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Origins and Development of Rugby

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RENATA MUŽEK

Origins and Development of Rugby

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ABSTRACT

Rugby is a game that forms a combination of strength, speed and strategy to move a ball into an opponent's territory. Although it is a full-contact sport, players wear little or no protective gear. Rugby evolved from football (soccer). There are two origins of the word rugby. The first is a city in Warwickshire, in central England and the second is a boys school located there, founded in 1567. Rugby is named after the public school Rugby, where it was first played. It is split on two different codes - Rugby Union and Rugby League. The split happened between the Rugby Football Union and several clubs in northern England, and led to the development of Rugby League, which was always considered as a professional sport, and Rugby Union. Rugby Union became professional in 1995. The game is played by teams of 15 (union) or 13 (league) members each, using an oval ball. The ball may be kicked, carried, passed sideways or backward, but not forward. It is a sport most popular in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

Key words: origins, sport, rugby, rugby school, split, Rugby League, Rugby Union

1 INTRODUCTION

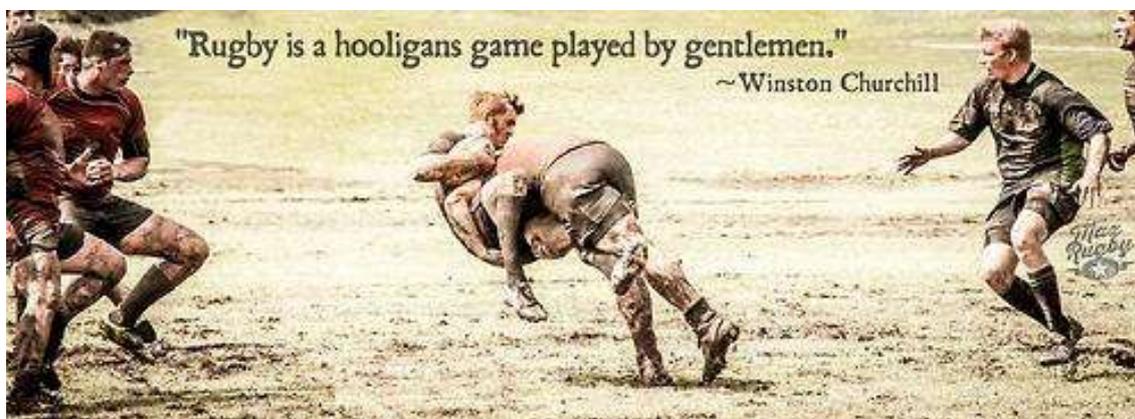
Rugby is a game played with an oval ball. It is divided on rugby union and rugby league. Rugby teams are different, in the union there are 15 players and in league there are 13 players. Both rugby union and rugby league have their origins in the style of football played at Rugby School in England. It started in England and spread into the world. Rugby is now a popular sport in over 120 countries.

Rugby among women is one of the world's fastest-growing sports. At the turn of the 21st century, the International Rugby Board (IRB) headquartered in Dublin, has more than 100 affiliated national unions.

Rugby union and American football are different sports but they share origins. Rugby is most popular in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, France, Italy, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Uruguay. American football originated from the change of the rules of rugby and it is popular almost exclusively in the United States and Canada.

The first rugby club in Croatia was Mladost – Zagreb. The New Zealand players who have Croatian roots have contributed in breakthrough of Croatian rugby in the world. When you mention rugby in Croatia, it always refers to the union, because it is a form of rugby in which the Croatian clubs have achieved the best results, especially the club Nada from Split, which is the most successful rugby club in Croatia.

Picture 1 *Quote by Winston Churchill*



Source: <http://www.tumblr.com/search/rugby%20quotes>

2 THE BEGINNINGS OF RUGBY

The history of rugby goes back to the old China and the Antiquity, the Middle Ages to the modern era. Rugby involves all sports which are a form of football, such as Harpastum. It was a ball game played in the Roman Empire. The objective of the game of the team that had the ball was to keep the ball on its own side, while the objective of the other team was to snatch the ball away and bring it to the other side of the field to score points. Harpastum is similar to soccer, rugby and American football.

Many times football was an excuse for the young men to get in a fight. This has often happened and football became very dangerous. The mayor of London banned football in 1314. Young men went on playing football, but there were not many places where they could play because football had been banned from the streets. But rich boys in some big English schools played the game. One of these schools was Rugby School. The school had big fields where lots of boys could play football at the same time. [1]

2.1 Rugby School

Rugby School is a boarding school located in the town of Rugby, Warwickshire, England. Lawrence Sheriff bought a land in 1560 and was the founder of Rugby School. By his idea the school was originally supposed to be a free grammar school for the boys of cities Rugby and Brownover. The School was ready in 1574, seven years after the Founder's death. Thomas Arnold was the most famous headmaster of Rugby School from 1828 to 1841.

According to legend, at one game in year 1823 in the town of Rugby, player William Webb Ellis caught the ball with his hand and tried to reach the opponent's doors, it was a move that was not seen until then. This action provided new opportunities of play in all the schools of the city of Rugby and later on in other schools of other cities. In fact, not all cities adopted this type of game, and therefore two types of games were created, rugby and soccer. [1] Picture 1 shows Rugby School where according to legend Rugby football was invented. Picture 2 shows a statue of William Webb Ellis at Rugby School.

Picture 2 Rugby school



Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rugby_School_850.jpg

Picture 3 *William Webb Ellis*



Source: <http://www.waymarking.com/gallery/image.aspx?f=1&guid=282d1582-78ec-437c-a3b8-307559e588f1&lat=52.4103&lon=-1.5085&t=6>

3 RUGBY SPREAD IN ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Rugby spread quickly from its aristocratic origins in England, Scotland, and Ireland to middle- and working-class men in the north of England and in Wales to the British colonies in South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. It also spread to North America, where it was transformed into a new style of football. At the end of the 19th century in Europe were established alliances in Germany and France and by the early 20th century rugby was played in almost all European countries. [2]

3.1 Wales

The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) was formed in 1881, and Wales soon entered the Home Championship, competing with England, Ireland, and Scotland. National team compete annually in the Six Nations Championships and have competed at every Rugby World Cup. The union's patron is Queen Elizabeth II and her grandson Prince William of Wales became the Vice Royal Patron of the Welsh Rugby Union as of February 2007. Rugby union is the national sport of Wales, and has a great influence on Welsh culture. [5]

3.1.1 The Arms Park

The traditional home of Welsh Rugby is Cardiff Arms Park Stadium. It was home to international teams since 1884, housing more than 62,000 fans. After 113 years of hosting international rugby, the Arms Park was torn down and recreated into one of the most magnificent rugby venues in the world. The Stadium has already established itself as an icon of the modern Wales. The importance of the Stadium to the economic, social, sporting and cultural development of Cardiff and Wales is significant. No other building in Wales contributes more to the economic benefit of the nation, no other attraction

comes close to matching the 1.3 million visitors each year that come to the Stadium. [5]
Picture 1 shows the Cardiff Arms Park Stadium, also called Millennium Stadium.

Picture 4 *Millennium Stadium*



Source: <http://www.rugbyfootballhistory.com/wales.html>

3.2 USA and Canada

Rugby rules appeared in North America before the 1870s and were used in a famous game between McGill University of Montreal and Harvard University of Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1874. In 1876 the representatives of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Columbia universities formed the Intercollegiate Football Association, which, in general, agreed with the RFU's 1871 rules. Rugby rules were soon modified in the United States and later in Canada, however, to create the distinct codes for Gridiron football¹. Although Gridiron football had largely replaced both associations football and rugby in the United States by late 19th century, rugby was reborn in 1905 on the Pacific Coast after Gridiron football was banned after the death of players and injuries. [8]

¹ or North American football, is a form of football primarily played in the United States and Canada

3.3 Australia

In Sydney in 1874 the Southern Rugby Football Union was formed. The Metropolitan Rugby Union, later the New South Wales Rugby Union (NSWRU), was founded in 1897 to administer league competitions in Sydney and devised a district system that led to increased spectator interest. The main centres of rugby league are Sydney and Brisbane. [9]

3.4 New Zealand

The first rugby match in New Zealand took place in Nelson in May 1870, between Nelson College and Nelson Football Club.

The New Zealand Rugby Union (NZRU) was formed in 1892 to administer the game of rugby union at the national level. At that time, the national union was known as the New Zealand Rugby Football Union (NZRFU).

The name was officially shortened in 2006 with the removal of the word "Football". In 1995, following the Rugby World Cup tournament in South Africa, international rugby turned professional with the International Rugby Board's repeal of all amateurism regulations. The New Zealand Rugby Union also joined with the national unions of Australia and South Africa to form South African, New Zealand and Australian Rugby (SANZAR), which sold the television rights for major southern hemisphere rugby competitions and helped to build the commercial foundation on which professional rugby is based. SANZAR remains an important rugby organisation and organises the Rebel Sport Super 14 and Philips Tri Nations competitions. In New Zealand, playing rugby means confirmation of manhood and courage, not only for the native Maori people, but also for white settlers, as evidenced in haka. [9]

3.4.1 All Blacks

There is a belief that the New Zealand rugby team got the nickname All Blacks on the tour of Britain, Ireland, France and North America in 1905-1906.

Few theories say how the New Zealand team got their nickname. One of the theory says that a reporter of Daily Mail was very satisfied with the team`s play and wrote as if they were "all backs" and the subeditor or typographer inserted an "l" making them All Blacks. But this theory has no evidence. The team went with that nickname to Britain, and the morning after the first game, a newspaper referred to "the All Blacks, as they are styled by reason of their sable (black) and unrelieved costume." (Express and Echo, 16 September 1905). The name "All Blacks" was regarded as unofficial by the NZRFU until 1986 when it registered the name for commercial purposes. [9]

3.4.2 Haka dance

Name Haka comes from the Maori tradition and the meaning is simple dance.

Haka is a traditional war shout, dance or challenge from Maori in New Zealand. It is performed in a group, with firmly movements coming on the ground and is accompanied by shouts. It has been popularized by the New Zealand All Blacks rugby team whose players perform haka before every important game. Haka is not exclusively a war dance, it is carried out by women and children to have fun, to welcome guests and the celebration of great results or success. War haku was originally performed by warriors before battle, showing their strength and heroism in order to intimidate the opponents. Today, haka is still used during celebrations and ceremonies to honour guests and show the importance of the occasion. The aim of haka in rugby is getting ready for the match and challenging opponents on the sports field. New Zealand`s All Blacks performe haka before rugby match. [10] Picture 5 shows a traditional Maori war dance called Haka.

Picture 5 *Haka dance*



Source: <http://www.standard.co.uk/sport/rugby/all-blacks-must-keep-making-song-and-dance-over-the-haka-6452772.html>

4 RUGBY UNION AND LEAGUE

On August 28, 1895, there was a split between the union and league. The split in rugby was primarily a class conflict in which aristocrats from the south of England considered that rugby is amateur game, just for fun, as people from the north, the working class did not accept that and they demanded compensation for playing. Since no agreement was reached, they organised a meeting at the George hotel in Huddersfield, England and separated from the alliance which played rugby union and formed their own alliance called the Northern Union.

Over time, they wanted to attract a large number of fans and players from the north, so they modified rules, speeded up the game and made it more attractive. In year 1922 the rules of the Rugby Football League were formed, most of which are still valid.

The main difference between League and Union was that the League was always professional whereas Union was firmly amateur, until it went professional in 1995. There are other differences; the slightly different rules and number of players are different. Rugby league has 13 players, it is more structured and it is played mainly in Australia, Oceania, UK and France. Rugby union has 15 players and is played much more widely in the world. Otherwise they are similar. [3]

4.1 The main founded Associations

Ireland, Scotland and Wales in 1886 founded the International Board (IB), the first International Rugby association. On January 26, 1871, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) was established. Rugby Football Union made the first official rules for all types of rugby that were played in England. Ireland and England began playing in 1875 and Scotland in 1877. The three national teams were formed, which became known as the “Home Nations”.

In the year of 1886, the International Board was established, now called the International Rugby Board (IRB), which officially became the supreme organization of rugby in the whole world since 1890. Eleven European alliances founded the Federation Internationale de Rugby Amateur (FIRA), with headquarter in Paris, in 1934. [4]

5 OTHER COUNTRIES

Other countries where rugby has developed to a high level include Argentina and the Pacific Island nations of Samoa, Fiji, and Tonga. Rugby was introduced to Argentina in the 1870s, and by the turn of the 20th century four clubs based in Buenos Aires had formed the River Plate Rugby Football Union. Although rugby did not reach the Pacific Island countries of Samoa and Tonga until the 1920s, it had been played in Fiji since the 1880s. All three countries continue to focus on their individual national teams, but in the early 21st century they also began to play together periodically as a single team representing the Pacific Islands. [13]

5.1 France

Rugby game was introduced to France by the British in the early 1870s. There were 20 or more French clubs by 1892, mostly in and around Paris. France joined the British Home Championship in 1910 to create the Five Nations Championship. In 1978 France was admitted to the International Rugby Board, joining England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. [6]

5.2 Italy

In the 1920s rugby game was introduced to Italy, in the northwestern part of the country. The Italian Rugby Federation was founded in 1928. Italian rugby advanced significantly by the 1990s, and in 2000 Italy joined the Five Nations competition, which was then renamed Six Nations. [7]

5.3 South Africa

A form of rugby football was played in South Africa in 1862, and the game was first played in Cape Town in 1875. Rugby was played in Johannesburg and Pretoria areas by 1888. The South African Rugby Football Board was established in 1889. The country hosted the rugby union World Cup in 1995 and won the championship. [11]

5.4 Japan

Japan played the first rugby game in 1874 in town Yokohama. The Japan Rugby Football Union was formed on November 30, 1926, and became a full member of the International Rugby Board in 1987, just before the 1987 Rugby World Cup. It is also a founding member of the Asian Rugby Football Union. Japan has played in every Rugby World Cup since the inaugural tournament in 1987. They will host the tournament for the first time in the 2019 Rugby World Cup. [12]

6 THE PRESENT STATE OF RUGBY

In most of the countries in which some form of rugby is traditionally played, the union is viewed as an amateur sport, played by the members of the middle and upper classes of society, which is apparent because of the large number of players who come from private schools, unlike the league in whom players are mostly working class and are paid, therefore they are professionals. Rugby is now played in all countries over the world, as never before, it is approximately 120 countries and more. There are over 6.6 million players in the world, 2.36 million are registered players, 4.3 million are unregistered players and 1.5 million are female players. [14]

6.1 Rugby Union

Rugby union until 1995 was considered exclusively as an amateur sport. Today it is played professionally and the players from over 120 countries around the world represent their country on tournaments. Main governing body is the International Rugby Board (IRB) and has 97 country members, some of them are Andorra, Barbados, Botswana, Cameroon, Chile, Cambodia, Georgia, Guam, India, Kazakhstan, Kenia, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Moldova, Nieu island, Peru, Russia, Senegal, Slovenia, Swaziland, Vanuatu, Zimbabwe and others.

In some countries such as New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa, rugby is the national sport. Ten national teams dominate in the rugby union. These nations are Argentina, Australia, England, France, Ireland, Italy, South Africa, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales.

Fiji and Samoa compete in the Rugby Sevens. It is a short version of rugby in which teams compete with only seven players on the field. In many countries, the game is at a lower level and weaker than the previously mentioned countries, some of them are Chile, Georgia, Japan, Canada, Namibia, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Spain, Tonga and Uruguay. [15]

6.2 Rugby League

Rugby league is played at a professional level for a long time in Australia, France, Great Britain and New Zealand. The Rugby League International Federation (RLIF) is the world governing body of rugby league football. It was formed in 1998 in Sydney, Australia. It is considered the national sport of Papua New Guinea. There are also semi-pro events around the world, among which are Russia, Wales, Scotland, Serbia, Lebanon, South Africa, Japan, Canada, the United States, including the Cook Islands and Tonga. The union has a large following among the middle class in Wales, Cornwall, Scotland, southern France and islands in the Pacific Ocean. [16] Table 1 shows World ranking of the Union Members.

Table 1 IRB World ranking- on October 6, 2014

Position (29 Sep -5 May 2014)	Member Union	Rating Point
1(1)	 NEW ZEALAND	92.60
2(2)	 SOUTH AFRICA	90.41
3(4)	 ENGLAND	85.68
4(3)	 AUSTRALIA	85.07
5(5)	 IRELAND	83.44
49(49)	 CROATIA	46.35
102(102)	 GREECE	28.55

Source: <http://www.worldrugby.org/rankings>

7 COMPARISON OF RUGBY UNION AND AMERICAN FOOTBALL

When comparing rugby union to American football, it is obvious that these two sports are different and have different rules, but a comparison can be made because of their shared origins, resulting in similarities and shared concepts in terms of scoring and advancing the ball. Rugby is most popular in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, France, Italy, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Uruguay.

American football originated from the change of the rules of rugby played by immigrants in the United States in the late 19th century. American football is popular almost exclusively in the United States and Canada. Sport is named after the size of a ball which is 1 foot² and because of that is called football.

American football is a game of intense physical play with complex strategy to score points by advancing the ball to the opponent team's end-zone, played between two teams and consists of 11 players in each of the two teams, with unlimited substitutions.

Rugby is best described as a blend of the contact of American football, the running of soccer, and the transition of basketball. Rugby is a game played between two teams, on each team is 15 players (for Union), played on a rectangular field, with the object being to run with an oval ball across the opponent's goal line or kick it through the upper portion of the goal posts. Another obvious difference is the players' equipment, with helmets, gloves and large amounts of padding around the body is the norm for American football. Comparatively little padding, if any, is used in rugby, a small number of players has decided for light headgear because hard helmets are not allowed.

[17]

² 1 foot is equivalent to 0.3048 meters or 30.48 centimeters

8 DEVELOPMENT OF RUGBY CLUBS

Rugby clubs are organised to play football according to Rugby laws. It is difficult to identify the earliest formed Rugby club. Rugby clubs are officially founded when the committee holds its first general meeting to formalize the constitution of the club. Clubs need to exist in order to be declared as the oldest.

Barnes Club, later renamed to Barnes Rugby Football Club, from Barnes in London, was formed in 1839 and is the oldest club to have played football for its entire history. However, this has not been documented. In 1862 was the earliest recorded match.

In the Guinness Book of Records, it is documented that Guy's Hospital Football Club founded by staff at Guy's Hospital in London in 1843 is the oldest club.

The best-documented club with continuous history is the Dublin University Football Club, founded in 1854 at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

The Edinburgh Academical Football Club, formed in 1857, is the oldest rugby club in Scotland, the second oldest in the world and one of the founding members of the Scottish Rugby Union. [18]

8.1 Competitions

There are championships held on the national and international level. Rugby has large national club championships (such as Guinness Premiership, Top 14, Currie Cup), major continental club championships (like the Heineken Cup and Super 15) and major international championships. Rugby World Cup is the 3rd most watched sporting event in the world. Gridiron football major championships are limited just to national competitions in the United States (NFL) and Canada (CFL). [19]

8.1.1 Six Nations Championships

In the past the tournament was known as the Home Nations 1883-1909. Countries who were competing in the tournament were England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Later in 1910 France joined the countries and the tournament became known as Five Nations. In 2000 Italy joined the competition and again the new name was The Six Nations Championship.

The Six Nations Championships is an annual international rugby union competition involving six European countries: England, France, Ireland, Italy, Scotland and Wales. The format of the Championship is that the each team plays with every other team once, with home field advantage alternating from one year to the next. It is sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland. [19]

8.1.2 Rugby Sevens

Rugby sevens, also known as seven-a-side, Sevens or VIIs, is a variant of rugby union which is fast, exciting, and dynamic. Teams are made up of only 7 players on each side with each half played for only 7 minutes, instead of the usual 15. Rugby sevens is administered by the International Rugby Board (IRB), the body responsible for rugby union worldwide. The game originated in 1883 in Melrose, Scotland where the Melrose Sevens tournament is still played annually.

The game is popular at all levels, with amateur and club tournaments generally held in the summer months. Sevens is one of the most well distributed forms of rugby, and is popular in parts of Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, and especially in the South Pacific. Notable international competitions include the HSBC Sevens World Series and the Rugby World Cup Sevens. Rugby sevens is now recognised as an Olympic sport and will make its debut in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. [19]

8.1.3 Rugby World Cup

The Rugby World Cup tournament is one of the largest international sporting events in the world, surpassed in scale only by the FIFA World Cup, the Olympics and the Tour de France. The Rugby World Cup is a rugby union tournament held every four years between the top international teams. The tournament was first held in 1987, when the tournament was co-hosted by New Zealand and Australia. The tournament is administered by the World Rugby (International Rugby Board), the sport's international governing body. Sixteen teams were invited to participate in the inaugural tournament in 1987, however since 1999 twenty teams have taken part. Hosting of the 2015 World Cup has been awarded to England, while Japan will host the event in 2019. [20]

8.1.3.1 Trophy

The Webb Ellis Cup is the prize presented to winners of the Rugby World Cup, named after William Webb Ellis the Rugby school pupil who, according to a popular myth invented rugby by picking up the ball during a game. The trophy is also referred to simply as the Rugby World Cup. The trophy was chosen in 1987 as an appropriate cup for use in the competition, and was created in 1906 by Garrard's Crown Jewellers. The words 'International Rugby Board' and 'The Webb Ellis Cup' are engraved on the face of the cup, [20] as shown in Picture 2.

Picture 2 *Trophy*



Source: <http://www.bookofdaystales.com/william-webb-ellis/>

9 WOMEN'S RUGBY

In the late 19th century were first records of women's rugby. It is a documented record of Emily Valentine's memoirs, in which she described her first game of playing rugby in Portora Royal School in Enniskillen, Ireland in 1887. Although there are reports of early women's matches in New Zealand and France, one of the first women rugby matches was held in 1917 between Cardiff Ladies and Newport Ladies.

In the 1990s rugby was the fastest-growing sport for women in Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

The main governing body for women's rugby in England, Scotland Ireland and Wales is Women's Rugby Football Union (WRFU), founded in 1983, and is the oldest formally organised national governing body for women's rugby. Then in 1994 it was replaced by the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW) in England with each of the other Home Nations³ governing their own countries. The main international competition is the Women's Rugby World Cup, first held in 1991 and since 1994 it has been held every four years. [21] Picture 3 shows the women rugby team Australia.

Picture 3 *Women rugby team Australia 1930s*



Source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Women-rugby-team-australia-1930s.jpg>

³ refers collectively to England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland

9.1 Women's rugby sevens

Rugby sevens is a short version of rugby union. Teams are made up of only 7 players on each side with each half played for only 7 minutes, instead of the usual 15. Although the first Women's international rugby union 15-a-side match took place in 1982, it was not until 1997 before the first 7-a-side internationals were played, when the Hong Kong Sevens included a women's tournament for the first time under chairwoman Maria Allen and at the USA 7s coach, Emil Signes.

Emil Signes is a former USA Rugby National Team coach who is also known for making it possible that rugby seven will be in the Olympics. He is also creditable for women's rugby worldwide. Rugby sevens is administered by the International Rugby Board (IRB), the body responsible for rugby union worldwide. [22] Picture 4 shows the 1st IRB Women's 7s Tour.

Picture 4 *1st IRB Women's 7s Tour & USA College 7s*



Source: <http://rugbywrapup.com/2012/11/hsbc-7s-dubai-update-1st-irb-womens-7s-tour-usa-college-7s>

10 FINANCE

Rugby split into the league and union codes in 1895. League became professional when the split happened, as Union was amateur until 1995. Rugby's major domestic competitions include the Top 14 in France, the Currie Cup in South Africa, the English Premiership in England and the ITM Cup in New Zealand. These competitions are always tough, and to win the league the clubs in these domestic competitions are paying players high salaries to motivate them to maintain their high performance. But, rugby players do not usually earn as high as the top, most successful players in soccer, tennis, baseball, golf or many other sports. [23]

10.1 Top ten paid rugby players in the world

Top 10 rugby players who are being paid the most money are in the French Top 14 League, and ultimately they are the highest paid rugby players in the world. Clubs such as Toulon, Racing Metro and a few others in the league have been spending a lot of money on players. [24] Table 2 shows how much players are paid per month.

Table 2 *The top 10 highest-paid rugby players in the world*

Player	Club	Salary (per month)
1. Jonny Wilkinson	Toulon - France	€56,000
2. Jonathan Sexton	Racing Metro - France	€52,000
3. Bryan Habana	Toulon - France	€50,000
4. Morgan Parra	Clermont Auvergne-France	€46,000
5. Thierry Dusautoir	Toulouse - France	€43,000
6. Dimitri Szarzewski	Racing Metro - France	€41,000
7. Carl Hayman	Toulon - France	€41,000
8. Bakkies Botha	Toulon - France	€41,000
9. Jamie Roberts	Racing Metro - France	€40,000
10. Matt Giteau	Toulon - France	€40,000

Source: <http://www.therichest.com/sports/other-sports/top-10-highest-paid-rugby-players-in-the-world/>

In the table is shown that salaries are not so high, if compared with a soccer salary. For example, soccer player Luka Modrić earns €4.5 million per year. Cristiano Ronaldo, one of the best world's football players, gets €17 million per year. [25]

So the question is why soccer players get paid more than rugby players. The possible answer is that soccer is more popular around the world and pulls a lot more money than rugby. People pay to watch it on TV, they get higher attendances for matches, which means they get bigger sponsorship deals only because people are more interested in soccer than rugby.

11 RUGBY IN CROATIA SINCE 1954 UNTIL 2007

When mentioning rugby in Croatia, it almost refers always to the union, because it is a form of rugby in which the Croatian clubs have achieved the best results, especially the club Nada from Split, which is the most successful club in Croatia in all categories – ages. They have numerous domestic titles and several European titles.

Since 1954 until 2007 in Croatia 20 male clubs and one women club "Viktorija" in Zagreb were founded. Initiatives to establish a rugby club for women appeared in 2000 by Dubravka Novarlić. The club initially worked within HARK Mladost and in 2001 women department became independent and registered under the name PŽRK Viktorija.

The governing body is the Croatian Rugby Union which was founded in 1962 as a domestic body. It became a full national body in 1992 after the independence and joined the IRB in 1994. [26] Table 3 shows the established clubs in Croatia.

Table 3 *Established clubs in Croatia between 1954 and 2007*

1. ZAGREB	11. PLOČE
2. BJELOVAR	12. ŠIBENIK
3. NADA-SPLIT	13. ZVRK – ZAGREB – VETERANI
4. LOKOMOTIVA - ZAGREB	14. JADRAN HRM – SPLIT
5. ARENA - PULA	15. SREDNJA POLICIJSKA ŠKOLA – ZAGREB
6. METKA – KUMROVEC	16. KUTINA
7. MAKARSKA RIVIJERA	17. RIJEKA
8. SISAK	18. KNIN
9. RAGBI '59 SPLIT-VETERANI	19. BRAČ
10. SINJ	20. ZADAR

Source: Dumanić, D. (1994). Ragbi, Hrvatski ragbijaški savez, Zagreb, Odbor za Dalmaciju, Split

The first rugby club in Croatia was " Mladost - Zagreb " founded in January 17, 1954. In 1992 "Jadran HRM" rugby club was established, which won the Croatian Cup in 1994. The New Zealand players who have Croatian roots have contributed in breakthrough of Croatian rugby in the world. Frano Botica was a one time Croatian rugby coach and a former All Black, whose grandparents were born in Korčula. Sean Fitzpatrick is another former All Black captain who also has Croatian roots. Also they have recently appointed a new coach named Milan Yelavich, he has Croatian roots but lives in New Zealand. He has coached the North Harbour.

In 1992 Croatian football federation was accepted by FIRA. Since 1993, Croatian football federation became a member of the Olympic Committee. The national team has been competing since the early 1990s. As of April 2009, the national team has been competing in the European Nations Cup and had qualified for the 2011 Rugby World Cup. [27 and 28]

11.1 Club Nada – Split

After the First World War British military sailors anchored in the harbour of Split. As coming to the shore sailors were playing with an oval ball. At that time people of Split didn't know anything about rugby. Only after watching in the cinema and reading in the newspapers, they discovered rugby. Rugby was played in Split around 1930s, until the beginning of the Second World War.

Mihovil Rađa was one of the founders of rugby in Split and a long time president of the club. Club Nada was founded on February 23, 1959. Today it is the most successful club in Croatia in all categories – ages. They have numerous domestic titles and several European titles. The club has over 800 members, of whom about 350 are actively involved in the game itself. Club has players from the age of 5 to 70 years, recently including the women's team.

Club Nada is the winner of extremely rare and prestigious international and national awards such as: international "Pierre de Coubertin" fair play award, fair play award of Sportske Novosti, City of Split Award and Gold Medal of the City of Split. For senior

team's outstanding results Rugby club Nada was three times officially declared as "the best sports team of the City of Split" for years 2008, 2009 and 2011. [29 and 30]

12 PRESENT STATE

Croatian rugby is slowly coming out of amateurism. Croatia today has fifteen active clubs which are competing in the Championship I. and II. League, Croatian Cup, and the best teams compete in the Regional Championship. Apart from the senior category, there is also competition in the junior categories U14, U16 and U18. Women play only rugby 7, the Croatian Championship in rugby 7 play women from Nada Split and Mladost Zagreb, while Sinj, Sisak and Zagreb have women's teams that are still in the establishment and have yet to join the competition in the women's category.

Veteran players over 35 years are active in Zagreb - Zagrebački veteranski ragbi klub (ZVRK) and Zagreb - Old Lions, Split - Rugby 59, Sinj and Sisak. Croatian men team compete in the European Nations Cup. Croatian women's national team is competing at the European Championships in rugby 7.

On 20 and 21 June 2015 in Zagreb, Croatia will host the European Championship in rugby 7 for women and men. Zagreb will host 24 teams (12 boys and 12 girls) Division B. This year the tournament opens a possibility that the best placed team qualifies for the Olympic Games. Rugby 7 will be in 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. [31]

13 CONCLUSION

The development of rugby dates from ancient times and has a wide history behind. Rugby is a team sport which is a combination of strength, speed and strategy.

Rugby has split on 2 codes, rugby union and rugby league. In the past rugby union was a completely amateur sport, the players were not paid for playing, and rugby league was always on a professional level.

In union the Rugby World Cup and Six Nations are the top competitions. The Rugby World Cup is the world's third most widely broadcasted TV sporting event. The first is the FIFA World Cup, while the second is the Summer Olympics. Rugby 7 will make a debut at the Summer Olympics games in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro.

The governing body of rugby union in the world is the International Rugby Board. The governing body of rugby league is the Rugby League International Federation. Rugby among women is one of the world's fastest-growing sports. Women play only rugby 7.

Although it is not among most popular sports, rugby is played in Croatia. The New Zealand players of Croatian roots have contributed to the breakthrough of Croatian rugby in the world. Today there are 15 active rugby clubs, of which the most successful is Rugby club Nada from Split.

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