

HISTORY OF BASKETBALL AT THE BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES

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Abstract

This paper presents the evolution of basketball at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, from its early beginnings to the present day. The paper provides an analysis of the history of basketball within the university, highlighting key moments, important personalities, and events that have contributed to the development of this sport within the academic community.

The practice of basketball brings numerous benefits to the students of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, including the development of teamwork skills, improvement of physical fitness, the enhancement of decision-making abilities, competitive spirit, and fair play, as well as improved concentration and leadership skills.

The basketball teams of the University have made a significant contribution to the athletic development of the students and the promotion of sports values within the Bucharest University of Economic Studies. The game of basketball has had a positive social impact, bringing together students from different backgrounds and promoting sports values, respect for opponents, and fair play.

Keywords: basketball, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, history of basketball

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1. Introduction

1.1 Historical Context of Basketball

Basketball was invented in 1891 by James Naismith, a physical education professor from Springfield, Massachusetts, United States. Naismith created the game as an alternative to other sports such as football and baseball, which were too difficult to play indoors.

The first basketball game was played at the YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts, on December 21, 1891. Initially, the game had simple rules: each team consisted of nine players, and the objective was to throw the ball into a basket located ten feet high. The game quickly gained popularity and began to be played throughout the country.

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In 1932, the National Basketball League (NBL) was founded in the United States, and in 1949, the National Basketball Association (NBA) was created through the merger of the NBL and the Basketball Association of America (BAA). The NBA has become the most important and well-known basketball league in the world, attracting some of the best basketball players in history, such as Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, and Shaquille O'Neal.

Basketball has become a popular sport worldwide and is currently played in more than 200 countries. Additionally, basketball was included in the Olympic Games for the first time in 1936 and has become one of the most popular Olympic sports.

1.2 History of Basketball in Romania

Basketball arrived in Romania in 1923 through the Czech professor Vaclav Fiala, who brought the first rules of the game and a basketball with him to Cluj-Napoca. The first official basketball match in Romania was played in Cluj-Napoca in the same year, between the local team and a team from Bucharest.

In the following years, the game of basketball began to spread throughout the country, mainly being practiced in academic environments and sports clubs. In 1932, the Romanian Basketball Federation was founded, and in 1934, the first national championship was organised.

During the interwar period, Romania was a powerhouse in European basketball, with the national team winning gold medals in the European Championships in 1935 and 1937. After World War II, basketball continued to develop in Romania, primarily being practiced in academic environments and sports clubs.

In the 1980s, the Romanian national basketball team participated in two editions of the World Championship, and in the 1990s, they participated in multiple editions of the European Championship. Currently, basketball is played at both amateur and professional levels throughout the country, with numerous clubs and competitions organised at the local, regional, and national levels.

1.3 The Role of Basketball in Romanian Culture and Society

Basketball has played an important role in Romanian culture and society throughout its recent history. It has been one of the most popular sports practiced in academic environments, particularly in universities and technical schools, being considered an intellectual sport.

Over time, basketball has brought numerous benefits to Romanian society, such as the development of teamwork, sportsmanship, fair play, and respect for opponents. Through this sport, people have been able to develop their communication skills and interpersonal relationships, learning to work together towards a common goal.



Additionally, basketball has had a significant impact on Romanian culture, serving as a source of inspiration for artists and writers. Due to its popularity, this sport has been featured in numerous literary works, films, and other forms of art, becoming an integral part of the culture and national identity.

In addition to these aspects, basketball has contributed to the development of tourism and the sports industry in Romania through the organisation of local and national competitions and events. Furthermore, this sport has provided career opportunities for players, coaches, referees, and other individuals involved in the sports industry.

2. Purpose and Objectives of the Work

The purpose of this work is to present the evolution of basketball within the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE), from its early beginnings to the present day. The work provides an analysis of the history of basketball within the university, highlighting key moments, important personalities, and events that have contributed to the development of this sport within the academic community.

Objectives:

- Identifying the benefits gained by students through the practice of basketball.
- Identifying and presenting important moments in the history of basketball at ASE.
- Analysing the impact of basketball on academic life, including the benefits for students, the interpersonal relationships developed through the sport, and the impact on the reputation and prestige of the institution.
- Highlighting important personalities who have contributed to the development of basketball at ASE.

3. Benefits of Playing Basketball for Students

Playing basketball plays an important role in shaping students at ASE, offering numerous benefits for their personal and professional development.

Some of the benefits of playing basketball for students include:

- Developing teamwork skills, as it requires good communication and collaboration among players to achieve victory. Through this sport, students learn to work together and develop their collaboration and cooperation skills.
- Improving physical fitness. The game involves many movements, including running, jumping, and coordination, which help improve physical fitness and overall health.
- Developing decision-making skills.
- Developing a competitive spirit and fair play.



- Improving concentration and attention skills.
- Developing leadership skills.
- Enhancing self-esteem and confidence in their abilities.

4. Contribution of Basketball Teams to Student Sports Development and the Social Impact of Basketball at ASE

The university's basketball teams have made a significant contribution to the sports development of students and the promotion of sporting values. The teams have participated in numerous inter-university and national competitions, achieving remarkable results and bringing prestige to the University.

Through involvement in basketball team activities, students have had the opportunity to develop their sports skills, work as a team, and gain experience in organising sports events. They have been a source of inspiration and role models for young people in the university, encouraging them to develop and improve their sports abilities.

The social impact of basketball has been significant. The game has brought together students from different faculties and specialisations, promoting a culture of diversity and inclusion. It has also contributed to creating an active and dynamic learning environment in which students are encouraged to develop their sports skills and improve their overall well-being.

Over the years, basketball has brought students from different backgrounds together and promoted sporting values, respect for opponents, and fair play. These values are essential to shape responsible leaders and citizens and have had a positive impact on the university community.

5. The History of Basketball at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies

At ASE, within the Department of Physical Education and Sports, basketball has been part of the program since its inception. Over time, representative teams were formed for both girls and boys, representing the university in national university championships and numerous other competitions within the university environment. These representative teams were formed and led by professors from the Department of Physical Education and Sports. Until 2001, the girls' basketball team was led by Professor Filofteia Andrei, a notable figure in Romanian basketball. Since then, the girls' basketball team has been led by Professors Alina Hora, Nicoleta Motroc, Cristian Ristea, Cristina Nae, Corina Dinciu, and Adrian Iacobini.

Starting from 1992, the boys' team has been led by the following teachers: Ștefan Ionescu, Cristian Ristea, Cristiana Porfireanu, Adrian Iacobini, Cristina Nae, and Marian Zamfir.



The representative basketball teams of ASE have participated annually in the National University Championship, as well as other competitions, achieving remarkable results.

Girls:

2002-2003 Coordinating Professors: Alina Hora and Nicoleta Motroc

1st place in the Bucharest University Championship

4th place in the Final Tournament of the National University Championship held in Cluj Napoca

2004-2005 Coordinating Professor: Cristian Ristea

1st place in Unifest

3rd place in the Bucharest University Championship

5th place in the Final Tournament of the National University Championship held in Cluj Napoca

2005-2006 Coordinating Professors: Cristina Nae and Cristian Ristea

1st place in the Bucharest University Championship

4th place in the Final Tournament of the National University Championship held in Cluj Napoca

2006-2007 Coordinating Professor: Cristina Nae

1st place in the Bucharest University Championship

2009-2010 Coordinating Professor: Cristian Ristea

5th place in the Final Tournament held in Alba Iulia

1st place in the Tantalus International Tournament in the Netherlands

2010-2011 Coordinating Professor: Cristina Nae

1st place in the Bucharest University Championship

4th place in the Final Tournament of the National University Championship held in Cluj Napoca

2011-2012 Coordinating Professor: Cristina Nae

2nd place in the Bucharest University Championship

4th place in the Final Tournament held in Alba Iulia

2012-2013 Coordinating Professor: Cristina Nae

3rd place in the Bucharest University Championship

2014-2015 Coordinating Professor: Cristina Nae

1st place in the Bucharest University Championship

4th place in the Final Tournament of the National University Championship held in Arad



2021-2022 Coordinating Professor: Corina Dinciu

1st place in the Bucharest University Championship

3rd place in the Final Tournament of the National University 5x5 Basketball Championship, University of Pitesti

2nd place in the Final Tournament of the National University 3x3 Basketball Championship

2022-2023 Coordinating Professor: Corina Dinciu

1st place in the Bucharest University Championship

2nd place in the Final Tournament of the National University Basketball Championship in May, University of Pitesti

Boys:

2005-2006 Coordinating Professors: Cristiana Porfireanu, Cristian Ristea

2nd place in the International Basketball Tournament organised by Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands, in May

2006-2007 Coordinating Professors: Cristiana Porfireanu, Cristian Ristea

2nd place in the International Basketball Tournament organised by Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands, in May

1st place in the National University Men's Basketball Championship, Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, Pitesti, in May

2007-2008 Coordinating Professors: Cristiana Porfireanu, Cristian Ristea

1st place in the Final Tournament of the National University Men's Basketball Championship, "Aurel Vlaicu" University, Arad, in April

2nd place in the International Basketball Tournament (Tantalus) organised by Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands, in May

2008-2009 Coordinating Professors: Cristiana Porfireanu, Cristian Ristea

1st place in the Final Tournament of the National University Men's Basketball Championship, "Aurel Vlaicu" University, Arad, in April

2009-2010 Coordinating Professors: Cristiana Porfireanu, Cristian Ristea

1st place in the Final Tournament of the National University Men's Basketball Championship, "Aurel Vlaicu" University, Arad, in April

2010-2011 Coordinating Professors: Cristiana Porfireanu, Cristian Ristea

2nd place in the Bucharest University Championship

1st place in the Final Tournament of the National University Men's Basketball Championship, "Aurel Vlaicu" University, Arad, in April



2011-2012 Coordinating Professors: Cristiana Porfireanu, Cristian Ristea

1st place in the Bucharest University Championship

1st place in the Final Tournament of the National University Men's Basketball Championship, "Aurel Vlaicu" University, Arad, in May

2013-2014 Coordinating Professors: Cristiana Porfireanu, Cristian Ristea

2nd place in the Bucharest University Championship

2nd place in the Final Tournament of the National University Men's Basketball Championship, University of Pitesti, Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, in May

2015-2016 Coordinating Professor: Cristiana Porfireanu

1st place in the Bucharest University Championship

3rd place in the National University 3x3 Basketball Championship, Bucharest

2017-2018 Coordinating Professor: Cristina Nae

3rd place in the Bucharest University Championship

3rd place in Men's Basketball in the National University 3x3 Basketball Championship Final

3rd place in the National University 3x3 Basketball Championship, Bucharest

2018-2019 Coordinating Professors: Cristina Nae and Marian Zamfir

2nd place in the Final Tournament of the National University Men's Basketball Championship, University of Pitesti, Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, in May

1st place in the University 3x3 Championship - April 5 tournament

3rd place in the Municipal University 5x5 Championship, April

2nd place in the University 3x3 Championship - March 4 tournament

3rd place in the University 3x3 Championship - December 2 tournament

2021-2022 Coordinating Professors: Cristina Nae and Marian Zamfir

3rd place in the Municipal University 5x5 Championship, April

2nd place in the Final Tournament of the National University 3x3 Basketball Championship, May, Bucharest

2022-2023 Coordinating Professors: Cristina Nae and Marian Zamfir

2nd place in the Municipal University 5x5 Championship, April

6. Competitions organised by the Department of Physical Education

The most important basketball competitions organised by the Department of Physical Education and Sports at ASE are the "ECONOMIST CUP" - Men's Basketball and the "DRACULA CUP" in Mixed Basketball teams.



The initiator of the "Economist Cup," Professor Filofteia Andrei, organised this competition for the first time in 1998, in a 5x5 format. Since then, the competition has brought together the representative men's basketball teams from the faculties within the University of Economic Studies each year. Over time, the competition system included two groups, each consisting of five teams, with the teams playing direct matches within their respective groups. The top two teams from each group qualified for the semi-finals and finals. This cup is well-known among our students and has become very popular due to the competitiveness between faculties and the spirit of fair play developed among students and professors.

Since 2019, this cup has been played in a 3x3 format, maintaining the same characteristics, and since 2020 it has been named after the initiating professor, "The Fila Andrei Cup."

The "Dracula Cup" is a traditional competition organised by the Department of Physical Education and Sports. It was initiated and organised for the first time in 1996 by Professor Ștefan Ionescu. The competition brings together representative basketball teams from both public and private universities in Bucharest.

The Dracula Cup is the first mixed basketball competition in Romania. On the court, teams were composed of 3 boys and 2 girls, with baskets scored by girls within the 6.75m area worth 3 points, and those outside this area worth 5 points.

In 2019, for the first time, this cup was organised in a 3x3 format, and the teams on the court were composed of 2 boys and 1 girl. Points scored by girls within the 6.75m area are worth 2 points, and those outside this area are worth 3 points.

The competition is highly popular among students in the university centre, and teams of graduates from these universities also participate. Through its students and graduates, ASE teams participating in this competition have achieved 16 times first-place and 9 times second-place over time.

7. Conclusions:

Basketball was invented in 1891 by James Naismith, a physical education professor from Springfield, Massachusetts, United States of America.

The game of basketball reached Romania in 1923 and experienced rapid development, especially in the academic environment and sports clubs. During the interwar period, Romania was a power in European basketball, and currently, this sport is practiced throughout the country, at the amateur and professional levels.

Basketball has played an important role in Romanian culture and society throughout its history, being a popular sport practised in the academic and amateur/professional levels. This sport has brought benefits for personal development, interpersonal relationships, sportsmanship, as well as for the development of tourism and the sports industry in Romania.



The practice of basketball brings numerous benefits for the formation of ASE students, including team-building, physical fitness improvement, decision-making skills, competitiveness, fair play, concentration skills, and leadership development.

The basketball teams of the university have made a significant contribution to the sports development of students and the promotion of sports values within ASE. The game of basketball has had a positive social impact, bringing together students from different backgrounds and promoting sports values, respect for opponents, and fair play.

The organisation of the Fila Andrei Cup and the Dracula Cup is of major importance for the sports and educational development of students, for promoting sports culture and associated values, and for bringing together students from different backgrounds.

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