

Yunakini, Yunoshki and Glavatarki: The Bulgarian Athlete at the Beginning of the 20th Century

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(Summary)

The present text aims to describe the image of the female athlete from the beginning of the 20th century beyond stereotypes and prejudices. The periodicals of the Bulgarian Union of Gymnastics Society “Yunak” from this period have been studied with the interdisciplinary method of the philosophy of sport, including analyses of historical, ethnological, media and case studies. The first female athletes holding sports and pedagogical positions in Bulgaria were analysed as well. *Yunakini*, *yunoshki* and *glavatarki* are part of the gymnastics society “Yunak”, its women’s teams. In addition to their competitive activities, they also carry out pedagogical activities. It could be said that they are the first officially recognized by the Bulgarian state and society, and also by the Bulgarian athletes and teachers of physical education and sports. Despite the gender stereotypes that invariably exist throughout the world regarding women holding public positions, in particular athletes, in the studied Bulgarian periodicals from the period, the heroines are described with great respect and are perceived as: “feminine”, “beautiful”, “healthy” and “honorable”.

Keywords: philosophy of sport; women’s sport; feminism; femininity

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