

WINTER SPORTS IN UKRAINE

Ukraine enjoys suitable landscape and weather conditions favourable for Winter sports, particularly in the Carpathian mountains. Ukrainian physical culture organizations are developing 13 winter sports. Especially popular are cross-country ski races, biathlon, figure skating and Alpine skiing.

Today there are some 300 various sports facilities in Ukraine, including 85 ski camps, 5 covered skating stadiums, 12 installments for ski jumping, and one installment for freestyle, 5 stationary shooting ranges for biathlon, 8 well-equipped pistes with lifts for Alpine skiing, 4 roller-ski courses for summer/autumn training in biathlon, cross-country races, combination, and over 20 hockey rinks.

We have comfortable camps with a complex of sports and recreational facilities, sports installments and equipment in such areas as "Dynamo" training camp in Sumy, world-class complex camps "Tysovets" and "Slavske" in Lviv region, "Avangard" and "Ukraine" in Vorokhta (Ivano-Frankivsk province), ice sports palaces in Kyiv, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Severodonetsk and an ice stadium in the capital of Ukraine.

Downhill amateurs and tourists who go in for recreation skiing can rely on comfortable hotels in Rakhiv, Yasyni, Yaremcha, Skole, Volovets, Verkhovyna, Khust, Kremenets and other areas.

The Ukrainian Carpathians have picturesque mountain landscape, wonderful nature, favourable weather, and can be easily reached both by train and by car. In some regions of the Carpathians snow cover does not melt 9 or 10 months a year. Local sports and tourist camps can host top-level international competitions.

Tens of thousands Ukrainians go in for winter sports and ski tourism. Ukraine holds some two thousand winter competitions annually, including over 80 state and international ones.

They began to practice winter sports in Ukraine in the 19th century. Ski sports appeared in the 1880-90s, and, on a wider scale, at the beginning of the 20th century. In 1904 "Charny" sports club was established in Lviv. It was then that the first *cross* country ski races and downhill races were held. Speed skating, ski jumping and ski-shooting competitions were organized a little later.

1927 saw the first official championships of Ukraine in some winter sports. The Ukrainian republican ski section was established in 1932, followed

by the skate section in 1936.

Ukrainian athletes, members of the USSR teams, entered international competitions in the 1950s and some produced excellent results. Thus, Oleh Honcharenko, a speed skater from Kharkiv, won the 1953 World Championship; and defended his top spot in 1956 end 1958. Competing for the USSR team at the VII Winter Olympics in Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956, O. Honcharenko won bronze medals in 5000 and 10000 metres.

Till 1994, 22 sportsmen from Ukraine took part in the Winter Olympic Games (1956-1992) being members of the USSR National team.

All in all, Ukrainian athletes won 8 Olympic medals: 3 golds, 2 silvers, and 3 bronzes.

In the last USSR peoples' Spartakiade held in 1990 in Kyiv, Slavsk, and Tysovets the Ukrainian team came second in the all-round team scoring, Ukrainian hockey players, downhill racers, figure skaters and biathlons, winning medals in their events.

The first Olympic champions among Ukrainian athletes in different kinds of sport in different years became: biathlonist I. Byakov (as a member of the USSR national team in relay 4x7,5 km at the XII Games in 1976 in Insbruck), ice-hockey player O. Zhytnik and figure-skater V. Petrenko (as members of the joint team of CIS at the XVth Winter Games in 1992 in Albertville. The silver was won by the skater Yu. Kondakov at 500 m distance (as a member of the USSR National team at the XIIth Games in 1976 in Insbruck) and the skier A. Batyuk (as a member of the USSR national team in the 4x10 km relay at the XIV Winter Games in 1984 in Sarajevo).

Ukrainian national teams were participants of all Winter USSR peoples' Spartakiades in 1962-1990, in some events in team scoring becoming winners (biathlon, figure-skating, ice-hockey), as well as becoming champions and prize-winners in individual scoring in all programme events.

The Ukrainian Winter sports Federations joined corresponding international bodies in 1992.

In 1994 at the XVII Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer Ukraine first participated as an independent state and the autonomous subject of the Olympic movement Ukrainian athletes took part in 32 events of the Olympic programme out of 61 in 10 sports. According to the results of the Winter Olym-

piade Ukraine placed 13th in the world rating. At the XVIIIth Games Ukrainian athletes won one gold (figure skating by O. Bayul) and one bronze (biathlon, 7,5 km – V. Tserbe) medals and also took the 4th place (V. Petrenko in figure skating), the 5th places (N. Shershnyova in freestyle-acrobatics) and biathlon relay race 4x7,5 km (V. Tserbe, M. Skolota, O. Petrova, O. Ogurtsova), the 7th place (I. Romanova and I. Yaroshenko in figure-skating-sports dancing), the 8th place (N. Yakushenko in tobogganing, I. Urbansky and A. Mukhin in pairs), the 10th place (Yu. Shulga in 1500 speed skating).

Thus, Ukrainian sportsmen at Winter Olympic Games (1956-1994) won in total 10 medals and gained in unofficial team scoring (for the first 6 places) 71 points all together.

At the European Championship which was held in 1995 in Le-Grand-Bornande (France) N. Lemesh from Chernihiv won a silver medal in 15 km biathlon race. The team of Ukrainian women biathlons comprising V. Tserbe, T. Vodopyanova and N. Lemesh in 3x7,5 km relay placed second, and the men's team (T. Dolny, V. Jima, A. Lysenko, R. Zvonkov) in 4x7,5 km biathlon relay placed third.

The very same year in European Championship in Dortmund (Germany) figure-skater V. Zahorodnyuk won a bronze medal in men's singles.

In 1995 in Austria at the World figure-skating championship for juniors Dnipropetrovsk representatives won a silver medal in pair skating (I. Marchenko and Ye. Filonenko), and the athletes from Odesa N. Yudina and V. Kurkudin gained bronze medals in ice-dancing. At the prestigious international contests Olympic Candidates Cup in short-track in Hungary in 1995 Ukrainian women athletes placed third in team races and Yu. Soldatenkova from Kyiv – won three gold medals among girls and got the honourable Prize Cup.

In alpine skating at Russia Open Championship in 1995, K. Pidhrushha from Lviv won a gold medal in slalom competition. In September of the same year Ukrainian biathlon athletes performing in Flenn (Sweden), in the final of the World Games races in roller-skis won 10 gold and 2 bronze medals. Ukrainian athletes for were awarded the "Nations Cup" the victory in team scoring.

At the 1996 World biathlon championship Ukrainian women's national team in team races for 7,5 km won the silver and in relay races 4x7,5 km won the bronze. In European biathlon 1996 championship Ukrainian women athletes won silver med-

als in 3x7,5 km relay. In the same way at the 1996 European figure-skating championship V. Zahorodnyuk in men's singles was awarded a gold medal and ice-dancing pair (I. Romanova and I. Yaroshenko) got the bronze.

At the World Biathlon Cup in 1996 Ukrainian women athletes placed third in 3x7,5 km relay and at the World championship of the same year in team sprinters races they were awarded silver medals, in 4x7,5 km relay and in individual 15 km race (O. Petrova) won the bronze. They also won silver medals the very same year at European championship in 3x7,5 km relay races.

In 1996 in Chatsle (France) at the world freestyle championship junior teams the gold medals were won by young Ukrainian athletes: A. Tsuper among girls and S. Kravchuk among juniors.

At the Open Netherlands short-track championship in 1996 Ukrainian athlete N. Sverchkova won the silver at 1000 m distance.

For the recent years Ukrainian athletes have progressed noticeably at the World Winter Universiades. Thus, in 1993 at the XVIth Universiade in Zakopane Ukrainian women athletes were awarded gold medals for the victory in 4x5 km relay race. At the next Universiade which was held in Jaka (Spain), Ukrainian athletes won four bronze medals (in 4x5 km women's relay race and in 4x10 km men races in 10 km races for women and 30 km races for men). More better results were won by Ukrainian athletes at the XVIIIth 1997 Universiade in Korea where they won four medals, including two silver (in biathlon relay races for men and women) and two bronze (in 30 km races for men and in 7,5 km biathlon races for women).

In 1997 Ukrainian tobogganers Ye. Belonenko and A. Hitaylo won the total first place in pairs in the "Nations Cup" event. The very same year at European Championship in Paris figure-skaters V. Zahorodnyuk and Yu. Lavrenchuk were awarded bronze medals in singles.

At the 1997 World biathlon championship Ye. Zubrilova from Kyiv won three silver medals (in the individual 7,5 km race and the 15 km pursuit race).

At the World Juniors Freestyle championship for in 1997 in Finland both for girls and juniors the first three places in individual events were won by Ukrainian athletes.

Ice hockey is gaining popularity with every passing year in Ukraine. In 1997-1998 the National

and Junior teams of Ukraine are competing to win a place in Group A of the World Championship.

Since 1997 a new Olympic event snowboard has been cultivated in Ukraine. This March the First all-Ukrainian snowboard competition was held in Slavske. V. Zykov from Kyiv won the event.

In 1997 wonderful results were shown by Ukrainian handicapped athletes at the XIth Special Winter Para-Olympic Games which were held in Toronto (Canada). They won 22 medals in individ-

ual and relay ski-races (eight gold, six silver and eight bronze medals). No other team participating in such Games has even won such a success.

Specialists in winter sports get training at the Kiev State University of Physical Culture and sports, as well as at the State Physical Culture institutes in Lviv and Kharkiv; at the Physical Culture Vocational School in Ivano-Frankivsk, and at the Olympic Reserve School in Kharkiv.



GREAT LAKES CUP TOURNAMENT 2005

The annual Great Lakes Cup Tournament was held May 28-29, 2005 in Toronto. Hosting this year's tournament was the Ukraina Sports Association of Toronto, and participating teams included: Detroit, Chicago Lions, Chicago Kryla, Ukraina Buffalo, Cleveland and Karpaty. The following is a summary of the tournament standings and results:



Open Division Toronto "Ukraina" Champions.

OPEN DIVISION

Game	Teams	Score
Round Robin	Karpaty vs. Detroit	1-0
	Chicago Lions vs. Chicago Kryla	2-0
	Ukraina Buffalo vs. Cleveland	0-7
	Ukraina Toronto vs. Chicago Kryla	1-1
	Detroit vs. Chicago Lions	1-0
	Chicago Kryla vs. Ukraina Buffalo	1-2
	Karpaty vs. Cleveland	0-1
	Karpaty vs. Chicago Lions	0-0
	Detroit vs. Ukraina Buffalo	2-1
	Ukraina Toronto vs. Cleveland	1-0
Semi-finals	Detroit vs. Ukraina Toronto	1-6
	Cleveland vs. Chicago Lions	2-1
Final	Ukraina Toronto vs. Cleveland	2-0
Results:	1st place: Ukraina Toronto	
	2nd place: Cleveland	

OVER-30 DIVISION

Game	Teams	Score
Round Robin	Karpaty vs. Ukraina Toronto	0-0
	Cleveland vs. Chicago Lions	3-0
	Chicago Lions vs. Ukraina Toronto	1-1
	Karpaty vs. Chicago Lions	2-2
	Ukraina Toronto vs. Cleveland	3-2
	Karpaty vs. Cleveland	1-0
Semi-final	Karpaty vs. Cleveland (by penalty shots)	1-2
	Ukraina Toronto vs. Chicago Lions (by penalty shots)	0-1
Final	Cleveland vs. Chicago Lions	1-3
Results:	1st place: Chicago Lions	
	2nd place: Cleveland	