

Ziszovits Lenke-Popper - a representative Romanian tennis player of the interwar period

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Abstract

The activity and athletic performance of the tennis player Lenke Ziszovits-Popper, who along with Nini Golescu Klara Somogyi-Hensch and Magda (Bereczky) Berescu-Rurac, was one of the representative athletes of this sport in the interwar period is the subject of our study.

This paper contributes to a better knowledge of the history of tennis in Oradea between the two world wars. Through its content, the paper is interesting to those studying sports in Oradea, in that period, and especially to those who are interested in the evolution of women's tennis in Oradea and useful for those investigating the contribution of Jewish athletes to sportive development in our city.

In the process of documentation we studied monographs, press sports columns dating from 1895 to 1944, documents relating to the theme, which are part of private collections and also rich iconographic material.

In the first part, the paper deals with the evolution of tennis in Oradea beginning with the late nineteenth century and up to the '30s, presenting the context in which the sport was developing, the material aspects, the main competitions organized, the most important results obtained. Afterwards the first years of activity of the player Lenke Ziszovits-Popper are presented, her national results and her participation in a series of international competitions in Austria, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, France, Germany, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Hungary. The ending refers to restricting measures imposed by the authorities and by the sport movement in Romania against athletes who belonged to a minority; and also to the enforcement of the Jewish law by the Hungarian Government as a result of the annexation of Northern Transylvania, measures which affected her sporting career.

Keywords: tennis, sports history, Oradea, Ziszovits-Popper Lenke.