

THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF SPORTS IN KOLOZSVÁR
BEFORE TRIANON (1868-1920)

Ph.D thesis

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1. Introduction

The sports history and sport-life of those parts of Hungary that were broken off following the Treaty of Trianon, are all an organic part of the universal Hungarian sport-life. These territories are characterized by the fact that preceding the breaking up of Hungary, they all had a prestigious sport-life that defined the sports between the two World Wars. Although it was a political and social goal in many cases to weaken or even disperse the old Hungarian sporting unions, the Hungarian sport lived on outside the borders of the Hungary we know today.

Many sporting unions were founded in the cities of Transylvania, following the conciliation of 1867. There was a significant sport-life present in the greater cities (Kolozsvár, Brassó, Marosvásárhely, Arad, Temesvár), among which Kolozsvár was the most meaningful. It had gained its status through the types of sports played as well as the establishments it possessed and the results it had to show for. Although there are several sources dealing with this period, no encompassing research has yet been undertaken.

We find it necessary to uncover process and analyze the documents, photographs and monographies of this era pertaining to sports. This would in turn enrich the bibliography available at this time. We also find that every such piece of work that helps save the sport-life is necessary. These pieces of work still exist and they are well-known as they constitute an organic part of the cultural history of Kolozsvár. Sports played an important part in the history of the settlement as well as in that of the society. Its value was also increased in the 20th century by the role of the propaganda.

The rich bibliography at our disposal is unfortunately scattered. The sources we find in the archives of Kolozsvár and Budapest are either lacking or worn, but they may be supplemented from personal legacies or those owned by educational institutions, churches and libraries. The memoirs of the eye-witnesses are completed by reports from the press of the period. Fortunately the reporters followed the events with attention and made a detailed coverage possible. The publications of the early sporting clubs create an accurate picture about the sport-life of the unions whereas family archives hold many sport-related picture materials. Although family archives face many dangers (damage, accidental breakage, the lack of professional storage) and the identification of the photographs and documents becomes ever harder by each year that passes, through them we find opportunities to research the period.

The present paper may constitute a starting point for those who would like to engage in revealing the sport-history of Transylvania (and that of the city of Kolozsvár in a narrower perspective). The period between 1868-1920 is an organic part of the Hungarian sport history of Kolozsvár, and the keeping of its records enrich the Hungarian sport history. Furthermore it is our observation that there is a necessity for studies that comprise the sport history of certain cities, settlements or regions.

2. Aims

The aims of the paper are:

- a. to analyze the effects of West-European sports on the sport life of Kolozsvár by presenting those personalities and events, that helped create and sustain this relationship;
- b. to analyze how social sport (which characterized the local sport life before 1900) had evolved into competition sport;
- c. to prove that there is a tight relationship between physical education in schools, at the universities and the sport-life of the city;
- d. to present how the university sport-life evolved (KAC-period, reorganization by Vermes Lajos, the university sport-life in the 20th century);
- e. to analyze the development of sport in the high-school (building gyms, organizing sport-events, regional sport competitions, inter-school competitions);
- f. to analyze the effect of economic upsurge on the development of sport-life;
- g. to analyze the effects the Trianon Treaty had on the Hungarian sport-life of Kolozsvár;

Due to the nature of the research, the hypotheses aim at definitely consolidating the research's sources, deficiencies or questionability.

1. Based on the sources at our disposal we can conclude that the sports played in Kolozsvár are diverse. These sports were organized by different unions, whose leaders played an important role in acclimatizing different sport branches, and in assuring the necessary financial basis for the founding of several sporting establishments.

2. The sources support the statement that the acclimatization of certain sport branches was greatly influenced by those professionals who had been the first to play these sports in

Kolozsvár. These individuals played an important role in the founding of certain sporting associations. The professionalism and determination of the founders defined the future activity of the union, and had a great influence on its festivities, the new members and future leaders. Thus it was possible to create a coherent leadership and a stable financial background, the result of which was the spreading of specific sport branches among the members of society. The establishments founded made it possible to organize high-level festivities. The sporting unions gave both the national and the international stage a number of famous sportsmen.

3. The sports played in Kolozsvár underwent such qualitative changes, which resulted in the differentiation of simple social sports and competition sports. The rudimentary local competitions grew to the extent in which they transformed into national level sports competitions. This was influenced by both the relationship between social sports, competition sports and the remarkable results obtained by the sportsmen. 4. Starting with the 1890s, the sport-life of the high-schools had a great influence on that of universities and that of the unions. High-school sports had always had a tight relationship with the sport-life of the universities, which in turn showed the same relationship with the sport-life of the unions. After the founding of the university sporting clubs, sports were played in these unions on a departmental level. The university sporting club of Kolozsvár enjoyed national fame, and began defining the sport-life of the city. Furthermore it played a respectable role in the development of the sport-life in Kolozsvár, making the flourishing of Hungarian sport-life possible even after the trying period of the First World War.

3. Methods

During the research of the cultural history of Kolozsvár's sports we have to find all those marks and signs with the aid of which we are able to get to know the past and the sporting events of a certain period. The research of these marks happens on multiple leads. As a first step I will delimit the most important periods of the time-span covered by my research, namely the reform-period, the absolutism, the period of the peace treaty further mentioned as conciliatory period and finally that of the dualist regime. Within these periods I would like to uncover all those sources, based on which an outline can be formed regarding the different specific movement-organization systems of these periods. Along these sources I will have to

find other ones, based on which I will be able to create a picture of the moral values of the period and of the people living in that period.

Relying on the source works researched, I have to unfold the specific development processes underwent by the sport-life of Kolozsvár. During the research it has become important to uncover the remnants of the dissipated past and those of the present on its way to becoming neglected. We feel so, because the eyewitness of a happening, a book, a description, an old photograph, represent values left behind by a specific period, and based on them, we can slowly begin to draft a picture of a lost era.

In processing the chosen topic I have put the emphasis mainly on uncovering the sources of sport history by using the following methods:

Archive research - accessing the sources stored in the national archive in Kolozsvár is fairly difficult. Following the nationalization of 1948, all Hungarian archive materials were seized, and gathered by the national archives. Most of them can't be accessed even today. The decisions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs stored in the Hungarian National Archives were unfortunately destroyed in 1956. The documents referring to the activities in Kolozsvár weren't transferred during the relocation of the university to Szeged.

Uncovering collections belonging to different museums - the research tries to complete those regulations, decisions, orders, verdicts and official reports that were destroyed from the archive materials, or the uncovering of which has become impossible.

Analyzing the document archives of teaching institutions (the document archive of the university of Kolozsvár, the uncovering of the archives of the high-schools that are posteriors of the high-schools belonging to different denominations) - the different churches kept a part of the official documents belonging to their teaching institutions.

Analyzing monographies, memoirs, diaries - monographies referring to sports, the memoirs and diaries belonging to well-known figures of the sport-life, contain an abundance of important information. It is important to verify the authenticity of these pieces of information.

Analyzing the press of the period - starting with the 1880s, many papers that had specific sports content immersed. In their articles we find a world of information regarding the most important events of the sport-life of Kolozsvár. Many periodicals started being published beginning with the 1860s in Kolozsvár. These periodicals contained short sport portfolios, whereas the daily newspapers of Kolozsvár all had a continuous dedicated sports section starting with 1910.

Searching for biographic data - there is a tight relationship between a sport branch and those who represent it. Often a biography conceals information that is vital from a sport history point of view. For example the biography of Metzl Hugó states that even in his old age, he came to the university on a bicycle.

Determinative lives: the presentation of a period - a modern tendency of historical research is presenting a period with the aid of biographic materials. The period representing the topic of our research is determinative from the point of view of the activity of many outstanding personalities. Such figures are Dr. István Somodi, Olympic silver medalist, baron Lajos Jósika, the “founding father” of athletics in Kolozsvár, dr. Károly Haller, the mayor generically called the “friend of sports” and so on.

Analyzing photographs - this method is also very important from the point of view of our research, because Lajos Vermes and dr. István Somodi left behind a significant photographic material heritage, which is yet to be mapped. Although photographs are seen in many cases as simple annexes, through their means we are able to closely follow the development of sports figures, utensils, instruments, elements of sport technique as well as the development of sporting institutions. With the aid of analyzing the photographs, all these changes become obvious.

4. Results

Kolozsvár has been the cultural center of Transylvania for centuries and for a shorter period the administrative center as well. After the conciliatory period following 1867, the city lost its role as Transylvania’s capital, but the railway infrastructure, the universities, the educational and social institutions that had been founded here, along with the development of the industry, Kolozsvár remained the center of the region. The peace treaties from Paris, following the First World War, and especially those regarding Hungary, annexed Transylvania to Romania. The official denomination of the city was Cluj (since 1919). It became Cluj-Napoca after 1974.

The rapid development of Kolozsvár started after 1870, when it got connected to the national railway grid. The cities that had been connected to this grid became transportation centers, where the industrialization started to evolve rapidly, and the number of city-dwellers grew ever increasingly. Due to urbanization and to the effects of industrialization, Kolozsvár started expanding, its territory grew in size and its inhabitants grew in numbers. This growth

can be explained primarily with the branches of industry established in the city as well as by the workplaces created by the factories that chose to settle here.

In 1910 the ethnic construction of the city was made up of a majority of 84% Hungarians. From a religious point of view, we have to mention that the number of Roman-Catholics and Protestants (Reformed) was roughly equal. Alongside these two major denominations, there was a strong Greek-Catholic and Israelite presence. Although the number of their followers was small, the Unitarian Church had its center in Kolozsvár. This meant that the Unitarian bishopric, the theological institute and prestigious high-school all worked in the city. From the point of view of a religious framework, Kolozsvár showed some differences to the national characteristics and that of the capital. Here the largest religious group was the reformed, whereas on a national level as well as in the case of the capital, Roman-Catholics represent the majority. The ratio of the Israelite denomination showed the same tendencies as in other Hungarian great cities.

The city development was possible mainly through the purposeful work of the mayors. The modern infrastructure of the city was created under their leadership. The mayor's office subsidized this huge project with more than two million crowns. They continued building and renovating university buildings, clinics, schools and state-owned administrative buildings. The city center became one of the most beautiful centers belonging to the Hungarian Crown, when they unveiled the statue of the great Hungarian king, Mátyás, in 1902.

After the conciliatory period following 1867, the middle class and the intelligentsia became the driving force behind the modernization process in Hungary. In Kolozsvár a series of educational institutions, together with the university founded in 1872 represented proper learning facilities for several thousand students, who were organized in 52 learning institutions. Almost a quarter of the city's inhabitants were either students or teachers. Many internationally renowned scholars taught here, and the university's library was the second-largest in Hungary.

At the turn of the century there was an extraordinary union life in the city. The number of the members belonging to literary-, educational-, artistic-, economic-, youth-, women's-, charity- and sports clubs made up a fifth of the city's inhabitants. Starting with 1868 we continuously find the sporting associations amongst the social unions. The love for sports was cultivated at an early age in the desks of the local schools. Thus the number of sport enthusiasts grew year by year. Athletes, sportsmen, or even simply those, who liked staying in shape founded Hungary's third university sporting union at the turn of the century. This union played a determinative role in the local and Hungarian sport-life.

Following the conciliatory period after 1868, they adopted a new law of education that introduced physical education into the high-schools. After 1883 this measure was adopted by the elementary schools as well. The implementing of these laws encountered several difficulties at the end of the 19th century. Namely there were not enough adequate gyms, sport yards or playing fields, the teachers weren't well enough prepared, and there was a huge lack in equipment. In an early stage schools signed contracts with the local sporting unions in order to ensure the necessary conditions for physical education. Then, after the turn of the century, high-schools started building private gyms and hiring professional PE-teachers. In many cases the building of the new school centers made it possible to realize the construction of the gyms.

In the same time with the development of the school's sport-life, similar activities on a union level grew into becoming regional and national competitions. These competitions made the development of such a sport-life possible that on its turn meant the basis for the university sport-life. Those sportsmen, who achieved significant results during high-school, went on to achieving even greater results during their time spent at the university, and many of them even excelled on an international level becoming well-known sports figures. On a regional level, István Somodi was one of the figures that emerged with his performance in high-school. He went on to win a series of competitions as a university student, then in 1908 he won an Olympic silver medal for high-jumping at the Olympic Games held at London.

The modern union sport-life evolved to the same level as that present in the capital due to the work of some enthusiastic leaders and union founders. In fencing, gymnastics, target shooting, athletics, cycling or other unions similar to these ones, work was done on a high professional level. Thus the competitions of Kolozsvár became known on a national level, and sportsmen from all around the country visited them.

The organizing of the first sporting associations was made possible by the weakening political pressure and the demand for sports. Thus the teaching of fencing was instituted, and the sporting opportunities of university students ensured. These movements got intertwined after 1867 and after a period of five years the Physical Education and Fencing Union was founded. This union built the first modern gym in Kolozsvár later known as the Fencing-Gym. High-school students had the opportunity to train here. Many fencing classes were organized and it became possible to organize sporting events in the yard, because of the equipment that could be used.

The city's rifle-club was founded in 1870. The shooting movement became very popular among the local bourgeois, and the rifle-club established a shooting range (garden) on

the West side of the promenade for the members of the club. Sports enthusiasts had the opportunity to use this shooting range at that time's safety standards, but the garden may have been used as a venue for dance evenings and spring celebrations as well. The rifle-club kept up tight relationships with the surrounding country's shooting masters, mainly with sportsmen from Romania.

The sport-life of the 1870s organized itself from spring till fall around these two unions. After athletics came into picture, the work and activity of the rifle-club and fencing union weakened and gradually started to dissolve. Although the athletics club rented the Fencing-Gym for its private training sessions, and the rifle-club leased the shooting range in order for others to organize competitions, the income made proved to be too little to make any kind of renovation possible. Because they couldn't keep up their sporting establishments, the shooting range got in the custody of the city as early as 1890.

Following the conciliatory period and due to influences coming from Vienna and Budapest, skating became very popular in the ranks of the bourgeoisie. The period after 1872 was characterized by rudimentary events, competitions, balls, which aimed at making this sport popular. The promenade and the lake gave an exquisite venue for this winter sport, and for nearly a century it remained the heart of the skating life of Kolozsvár.

Music was the determinative factor of the first events. By inviting local bands, the skating union created an attractive mood, and resulted in the fact that the number of participants on these events grew each day. The first late-night events were also organized in this period. The lighting was done by the standards of that time.

Starting with the 1880s the Skating Association of Kolozsvár strived for every citizen to find his/her favorite past-time activity among the events organized by this union. Skating became an important social interaction venue, because the ladies and mistresses of Kolozsvár all found this activity the most luring of all winter sports. The skaters were proud that on these events members of aristocratic families, university professors, wives and daughters of clerks were able to skate on the same rink.

Competitions also became acclimatized at about roughly the same period. The organizers advertised such events that were easy to complete. These events were speed tests, hurdle competitions and later on artistic competitions. The union published competition guidelines, nominated referees, who had to organize the field, conduct the events, enounce the winners and hand out the medals. Usually the president of the skating union led the competition committee.

The 1890s brought financial upheaval for the skating union, and thus it assured the necessary grounds for developing a new infrastructure and modernizing the old one. The latest development was the building of the modern skating pavilion, which assured European conditions for the skaters, viewers and escorts as well.

Near the lake adjacent to the promenade, they managed to establish rinks for the winter period mainly on the courtyards of the schools, and thus the children who weren't well-off, also had the opportunity to access this sport. The skating rinks established on the school courtyards made it possible for the children to play sports on a regular basis in times when these institutions had no gyms of their own.

In the 20th century skating became a part of the lives of those who had a liking or taste for sports. Advertising made no sense for those who trained regularly, but it was that the more important to organize competitions and see them through. This was the turning point between social sports and competition sports in Kolozsvár. The bourgeois skated regularly, and the union made the modern conditions possible, but the thing that stood out most was the organizing of the competitions. This activity was running on a level that would meet the standards of any time regarding timekeeping, competitions rules and other organizing aspects.

After the turn of the century a tight relationship evolved between the skaters of Kolozsvár and Budapest. The unions of Kolozsvár organized several national competitions, and the best sportsmen of the unions from the capital took part on them. Many well-known competitors signed up for the competitions in Kolozsvár, and world champions gave presentations for the public in Kolozsvár. This relationship had a good effect on the local competitors, who by the 1910s got renowned on a national level and overcame their counterparts from the capital on several occasions.

During the First World War they didn't organize any competitions, and the changing of the local government made the activity of the union extremely difficult. One such aggravating factor was the dissolution of the contract with the skating union regarding the use of the lake adjacent to the promenade. Practically the union couldn't organize any more competitions in that venue. Despite all this, they managed to establish new skating rinks, and the competitors of the union gained several national champions' titles. They managed to keep the acquisitions and values of the skating life preceding the First World War alive, even in the following decades.

In Hungary the first athletic union was the Hungarian Athletics Club (HAC), founded in 1875. After the founding of the union, athletics got very popular in the capital and the greater cities of the country, including Kolozsvár.

Despite the fact that after the founding of the Hungarian Athletics Club (HAC), they started advertising ideals of athletics since 1875, but they made the first steps towards the founding of the union only in 1883. After Hugó Baintner, the secretary of HAC, moved to Kolozsvár, he gathered the athletics devotees and within a year he organized competitions, drafted basic rules, thus on the 15th of January 1885 the Athletic Club of Kolozsvár (ACK) was born.

This was an important moment for the Hungarian history of athletics, because from now on the sport would not be focused only around HAC. Even though for almost five years the two clubs haven't interacted, their sports activities affected each other. In the 1880s the fall of HAC and the rise of ACK happened simultaneously. The best example for this is between 1884-1889, when ACK organized 24 competitions with 84 athletic numbers, while MAC organized only 8 competitions with 69 numbers.

Structurally ACK looked to HAC all the way, concerning organized competitions and also their conduct. Without a field for athletics, it first organized walking competitions, and these later became known as the „Transylvania's champion walker” competition. Twice a year it organized public competitions, where one or two were championships: if someone won the competition three times in a row, he became the club champion. Just like on the first HAC competitions, ACK also designated the 2 mile flat race as its first championship. As a severity, ACK specified that in case of only one contestant, there will be no competition and no award will be handed out.

ACK aligned itself to the contemporary sports policy. As many founding members, regular members and patron members signed up in Kolozsvár as they had done ten years earlier in the capital. Members of both unions were mostly university students, but there were also a few more mature men who had an important position in the union and also competed regularly (for example Károly Albert sports teacher, Ferenc Dunky photographer).

The ACK's work was focused around the important personalities of public life (mayors, university and high-school teachers, the representatives of the local aristocracy). Even though the union did not benefit from any kind of state aid, still its events were popular and they meant financial support. The lack of a race track and gym did not stop them to fight for the right and opportunity to organize the competitions. At these occasions, the association insuring the track made sure they gained more than ACK. By 1889 they managed to build an athletics track in the promenade, but it was used for only two years.

István Kuszkó, union secretary, played an important part in the smooth work of ACK. He organized, competed, wrote, edited, he published the three ACK yearbooks; he advertised

with his writings, he encouraged and criticized. He regularly wrote to the *Herkules* sports magazine in Budapest, he relayed news about ACK and followed the work of the country's athletics unions.

ACK played an important part of the acclimatization of athletics in Transylvania. The distance-walking competitions meant opportunities to present athletic exercises, and they organized two competitions in Dés, and one in Marosvásárhely, with great interest. Many Transylvanian small towns were the target of these walking competitions.

In 1889 they switched the distances from British miles to meters. Putting the weight was still performed with an 8 kilogram ball. The 220 yard hurdle race kept its form, they used 6 obstacles of 95 centimeters each, also the half yard steeplechase with 3 1 meter tall obstacles, 7 90 centimeter tall obstacles and two water barriers 3.25 meters wide.

In 1890, the ACK's heyday, it began to weaken due to internal issues. The cyclists stepped out and founded their own union, and in 1891 the athletics union ceased to exist. The main cause of this was the leaving of baron Lajos Jósika, and his successor failing to organize the members and employees of the union. But the tradition of athletics lived on, and the university's Athletics Club of Kolozsvár a decade later gave the city a silver medal in high jumping at the 1908 London Olympics in the person of István Somodi.

After the appearance of the bicycle in Budapest (1879), it slowly made its way to Kolozsvár. The general public received this new form of transportation with a sense of antipathy, and this is why only after a few years were there more than ten bicycle owners mentioned in records. They decided to organize a bicycle group within the local athletic union in 1887. From this point forward started the rapid development of the sport in Kolozsvár.

The bicycle owners signed up to the group with their private bicycles and chose team leaders and managers. The representatives of the bicycle group had the duty of popularizing the sport, of protecting the members, organizing the training sessions and leading the competitions. Amongst the sportsmen and spectators, the competitions were the most liked. They organized many types of competitions, among which long-range competitions, short-range competitions conducted on the athletic field and bicycle tourism, where they measured the distance cycled during the course of a year. Bicycle tourism didn't put the emphasis solely on the distance cycled, but also on the road memoirs and logs written during this course. Moreover the cyclists organized parades in order to raise public awareness on the advantages bicycles offer.

The competitions evolved alongside the athletics. In the early stages of this development the cyclists followed the distance walkers and later on they organized their own

competitions on a national track. After the inauguration of the athletics field, the course competitions, the 1000 meter and 5000 meter dashes started in the same place.

By 1890 the popularity of cycling surpassed that of athletics. Due to the conflicts within the athletics union and between the cyclists and athletes, the cyclists formed a separate union and had separate activities from those of the athletics union.

The new union continued the work of its precursor. It recruited new members and organized competitions. The union was led by Mayor Dr. Károly Haller, the renowned sportsman, who was famous both on a local and a national level. With his contribution, the cyclist union was able to take into custody the athletics field, and with a substantial financial aid, it created one of the most modern cycling courses in Hungary.

After the inauguration of the new course (1894), a series of national competitions were organized in Kolozsvár. The best competitors from Budapest signed up for the competitions organized at Kolozsvár mainly because of the substantial prizes put up by the union. In the majority of cases they grabbed the medals from the local competitors. The members of the union were against the participation of professional competitors, emphasizing that their bicycles were far more modern than what the local members had. The professionals enjoyed the support of major tire factories or distributors.

The same question was raised by the unions of Budapest as well, because the competitions awarded with a cash prize were all won by foreigners in the majority of the cases. The organizers in Kolozsvár decided that in order to raise the standards, they had to lure the famous competitors from outside, but in order to protect the competitors of the local union, they decided to organize closed circuit competitions as well. As a result of this sport-politics, many prestigious competitions were organized in the later half of the 19th century, and the local cycling life grew into being the second largest in the country.

The popular sport was impeded by bicycle-tax set on a national level. The political leadership hoped to obtain a material gain from this tax, but what it had done is that it actually destroyed the Hungarian amateur cycling life. Unions started being dissolved on a national level, and the tracks also started being broken down. Unfortunately Kolozsvár was also a part of this destruction trend, and thus the union ceased to exist on the turn of the century.

Ball-games enjoyed international fame, and its development happened at a fast pace. Tennis and football were among the most liked ones. They still fascinate sportsmen and spectators all around the world.

In 1880 the first ball-game circle was founded, the members of which played the ball-games known at that time. Among these sports was tennis, which developed and gradually got

acclimatized. The city managed tennis courts in several sporting institutions for those sports which were liked by the bourgeois. During the construction of the city's sports grounds in 1911, alongside the athletic and football fields, the city managed six tennis courts, which still fulfill their original function.

Football got acclimatized fairly rapidly in Hungarian sport-life in the 1880s and started spreading at a fast pace. The first ball was brought to Kolozsvár in 1895 and the sport became very popular in the educational institutions. Firstly it was played by the university students. They were later joined by the pupils of the catholic and Unitarian high-schools. The students of the commercial and economic educational institutions followed short after.

Playing football required a large field, so the matches were played on the outskirts of the city. These fields were not organized according to a unified regulation. They were delimited according to the conditions available, and the ground was consequently uneven. The first football field was set up according to expectations of size, having permanent goalposts was established in 1905. The sport field near the promenade was established in 1911. In its case the city's leadership managed to found and sustain a European-level field.

After the acclimatization of football, the teams of the educational institutions appeared on the stage and started playing against each other. They managed to conduct the first training session with the aid of students and teachers who were versed in the game. During these sessions the players practiced simple tactical notions and consequently by the turn of the century, the educational institutions' outstanding selected teams played an exceptional game. The first competitions with substantial prizes followed shortly.

In 1904 the teams and players underwent a general reorganizing. By this time many youngsters had graduated from high-school or the local university, and they couldn't be a part of any team. These youngsters organized the first professional team, whose activity truly resembled that of a real sporting union, association or club. Several institutional teams got dissolved, because the more talented generation had already graduated. As a result two greater teams continued their activity, namely that of the Academy of Commerce (on an institutional level) and that of the Athletic Club of Kolozsvár.

Róbert Kunter organized a system in order to make individual and team selections at the Academy of Commerce. As a result he managed to create a football team that got renewed every year although the determinative students changed every summer. The teams organized on a class level gave the selected team its players, the ranks of which were always completed by the freshmen enrolled at the institution.

The two teams played friendly matches for a period of three years. In 1907 the third team of the city was born. It was called the Vasas. Later the unions of Kolozsvár entered the Hungarian Football League (HFL), which organized the first Transylvanian championship. This was an important step toward the high-level football, because the championship title motivated the players. In the same time the training of the local referees began. The number of the competitions grew, and starting with 1908 more and more teams from the capital evolved at Kolozsvár. The new regime helped the team of the Academy of Commerce, because it was able to contract the graduating students who chose to stay at Kolozsvár.

In 1910 the first international matches were played. The national team from Bucharest played at Kolozsvár, the Academy of Commerce got invited to Istanbul, and the team from Istanbul came to Kolozsvár as well. The unions of Kolozsvár managed to achieve glorious victories, and played ever tighter matches with the teams from Budapest. The matches ending with huge score differences started to be a thing of the past.

The sporting field became the center of local football. This was the point on which a reorganizing took place in the local team's player arsenal. The weaker teams slowly faded from the scenery and new teams were founded. Teams from Marosvásárhely, Nagyszeben and Piski also joined the Transylvanian championship, and this led to the sport becoming ever more popular in Transylvania. In the light of the achievements of the unions, namely the high-level the sport was played on, and the significant results obtained, a question arose: How could the football championship be reorganized in a fashion that allows for the regional teams to join in? This was unfortunately made impossible by the break-out of the First World War. Because of the war, the union football of Kolozsvár had a sporadic activity, but after the war was over, the football-life started in a new social context.

5. Consequences

According to the first hypothesis, the sport-life following the conciliatory period was defined by diversity regarding the number of the sporting unions and the types of sports played. The hypothesis proved to be true, because the founding of the unions started in 1869 and by 1873 the city already had three sporting unions (gymnastics, fencing, shooting and skating) working in parallel. Their ranks got enriched by the athletic and cycling unions, and by the 1890s the football union also joined in. The Hungarian state didn't give any financial support to the unions, so they were forced to provide for themselves and create this financial

background on their own. The events organized were meant to popularize the union's activity. Among other things the unions also had to see the completion of the sporting establishments through. Primary pieces of information are missing. Among these archive records, source materials referring to the activity of the union, the date they were founded on, the material basis on which they were set, as well as the reports of the union's council. We may conclude that the lack of this information didn't diminish the value of the research.

The second hypothesis was that the professional sportsmen had an important role in the acclimatization of the different sport branches. These professionals were among the first to play certain sports, and thus the hypothesis turned out to be true. Among those who started the upheaval of the new sport branches we find the first leaders who by their financial effort made it possible to operate the specific clubs.

The third hypothesis was that the sports in Kolozsvár underwent a qualitative change, and thus lost their social aspect turning into competition sports. This hypothesis was proven absolutely true. Sportsmen from Budapest and Transylvania signed up for the athletic competitions organized in Kolozsvár since as early as 1880. As a result the competitions became ever tighter, the results got better and the competitors marked numerous local records. By the 1890s the same tendency was noticeable in the field of cycling competitions and a few years later in the field of skating as well. This qualitative change is emphasized by the reduction of the number of events meant to popularize the sport-life of Kolozsvár, as well as by the appearance of national competitions. We find it important to mention that following the 1900s, the sportsmen of Kolozsvár didn't only take part on competitions organized locally, but rather on an international level to the extent that in a few years a nationally renowned competition squad was formed.

According to my last hypothesis, the sport-life of the high-schools around the 1890s greatly influenced the sport-life of the universities and that of the sporting unions. This hypothesis was also proven true. After the 1890s the institutional, local and regional competitions started, leading to a growth in popularity for the gymnastics in educational institutions. We find the names of the pupils who won institutional competitions among those of the members belonging to university sporting clubs and competitors taking part in a union's sport-life. Football had a great role in aiding the formation of this tight bond. First it was played at the level of educational institutions, then on an inter-institutional level. By the 1910s the athletics club of the university became determinative for the sport-life of Kolozsvár, and thus the bond became even stronger.

The past few years several research projects were undertaken pertaining to the sport history of Kolozsvár. Some of the results have already been published. We feel that only we, the Hungarians of Kolozsvár, could conclude a thorough research of the Hungarian sport history of Kolozsvár. We also find that every such piece of work that helps save the sport-life is necessary. These pieces of work still exist and they are well-known as they constitute an organic part of the cultural history of Kolozsvár. I hope the present work will urge others to conduct similar research projects.

6. List of publications

1. Killyéni András (2011): **István Somodi - High Jumper, Innovator of Hungarian Athletics. Role Model of the All-Round Sportsmen in the First Decades of the 20th Century.** International Journal of the History of Sport. Accepted for publication.
2. Killyéni András (2010): **The Fencing Life on the Ferencz József University.** Studia Universitatis Babes-Bolyai Educatio Artis Gymnasticae, 1, pp69-78.
3. Killyéni András (2009): **The Begining of Fencing in Cluj.** Studia Universitatis Babes-Bolyai Educatio Artis Gymnasticae, 3, pp3-9.
4. Killyéni András (2009): **The Foundation of the Athletic Club from Kolozsvár and Its First Competitions.** International Quarterly of Sport Science, 1, pp39-44
5. Killyéni András (2009): **Ice Skating in the Central Park.** Studia Universitatis Babes-Bolyai Educatio Artis Gymnasticae, 1, pp61-68.
6. Killyéni András (2010): **Elfelejtett örökségünk. Kolozsvár sportlétesítményei az első világháború előtt.** A szerző magánkiadása, Kolozsvár, p90.
7. Killyéni András (2009): **A kolozsvári sportélet hőskorának képes története.** Apáczai Csere János Baráti Társaság, Kolozsvár, p136.
8. Killyéni András (2008): **Az ő neve csillag a magyar sport egén. Dr. Somodi István emlékalbuma.** Apáczai Csere János Baráti Társaság, Kolozsvár, p80.
9. Killyéni András (2010): **Sportélet a kolozsvári Kereskedelmi Akadémián.** Kalokagathia, 2009 4. – 2010 1., pp140-154.
10. Killyéni András (2008): **Az első kolozsvári olimpiai érem 100. évfordulója.** Korunk, 8, pp86-90.
11. Killyéni András (2007): **Edzések és testgyakorlatok Kolozsváron 1868 és 1914 között.** Kalokagathia, 1-2, pp50-58.