



Equestrian Sports In The Surkhandarya Oasis: History, Current State, And Development Strategy

Nazirov Bakhtiyor Safarovich.

Doctor of philosophy (PhD) in historical sciences, associate professor.

Denov Institute of Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy.
Denau, Uzbekistan.

b.nazirov@dtpi.uz, Tel.+998996776022

ABSTRACT

This article is dedicated to the development trends of equestrian sports in the Surkhan Oasis. The study is based on the region's rich historical and cultural heritage, examining the processes of formation and development of equestrian sports. The article analyzes the establishment of the first equestrian clubs in the oasis, their activities, modern development trends, and socio-economic significance. It also explores the role of equestrian sports in promoting tourism in the region and fostering a healthy lifestyle among youth. The article addresses current challenges hindering the industry's development and proposes solutions to overcome them.

Keywords:

Master of Sports, Spartakiad, horse riders, chovgan, "Box", "Bazzafil," "Bedakur"

Introduction.

Horseback riding is one of the ancient and rich sports of the Uzbek people. This sport not only demonstrates physical preparation but also embodies the bravery, courage, agility, and nobility of the riders. Over the centuries, horseback riding has achieved high results in various international competitions, solidifying its popularity. In several regions of Uzbekistan, including Tashkent, Fergana, Jizzakh, Kashkadarya, and Surkhandarya, frequent equestrian competitions, kokpar games, and other sporting events are held. These events aim not only to develop equestrian sports but also to engage young people in sports, enhance their health, and preserve national traditions. In Surkhandarya, equestrian sports are showing unique development trends. Here, athletes, especially young riders, are improving their skills, and new styles and methods are being implemented. Additionally, interest in

equestrian sports among the youth is growing, which, in turn, positively impacts the sport's development.

There is significant attention given to improving horses, selecting their lineage, and enhancing the training of athletes in the region. These efforts are yielding results, allowing for the emergence of riders who are becoming internationally renowned. Among the new generation of athletes, many talented young riders are demonstrating their high results.

The reforms and changes taking place in Surkhandarya are contributing to the further development of equestrian sports, thereby playing a significant role in the region's social and economic development. Moreover, these processes contribute to the growth of regional tourism, the creation of new jobs, and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle among youth.

Surkhan Oasis is one of the most important regions in Central Asia, known for its rich natural resources, ancient history, and culture.

In this region, horseback riding has long been an integral part of the people's way of life and culture. Horseback riding not only serves as a sport but also plays an important role in shaping national values and traditions, particularly in social and cultural processes.

Today, equestrian sports hold great significance in promoting tourism in the region, engaging youth in sports, and preserving national heritage. The establishment of the first equestrian clubs, the traditions of horseback riding, and modern equestrian competitions reflect the growth of this field.

This article provides a comprehensive analysis of the development trends of equestrian sports in the Surkhan Oasis, its historical roots, current state, and prospects for further development. The article also discusses the contribution of equestrian sports to the region's social and economic development and explores solutions to existing challenges.

Results and its discussion.

In the third and fourth quarters of the 20th century, the development of equestrian sports in the Surxondaryo region went through significant stages. In 1966, the first equestrian club was established in the region. The initial area for the club was allocated from the U. Aliyev collective farm in the Sariosiyo district. Although only two riders participated at the beginning, the establishment of this club laid the foundation for future major victories.

Over time, interest in equestrian sports grew, and the number of club members rapidly increased to thirty. In 1967, Robak Sigov became a candidate for master of sports, while Badilja Bo'riev and Shomil Murtazoev earned first-class sports master titles. The club's members secured second place in the Republic Spartakiad held that year. For a newly established club, this was a significant achievement. Subsequently, the club's members continued their efforts to strengthen their successes, with great attention given to attracting talented young riders to the club.

To improve the athletes' skills, decisive actions were taken. The dedication of the club's coach, sports master Stepan Vasilyevich Ilyasov, played a crucial role. First of all, favorable conditions for training were created, and

talented young people with a natural aptitude for equestrian sports were regularly recruited into the club. Additionally, special attention was paid to selecting and nurturing fast and agile horses, as good horses were essential for excellent riders.

Subsequently, interest in equestrian sports grew across the district, and a branch of the club was opened in the former "Kommunizm" collective farm area, which allowed more young people to join the ranks of riders.

In 1971, equestrian competitions held during the Cotton Festival gained significant attention. Surxondaryo riders not only participated but also helped the regional team secure first place. Club members participated in 13 events and achieved high results. For example, Badilja Bo'riev won first place in the hurdle-jumping competition, while riders like Mirza Tursunov, Mamat Xudoynazarov, and Shomil Murtazoev also achieved success. [2].

The passage discusses the successes of equestrian competitions held in Surxondaryo region. On the second day of the competition, in national equestrian events, Turob Mamashukurov and Ergas Suvonov secured first place. In the "Qiz quvmoq" (Girl's Chase) competition, Flyura Otaqonova and Ergas Suvonov claimed second place.

Later, in the traditional team sport *Ko'pkari*, the Surxondaryo team demonstrated their skills, defeating teams from other regions to claim second place and win the mobile cup at the "Pahkta bayrami" (Cotton Festival) competitions.

The passage also highlights the contributions of key figures in the development of equestrian sports in the region. Leaders like B. Omonov, U. Mamajonov, B. Xolmatov, and Zokir Valitov are praised for their exceptional efforts. They not only increased the number of riders but also played a significant role in improving their skills. The contributions of equestrians like A. Dilmatoov, T. Xolikov, and B. Toshqulov are also acknowledged.

In December 1970, during the regional Cotton Festival competitions held in the Namuna collective farm of Termiz district, interest in equestrian sports further increased. Many spectators from various districts of the region

gathered, and notable riders participated to showcase their skills.

In the competition, F. Boymurodov from Termiz district won the 1000-meter horse race, reaching the finish line first. K. Murodov from Sherobod and Mukhammadi Boyqulov from Boysun secured second place. In *Ko'pkari*, there was also intense competition, with Qo'ldosh Yodgorov from Jarkurgan taking first place. Republic champion, O'dina Zo'irov from Shorlik, claimed second place [6].

In the 1970s, interest in equestrian sports in Surxondaryo region increased significantly. The coach of the Sariosiyo district sports club, Sh. Badalov, along with athletes like Isok Sodikov and F. Mirzaev, contributed greatly to the success of the regional team by winning numerous competitions and strengthening the team's performance.

Later, an equestrian sports club was established in the Istara collective farm in Qizirik district, where thoroughbred horses were brought in from the former Soviet Union's central stud farm. Following the 1970s, equestrian clubs were founded in several districts of the region, where young riders enhanced their sports skills. Specialists like Turob Mamashukurov, Zokir Valitov, Yuri Turin, and Vladimir Favoroskiy played an important role in these developments. Moreover, under the leadership of Shukur Ermatov, the chairman of the Pakhtakor sports society, these efforts were successfully implemented, leading to continued growth in equestrian sports in the region. [1].

By 1970, the number of equestrian sports clubs in the Surxondaryo region had reached 10, with 100 thoroughbred horses and 135 participants, 13 of whom were first-class athletes. By 1990, equestrian sports had further developed, with the number of clubs increasing to 14, the number of horses rising to 600, and the number of active participants reaching 856. Additionally, 80 thoroughbred horses were imported from abroad, the number of sports masters grew to 32, and the number of first-class athletes reached 113. The foundation for the further development of equestrian sports was laid during this period. [5].

From 1970 to 1999, there was a notable growth in the development of equestrian sports in Surxondaryo region. Particularly, in 1977, the establishment of the Bahavo Ko'rkam Equestrian Base in Termiz district paved the way for significant achievements in this field. This base, one of the most beautiful and admired equestrian centers in Uzbekistan, became a hub for equestrian sports. A riding school was established at the base, where hundreds of young people honed their skills, helping to develop champions and sports masters of Uzbekistan, including prominent athletes such as Mukhammadi Bûriev, Holiddin and Isoq Sodikov, Mirza Tursunov, Fayyullo Mirzaev, Adham Alpomishov, Muhiddin Jabborov, Valeriy Chekalin, and Svetlana Chehalimalar [3].

The horses bred at the Termiz Equestrian Sports School, such as "Boks," "Bazzafil," and "Bedakur," were consistently victorious in Republic and former Soviet Union championships and Spartakiads. Notably, the Karabakh horses "Bazzafil" and "Bedakur" participated in the 1976 Olympic Games held in Montreal, where, under the leadership of Valeriy Dvorjaninov, they emerged victorious and secured the gold medal [3].

By the end of the 20th century, kokpar in Surkhandarya rapidly developed, producing hundreds of skilled horse riders. Significant achievements were also made in breeding and multiplying Karabakh horses. During this period, Surkhandarya horsemen won the "Xosil Bayrami" kokpar competitions in Tashkent 17 times. Furthermore, they triumphed five times in kokpar competitions held in the former Soviet republics. These competitions took place in 1974 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), 1976 in Alma-Ata (Kazakhstan), 1982 in Dushanbe (Tajikistan), 1985 in Pyatigorsk (Russia), and 1987 in Tashkent (Uzbekistan). The Uzbek national team in these events was mainly composed of Surkhandarya's talented riders, including famous jockeys and coaches like Turob Mamashukurov, Odina Zo'irov, Ergas Suvonov, Kholli and Saman Yusupov, Kurbonmurod Kholmurodov, Tovashar Niyozov, Chori Norboev, Shoberdi Gundaev, Tura Khomatov, and Omon Jo'raev, who were

instrumental in their success. Their achievements are still fondly remembered by fans [3].

When talking about the Termiz horse-riding school, it is important to emphasize that it played a key role not only in the development of the region but also in the entire Republic's equestrian sports. The horse-riding facility, established on 300 hectares of land in Khoshargah, became a significant hub for equestrianism. Initially, a riding school was opened, attracting 50 students from grades 5 to 10. Renowned jockeys and trainers began teaching equestrian sports to these students. Later, the school produced famous riders such as Karim Mardonov, Muhiddin Jabbrov, Turg'un Sunatov, and Bahodir Khayitov, who, by May 1980, had become candidates for master of sports and first-class athletes at the Republic Youth Spartakiad held in Tashkent [4].

In October 1979, the Termiz horse-riding facility hosted the Republic Cup equestrian competition, which saw over 120 skilled jockeys from Central Asian republics and all regions of the Republic. From Surkhandarya region, riders such as Khaliddin Sodiqov, Mirza Tursunov, and Marat Mamadiyrov showcased their skills and earned the title of sports masters.

In May 1954, the Central Asia Championship competition for the Uzbekistan Cup was held at the Tashkent and Chirchiq horse-riding facilities. In this competition, teams from Kazakhstan, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, along with jockeys from Surkhandarya, Tashkent, Fergana, and Andijan regions, participated separately. Among the young riders, Olga Fedulova and Baxtiyor Yorov earned the title of sports masters. Additionally, athletes like Olga Fedulova, Aleksandr Fedulov, and Valeriy Chekalin joined the Uzbekistan national team [4].

Valeriy Chekalin, who participated in the Soviet Union Championship, secured third place and was awarded a bronze medal for his exceptional performance.

The equestrian club established at the O'xunboboev collective farm in Denov district achieved significant success. The number of

young participants in the club rapidly increased, and under the leadership of sports master Jo'ra Mamadov and equestrian expert Fayzulla Mirzaev, the young jockeys learned complex maneuvers. The club had 16 horses, seven of which were purebred. During training sessions, 20 jockeys participated, learning how to handle the horses.

Young riders such as Munira Jalitova, Abduhamid Rahmatov, Neymat Jumayev, and Abdurahmon Xayitov achieved success in regional competitions, earning the right to participate in national competitions. Over several years, the club's members consistently claimed victories, cementing the club's prominent position in the region's equestrian sport scene [2].

In October 1975, during the equestrian competition held in Rostov-on-Don for Soviet Union jockeys, Qurbonmurod Xolmurodov showcased his exceptional skill. At a crucial moment in the competition, Xolmurodov scored a vital penalty goal for his team, a moment that left a lasting impression on many. After the match, Xolmurodov's team emerged victorious.

The competition also featured jockeys from the Central Asian republics, who competed in various events such as polo, horseback basketball, and the "Surxon" game. Qurbonmurodov actively participated in the Republic's national team and achieved significant success, eventually becoming the national champion. This competition marked the beginning of Xolmurodov's rise to prominence in the equestrian sport world, setting the stage for his future victories [1].

In Surkhandarya region, systematic measures have been established to increase the breeding of Karabair horses, actively engage youth in equestrian sports, and further develop this sport in our country. On August 5, 2021, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued Resolution No. PQ-5213 titled "On Measures for Breeding and Promoting Karabair Horses and Further Development of Equestrian Sports in Surkhandarya Region." To implement this resolution, a ceremonial opening of the "Karabair Horses" Skills School was held on October 4, 2021, at the equestrian field in

Termez district, which covers an area of 65 hectares [10].

Conclusions

In conclusion, the last quarter of the 20th century was a pivotal period for the development of equestrian sports in Surxondaryo region. During this time, traditional forms of equestrian sports spread widely and rapidly developed. Surxondaryo jockeys not only demonstrated their skills on a national level but also made a significant impact internationally, achieving great success. This, in turn, fueled further interest and passion for equestrian sports, attracting thousands of young people to this discipline. The activities of equestrian clubs and schools in Surxondaryo played a crucial role in this progress. Not only did they produce skilled jockeys, but they also gained significant experience in horse care, breeding, and training. Efforts to revive horse farms, breed new generations, and ensure their proper care contributed to improving the quality of equestrian sports in the region.

Moreover, the young jockeys trained in these schools and clubs went on to achieve high results in various equestrian disciplines. This process had a positive impact not only on sports but also on the broader cultural development of the region.

Additionally, renowned jockeys from Surxondaryo, such as Qurbonmurod Xolmurodov, played an instrumental role in advancing the field, contributing to further innovations and successes in equestrian sports. The efforts made during this period were of great significance not only for the region but for the entire country, securing Surxondaryo's prominent place in the history of equestrian sports in Uzbekistan.

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