Original research article

EVOLUTION OF THE JOURNAL “TEORIYA I PRAKTIKA FIZICHESKOV KUL'TURY” (1925—1915)

Lyudmila Lubysheva¹ and Sergei Pronin²

¹Russian State University of Physical Education, Sport, Youth and Tourism, Moscow, Russia.
²National State University of Physical Culture, Sport and Health named after P.F. Lesgaft, Saint-Petersburg, Russia.

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SUMMARY

Russian sport is one of the world leaders. In many ways, its success is determined by the achievements of sports science. The journal "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury" has been one of the main factors in its development throughout 90 years. The specific features of the history of the Soviet Union and the new Russia, paradoxes of development of Russian sport and science are reflected in the evolution of the journal.

Started in 1925 as a supplement to another edition, the journal "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury" has become a powerful press organ for 90 years. It is a national cultural heritage and reflects the peculiarities of Russian sports science.

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the evolution of the journal "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury" from 1925 to 2015. The authors applied the historical method and the results of scientometric measurements.

Keywords: Russia, sports, science, evolution, journal

Correspondence author
Sergei Pronin
pro-555@mail.ru
INTRODUCTION

The history of the journal “Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul’tury” (TPFK) ("Theory and Practice of Physical Culture") is presented in an organized structure of five time periods and ten stages. The creation of this chronic structure has become possible only in case of synchronous actualization of valuable phenomena in development of Russian physical culture and sports movement and development of sports science and with the evolution of the TPFK.

The authors applied the historical method and the results of scientometric measurements.

THE GENESIS AND ORGANIZATIONAL FORMATION PERIOD (1925—1941)

The first two stages (1925—1941) of the evolution of the journal TPFK are comparable by the variety of topics of the journal publications, a wide variety of section subjects, constantly changing amount of scientific oriented articles and the general instability of the journal production

1925—1931: The Origin of the Journal TPFK

The twenties of the twentieth century were a very difficult period for the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics established in 1922. The civil war ended (1917—1923). In August 1920 the Supreme Council of Physical Culture of the USSR (VSFK) was established affiliated with the Administration for Universal Military Training (Vsevobuch). Physical culture and sports editions were reorganized too. The central press organ of Vsevobuch — the popular science
journal “Fizicheskaya kul’tura” (“Physical Culture”) — was disbanded in 1923. In 1924 in Moscow VSFK affiliated with VTsIK started issuing a fortnightly illustrated journal “Izvestia fizicheskoy kul’tury” (“Physical Culture News”).

This was the reason for the supplement to the journal “Izvestia fizicheskoy kul’tury” called "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul’tury": collection of research works and papers on physical culture”, first published in 1925. Despite a relatively small circulation at that time (7,000 — 8,000 copies), the collection was a success (Fig. 1).

Therefore, since 1927 a periodic press organ “Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul’tury”: the journal dedicated to scientific development of issues of physical education, physical culture and medical monitoring of physical development” was published in Moscow. Nikolai Aleksandrovich Semashko, the legendary personality, was the first editor-in-chief of the journal. Revolutionary, comrade of V.I. Lenin, he was also a top professional that time N.A. Semashko served as People’s Commissar his management of the journal was not formal.

In total 286 works were published in the “Original articles” section from 1925 till 1931, the vast majority of them being of biomedical orientation. Surely, this was largely predetermined by the fact that both N.A. Semashko and M.F. Vladimirsky who replaced him as editor-in-chief in 1930 (he was People’s Commissar of Health of the RSFSR 1930—1934) were health professionals. However, it should be noted that such state of affairs was not a manifestation of their voluntarism as methodology and techniques of scientific research in the field of physical education and sports training were just beginning to emerge. But, despite the overwhelming majority of papers related to the problems of sports healthcare, this fact positively influenced the domestic practice of scientific research in the field of physical education and sports training. Later it became a tradition to correlate the results of pedagogical research in the field of physical education with those of medicobiological observations.
In 1932 as a result of the merger of the journals TPFK and “Fizkul’taktivist” (“Activist of Physical Culture”) the socio-political and theoretical-methodological journal “Fizkul’tura and sotsialisticheskoye stroitel’stvo” (“Physical culture and socialist construction”) was formed. It was the press organ of the Supreme Council of Physical Culture of the USSR, the RSFSR and the People's Commissariat of Health. In 1932 there were 12 issues of it. The journal was renamed “Sovetskaya fizkul’tura” (“Soviet Physical Culture”). Only one issue was published under this name.

In fact, from 1932 to 1936 there was no press organ in the USSR that would contain scientific articles on physical education and sport issues.

1937—1941: Rebirth of the Journal TPFK

In the thirties, the Soviet physical culture and sports movement was growing rapidly. The introduction of the GTO (Ready for Labour and Defence) sports complex in 1931 contributed to the large-scale involvement of people into exercising. Incentives were needed for occupations to become regular. These were the standards and requirements of the Uniform All-Union Sports Classification established in 1935, which provided the leading backbone factor — the program and regulatory framework for domestic physical education.

The emerging systemic nature of physical education promoted raising a number of important problems, and its scientific justification was among the most important ones.

A special journal was needed to stimulate the activity in this direction, so in 1937 a decision was made to publish the journal TPFK in the publishing house "Fizkul’tura i Turizm". Truly, that was the beginning of a new edition, not the revival of the previous one. The reasons for this have never ever been voiced. Most likely, it was due to the repression of many authors of the former journal TPFK.

Since April 1937 the journal was published as an organ of the All-Union Committee for Physical Culture and Sports Affairs of the Council of People's Commissars with the circulation of 11 000 copies (which was double the number in 1930—1931) (Fig. 1).
TPFK was headed by Divisional Commissioner Boris A. Kalpus (1895—1938). Unfortunately, his career of the journal head was short and his fate - tragic: in 1938, he was arrested and shot (rehabilitated in 1956).

Naturally, that the spirit of those years left its mark on the revived edition. Actually, it was called "Nauchno-populyarny zhurnal" (English: “Popular Science Journal”). The fact is that works (even scientific-theoretical ones) were published in the journal without references, which is the common mandatory attribute of theoretical and methodological articles. The reason was that it was hard (and scary) to quote someone who may be subject to repression tomorrow...

Only in 1939, new editor-in-chief, Ph.D., Associate Professor Ivan Antonovich Kryachko (1903—1977) managed to change the category of the edition to the "Theoretical-methodological journal". The total of 48 issues of the journal TPFK was published in 1937—1941, containing 1,034 publications, with only about half being of scientific nature (Fig. 2). Not all of them are same significant in historical and scientific terms, but some of them were cited, are being cited and will be cited in the specialized literature for many years. These works primarily include the one of N.A. Bernstein “Motion construction and systematization in context of neurophysiology”.

Publishing of the journal TPFK was interrupted by the Great Patriotic War. It was not published from July 1941 to May 1945.

THE THEMATIC SCOPE FORMATION PERIOD (1945—1961)

The journal TPFK development period after the Second World War (1941—1945) is similar in its characteristics to the period of genesis and organizational formation of the journal. The main difference in these two periods is the high level of fear in its publications. It is proved by the significant (4 times) growth of the

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average age of documentary sources (Fig. 3). On the contrary, the scientific research in the field of sport (especially — thesis researches) was intensified which is similar to the quoted period (Fig. 4). The sports research defined the main subject of TPFK for many years.

1945—1951: Post-war years of the journal TPFK

The Soviet people won in the Great Patriotic War.

The scientists who had already proven their standing returned home. Many would-be coryphaei of sports science survived on the battlefields. Unfortunately, too many people were not so fortunate ...

Despite the post-war difficulties, starting from June 1946, they began to publish virtually all specialized editions in the Soviet Union. The circulation of the journal TPFK had slightly decreased as compared to the pre-war period (10 000 copies) but it became one printed sheet bigger (Fig. 1). It lived on in this format (5.0 printed sheets) until 1978.

![Journal TPFK Cover in 1948](image)

The journal was headed by one of the founders of sports psychology, professor P.A. Rudik (1893—1983). In the academic style, he managed to combine vast, nearly 60 sections of the prewar journal into compact ten. This greatly simplified the work with the content and facilitated its comprehensive perception.

The main difficulty for the journal at that time was not only the lack of the number of manuscripts in the editor’s hand (this problem was eliminated quickly enough), but almost complete absence of experimental works, due to the fact that the whole country had been tackling the front line problems during four previous years. Nevertheless, a number of serious generalizing works appeared which brought into a system accumulated prewar and post-war experience or the results of previous studies. During this period, the Soviet Union was actively engaged in an anti-cosmopolitanism campaign alongside another one directed against weismannism-morganism (as classical genetics was named then), the former being grounded in anti-Semitism.

Almost all research papers published in those years had a lengthy paragraph stating that they “rest on the Pavlov’s theory of higher nervous activity.” But such reverence was expressed in other ways, too. There were
numerous papers published to begin with: “The teaching of Pavlov is the basis of natural sciences...”, followed by certain aspects of science.

The worst thing was that verbal profusion was not the only weapon against cosmopolitanism. Some prominent scientists risked their careers (at best).

In 1950, during a joint session of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Academy of Medical Sciences (known as Pavlov’s session) Bernstein's works were criticized for their “anti-Pavlov” perspective. He was soon dismissed from his job and did not have any laboratory facilities for research for the rest of his life.

All of these events largely affected the course of the entire scientific life in the country as was evidenced in the publications of the journal TPFK.

In the vast majority of articles published in 1948—1951, one can discern the authors’ fear of writing something wrong, something not in line with the approved “viewpoint”. Naturally, under such circumstances any scientific discussion, which is one of the main driving forces of progress, was out of the question. Science (in the strict sense of the word, as activities aimed at developing and systematization of objective knowledge about reality) became a dangerous thing. That is probably why in this period the share of scientific articles in the journal fell as low as 20%.

1952—1961: Olympic start of the journal TPFK

In the summer of 1952, the USSR picked team, having come second in the team ranking, proved to be a success at the XV Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland. The training process of the athletes, who were to take part in the first Olympic Games ever for the Soviet athletes, was cloaked in secrecy.

After the Olympic Games were over, a number of articles on the competition details were published in the journal. This aroused the readers' interest and the journal's circulation soared, having nearly doubled, and reached 20,000 copies by 1953 (Fig. 1).

The journal TPFK experienced personnel changes prior to and after the change of political leadership of the country (Joseph Stalin died in 1953) as many other editions did. The ongoing anti-cosmopolitanism campaign resulted in the replacement of the guide journal (1951, Andrey Volkov; 1951—1952, Fedor Samoukov; 1952—1958, Vasily Kas'yanov).

In 1958, Alexey Romanov was appointed Editor-in-Chief. His previous post was Chairman of the Committee for Physical Culture and Sport at the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR. Being a member of the IOC (1952—1971), he promoted the articles dealing with the Olympics and they became an integral part of the journal content in those years.
In the Soviet Union they began to publish new methodological journals related to physical culture and sport, namely “Legkaya atletika” (“Athletics”) (1955), “Sportivnye igry” (“Sports Games”) (1955), “Fizicheskaya kul'tura v shkole” (“School Physical Education”) (1958) and “Sport za rubezhom” (“International Sport”) (1960). On the one hand, this helped narrow down the journal’s thematic range, reducing the share of methodological articles. On the other hand, new editions caused a reduction in its subscribers. By 1957 its circulation dropped as low as 12 000 copies (Fig. 1).

The brilliant performances of the Soviet athletes at the Winter and Summer Olympic Games in 1956 made the country’s leaders believe that the USSR team would defeat all rivals from then on, with no one matching its power. Further on, spectacular achievements marking the Olympic year of 1960 only made this illusion stronger.

As a result, in the light of the upcoming transformation of the social statehood into the communist self-government, the idea of which was subsequently documented in the Program of the Communist Party, in January 1959 it was decided to establish a voluntary association called the USSR Union of Sport Societies and Organizations. It was assigned the functions of supervising the development of physical culture and sport in the country.

Such new organizational trends did not leave the burning problems of the journal unattended. The problematic issues were discussed at the meeting of the Editorial Board of the journal "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoj Kul'tury" established in late 1958\(^2\). At this meeting, in particular, it was noted that the slushpile had a large number of obsolete papers. Most of the articles printed were too lengthy and not informative. Research papers often lacked conclusions and suggestions. Therefore, it was difficult to implement them in practice.

There was a dramatic increase in the number of research articles. Their share in the total bulk of publications reached 50% with one-third of research articles having references.

Most importantly, the contributions quality had improved though. It should be noted that the number of research directly related to the problems of training practice was growing.

These tendencies influenced directly the development of the theoretical foundation of sports training. The range of research procedures was expanded.

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The technology and methods of sport pedagogical research were formed. They started to be of strictly scientific orientation. All of the above factors lead to the appearance of works of a generalizing character.

**THE PERIOD OF DEFINITE GOALS (1962—1988)**

The 60-ies is the most complicated and contradictory stage not only for the evolution of the journal TPFK, but also for the development of Russian sports training science. The scientific community demonstrates growth of self-consciousness, which as well started the revival of the journal TPFK. It's main goal was the creation and the transmission of define goals to the community. Thus the TPFK has become one of the main factors of the genesis of the holistic system of sports scientific research activity. That is why three periods (1962—1968, 1969—1980, 1981—1988) were united in one.

**1962—1968: Growth difficulties of the journal TPFK**

In the early 1960s, due to the instability of the political course pursued by Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Union faced serious problems both in domestic and foreign policy, which was seen in a series of personnel changes. In 1962, the new governing body of the Union of Sport Associations and Organizations of the USSR was appointed, resulting, in its turn, in the new editorial board of the journal "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury". In July 1962, Evgeniy Sizyi was appointed editor-in-chief.

Being a party functionary, E. Sizyi began to earnestly implement the new program of the Communist Party adopted in 1961. At the same time, the share of articles in the above sections together with socially-oriented papers in the total bulk of publications was steadily growing. Consequently, the journal information image was getting lost. The subscribers' interest in the journal started to wane dramatically. Its circulation had dropped to 9,000 copies (Fig. 1).

In previous years, it was unlikely to become the matter of organizational transformations, but in 1964 there came the first wake-up call — the USSR Olympic team came second after the Americans in the gold medals count at the XVIII Olympic Games in Tokyo. The new government (in October 1964, Leonid

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3 Nicholas Kargin, „Study of the trends in development and formation of scientific knowledge in the field of physical culture and sports“, (diss., Moskow, 1979): 21.

Brezhnev became the General Secretary of the CPSU) drew a clear parallel between the number of the Olympic gold medals and the number of intercontinental missiles as a generalized indicator of the state's power. Despite this, initially this issue was taken quite likely and no serious measures were initiated.

When considering the causes of the USSR team's defeat, the discourse of a sure victory was replaced by the investigation of objective factors leading to this defeat. Gradually, the leaders of physical culture and sport in the country became aware of the fact that it was the teamwork of professionals (coaches, scientists, doctors etc.) and not the crucial role of the Communist Party which contributed to the Olympic success. Moreover, this teamwork activity had to be conducted "on the basis of thorough scientific analysis rather than superficial unrealistic views ..." (p. 5)\(^5\).

In autumn 1965, the Central Council of the Union of Sport Associations and Organizations of the USSR adopted a resolution on the journal "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury". It was noted that "the main shortcoming of the journal is its versatile character, the abundance of topics and the absence of a clear profile; another flaw was that it was not aimed at a certain circle of sports professionals and specialists" (p. 70)\(^6\). The multitude of tasks set in the above resolution for the new members of the editorial board and editorial staff could be reduced to a single goal — the journal was to become a kind of "compass" determining the vector of development of physical culture and sport in the country rather than just be a record of scientific results in the area.

In 1966, Arkadiy Sedov (1928—1987) was appointed to supervise the process of achieving this complex goal. Being the editor-in-chief of the journal "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury" became his lifework. His used to work in a physical culture and sport edition, starting from 1952, where he got promoted from a technical staff member to the head of the applied sports department. A. Sedov was both an expert in the publishing sphere and an active researcher.

The new editor-in-chief of the journal TPFK had introduced fundamental changes into the edition: firstly, the subtitle of Scientific and Theoretical Journal was given to the edition (so the share of research papers was to reach as much as 70%); secondly, the approach to thematic sections was revised in its core (the


\(^6\) "Resolution of the Central Council of the Union of Sport Associations and Organizations of the USSR on The Theory and Practice of Physical Culture journal", Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury, No. 12 (1965): 70.
number of sections remained the same but now they dealt with the main research objects rather than aspects of physical culture and sports activities); thirdly, the journal was redesigned (each issue being customized).

The journal began to regain its former popularity. In 1967—1968 its circulation nearly doubled and reached 13 500 copies (Fig. 1). Naturally, this was facilitated by the qualitative improvement of the methodological framework of the articles, largely due to more selective procedures and higher requirements for the materials published in the journal.

The obvious improvement of the research papers' quality was brought forth by a large number of theses written. In the 1960s, the annual number of defended theses related to physical culture and sport increased fivefold, reaching approximately 200 works (S.A. Pronin, 2007). In its turn, this was the result of a payrise by 250-350% to the teaching staff and researchers holding PhD degrees. This payrise was established in 1946. However, the research activity promotion process had been hampered due to redtape for many years.

Nevertheless, the research in the field of physical culture and sport was activated not only due to organizational factors. Mexico City (Mexico) location at the altitude of 2000 meters above the sea level proved to be the scientific challenge determining major research objectives of those years since this city was selected the venue for the XIX Olympic Games in 1968.

Since athletes face the greatest difficulties in long-distance events when competing at middle altitudes, the research was focused on the problems related to endurance. Unfortunately, since the construction of the Olympic training center in Tsakhkadzor (Armenia) did not meet the deadlines (its location was in full compliance with the conditions of the upcoming Olympic competitions), the recommended practices based on the studies performed were not fully implemented into the training scheme of the USSR picked teams prior to the Olympics.

The runner-up place in the team ranking at the Winter Olympic Games in 1968 in Grenoble was the second wake-up call, followed by the dismissal of all top sports officials. Nevertheless, a terrible defeat at the XIX Olympic Games in Mexico City inflicted by the US team (it won half as much gold medals as the Soviet athletes), showed that sports officials did not present the major problem. The fact

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7 Sergei Pronin, „Analysis of the documentary flow of theses dedicated to the issues of physical culture and sports”, Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury, No. 6 (2007): 60.
was that the whole system of physical culture and sports organization in the USSR was in need of a complete transformation.

1969—1980: «Golden Age» of Russian sports science and journal TPFK

The new management of the Physical Culture and Sports Committee at the USSR Council of Ministers headed by Sergey Pavlovich Pavlov started changing the whole system of physical training and sport in the country in 1968. Moreover, the best things in this area were preserved and creatively increased.

It was clear to the sports management of the country that it was impossible to reach great Olympic victories without serious scientific innovations. They had an essential progress in this direction but an integral system of the target reproduction of scientific advance in physical education and sport was required.

Coordination bonds of research activities within the given system were established with the help of special All-Union conferences. Their number increased almost 1.5 times in the early 70s, and, nota bene, they became of a special subject nature (S.A. Pronin, 2010).

Regularly published special theoretical and methodological collections of articles were to play a subordination role in scientific and technological activities within certain sports. Such editions devoted to a number of sports were sporadically published and became very popular in the 60s. Since 1970 they were published annually.

Complex scientific groups (CSG) founded in 1973 for all combined teams of the USSR were on the top of the whole system. They started carrying out scientific and technological activities for making recommendations to the coaches of the combined teams of the country.

The journal “Nauchno-sportivny vestnik” (“Science and Sports Herald”) started to be published in 1974 with 3000 copies to stimulate the research on the empiric basis of picked teams. Despite its status «Not for public use» it was very popular in the scientific community as it made it possible to allocate the priority in researches on private subjects.

Competition with new editions had not decreased the number of copies of the journal TPFK. Moreover, it had increased almost up to 20000 copies (Fig. 1). It

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8 Sergei Pronin, „The twentieth century of the Russian physical culture and sports science“, (St. Petersburg : Olymp, 2010), Book 1—3.

9 Sergei Neverkovich and Albert Rodionov, „To the history of the national applied sport psychology“, Sport psychologist, No. 2 (2009): 5.
is proved not only by its increased authority predefined by great demand and quality of the information published in it but also by the fact that the journal had gradually become an expert filter.

In the 70s the major scientific and technological task of improvement of the highly-skilled athletes' training system was to «... learn to manage shape development including all its components» (p. 5). This task could be solved just by controlling athlete's training and competitive activities. Actualization of this problem required the main kinds of control and directions to be defined, impartial activity characteristics to be pointed out and estimation scales fixing important criteria to be developed. All these and other relevant complex problems had to be solved very quickly.

The discussion and sometimes even pioneer nature of the materials published in the journal allowed looking at many aspects of the sports activity from a different perspective and setting priority approaches to solve the problems of the training process management, which were directly or indirectly used for the leading athletes' training.

The USSR picked team had won enough medals in all Olympic Games from 1972 to 1980. That progress was mainly predefined by creation of a successful integral system of scientific support of training of national picked teams. One of the most important components of this system was the journal TPFK which, figuratively speaking, as an engine promoted all other components of sports science.

The seventies are sometimes called «a golden age» for national sport both due to the progress level and the amount of assets invested in it. It appears that this metaphor fully suits the Russian sport science too, but the difference is that the athletes' results have already gone down in history, and many scientific regulations made that time are still urgent and in demand.

**1981—1988: Postolympic syndrome and journal TPFK**

The XXII Olympic Games were both a holiday and a cold shower. Initially it was supposed that the income from the games would be about 500 mln RUB, but in reality they incurred much greater expenses. Certainly, their amount was not

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11 Eugene Zhirkov, „*No other Olympic Games incurred so many losses*“, Kommersant-Vlast’, No. 20 (2010): 64.
comparable with the Afghanistan war expenses but it did not relate to the motto «the economy must be economical ...» at the XXVI session of CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union) in 1981 either.

After the XXII Olympic Games the main focus of the physical culture and sport activity in the USSR had shifted to the hypothetically less unprofitable mass area. Initially the management of the Committee for Physical Training and Sport of the USSR Council of Ministers tried to keep to the reasonable balance in the scientific basis of problems of elite sport and large-scale physical training but that initiative was not supported by the country’s leaders.

In April 1983 typical party functionary Marat Vladimirovich Gramov was appointed the Chairman of the Committee. The number of scientific conferences decreased by over 50% almost immediately. Financing of complex scientific groups was cut down. Annual collections of methodological articles connected with the overwhelming majority of sports stop being published since the mid 80s. All that began directly or indirectly influencing on the destruction of the interconnectedness of the successfully functioning integral research system regarding physical education and sport.

The new trends influenced the journal "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury" too. The economy drive caused a 16 page reduction of the journal volume (1 printer’s sheet). The number of the journal copies had dropped (one and a half times) down to 12 500 copies (Fig. 1).

Gradual negative consequences of the post-Olympic reorganizations in sport science became more and more tangible. Even the restructuring trends (M.S. Gorbachev became the head of the country in March 1985) did not eliminate that trend. A plenary session of the scientific council of the USSR State Sport Committee took place in April 1987, where it was actually stated that the quality of the research activity had deteriorated resulting in the decrease of the Soviet athlete's performance.

Weak coordination of researches, their low complexity and narrow subjects were the main reasons for that situation. Besides that, one of the main reasons for this was the lack of modern instrument methods for applied scientific researches. Their characteristic feature was a personal computer then. However, even organizations could hardly buy it (a personal computer cost as a car). It was an

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essential hindrance to the introduction of information technologies in the practice of scientific researches. But there was some progress in that direction.\(^\text{13}\)

The journal celebrated its anniversary in December 1985 (60 years). It was mentioned at the conference in that regard that «one could trace the whole way of

the Soviet sport science by the publications in the journal» (p. 5). Almost all people who spoke at the conference said about the importance of the journal "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury" for the national physical culture and sports movement and the main role of its editor-in-chief A.V. Sedov.

Arkadiy Vladimirovich Sedov died two years later. His death was so serious that it took over a year to find a worthy man instead of him to that position.

**FORMAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT PERIOD (1989—2004)**

The revival of the TPFK journal and scientific activities in Russia started in late 1980s. Due to the complex economic state, the journal was under formal government management until the beginning of the XXI century (1989—1997 period and 1998—2004 period). Officially the journal was managed by the governmental structures, but actually they were not involved in the editorial process.

**1989—1997: Years of Survival of the journal TPFK**

In February 1989, Professor Vadim Bal'sevich, was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the journal “Teoriya i Praktika fizicheskoj kul'tury”. Being successful as a leader of the complex scientific group of the USSR's picked track-and-field team for more than 10 years, he had more than once tackled the most complex tasks, but the ones he faced in his new capacity were far more challenging.

In July 1989 M.V. Gramov, the Chairman of the USSR State Committee for physical culture and sports, was not re-confirmed in his position by the I Congress of People’s Deputies of the USSR due to his “poor knowledge of the subject”. Nikolai Rusak, former M.V. Gramov’s First Deputy, was elected to that position. That man, the legend of the national physical culture and sports movement, became, in fact, not only the last “Minister of Sports” of the USSR, but also the last official of such a high rank to regard the national sport science as a holistic systemic formation.

On 26 December 1991 the USSR ceased to exist. The national sports, including sport science, were exposed to, figuratively speaking, the Moloch of political regime changes. The consequences of this process were aggravated by the ensuing transition to the market economy in the form of a ‘shock therapy’.

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The attitude of the state leadership of the newly created Russia, which was headed by B.N. Yeltsin, towards the social policy sphere was characterized by sophisticated pharisaism. This was most vividly demonstrated in the sector of physical culture and sport. On the one hand, decrees were signed, laws were adopted and far-reaching promises were given. On the other hand, those were left without any financial support\(^\text{15}\). Moreover, the leaders of the national physical culture and sports movement started to come and go. Thus, over the period from 1991 to 1999 they succeeded one another six times (V.N. Machuga, V.S. Sysoev, Yu.M. Portnov, Sh.A. Tarpishchev, L.V. Tyagachev, B.V. Ivanyuzhenkov). Each of them, individually, was a good specialist in specific area of physical culture and sport. However, that flickering of them all was rather reminiscent of a sort of a theatre of the absurd rather than a carefully designed governmental policy. At that time the national physical culture and sports movement had a big problem\(^\text{16}\).

The sports science, which had already been financed by a leftover principle, was actually left on the verge of survival. The subsidies paid to scientific research institutions were reduced to a minimum. Their staff decreased many times. After the XXIV Olympics in Barcelona in 1992 the complex scientific groups of all picked teams were dissolved. In the early 90s the total number of the annual scientific conferences dedicated to physical culture and sports issues, which were held in the Russian Federation, was as low as ten\(^\text{17}\). The information support of the entire section actually ceased.

A critical situation arose in 1992. The journals “Nauchno-sportivny vestnik” (“Science and Sports Herald”), “Sportivnye igry” (“Sports Games”) and “Sport za rubezhom” (“International Sport”) ceased to be published. In order to survive all the leading physical culture and sports editions started publishing double and even triple issues.

The journal TPFK was on the verge of extinction, when the editorial board of the journal, headed by V.K. Bal’sevich, rose to the challenge posed to it by the life itself. Everyone understood that the Journal, which had become a national cultural asset by that time, was in need of rescue. This was accomplished largely due to the assistance rendered by the rector of Moscow Institute of Physical Culture (GCOLIFK), Valeriy Vladimirovich Kuzin (1963—2006). He provided the

\(^{15}\) Valery Kuzin, Michael Zolotov, Michael Kutepov, „Possibilities of financing sports at the expense of gambling industry“, Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul’tury, No. 4 (1999): 2.

\(^{16}\) Klara Tsaturova, „Physical Culture in the Post-Soviet Russia“, u History of Physical Culture in Russia (Nizhny Novgorod, 2001), 116.

\(^{17}\) Sergei Pronin, „The twentieth century of the Russian physical culture and sports science“, (St. Petersburg : Olymp, 2010), Book 1—3.
office space to the editorial staff and allocated funds for the organization of production. The only issue of the Journal in 1992 was published in the Institute’s printshop.

There were two main ways to the survival of the Journal. The first was to increase the number of subscribers, but it was rather difficult to persuade the governmental agencies to subscribe to the Journal, to say nothing of the common people who were hardly able to make ends meet. Nevertheless, certain steps were taken to resolve this problem in that the array of the most conspicuous elements of the Journal format, its sections, was enlarged. Their number had grown almost three times.

The second way was to attract investors. A state enterprise was founded based on the Journal editorial board’s resources. V.K. Bal’sevich, using his organizational skills, managed to find the businesses which would invest into the financial resources into the development of that enterprise. That not only helped finance the production cycle of the journal TPFK, but also to start issuing a new periodical in 1996, that of the journal “Fizicheskaya kul’tura: vospitanie, obrazovanie, trenirovka” (“Physical culture: education, education, training”).

1998—2004: Journal TPFK at the turn of the XX—XXI centuries

Due to the inadequate macroeconomic policy pursued by B.N. Yeltsin, a severe economic crisis took place on 17 August 1998 in Russia. By that time the organization of the Russian sports science had already totally collapsed.

In October 1998 Professor Lyudmila Ivanovna Lubysheva was officially approved Head of the journal "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul’tury".

In 2000 Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin became President of the Russian Federation. The helm of the country was taken by a fundamentally new team which employed other, more efficient approaches in its activities. At this time Pavel Alexeevich Rozhkov became Chairman of the Russia’s State Committee for Sports. Reared in the sports academic community, P.A. Rozhkov started to successfully apply systemic scientific approaches to revitalize the national physical culture and sports movement. He became as of yet the only so high-

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ranking sports official to have used the pages of the TPFK Journal as a medium for seeking overall judgment of his views on that problem\(^\text{20}\).

However, the renaissance appeared to be rather short-lived. Owing to high-level political reasons an outstanding national hockey player, Viacheslav Alexandrovich Fetisov was appointed Head of the State Committee for Sports. Generally, he continued to pursue P.A. Rozhkov’s undertakings, but due to the inefficient leadership failed to accomplish them.

Confronted with a situation when both the sponsorship and the governmental aid were abruptly curtailed, the Journal found itself in need of new financing sources to keep its production process going. Editor-in-Chief L.I. Lubysheva made an unconventional marketing move, when the editorial board started, figuratively speaking, leasing out certain issues of the Journal by providing the Journal pages to the representatives of different organizations for them to publish articles on the occasions of their anniversaries. This considerably increased the Journal circulation, and, consequently, the financial proceeds. Little by little, the share of such issues in the annual register exceeded 50%.

However, such practice highlighted several problems. The thing was that from 1980s a constant decrease of the share of articles dedicated to sports was observed with a respective growth of the share of articles dedicated to the problems of physical culture. By early XXI century the ratio between these components had changed from the 4 to 1 ratio down to 1 to 1 (Fig. 4). And the rates of this tendency are irreversible as of yet\(^\text{21}\).

An important factor, which significance with regard to the aforementioned trend is prevailing and constantly increasing, are publications of the lecturers of educational establishments (which are, as a rule, placed in the leased out issues) that are predominantly dedicated to the problems which higher educational establishments face. Such a situation, in the first approximation, does not cause any serious concern insofar as the fundamental theories (of sports, physical education and physical culture) being taught in the sports higher educational establishments were created to satisfy the needs of the educational process for the purposes of creating a conceptual toolset required for efficient activities of an educator. Unfortunately, the major portion of such publications is dedicated to organizational problems. This is because the educational and experimental


infrastructure of the physical culture higher educational establishments has become extremely outdated and there are actually no facilities left for carrying out scientific researches. All this brought to the fact that the content of the physical education became stagnant.

Insofar as the key driving force of the sports science development lies in the integration with other scientific fields\textsuperscript{22}, the assistance in overcoming the above-mentioned stagnation could be rendered by higher educational establishments with other academic profiles. But they also face numerous problems\textsuperscript{23}, the foremost of which is deeply rooted "unprogressiveness" of the scientific researches conducted, primarily, in the framework of the students’ physical education.

Some other negative tendencies emerged at the turn of the XX and XXI centuries as well. The share of the TPFK Journal's pedagogical and medicobiological articles which are primarily prepared on the basis of the materials derived from experimental research have decreased by over than 20%, while the share of the articles dedicated to theoretical and methodological topics has been growing, respectively; the level of growth of the number of new authors of the articles has reduced by almost three times; qualitative deterioration in the dynamics of the number of initial word forms (lexical units) used in the articles was observed\textsuperscript{24}.

What was pinpointed in the array of the TPFK Journal publications is not a reason, but a consequence of a poor condition in which the national sport science found itself. The analysis of the theses dedicated to the problems of physical culture and sport revealed similar tendencies\textsuperscript{25}. All of this indicates that the organizational breakdown of the national sport science started to metastasize into its content, too.

\textsuperscript{22} Gregory Natalov, „Integration of the Physical Culture Science“, Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury, No. 8 (2004): 5.

\textsuperscript{23} Valery Grigoriev, Oleg Piskun, Vladimir Ivanov, „Perspectives for development of the sports science in the higher educational establishments of Russia“, Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury, No. 2 (2015): 34.


\textsuperscript{25} Sergei Pronin, „Analysis of the documentary flow of dissertations on physical culture and sport“, Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury, No. 6 (2007): 60.
THE INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT PERIOD (2005—2015)

The journal TPFK is an absolutely independent organisation from 2005. The segregation of this period in a different step is hypothetical. But the power of new and more effective editorial policy justifies this idea.

In June 2005 M.E. Fradkov, the Chairman of the RF Government, signed the order on the liquidation of the Federal State Enterprise “Editorial Board of the Journal "Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul’tury".

It was absolutely incomprehensible why an edition which had gone a difficult and long way of development (its 80s anniversary was celebrated in 2005) and which, due to the efforts of thousands of scientists, decently represented Russian sport science throughout the world and had turned into an objective indicator of development of that science, and, moreover, which had grown into the national cultural asset, should become useless?!

Could it be that due to the renewed publishing of the "Uchetnye zapiski universiteta im. P.F. Lesgafta" ("P.F. Lesgaft University's Records") edition, or also the commencement of the publishing of “Vestnik sportivnoi nauki” ("Sport Science Herald") (2003), “Sport: ekonomika, pravo, upravlenie” ("Sport: Economy, Law, Management") (2003), “Kultura fizicheskaya i zdorov’e” ("Physical Culture and Health") (2004), “Sportivny psikholog” ("Sports Psychologist") (2004), the Rossport’s leadership had the impression that the information space of physical culture and sport was oversaturated with periodicals?

The editorial board was not frightened by what happened. The autonomous non-commercial organization “Nauchno-izdatelskiy tsentr "Teoriya i praktika fizicheskoy kul’tury i sporta" ("Scientific Publishing Center “Theory and Practice of Physical Culture and Sport”) was established. The issues of the TPFK continued to be published on a regular basis.

In January 2006 the Federal Special-Purpose Program “Development of Physical Culture and Sports in the RF for 2006—2015” was approved. All subsections of its chapter named “Scientific Research and Development in the Sphere of Elite Sport” were mainly focused on solving two problems of vital
importance for the national sports. Firstly, to revive the activities aimed at systematic control of the picked teams’ preparedness with the application of the methods employed in scientific researches and, secondly, to enhance the doping control efficiency. Alas, the document did not tackle the predominant issue of scientific research works. A quarter-of-a-century absence of the justified and recorded purpose eventually resulted in an inconsistent bulk of researches logically not related with each other, and which, in certain cases, could be considered scientific by a long stretch of the imagination.

Because of such a situation, the journal TPFK in 2006—2015, without any orders from the “superior authorities” at that time, seeking to concentrate its efforts more effectively on the targeted national scientific research in the field of physical education and sport, curtailed twice the number of scientific columns. Besides, in an attempt to update the priority trends of the research activities the Section “In Search of New Breakthrough” was created in 2011.

Such steps made no difference on a global scale; rather, they determined, with a sufficient degree of precision, the priorities of the editorial board which were aimed at raising the international prestige of the Journal and the national sport science. This required original products of intellectual activity which should be competitive at the international market of scientific and pedagogical services, because there is hardly anyone on earth who would pay anything for a ‘déjà-vu’ when they are in need of a ‘know-how’.

The Journal, on its part, took every effort to ensure that the materials supplied by the authors could receive excellent coverage in the global information media. Since 1996 all electronic copies of the Journal issues have been posted in the Internet (in 2010 a digitized version of all issues of the TPFK from as early as 1925 was created in the P.F. Lesgaft NSU); the Journal was included into the Russian database for scientific references E-library and the international system for science citations Web of Science; an English version of the Journal has been published since 2013.

In May 2008 Vitaliy Leontievich Mutko was entrusted with the helm of the Ministry for Sports, Tourism and Youth Policies. This was predetermined not so much by the change of the country’s leader (in March 2008 D.A. Medvedev was elected President of the RF), as by the necessity to enhance the efficiency of the preparation for the XXII Winter Olympic Games of the year of 2014 in Sochi.

The victory we secured at the Olympics we held as a host country, the one which highly raised the profile of not only Russia’s sport, but of the entire country, unfortunately had shown convincingly enough that unless one decently ‘feeds’ their science and culture, they will have to feed somebody else’s ones (and an epidemic of invitations for foreign trainers to lead picked teams serves as an incontrovertible proof of that). Strictly speaking, based on the results of what
empirical basis systematization could the top trainers be taught if, starting from 1992, no data about the preparedness indices of the national sports teams have been actually available? Sparse publications in the TPFK are an exception, which, in fact, determines that this cultural layer of priceless information has been irrevocably lost. What kind of a system of athletes training could exist if its foundation — the framework for sports programs and qualifying standards - has not undergone serious scientific justification for almost half-century?

It is symptomatic that on 2 June 2015 at a meeting of the Presidential Council for the development of physical culture and sport which was dedicated to elite sports, RF President V.V. Putin alone talked constructively about the problems of sport science. No doubt, the legal issues related to sports, the construction of sports facilities and the creation of a new sports TV channel are all significant problems. However, the driving force of the Russian sport science has not been identified so far and has no support whatsoever. And that is why it is most unlikely that the 'birthmarks' of our sports will ever be removed. In fact, the notorious problem of doping is a consequence of recognizing by a trainer and/or an athlete of their lack of ability to efficiently manage the training process.

However, it would be unfair to put the blame on the governmental officials alone. Over the past quarter of the century the average ‘age’ of bibliographical references in the TPFK and theses has smoothly doubled from the former level of 10—12 years\(^{26}\) (Fig. 3). This statistics demonstrates that the publications have been citing the same documentary sources from year to year, which may be explained by at least three unpalatable reasons. Firstly, the authors do not read the primary sources but, instead, simply copy the bibliographical references; secondly, the works (including theses) have been written by the same people; and, thirdly, there are no new publications which would contain original ideas fundamentally different from those which were formulated earlier.

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\(^{26}\) Sergei Pronin, „Analysis of the documentary flow of dissertations on physical culture and sport“, Teoriya i Praktika Fizicheskoy Kul'tury, No. 6 (2007): 60.
Such issues would do no credit to any scientific community. The complaints that the complex social settings relegate the status of a scientist to the level of an unskilled worker, that in the today’s Russian science the arithmetic of artefacts is substituted for the algebra of reasoned thinking, that the scientific activities are becoming completely devoid of the romanticism akin to the investigative approach — might all be acceptable for each of the men of science taken separately, but are absolutely unconvincing in constructing an overall trend.

The Journal “Teoriya i praktika fizicheskoy kul'tury” has been one of the major development factors of the national science on physical education and sport for as long as 90 years.

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ЭВОЛЮЦИЯ ЖУРНАЛА «ТЕОРИЯ И ПРАКТИКА ФИЗИЧЕСКОЙ КУЛЬТУРЫ» (1925—2015 ГГ.)

РЕЗЮМЕ

Российский спорт является одним из мировых лидеров. Во многом его успехи определяются достижениями спортивной науки. Одним из главных факторов ее развития 90 лет является журнал «Теория и практика физической культуры». Эволюция журнала отразила особенности истории Советского Союза и новой России, парадоксы развития российского спорта и науки.

Стартовал в 1925 году как приложение к другому изданию, журнал «Теория и практика физической культуры» за 90 лет превратился в мощный
печатный орган. Он является национальным культурным достояние и отражает все особенности российской спортивной науки.

Целью данной работы является анализ эволюции журнала «Теория и практика физической культуры» с 1925 по 2015 год. Авторы использовали исторический метод и результаты наукометрических измерений.

Ключевые слова: Россия, спорт, наука, эволюция, журнал

РАЗВОЙ ЧАСОПИСА “ТЕОРИЯ И ПРАКСА ФИЗИЧКЕ КУЛТУРЕ” (1925—2015)

САЖЕТАК

Русский спорт один из важнейших в мире. На много начин, его успех определяют достижений спортивной науки. Журнал "Теория и Практика Физической Культуры" был одним из ведущих факторов в его развитии за 90 лет. Особенности истории Союза Советских Союзов и новой России, парадоксы развития русского спорта и науки отражаются в развитии этого журнала. Покренут в 1925 году как дополнение к другому изданию, журнал "Теория и Практика Физической Культуры" 90 лет представляет сильное новое гласило. Он является национально культурным наследием и отражает специфику русских спортивных науки. Цель этого исследования была анализ развития журнала "Теория и Практика Физической Культуры" в период с 1925 по 2015 год. Авторы использовали методологию и результаты наукометрических исследований.

Ключевые речи: Россия, спортивные игры, наука, развитие, журнал