

SPORTS FEAT AS AN EXPRESSION OF PATRIOTIC DUTY AND MORAL EXCELLENCE

Madaminov Bakhodir Sharifjonovich

Associate Professor of the Department of Sports

Theory and Methodology, Namangan State University

baxodirmadaminov9@gmilail.com

Abstract

This article examines the phenomenon of an outstanding athlete in a philosophical context as the embodiment of patriotism, moral idealism, and spiritual self-improvement of an individual. Special attention is given to the role of heroic figures in sports who, as symbols of national pride, contribute to strengthening the moral foundations of society and shaping the values of youth.

Keywords: Philosophy of sport, physical culture, patriotism, moral ideal, heroism, spiritual self-improvement, humanism, personality, ideal, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, youth of Uzbekistan, moral values.

Introduction

The social conditioning of physical culture, like culture itself in its entirety, emerges as an inevitable product of the evolution of social relations, where the human spirit, shaped by collective experience, finds its bodily expression. In this context, physical culture appears not as an isolated phenomenon, but as a multifaceted social phenomenon that permeates the fabric of social reality and integrates into the overall structure of individuals' way of life. It is inextricably linked with the productive forces of society, nourishing them with the energy of body and will, as well as with diverse forms of spiritual life - from everyday practices to ideological and political superstructures, where physical perfection becomes a metaphor for social order and progress. Here, in the spirit of Hegelian dialectics, the body serves as a material foundation upon which the ideal is constructed, reflecting the eternal interaction of matter and spirit in the historical process.

Moving from this ontological foundation to a socio-philosophical analysis, we inevitably turn to the athlete's internal motivations, revealed through the prism of their behavior and activities - those acts where the will to overcome collides with the boundaries of human nature. In an era when humanity strives for new thinking and the construction of a society free from dogmatic constraints and outdated stereotypes of past decades - stereotypes that imposed a one-dimensionally negative assessment of traditions - a radical revision of approaches to understanding human beings, their behavior, and activities is required. This echoes Nietzsche's call for a reevaluation of all values: abandoning rigid norms opens the way to authentic existence, where physical culture becomes an arena for self-transcendence rather than blind submission to social patterns.

In this philosophical horizon, heroes throughout all times act as catalysts for historical movement, uniting peoples and igniting the flame of heroism in souls, for any society, in its



existential essence, yearns for guideposts - examples of high service to duty, where strength, intelligence, and courage exceed ordinary measure, reminiscent of Sartre's freedom of choice in an absurd world. Now, in the context of global transformation, interest in the evolution of the heroic personality concept in modern culture is growing, where the mass consciousness experiences a persistent thirst for involvement in the phenomenon of heroism - that archetypal force that elevates the individual above the chaos of everyday life. In the sphere of physical culture and sports, these heroes continue to live, inspiring generations with their triumphs and acts of personal heroism, thus connecting the social conditioning of the body with the eternal search for meaning: from the productive forces of society to spiritual heights, where physical effort becomes a symbol of the human spirit striving for transcendence.

The President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has repeatedly emphasized the importance of physical education and sports. In one of his addresses to the Oliy Majlis, he noted that physical culture and sports play a key role in raising a healthy generation and strengthening patriotism among young people. He also stressed that sports contribute to the development of qualities such as discipline, responsibility, and honesty [1]. "Your triumph is further proof that if there is fairness in every sphere, if talents from even the most remote villages can realize their potential, then the results will undoubtedly manifest. This is a message to all our youth: set high goals, work on yourselves, and achieve great successes", said Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Heroes and heroism, patriots and patriotism as sought-after social and moral qualities are, in essence, factors in the country's successful modernization. Patriotism and adherence to civic duty are identified as some of the main guidelines in the long-term state program for raising a harmoniously developed generation (barkamol avlod) [2]. The country's young generation strives to become worthy heirs to their nation, harmoniously developed individuals. The formation of moral and patriotic consciousness, a sense of civic duty, and readiness to selflessly serve the Motherland are important components in nurturing a well-rounded person.

Today, Uzbekistan is deeply invested in the patriotic education of the younger generation, strengthening independence and stability in society. The reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan require active participation of individuals in state and societal affairs, the ability to take responsibility, and to demonstrate selflessness. To live and work for the benefit of the people is the life credo of a creative personality.

Physical culture serves as a powerful tool for fostering patriotic feelings in young people. Engaging in sports helps develop qualities such as perseverance, persistence, and dedication, which are essential for successfully fulfilling civic duty and serving the Motherland. Athletes representing their country in international competitions become symbols of national pride and patriotism. As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted: "The result of excellent preparation is not only physical, but also moral and spiritual, and such high victories are achieved by those who worthily continue the work of Jaloliddin Manguberdi, Amir Temur, Pahlavon Mahmud and our other great ancestors [1].

Patriotism is considered a socio-moral principle characterizing an individual's relationship to their country, which manifests itself in a creative mode of action and a complex set of social feelings, usually called love for the Motherland [3; P.243]. "Patriot" and "patriotism" are inseparable phenomena; without a patriot, there can be no patriotism, and without patriotism, there can be no patriot. However, there is an etymological "distance" between them. A patriot is



a person, the subject of patriotic actions and patriotism; patriotism is the social and moral behavior of an individual, the manifestation of their love for their homeland or their fatherland. Patriots and moral ideals are necessary for society so that people feel their unity and solidarity as a society, people, and nation, enabling everyone to determine their place within them and realize their creative potential. Through the image of heroes - patriots and moral ideals - society envisions its future, its socio-spiritual development, and prospects. Therefore, every society creates its own heroes, patriots, and ideals [4; P. 118].

An athlete, upon becoming a moral ideal, serves as a model of behavior, contributes to understanding the meaning of life, and, by achieving outstanding results, becomes a symbol of resilience, perseverance, and dedication to their craft. Their examples inspire others to pursue lofty goals and serve as motivation to overcome difficulties. Great athletes demonstrate that success is possible while remaining true to one's moral principles and patriotic ideals.

"One cannot claim", writes O.V. Lantsev, a candidate of philosophical sciences, "that a person is merely a mechanical product of their social environment. Different individuals emerge from the same environment. Lomonosov, for instance, became who he was in spite of his environment, contrary to it. There exists some inner force that the environment is unable to overcome. Some people possess it, while others do not" [5; P.35].

The influence of the moral ideal gradually accumulates in the subconscious of the individual, in their soul. It becomes their nature, their essence, monitoring their behavior and thoughts day and night. Of course, one cannot say that a person is passive and merely an executor of the will and desire of the ideal; no, they resist, try to create their own world, their own way of life. In the process of this self-actualization, they form their own ideal and social attitudes.

Thus, an individual adapts to the social environment, their social attitudes and ideals aligning with the norms and requirements of real life and their surroundings.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, great attention is paid to the patriotic education of youth and the formation of their moral ideals. In connection with this issue, sociologists and educators face questions - who can serve as a moral ideal for today's youth in Uzbekistan? Who are patriots, and how are their social qualities manifested? After all, it is known that an ideal person does not exist. A harmoniously and comprehensively developed individual is a utopia. In real life, there is no such thing as a fully well-rounded person. And patriotism is just one of many social qualities, not the entirety of a person's harmonious development.

These questions concern every thinking person, and they try to find answers from the real world. Fictional characters, heroes of myths and fairy tales do not satisfy them; they strive to find examples from real life. If they cannot find such examples, they fall into despair and pessimism, and life loses meaning for them. That's why every young person who wants to find the meaning of life needs an ideal.

Ideals play an important role in the lives of young people, guiding their aspirations and shaping their moral values. In the context of physical culture, outstanding athletes become role models, demonstrating examples of perseverance, resilience, and dedication to their craft. Engaging in sports and physical activities helps young people develop not only physical qualities but also moral ones. Sport teaches honesty, fairness, teamwork, and respect for opponents. These qualities contribute to the formation of a harmoniously developed individual capable of making significant contributions to society.



Patriotism and duty are interconnected. Where there is no sense of duty, there is no patriotism. Fulfilling one's duty is partly an expression of patriotism, and where there is patriotism, there is also the fulfillment of duty. Another characteristic of patriotism lies in its moral ideal. It is this moral ideal that gives patriotism its humanistic meaning, connecting it with the problems of specific people, a specific nation, and a specific populace. A person identifies with their people, protecting their interests and defending their Homeland. In acts of heroism, there are always elements of a person identifying with their people and their Homeland. Patriotism is one of the aspects, one of the qualities of a perfect personality, but such a person must necessarily be a patriot. We have many patriots, but a perfect personality is extremely rare. Very, very rare indeed.

From historical examples of the relationship between patriotism and physical culture, one can see that a patriot is always an expression of the fundamental interests of their people, always ready to selflessly serve their Motherland. Great athletes representing their countries in the international arena are living examples of such patriotism. They not only achieve high results, but also inspire their compatriots to love their Homeland, unity, and the pursuit of new achievements.

Engaging in sports and physical education contributes to the development of qualities such as perseverance, persistence, teamwork, and dedication to one's work. These qualities are necessary for fulfilling civic duty and serving the Motherland. Sport helps to form in young people respect for their opponents, honesty, and fairness, which contributes to strengthening moral values in society.

Athletes representing Uzbekistan in international competitions are becoming symbols of national pride and patriotism. Their achievements help to form in young people a sense of belonging and love for the Motherland. For their merits, they are awarded honorary titles and awards such as the "Dustlik" Order for their contribution to strengthening friendship and cooperation between peoples, the "Mehnat Shuhrat" Order for their dedicated work and achieving high results in professional activities, as well as the "Honored Athlete of the Republic of Uzbekistan" title for outstanding sports achievements and contributions to the development of physical education.

The search for a model of a perfect personality is the search for answers to the questions: what is a personality, what is its place in this world, why is it given reason, knowledge, what is the meaning of life, why are moral ideals, self-improvement for it? These issues have been repeatedly discussed in ethical and philosophical literature, various, even opposing concepts and postulates have been put forward, but they have occasionally, especially during the transition to a new historical and cultural paradigm, awakened people's minds again, forcing scholars to seek more acceptable options for answers and practical recommendations. Some scholars held the opinion that perfection is the destiny of few, brave individuals, others doubted the possibility of a person finding the truth, achieving perfection, and still others, more rational, avoided discussing the issues of perfection, as this problem is not for a limited mind. Based on these concepts and postulates, we can say that a perfect individual is an ideal that humanity has always strived for.

The work of an athlete is heroic. They spend years training, improving their skills, and achieving high results. Their efforts and dedication deserve great respect. In physical culture and sports, outstanding athletes become symbols of willpower, resilience, and striving for success, serving



as an example for others to emulate and inspire. Athletes put all their strength and energy into achieving the set goals. They are ready to sacrifice their personal time, health, and comfort for successful performances and victories. Their work is an example of heroism and selflessness, demonstrating that to achieve success, one must show persistence and perseverance.

The spiritual and moral qualities of a person are not formed in vain. The cultural heritage of the people, their heroic traditions, has a defining influence. Family, environment, work collective, state and non-state institutions have a purposeful influence on the consciousness and behavior of the individual. But among these factors, the main role is assigned to the personality itself, its readiness for self-actualization, that is, self-improvement, heroism.

Is it easy to become kind, just, conscientious, altruistic, and patriotic? Of course not. To become a heroic personality, it is not enough to have strong muscles, but, first of all, life and humanity (philanthropy) are necessary. Love for life and man, the desire to serve them is the first sign of heroism. "One must leave the Circle of Time," said Rumi, "and enter the Circle of Love" [6; P.192]. Thus, the ability to love and be loved is one of the most important spiritual and moral qualities of a hero, especially a heroic personality.

References

1. Shavkat Mirziyoyev: Our people are rightfully proud of their patriotic youth.
2. A. Harmoniously Developed Generation - the Basis of Uzbekistan's Progress. - Tashkent: Sharq, 1997.
3. To live on the basis of high spirituality and the rule of law, to form a sense of devotion to the Motherland and the people, a sense of justice, honesty, and a high culture of communication. - Tashkent: Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan, 2015.
4. Zamilova R.R., Ochilova V.K. Patriotism and Youth: The Key to Stability of Uzbek Society. Monograph. 2024.
5. Lansyev O. V. On the Meaning of Life and the Idea of Passionarity // National Ideology and Ideology of Independence: Philosophical and Legal Aspects. - Tashkent: Philosophy and Law Institute Publishing House, 2001.
6. Ochilova F. The role of social and hygienic education and prevention of harmful adaities in student youth //O'zbekiston milliy universiteti xabarlari, 2024,[1/11] ISSN 2181-7324.
7. Testimony and Lessons of History. Development of Uzbekistan's national wealth during Tsarism and Soviet colonialism. - Tashkent: Sharq, 2001.

