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THE ACTIVITIES OF THE "SEVINCH" WOMEN'S FOOTBALL CLUB DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

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Abstract. *This article examines the history and sporting activities of FC Sevinch, one of the leading women's football clubs in Uzbekistan, during the years of independence. Particular attention is paid to the establishment of the club in Qarshi in 2003, its first bronze medal, its first national championship title in 2004, the long period of dominance in the Uzbekistan Women's Championship, its achievements in the Uzbekistan Women's Cup, futsal competitions, youth development and contribution to the development of women's football in Kashkadarya region. The article also examines the organizational changes following the club's integration into FC Nasaf in 2021. The study demonstrates that Sevinch has played a major role in the history of women's football in Uzbekistan, becoming one of the country's most successful and consistent women's football clubs and contributing significantly to the development of female players and the national football system.*

Keywords: *Sevinch, women's football, Qarshi, Kashkadarya, Uzbekistan Championship, Uzbekistan Cup, futsal, sports history, football, female athletes, independence.*

INTRODUCTION. After the Republic of Uzbekistan gained state independence, fundamental reforms were implemented in the physical education and sports system, as in all other spheres of the country's social life. Increasing the popularity of sports, raising a physically healthy younger generation, strengthening Uzbekistan's prestige in the international sporting arena, and developing various areas

of sports became important priorities of state policy.

In this process, particular attention was also paid to the development of women's sports. In particular, strengthening the organizational foundations of women's football, creating appropriate sporting conditions for girls involved in football, and regularly organizing national championship and cup competitions contributed to the development of women's football at the professional level.

In the history of women's football in Uzbekistan, the "Sevinch" Women's Football Club of Qarshi holds a special place. The club was established in June 2003, and the initiative of Alisher Sultanov, Director of the "Sho'rtan Gas Chemical Complex", played an important role in its establishment. In the same year of its foundation, the club won the bronze medal in the Uzbekistan Championship. In 2004, "Sevinch" became the national champion for the first time.

A distinctive feature of "Sevinch" in Uzbek women's football is its ability to maintain high sporting results over a long period. According to statistical data, the club won the Uzbekistan Championship for 11 consecutive seasons from 2006 to 2016. It also won the championship in 2019, 2022, 2023, and 2024. According to RSSSF data, by 2024 "Sevinch" had won the Uzbekistan Women's Championship 16 times.

The club's achievements were not limited to eleven-a-side football. "Sevinch" also became one of the most successful teams in the country in futsal. Sources indicate that the team won the Uzbekistan Futsal Championship 14 times between 2005 and 2018.

The study of the activities of the "Sevinch" club is of particular academic significance for understanding the development of women's football in the history of Uzbek sport. The club's rapid transformation into one of the country's leading women's football teams, its ability to maintain championship-level performance for many years, and the formation of a system for developing young football players demonstrate a distinctive model of women's football development in Uzbekistan.

MAIN PART. The "Sevinch" Women's Football Club was founded in June 2003 in the city of Qarshi. The establishment of the club was an important event in the history of women's football in Uzbekistan. At that time, the number of professional women's football teams was limited, and the establishment of a new club created additional opportunities for the development of girls' football.

The support provided by the management of the "Sho'rtan Gas Chemical Complex" played an important role in the establishment of the club. This factor enabled the club to develop its material and technical facilities from its early years and to create the necessary conditions for its players.

In its first season, "Sevinch" won the bronze medal in the Uzbekistan Championship. This was a significant achievement for a newly established team. The club demonstrated from its very first season that it was capable of competing with the strongest teams in the country. In 2004, "Sevinch" became the Uzbekistan champion for the first time in its history. This achievement demonstrated the team's professional potential.

In 2005, although the club won the silver medal in the championship, it became the winner of the Uzbekistan Cup. According to RSSSF data, "Sevinch" was the winner of the 2005 Uzbekistan Women's Cup. Thus, within the first three years of its existence, the club had won bronze, gold, and silver medals and established itself among the leading women's football teams in the country.

The brightest period in the history of "Sevinch" began in 2006. From 2006 to 2016, the club won the Uzbekistan Women's Championship 11 consecutive times. This achievement is of particular importance not only in the history of the club but also in the history of women's football in Uzbekistan. The ability of one team to maintain dominance in the national championship for an extended period demonstrates a high level of players' sporting skills, coaching organization, player selection, and administrative management.



Although the main squad of "Sevinch" was regularly renewed between 2006 and 2016, the club managed to preserve its sporting traditions. During this period, head coach Vladislav Khan played an important role in the development of the team. Sources indicate that Khan had been coaching "Sevinch" since 2003. The stability of the coaching system created favorable conditions for developing the team's playing style and improving the individual abilities of its players.

The club's long-term championship success also had a significant impact on the professional development of women's football in Uzbekistan. "Sevinch" established a competitive benchmark for other teams and strengthened the pursuit of high sporting achievements in national women's football.

The Uzbekistan Women's Cup occupies a special place in the sporting history of "Sevinch". The club won the Uzbekistan Cup for the first time in 2005. In subsequent years, "Sevinch" also achieved consistently strong results in cup competitions. PFL materials indicate that "Sevinch" won the cup several times between 2005 and 2013 and also claimed the trophy in 2016 and 2018.

In the 2022 final, "Sevinch" defeated "Bunyodkor" 2–0 to become the winner of the Uzbekistan Cup. In 2023, "Sevinch" once again won the Uzbekistan Cup final. According to the Uzbekistan Football Association, on November 25, 2023, "Sevinch" defeated OKMK-W and won both the Uzbekistan Cup and the national women's championship in the same season.

Such achievements in cup competitions demonstrate the club's ability to maintain a high sporting level over a long period.

Another important aspect of "Sevinch's" sporting history is its activity in futsal. Alongside its achievements in eleven-a-side football, the club developed into one of the strongest women's futsal teams in the country. Sources indicate that "Sevinch" won the Uzbekistan Futsal Championship 14 times between 2005 and 2018. The club also won the Uzbekistan Futsal Cup several times between 2009 and 2017.



The development of futsal is also important for improving players' technical and tactical skills. Playing on a smaller pitch requires footballers to demonstrate rapid thinking, quick decision-making, effective ball control, and a high level of coordinated teamwork. Therefore, the simultaneous development of futsal and eleven-a-side football by "Sevinch" created additional opportunities for the comprehensive training of its players.

The club's achievements in futsal demonstrate that the "Sevinch" sporting system was not limited to a single competition format but was adapted to various areas of women's football.

In 2017, "Sevinch's" long championship-winning streak came to an end. The Uzbekistan Championship was won that year by "Metallurg". In 2018, "Bunyodkor" became the national champion. This period demonstrated the increasing level of competition in Uzbek women's football.

The long-term dominance of "Sevinch" also encouraged other clubs to develop at a professional level. Teams such as "Bunyodkor", "Metallurg", and "So'g'diyona" intensified competition in women's football. Nevertheless, in 2019, "Sevinch" once again became the Uzbekistan champion.

According to RSSSF data, in the 2019 championship the team won 12 of its 14 matches, accumulated 36 points, and scored 52 goals. This result demonstrates that the club maintained a high level of sporting potential even under conditions of increasing competition.

In 2020, "Bunyodkor" won the championship. Thus, the period from 2017 to 2020 was characterized for "Sevinch" by increased competition and the emergence of new strong clubs in national women's football.

The year 2021 represented an important organizational turning point in the history of "Sevinch". In accordance with the decision dated December 1, 2021, the "Sevinch" Women's Football Club was incorporated into the structure of "Nasaf"

Football Club. This organizational change was associated with the objectives of strengthening the club's material and technical facilities, improving its management, and developing its activities.

This process can be regarded as one manifestation of the broader trend toward integrating women's teams into the organizational structures of men's professional football clubs in Uzbekistan. In 2018, the PFL had also reported that the "Sevinch" women's team represented the "Nasaf" club and that women's competitions were being incorporated into the system of Super League clubs.

Joining the "Nasaf" system created important conditions for expanding the organizational capabilities of "Sevinch". At the same time, the club preserved its historical name and sporting traditions.

Beginning in 2022, "Sevinch" once again began achieving strong results in Uzbek women's football. In 2022, the club won the Uzbekistan Cup. In 2023, the team succeeded in winning both the national championship and the cup. The Uzbekistan Football Association recorded the 2023 championship as the club's 15th national title.

The 2024 championship also provided "Sevinch" with an opportunity to compete on the international stage. As the club won the 2024 Uzbekistan Women's Championship, it earned the right to participate in the Asian Football Confederation's women's club competition. This marked the beginning of a new stage in the history of "Sevinch", as participation in Asian-level women's club competitions provides players with valuable international experience.

One of the most important areas of "Sevinch's" activities has been the development of young female football players. The club has focused on identifying talented girls from different regions of Uzbekistan and preparing them for professional football. This process is particularly important for developing the sporting reserve of women's football.

In 2023, it was reported that the club had established a specialized football school aimed at developing girls' football. The school was reportedly designed for 50 girls. The youth development system is one of the key factors ensuring the club's long-term success. Maintaining high sporting results requires the continuous development of a new generation of football players.

The youth system of "Sevinch" also contributes to developing a talent pool for the Uzbekistan women's national team. The club's activities have expanded opportunities for girls in Qashqadaryo to participate in football and have contributed to an increase in the number of young people involved in this sport.

Qashqadaryo region is one of the important football regions of Uzbekistan, and "Sevinch" has become one of its leading sporting brands in women's football. The club's achievements over many years have increased attention to women's football in the city of Qarshi.

The presence of "Sevinch" has expanded opportunities for young girls to engage in professional sport. The club's players have not only achieved sporting results but have also served as role models for the younger generation.

The development of women's football contributes to expanding opportunities for participation in sports, increasing girls' physical activity, and strengthening women's participation in professional sport. From this perspective, the activities of "Sevinch" should be assessed not merely as the history of a football club, but also as part of the broader development of women's sport in Uzbekistan.

The findings of the study make it possible to assess the activities of the "Sevinch" Women's Football Club during the years of independence from several perspectives.

First, the club was able to transform into a professional team within a relatively short period of time. Founded in 2003, "Sevinch" won the bronze medal in its very first season and became the national champion in 2004.

Second, the eleven consecutive championship titles won between 2006 and 2016 demonstrate that the club had established a stable and sustainable sporting system.

Third, the club's achievements in the Uzbekistan Cup demonstrate that its success was not limited to the national championship. "Sevinch" won the national cup competition on several occasions.

Fourth, the club's achievements in futsal indicate that "Sevinch" had developed a comprehensive sports training system. Winning the national futsal championship 14 times demonstrates the club's distinctive position in women's futsal in Uzbekistan.

Fifth, the intensification of competition in Uzbek women's football after 2017 temporarily limited "Sevinch's" previous dominance. The strengthening of clubs such as "Metallurg," "Bunyodkor," and "So'g'diyona" contributed to increasing the level of sporting competition in the national championship.

Sixth, "Sevinch's" championship victories in 2019 and during 2022–2024 demonstrate the club's ability to adapt to changing competitive conditions.

Seventh, the integration of "Sevinch" into the structure of "Nasaf" in 2021 marked a new organizational stage in the club's development. This integration was aimed at improving the club's material and technical facilities as well as its management system.

For the further development of women's football, it is important to increase the number of clubs, expand youth football schools in the regions, strengthen international exchange of experience, and ensure the regular organization of women's football competitions.

CONCLUSION. The activities of the "Sevinch" Women's Football Club during the years of independence constitute one of the most significant chapters in the history of women's football in Uzbekistan. Founded in June 2003, the club won the bronze medal in the Uzbekistan Championship in its first season. In 2004, it became the national champion for the first time. In 2005, the club won the Uzbekistan Cup.



The club's most successful period was 2006–2016. During this period, "Sevinch" won the Uzbekistan Championship for eleven consecutive years. This achievement demonstrates that the club had become one of the dominant forces in women's football in the country.

Between 2017 and 2020, new competitors emerged in Uzbek women's football. The strengthening of teams such as "Metallurg," "Bunyodkor," and "So'g'diyona" increased competition in the national championship. Nevertheless, "Sevinch" regained the championship title in 2019.

The integration of the club into the structure of the "Nasaf" Football Club in 2021 marked a new stage in its organizational development. This process was aimed at improving the club's material and technical facilities and strengthening its management capabilities.

In 2022–2024, "Sevinch" once again achieved outstanding results, winning the Uzbekistan Championship three consecutive times. The club also won the Uzbekistan Cup in 2022, while in 2023 it secured both the championship and the national cup in the same season.

The club's achievement of fourteen Uzbekistan futsal championship titles represents another distinctive aspect of its history. This accomplishment demonstrates that the team achieved high results in different areas of women's sport.

The most important social significance of the club's activities lies in its contribution to involving young girls in football, training professional athletes, and popularizing women's football in the Qashqadaryo region. The "Sevinch" Women's Football Club played an important role in the formation and development of women's football in Uzbekistan during the years of independence.

The club's long-standing championship tradition, success in cup competitions, achievements in futsal, youth player development system, and participation in the international arena determine its important place in the country's sporting history.

In the future, further research into the “Sevinch” Women’s Football Club would be appropriate in several areas, including the composition of the team in different periods, its training system, the activities of its coaches, the participation of its players in the Uzbekistan national team, its results in international competitions, and the historical development of women’s football infrastructure in the Qashqadaryo region.

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