, paves the way for new avenues of historical and cultural interpretation. It fosters the development of novel perspectives on national history, as all progress is rooted in historical precedent. Consequently, the origins of various phenomena consistently command the attention of researchers.

In the educational landscape of our country, institutions of higher learning play a pivotal role. Kherson State University (KSU) holds a prominent position among southern Ukrainian institutions, serving as both a hub of creativity and intellectual discourse and a bastion of sporting excellence.

Analysis of recent research and publications. Kherson State University has garnered recognition beyond its region for its distinguished sports traditions, with its students securing numerous victories and accolades across various competitions, ranging from local championships to global events such as the Olympics (Malyarenko I.V., Stepaniuk S.I., 2003).

The university's sports team has made significant strides in fostering a diverse range of sports disciplines, including academic rowing, kayaking, canoeing, gymnastics, orienteering, shot put, handball, volleyball, athletics, table tennis, archery, basketball, wrestling, and others (Stepanyuk S., Horodynska I., Grabovskiy Y., 2012).

Over the span of six years, the university's sports club has been honored with the prestigious Red Flag of the "Burevisnyk" Sports and Recreation Camp for its outstanding athletic achievements. Moreover, in 1988, the institute established an Olympic training center for kayaking and canoeing, further bolstering its sporting infrastructure. While existing literature delves into various aspects of Kherson State University's activities, the formation and evolution of its Faculty of Physical Education and Sports remains inadequately addressed (Nedbailo M.D., Sabadash V.I., 1997).

Undoubtedly, the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports stands as a beacon of pride for Kherson State University, boasting a multitude of Olympic champions, world champions, and European champions across diverse sporting disciplines (Stepanyuk S., Koval V., Zakharov I., 2021).

The **objective** of this article was to examine the establishment and operations of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports at Kherson State University.

To achieve this objective, we employed the following **methods of research**: analysis of archival materials; exploration of the contributions of prominent figures in the physical culture and sports movement within the Kherson region; interviews.

Results of the research and discussion. The history of Kherson State University traces back to the establishment of the Yuryiv Teacher's Institute in 1914, initially part of the Yuryiv (Derpt) University. However, due to the disruptions caused by the First World War, educational institutions were compelled to relocate to safer regions. Consequently, in the autumn of 1917, the university moved to Voronezh, while the institute found its new home in Kherson. From October 1917 to March 1918, the institute operated in Kherson under the name "Yuriiv Teachers' Institute" [15, 16].

Over time, there was a noticeable decline in the quality of scientific and methodological training in school, children's, and youth sports, leading to a decrease in sports performance. The need for trained physical education specialists for general education institutions became increasingly apparent. This necessitated the decision by the Regional Department of Education and

the rectorate of the Kherson State Pedagogical Institute to establish a faculty of physical education and sports at Kherson University [13].

Efforts were made to establish partnerships with physical culture schools, Olympic reserve schools, and sports schools. Through the dedicated efforts of the university management and the regional education department, the specialty "Primary education. Biology and physical education" was established in 1993, followed by the creation of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports in 1994, based on this specialty [11].

The foundation of the faculty is the Department of Physical Education, which was headed by Gennadiy Zakharovych Ovcharenko at the time, as well as the sports club "Burevisnyk" led by the honored coach of Ukraine and the first dean of the faculty, Valentyn Ivanovych Sabadash. It was Valentyn Ivanovych who first managed to enroll student-athletes in the institute. During this time, the institution became a 9-time winner of the Spartakiada of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and a 6-time winner of the Spartakiada of higher education institutions of the USSR. He made a significant contribution to the development of the institute's sports and mass work. He initiated the holding of the student Spartakiada of KDPI named after N.K. Krupskaya. Since 1987, he has worked as the director of the Olympic training center for rowing and canoeing. He made a great contribution to the development of sports orienteering. He was repeatedly involved as the senior coach of the national team of the former USSR in sports orienteering and the coach of the national student team in rowing and canoeing of the USSR [1].

After the establishment of the faculty, two departments were opened: Theory and Methods of Physical Education and Sports Disciplines [7].

For fruitful work, KSU has been fruitfully cooperating with the Kherson Professional Sports College for more than one year, which is the basic educational institution of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports. Kherson regional center for physical culture and sports for the disabled "Invasport". We are proud of the achievements of resilient people, as most of them were, and are today, students or graduates of our faculty [8].

Insufficient preparation of applicants upon admission to the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports prompted the rectorate of Kherson State University to establish a pre-university training department (FDP), later renamed the Center for Pre-University Training (CDP), with a specialization in "Physical Education" [8].

In 1997, the first intake of FDP students was conducted, with experienced instructors Ihor V. Horodynska, Ihor I. Zaytsev, and Oleh G. Shalar working with them throughout the academic year. In September 1999, the specialty "Physical Education and Sports" was introduced at the Academic Lyceum of KSU.

A well-planned program of general physical and special training allowed the first FDP students to pass their final exams with "good" and "excellent" grades, thus obtaining admission to the 1st year of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports.

During the first decade of the faculty's operation, over 500 graduates received specialist diplomas with higher education, including 450 specialists and 54 masters. Thirty-six graduates received diplomas with honors [10].

Since 2000, the faculty has been headed by Boris Hryhorovych Kedrovskiy, a candidate of technical sciences and associate professor.

Under his leadership, the level of the teaching staff has increased: 16 instructors defended their candidate dissertations, three doctors of sciences worked, and a new specialty "Sport" was opened and licensed. Master's programs were launched for two specialties, and postgraduate studies were successfully implemented. All faculty specialties are accredited at the IV level. An educational-methodical complex was established with the Higher School of Physical Education, allowing graduates of the school to be trained on an accelerated schedule. The Department of Theory and Methods established a methodological office, which continuously updates specialized literature. A gym was opened, and the educational-sports base of the faculty is constantly expanding. At that time, the faculty had nearly 500 students in full-time and part-time programs. Among them were 150 candidates for sports masters and masters of sports of Ukraine, 16 international-class masters of sports, and six Honored Masters of Sports of Ukraine. At that time, five Honored Coaches of Ukraine worked at the faculty.

During Boris Hryhorovych's leadership, over 200 students of the faculty became winners and champions of the Olympic Games, World Championships, European Championships, Ukrainian Championships, Paralympic Games, and Deaflympics. Among them are Beresh O., Nikitin Y., Borodina A., Shitko D. (Dudka), Verhoglyad D., Nimchenko Y., Verestyuk A., Mikhaylov A., Mikhay D., Morozov A., Kuvakin V., Vyaltsev S., Dyulger S., Yakubovsky O., Dyachkova O., Skrypka T., Vrazhkin D., Shuper M., Hubka K., Pryveda A., Kravchenko V., Kruk S., Turkov V., Ursulenko N., and others [12].

In May 2010, Shitko D. (Dudka) was recognized as the best female athlete of Ukraine. The only women's handball team of masters in the city of Kherson, "Dnipryanka", competes in the super league. Three graduates and students of the faculty are members of the national handball team [4, 14].

One of the strategic directions of activity of Kherson State University and the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports is international cooperation aimed at integration into the European and global educational space. In 2013, an agreement was signed between KSU and the University of Economics in Bydgoszcz (Poland) to organize the process of dual diploma issuance in the field of "Physical Education (Sports Management)". Cooperation between the Health and Physical Education Institute of the University of Economics in Bydgoszcz and the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports of KSU allowed teachers to go on short-term scientific missions and internships at partner universities. For students, there was an opportunity to study under the "Double Diploma" program and undergo internships. Nine students of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports (Katerina Afanasyeva, Vsevolod Vsevolodov, Lyudmila Hnat, Julia Kobets, Oleksiy Korov, Irina Patrashuk, Serhiy Servula, Anna Serebrennikova, and Pavlo Furs) studied under the double diploma program at the University of Economics in Bydgoszcz (Poland) and received European standard diplomas [12].

Since 2018, the position of the Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports has been held by Ivan Hennadiyovych Glukhov, Doctor of Science in Physical Education and Sports. It is worth noting that during his tenure, the positions in terms of the number of students enrolled in full-time education have been maintained. However, there has been a certain

decrease in the number of applicants for part-time education, which, in particular, in 2022 was associated with the state of war and the temporary occupation of part of the region. At the same time, during the academic years of 2018-2023, the total licensed training capacity for the Master's degree program was filled to 100%.

Currently, the educational process in professional disciplines is provided by three departments: Theory and Methods of Physical Education, Olympic and Professional Sports, and Medical-Biological Foundations of Physical Education and Sports, where experienced teachers work.

The faculty provides training for students in two educational programs at the bachelor's and master's levels:

1. 014 Secondary Education, specialization 014.11 Physical Education for Higher Education: Bachelor, Master. Form of study: full-time and
2. 017 Physical Education and Sports for Higher Education: Bachelor, Master. Form of study: full-time.

Graduates of the faculty successfully enroll in various forms of postgraduate education at leading universities in Ukraine: Lviv State University of Physical Culture (now named after Ivan Bobersky), Vinnytsia State Pedagogical University named after M. Kotsiubynsky, Kharkiv State Academy of Physical Culture, Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University, Kherson State University. Graduates of the faculty who successfully defended their candidate dissertations and obtained the scientific degree of Candidate of Sciences in Physical Education and Sports include Stepanyuk S.I., Kharchenko L., Strykalenko Ye.A., Seleznyova T.V., Zhosan I.A., Koltsova O.S., Koval V.Y., Hatsoieva L.S., Glukhov I.G., Moiseyev S.O., and Drobot K.V.

In 2023, for the first time, a doctoral dissertation was defended at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports. Ivan Glukhov, the dean of the faculty, defended his dissertation for the academic degree of Doctor of Science in Physical Education and Sports. The defense took place at the meeting of the specialized academic council D32.051.04 of Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University, under the specialization 24.00.02 "Physical Culture, Physical Education of Various Population Groups". The research itself was conducted at the pool of Kherson State University.

The uniqueness of this event lies in the fact that Ivan Glukhov is the only Doctor of Science in Physical Education and Sports in the Kherson region.

Over the past decade, our faculty has grown. Step by step, through the efforts of teachers, researchers, and organizers, the faculty is increasing its scientific and educational potential.

Today, thousands of highly qualified specialists trained at the faculty are successfully working in the field of education, implementing acquired knowledge, generating modern ideas, and demonstrating high-quality standards of their faculty with morality, culture, and conscience. The collective contribution of all those whose fate is connected with the faculty to the formation and development of our state is difficult to overestimate.

It is indicative that during challenging times, the faculty's collective was able to preserve and enhance its long-standing traditions without losing its human resources potential. All this has forged and strengthened the truly deserved authority and overall recognition.

There are all reasons to expect that the faculty will continue on the path of development, diligently implementing modern scientific achievements, innovative technologies, information systems, and shaping citizens of a new formation, which will allow it to maintain a leading position among the country's leading institutions in the future.

Thirty years is the age of youth, progress, the desire to grow, change, and achieve new heights on the path to success. Therefore, while paying tribute to the significant achievements of the faculty's collective, we are confident that the even more numerous victories of its teachers and students are yet to come.

We wish everyone good health, peaceful skies, new achievements, and fruitful activity for the benefit of Ukraine. We sincerely congratulate the faculty collective and alumni on the anniversary! And most importantly – we wish for a swift return to our native land!

Conclusions. So, the activity of the faculty is aimed at continuous progress, an unceasing desire for improvement and progress, achieving the highest results. The collective of like-minded individuals and true professionals plays a huge role in preparing real champions in our region. The Faculty of Physical Education and Sports has powerful potential and serious prospects for the future.

We see **the prospects of further research** in the further exploration of various aspects of the development of the physical culture and sports movement in the Kherson region, which will contribute to the improvement of the physical education system for students, young people, and high-performance sports.

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