

EVENTS EVENIMENTE

The Rugby Player monument in Cluj-Napoca Monumentul rugbistului la Cluj-Napoca

On Friday 22 June, at 11.00 a.m., the *Rugby Player monument* was unveiled in the “Iuliu Hațieganu” Sports Park. The event took place on the 66th anniversary of rugby activity in Cluj-Napoca. With this statue, Cluj joins the stadiums and rugby grounds that pay homage to rugby personalities, of which we mention: Wembley Stadium, Ipswich, Edinburgh, Warrington (England), Tokyo, Liverpool.

At the time of the unveiling, personalities from Cluj universities delivered short speeches related to the event. Former and current players, fans of Cluj rugby, coaches, referees, presidents of sections, and public participated to the unveiling.

The sculptor Liviu Mocan explained the symbols of his creation. He chose a phase of recovery of the ball from touch, considering that among the defining elements

of rugby: scrum, back pass, running with the ball at the chest, try, etc., this represents elevation towards superior levels, aspiration towards the high spheres of individual and collective energies. The base of the statue is made of granite, symbolizing the strength and endurance of the team. The statue is made of stainless steel, symbolizing power, energy, friendship, fair play as an indestructible whole. At the top, the oval ball with a flame in the center symbolizes the superb madness of the game, the energy and fire of the rugby player’s heart. Rugby is the only sport in which players run with the ball close to their hearts.

The principal donor was Remus Pop (the *Mongol*), a well-known name in the artistic and sports world, a long-time philanthropist of Cluj culture and sport.

Dan Draghiciu
d.draghiciu@yahoo.com



Inauguration time (from left to right): Adrian Popescu - poet, Liviu Mocan - sculptor, Pavel Lușară - art critic, Prof. PhD. Emil Burzo - member of the Romanian Academy, Prof. PhD. Ioan Bolovan, Prof. PhD. Radu Munteanu.



The Rugby Player monument.



Group photo of veterans, after the unveiling.



A hard core, detached from the *scrum*. The forth from left, Petrică Motrescu/wing three-quarter.