

College Sports in the USA and the Czech Republic (A Case Study)

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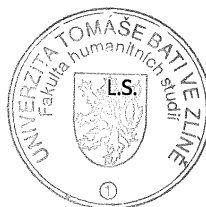
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ABSTRAKT

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá univerzitním sportem. Zkoumá rozdíly mezi univerzitním sportem v České republice a USA. Teoretická část se zabývá univerzitními sportovními asociacemi a organizacemi obou zemí, popisuje jejich složení, vývoj a hlavně jejich činnost. Analytická část zkoumá rozdíly v přístupu k univerzitnímu sportu na amerických a českých univerzitách. Toto srovnání provádí na případu dvou vybraných univerzit z obou zemí. Českou republiku zastupuje Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně a USA Virginia Commonwealth University. Bakalářská práce porovnává rozdíly v různých oblastech sportu na těchto dvou vybraných univerzitách, a to konkrétně povinné sportovní aktivity, rekreační sport, sportovní soutěže a úroveň vybavenosti sportovních zařízení.

Klíčová slova: univerzitní sport, asociace, organizace, povinné sportovní aktivity, rekreační sport, soutěže, vybavení

ABSTRACT

This bachelor thesis deals with university sport. It examines differences between university sport in the Czech Republic and USA. The theoretical part deals with the university sports associations and organizations of both countries, describes their composition, development and especially their operations. The analytical part examines differences in access to university sport in the U.S. and Czech universities. The comparison is made on the case of two selected universities from both countries. Czech Republic is represented by the Tomas Bata University in Zlín and the USA is represented by Virginia Commonwealth University. Bachelor thesis compares the differences in the various aspects of sport at both selected universities, like compulsory sport activities, recreational sport, competitive sport and level of sport facilities.

Keywords: university sports, associations, organizations, compulsory sport activities, recreational sports, competitions, equipment

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INTRODUCTION

Any kind of physical exercise or sport activity almost disappeared from life of many people. They do not want to walk even for short distances, they want to go everywhere by a car or a bus. However, regular exercise is very important for our physical and mental health. Some people realize this and do at least some kind of physical exercise, but more and more people do not. The result is more and more diseases associated with lack of exercise, such as obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and many more. Some of them make a human life uncomfortable, but others may lead even to death.¹

This shows that physical activity and sport are vital for life of every human being. People should be trained and lead to do physical activities at all levels of education establishments - from kindergarten to university. My bachelor thesis deals with sport at universities. I want to get to know the U.S. culture, customs of local people and their way of life, and I would compare these aspects with culture, customs and way of life of people in the Czech Republic. I want to explore these areas through the issue of Czech and American university sport. In the theoretical part I will write about how the university sport in both countries is managed and organized, and by whom. The analytical part will compare selected Virginia Commonwealth University in United States with Tomas Bata University in the Czech Republic. I will find out which of these universities is more aware of the importance of sport to health, which leads or “forces” students to play sports and where is a better level of facilities and greater choice of sport activities. I will also investigate whether at these selected universities is a competitive sport and what is the level of competitions. At the end of my thesis I will summarize which of these universities is in these spheres at a higher level.

¹ See “Příliš drahá pohodlnost,” *Medicína – Odborné fórum lékařů a farmaceutů*, <http://www.zdravaro-dina.cz/med/med0101/med0104.html> (accessed May 3, 2011).

I. THEORY

1 INTRODUCTION TO THE THEORY

As already mentioned in the introduction to the thesis, people nowadays spend much less time with physical exercise. Professional sport is still popular, but for most "ordinary" people only in the passive form. They watch professional sports on television, but they just want to watch them, not play them. Therefore, professional sport is very well organized by many associations and organizations.

Universities are aware of that fact that sport and physical exercise is very beneficial and even necessary for good health of students. And that is why there are many various associations and organizations leading and taking care of university sport. In the USA there are plenty of them, for example National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics or National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). All these associations are members of the USA International University Sports Federation,² which represents them in the worldwide federation of university sport - FISU.³

In Czech Republic there are only two similar university sports organizations. First one is Česká asociace univerzitního sportu (ČAUS) - Czech University Sport Association and Česká asociace akademických technických sportů (ČAATS) - Czech Academic Technical Sports Association (ČAATS is a member of the ČAUS, with which it cooperates and which is represented by). However, in Czech Republic there are other sport organizations which associations mentioned before cooperate with, such as Český svaz tělesné výchovy (ČSTV) - Czech Association of Physical Education and Český olympijský výbor (ČOV) - Czech Olympic Committee.⁴ ČAUS is the only Czech member of the aforementioned worldwide organization of university sports - FISU.⁵

² See "Member Associations," USA International University Sports Federation, <http://www.usiusf.org/index.php/associations> (accessed May 2, 2011).

³ See "United States of America," FISU Member Associations, <http://www.fisu.net/en/United-States-of-America-USA-67.html> (accessed May 2, 2011).

⁴ See "Profil Asociace," Česká asociace univerzitního sportu, <http://www.caus.cz/caus/profil-asociace> (accessed May 2, 2011).

⁵ See "Czech Republic," FISU Member Associations, <http://www.fisu.net/en/Czech-Republic-CZE-137.html> (accessed May 2, 2011).

For my thesis the most important associations are NCAA in the U.S., ČAUS in the Czech Republic and the worldwide organization of university sport - FISU, which both associations are member of, and therefore in the theoretical part I will describe their activities. Furthermore, I describe institutions taking care of running sport activities at selected universities, which will be discussed in the analytical section - Virginia Commonwealth University and Tomas Bata University in Zlin.

2 FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DU SPORT UNIVERSITAIRE (FISU) – INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SPORTS FEDERATION

2.1 General Information about FISU

FISU is an abbreviation for the original name of the “Federation Internationale du Sport Universitaire”. English name for this organization is the “International University Sports Federation”. FISU was officially founded in 1949 and “arose within university institutions to propagate sport values and promote sports practice in perfect synergy and complementarity with the university spirit.”⁶ “FISU's main responsibility is the supervision of both Summer and Winter Universiades as well as the World University Championships.”⁷ FISU is a major global organization of university sports and cares about biggest and most important university sporting events. FISU also controls and manages the activities of the other 153 national university sports federations, who are members of FISU, and FISU is superior to them and serves as their governing body. Member federations are divided into regional groups according to the continents and also NCAA from United States and ČAUS from the Czech Republic, which will be described later, are among them. FISU is composed of the General Assembly, which is elected by the Executive Committee for a period of four years. Executive Committee makes all decisions about all important matters which are necessary for the right functioning of the organization world university sport. FISU has revenue from subscriptions, organising of sport events, entry fees, telecasts and marketing and advertising.⁸ General Secretariat of FISU (its Headquarters) is in Brussels, Belgium at the castle called Château de la Solitude. FISU Office is in Lausanne, Switzerland.

⁶ “Fisu History,” FISU - International University Sports Federation, <http://www.fisu.net/en/FISU-History-518.html> (accessed May 3, 2011).

⁷ “Fisu Today,” FISU - International University Sports Federation, <http://www.fisu.net/en/FISU-today-517.html> (accessed May 3, 2011).

⁸ See “Fisu Today,” FISU - International University Sports Federation, <http://www.fisu.net/en/FISU-today-517.html> (accessed May 3, 2011).

2.2 Sport Events organized by FISU

2.2.1 The Universiade

The Universiade is an international sporting and cultural event, organized by FISU every two years. Universiades are divided into Winter and Summer and every time they are held in a different city. Universiade is the second most important and most prestigious event of its kind after the Olympic Games. Compulsory Summer Universiade sports are: Athletics, Basketball, Fencing, Football, Gymnastics, Judo, Swimming, Diving, Water Polo, Table Tennis, Tennis and Volleyball. Compulsory Winter Universiade sports are: Alpine skiing, Snowboarding, Nordic skiing composed of jump, Cross Country & Combined, Curling, Ice Hockey, Short-Track Speed Skating, Figure Skating and Biathlon. The host city selects three additional optional sports for the Summer Universiade, and one or two additional optional sports for the Winter Universiade.⁹

2.2.2 The World University Championships

It is a sporting event, which was created to extend and complement the program of university sport competitions. The purpose was to raise the profile of universities that are participating in competitions and also to make the organization of FISU more visible in the world. The World University Championships are held several times a year in different countries, sometimes at the national level, others at the international level. For example, in 2008 there was organized 29 different World University Championships with 6,652 participants from 90 different countries. In 2010, there was held 29 these Championships again.

Kinds of sport at these Championships were these: Archery, Badminton, Baseball, Beach Volleyball, Bridge, Chess, Cross Country, Cycling, Equestrian, Flat Water Canoeing, Floorball, Futsal, Golf, Handball, Field Hockey, Karate, Match Racing, Orienteering, Rowing, Rugby 7, Savate, Sailing, Shooting, Softball, Squash, Taekwondo, Triathlon, White Water Canoeing, Waterskiing, Weightlifting, Woodball and Wrestling.¹⁰

⁹ See "Fisu Today," FISU - International University Sports Federation, <http://www.fisu.net/en/FISU-today-517.html> (accessed May 3, 2011).

¹⁰ See "Fisu Today," FISU - International University Sports Federation, <http://www.fisu.net/en/FISU-today-517.html> (accessed May 3, 2011).

3 ČESKÁ ASOCIACE UNIVERZITNÍHO SPORTU (ČAUS) – CZECH UNIVERSITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Česká asociace univerzitního sportu (ČAUS) - Czech University Sport Association - is a multisport association, which brings together 43 university sports clubs and physical education institutions in the Czech Republic. Through these clubs and institutions, which are established at different universities and faculties, ČAUS brings together the students and staff and offers them voluntary sport activities at different levels. The mission and main goal of ČAUS is to create optimal conditions for development of sport and physical activities in clubs and at universities. ČAUS also seek for increasing of levels of skills of those people working in sport clubs and teachers of Physical Education at universities.

In cooperation with eapartments and institutions of physical education and sport of member university sport clubs, ČAUS annually organizes various tournaments and competitions for universities and colleges. These college sports championships are, for example, competitions at universities and faculties in university leagues in which they compete with students and staff from one certain institution. Others are, for example, the Czech Academic Games, the Academic Championships of the Czech Republic, or one-time competitions, at which students from different universities in the Czech Republic compete against each other. These kinds of competition can be attended also by universities from abroad. In addition to these events, ČAUS provides and coordinates the preparation and participation of academic teams of the Czech Republic to the top university sport competitions organized by the International University Sports Federation (FISU), for example the world's top university sports competition – the Universiade. Another great university sports competition is the Academic World Championships and other international sports events.¹¹

ČAUS itself is a member of other known sport associations such as Česká svaz tělesné výchovy (ČSTV) - the Czech Association of Physical Education, Český olympijský výbor (ČOV) - the Czech Olympic Committee and, mentioned above, the International University Sports Federation - FISU.

¹¹ See “ČAUS,“ ČESKÁ ASOCIACE UNIVERZITNÍHO SPORTU, <http://www.caus.cz/caus> (accessed May 3, 2011).

In the Czech Republic there is a magazine called “Eurocampus” and this magazine talks about university sports of the Czech Republic in its attachment named "Univerzitní sport ČR" (“University sports of the Czech Republic”). This magazine provides comprehensive information about university sports of the Czech Republic, which is coordinated by the ČAUS.¹² ČAUS published also its own magazine about university sports in the Czech Republic, which was called "Akademický sport: časopis univerzitního sportu ČR" (“The University Sport: The Magazine of University Sport in the Czech Republic”). This journal published articles about college sports, statistics and interviews with university athletes. The magazine was also used as an advertising and promotional material for things that are sports related.¹³ Today, the magazine no longer exists.

¹² See “ČASOPIS,“ EuroCampus Česká republika, <http://eurocampus.cz/casopis.html> (accessed May 3, 2011).

¹³ See Eva Slonková, *Akademický sport: časopis univerzitního sportu ČR* (Prague: Campus International, 2004), page nr.

4 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NCAA)

4.1 General Information about NCAA

National Collegiate Athletic Association was officially founded on March 31, 1906. The former U.S. president Theodore Roosevelt participated in its creation. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is an association that organizes and oversees athletic programs of more than 1,000 American and Canadian universities and colleges, with more than 400,000 student-athletes. Member universities and colleges are divided into three divisions (Division I, Division II and Division III). In each of these divisions are many conferences in which universities and colleges compete with each other. The NCAA organizes 88 various championships in 23 sports altogether.¹⁴

NCAA has a large number of rules and obligations, which all members must follow. These rules and obligations vary according the Division. Universities and colleges decide which Division to enter, but first must find out whether they can meet all these rules and comply with them in the future. Rules and obligations refer to, for example, personnel of sport institutions, amateurism of students, enrollment and recruiting of them (their eligibility), benefits and financial aid for them, playing and practice seasons. Some of these rules and obligations are the same for all Divisions and others are applicable to a particular Division.¹⁵ Primary sources of revenue of NCAA are mainly due ticket sales, marketing operations, such as telecasts or sponsorships and subsidies from general funds of all member universities and colleges.¹⁶

¹⁴ See “What is the NCAA?,” AthleteScholarships.ca, <http://www.athletescholarships.ca/the-process/> (accessed May 3, 2011); See “Who We Are,” National Collegiate Athletic Association, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/About+the+NCAA/Who+We+Are+landing+page> (accessed May 3, 2011).

¹⁵ See “How Athletic Programs are Classified,” National Collegiate Athletic Association, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/About+the+NCAA/Who+We+Are/About+the+NCAA+How+Programs+are+Classified> (accessed May 5, 2011).

¹⁶ See “Frequently Asked Questions,” National Collegiate Athletic Association, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/Issues/Commercialism/Frequently+Asked+Questions> (accessed May 3, 2011).

4.2 NCAA Rules and Obligations

The NCAA is a purely amateur organization. This means that the student-athletes of all member institutions must be amateurs - they can not take any money for the sport. If students, interested in joining a university team of NCAA, had ever taken a salary for playing sport, they cannot join any team of NCAA. If students are admitted to the team and their university or college belongs in the NCAA Division I or II Division, they may receive partial or full scholarships.¹⁷ Applicants for admission to the university and also entering one of university teams must meet many requirements. They must be high school graduates, they must achieve a minimum required GPA (Grade Point Average) score of the high school core courses and must also write the ACT (American College Testing) or SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) tests, in which they must also achieve a minimum required scores. The minimum required ACT, SAT and GPA scores are interdependent and vary according to Division.¹⁸ If students meet all the conditions, they sign a so-called National Letter of Intent – the agreement between the student and the university. By signing this agreement, the students agree to be students of the University for at least one year. The university, by signing, agrees to give students athletically related financial aid for, at least, that academic year (for example scholarship).¹⁹ If students want to keep the scholarship in subsequent years of study, they must also follow the NCAA rules. Particularly they must have good study results.²⁰ NCAA also has rules and regulations for recruiting of student-athletes. For example, prospective student-athletes might be contacted only by a team coach and some other certain team officials, but only through sending some brochures and questionnaires. They cannot make any telephone calls to prospective student-athletes. On

¹⁷ See “2009-2010 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete,” NCAA Eligibility Center, <http://vcuathletics.tv/comp/pdf/2008-09College-BoundStudent-Athlete.pdf> (accessed May 3, 2011).

¹⁸ See “Becoming a Student-Athlete,” National Collegiate Athletic Association, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/Student-Athlete+Experience/Becoming+a+Student-Athlete/Initial+Eligibility> (accessed May 2, 2011).

¹⁹ See “2009-2010 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete,” NCAA Eligibility Center, <http://vcuathletics.tv/comp/pdf/2008-09College-BoundStudent-Athlete.pdf> (accessed May 3, 2011).

²⁰ See “How is the Academic Progress Rate calculated?,” National Collegiate Athletic Association, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/Academics/Division+I/How+is+APR+calculated> (accessed May 2, 2011).

the other hand, students can call coaches as many times as they want at their own expense. Prospective student-athletes can also make an official visit to the university and campus and see the environment and obtain the necessary pieces of information. These official visits might be paid even by the university (students and parents at official visit might get paid, for example, travel, food, tickets for matches etc.).²¹

4.3 NCAA Divisions

4.3.1 NCAA Division I

University or college, who is a member of Division I, must have at least 7 men's teams and seven women's teams in different sports and two of those sports must be team sports. Division I College or University must play a minimum number of competitive matches against opponents from Division I (depending on kind of sport). Institutions of this Division must also offer a minimum amount of money for financial aid to students, mainly scholarships. Division I members must, of course, meet all the rules and obligations of this Division. NCAA Division I is the highest level of intercollegiate athletics. It has the highest budget for recruiting, athletic scholarships, has the best facilities and coaches etc.²² Division I has 53 various conferences with 335 university and college members, 66 percent of them are public, 34 percent of them are private institutions.²³

4.3.2 NCAA Division II

Division II is an intermediate level of intercollegiate athletics of NCAA. University or college, who wants to be a member of Division II, must have at least 8 teams in 8 different sports, and at least two of which must be in some kind of team sport.²⁴ Division II

²¹ See "2009-2010 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete," NCAA Eligibility Center, <http://vcuathletics.tv/comp/pdf/2008-09College-BoundStudent-Athlete.pdf> (accessed May 3, 2011).

²² See Nancy Nitardy, *Get Paid to Play: Every Student Athlete's Guide to Over \$1 Million in College Scholarships*, Original ed. (New York: Kaplan Publishing, 2007), 2, 4.

²³ See "Differences Among the Three Divisions: Division I," National Collegiate Association, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/About+the+NCAA/Who+We+Are/Differences+Among+the+Divisions/Division+I/> (accessed May 1, 2011).

²⁴ See Nancy Nitardy, *Get Paid to Play: Every Student Athlete's Guide to Over \$1 Million in College Scholarships*, Original ed. (New York: Kaplan Publishing, 2007), 3.

institutions do not have to offer a minimum amount of money for financial aid for student-athletes. Only a few students get a full athletic scholarship, covering all of their school expenses. On the other hand a lot of them receive at least some kind of financial aid, very often partial scholarship, which helps them to cover some necessary school expenses. Division II has 23 various conferences with 302 member institutions. 52 percent of them are smaller public universities and 48 percent of them are private institutions.²⁵

4.3.3 NCAA Division III

NCAA Division III universities and colleges must have at least five men's sport teams and five women's sport teams in different kinds of sport. Institutions must compete against other Division III member schools in a minimum amount of matches and competitions. The major difference between Division III and Division I or II institution is that Division III member cannot award any kind of athletic scholarships. Student-athletes may receive institutional scholarships, but not above mentioned athletically related. The education is supposed to be in the first place for students. On the other hand, the level of athletics is the lowest of all these Divisions.²⁶ Division III has 64 various conferences with 447 member institutions. 20 percent of them are public, 80 percent of them are private institutions.²⁷

²⁵ See "Differences Among the Three Divisions: Division II," National Collegiate Athletic Association, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/About+the+NCAA/Who+We+Are/Differences+Among+the+Divisions/Division+II/> (accessed May 1, 2011).

²⁶ See Nancy Nitardy, *Get Paid to Play: Every Student Athlete's Guide to Over \$1 Million in College Scholarships*, Original ed. (New York: Kaplan Publishing, 2007), 3.

²⁷ See "Differences Among the Three Divisions: Division III," National Collegiate Athletic Association, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/About+the+NCAA/Who+We+Are/Differences+Among+the+Divisions/Division+++III/> (accessed May 1, 2011).

II. ANALYSIS

5 INTRODUCTION TO THE ANALYSIS

The analytical part of this thesis compares the different aspects of the sport at the Tomas Bata University and Virginia Commonwealth University. These universities I chose because they are both approximately in the same category and on the same level in their countries. In addition, I study Tomas Bata University and therefore I want to see if the level of Tomas Bata University sport is comparable to university sport of an American university. Further I will compare sphere of compulsory physical education, recreational sports, sport competitions and sport facilities of both universities. For this comparison I will use resources from official websites of both universities, as well as pieces of information from competent people dealing with issues of sport at both universities.

6 BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF BOTH UNIVERSITIES

6.1 Tomas Bata University in Zlín

The headquarters of Tomas Bata University is in the town called Zlín, which is the capital town of Zlín Region. It is also the largest town in this region. Zlín currently has over 77,000 inhabitants²⁸, which makes it one of smaller towns in the region. Tomas Bata University comprises of six faculties with a total of 164 fields of study in 82 accredited study programs. In the academic year 2010/2011 the university has around 13,500 students,²⁹ and thus it belongs to the group of medium-sized universities in the Czech Republic.

6.2 Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Commonwealth University is located in the heart of Richmond, which is the capital and largest city of the U.S. state Virginia. The city currently has slightly over 200,000 inhabitants, which makes it one of smaller U.S. cities. VCU now has more than 32,000 students. VCU offers 60 undergraduate, 67 master and 40 doctoral fields of study.³⁰ These numbers make VCU one of medium-sized U.S. universities.

²⁸ See “Zlín – základní informace o městě,” portalzlin.cz, <http://www.portalzlin.cz/> (accessed May 1, 2011).

²⁹ See “Univerzita v číslech,” Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, http://web.utb.cz/?id=0_0_1_1&lang=cs&type=0 (accessed May 1, 2011).

³⁰ See “Virginia Commonwealth University Athletic Department – Visitor’s Guide,” VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/VisitorsGuide.pdf> (accessed May 1, 2011).

7 SELECTED UNIVERSITIES SPORT INSTITUTIONS

7.1 Tomas Bata University in Zlín

7.1.1 Institution of Physical Education and Sport

All sport activities at Tomas Bata University are organized and controlled by The Institution of Physical Education and Sports. The Institution manages a compulsory physical education and competitive sport, organizes many local sports events between faculties and universities, and provides the participation of university student athletes at other sports events. The Institution, in cooperation with other sports organizations of different universities, sends their talented students to various more or less prestigious sport events such as The Academic Championships of Czech Republic and even The Academic World Championships organized by FISU.

Simply we can say that the main objectives of The Institution of Physical Education and Sport are three:

1. To promote physical education and sport as an integral part of higher education.
2. To participate in the promotion and development of academic sports by extracurricular activities and college clubs, which focus on basic sport competitions at universities and faculties.
3. To find financial resources for all forms of non-teaching physical education and sport.

Other activities which the Institution of Physical Education and Sport looks after are championships between faculties and universities, for example in ice hockey, swimming or aerobics. These events are not compulsory, but very popular among students and employees of Tomas Bata University. The Institution also organizes, in cooperation with the ČAUS, about 500 sport events between faculties and about 150 local and national sporting events annually (regional competitions, Academic Championships of the Czech Republic etc.).³¹

³¹ See Zdeněk Melichárek, "Historie Sportu UTB," Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, <http://sport.utb.cz/files/soubory/historie-sportu-utb.pdf> (accessed May 2, 2011).

7.1.2 Vysokoškolský sportovní klub (VŠSK) – the University Sport Club

The club was founded in 1965 by then Technological Faculty of VUT Brno, established in Zlín. The main aim of organization was to make talented students to be better sportsmen, to work hard in order to be able to compete at various kinds of academic sport competitions and athletics meetings and not only at national sport events, but also at international events. During club's 46 years long history it had thousands of members and club achieved many successes at various, often international, competitions.³² The VŠSK is also a member of Česká asociace univerzitního sportu (ČAUS – Czech Association of University Sport) and ČAUS is a member of worldwide university sport organization – FISU. Due to a partnership with these organizations the VŠSK has a possibility to send their student members to sport events held by these organizations, such as Academic Championships of Czech Republic, Czech Academic Games, World Academic Championships and World Universiades.³³ For example, volleyball players from TBU - Michal Čechmánek and Jan Krba - represented Czech Republic at the World Universiade in Belgrade in 2009 and they made a great fourth place. There are many more students, who achieved a great successes, for example, Martin Tomášek (1st place, swimming, Czech Academic Games 2009), Klára Křížová (1st place, the Super Giant Slalom, Academic Championships of the Czech Republic, 2009), Barbora Lacigová (2nd place, Track and Field, Czech Academic Games, 2009) and there were many more successful TBU students.³⁴ Czech Academic Games and Academic Championships of the Czech Republic are a part and one type of World University Championships. Another TBU student, Michal Smola, even won several world titles in the World University Championships.³⁵ Nowadays this organization controls recreational sport activities at TBU. Any student wishing to play recreational sports offered by the TBU during the study must join this club. (Svoboda, interview by author, Zlín)

³² See Jan Bělohávek, 100 let českého vysokoškolského sportu, 118.

³³ See "Historie sportu na UTB," <http://sport.utb.cz/files/soubory/historie-sportu-utb.pdf> (accessed May 18, 2010).

³⁴ See "Archiv 2009," Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, http://web.utb.cz/?id=0_0_23_6&iid=200&lang=cs&print=1&PHPSESSID=5d7053eded921983af645a6ab0454ab4 (accessed May 2, 2011).

³⁵ See "Zahraníční úspěchy," SK Zlín – Orientační běh, <http://www.skob-zlin.cz/zahranicni-uspechy.html> (accessed May 2, 2011).

7.2 Virginia Commonwealth University

7.2.1 Recreational Sports Department

Department of Recreational Sports has 21 employees including one director, who oversees the work of the other 20 employees. Among these employees we can find, for example, Technicians or Housekeeping staff, who are responsible for facilities. Other employees, such as Human Resources Coordinator, Business Manager, Marketing / Member Services Coordinator and Membership Coordinator, take care of membership in the Recreational Sports Club and promotions, other staff, such as Associate Director for Programs, Assistant Director of Intramurals, Assistant Director of Outdoor Adventure Programs, Fitness Programs Assistant, Assistant Director of Aquatics and Assistant Director of Fitness take care of sport activities and programs, other staff, like Sport Club Coordinator, is responsible for competitive Sports Clubs, etc.³⁶

7.2.2 Varsity Sports Department

The Varsity Sports Department employs 111 workers. We can find there 11 major offices plus 14 more offices - one for each of 14 Varsity Sports teams. Major offices are Administration, Academic Advising, Athletic Communications/Media Services, Business Services, Compliance and Student Services, Development/Ram Athletic Fund, Marketing and Sponsorships, Siegel Center and Facilities, Sports Medicine, Strength and Conditioning and Ticket Office. In the office of Administration works the Director of Athletics, which manages the work of other offices. Each office has also one Assistant Director, who manages the work of subordinates in the office. Among other workers we can find, for example, Advisors, Coordinators, Managers, Assistants, Trainers, Coaches and many more. These employees are engaged in areas such as administration of students' registration cards, organization of matches, students' advising and scholarships allocation, they communicate with media and coordinate telecasts, they search new sponsors and donors, they coordinate enrollment and recruiting of students, they make plans for trainings and conditioning programs, take care of students health and insurance, others take care of

³⁶ See "Our Staff," VCU Recreational Sports, <http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/about/staff.html> (accessed May 2, 2011).

all sport facilities and equipment, coordinate ticket operations and many more necessary operations for smooth progress of the whole program of Varsity Sports.³⁷

³⁷ See “VCU Athletics Staff Directory,” VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/information/directory/index> (accessed May 2, 2011).

8 COMPULSORY PHYSICAL EDUCATION

8.1 Tomas Bata University in Zlín

8.1.1 Requirements

All students of every faculty have compulsory Physical Education in four semesters of their study and it depends on each individual student which semester he chooses from. The Institution of Physical Education and Sports offers a wide range of sports which students can choose from one that suits them best according to their interest, state of health and also their timetable, because some sports are in progress during the same time as they may have some other compulsory subject, which is more important, because sport activities are not credited as high as compulsory subjects of individual study programs. That is why students sign up to sport activities later after they are signed in their compulsory subjects for their study program. Students sign in through the computer system called STAG and then they are obliged to fulfill all the requirements in order to get a credit in Sport Activities, which is a regular school subject at TBU and part of students' timetable. (Melichárek, interview by author, Zlín)

Requirements are, for example, the attendance, sometimes there are some targets or limits to fulfill (for example in swimming), and students must also participate at Rector's sports day. This Rector's sports day includes for example Tennis, Squash, Badminton and Volleyball tournaments of university students, also Aerobic marathon or very popular and highly attended hiking tour. From 1,000 to 1,500 students and also employees participate every year at this Rector's sports day and about 1,200 of them go hiking tour.³⁸ Students also may like to choose to go to one week Ski or Water Boating trips instead of other sports. There are also a lot of special tournaments for example in Tennis, Badminton, Squash, Volleyball or Aerobic marathons, Swimming competition and Ice Hockey matches between faculties. If students participate in these special events, they could get some extra attendance points. Another way students can get a credit in Compulsory Sports is that they prove that they play any kind of sport competitively. Students bring their registration card to the Institution of Physical Education and Sport of TBU and prove their attendance at the

³⁸ See Jan Bělohávek, *100 let českého vysokoškolského sportu* (Prague: Nakladatelství Olympia Praha a. s., 2010), 118.

practices of their sport and get a credit in Sport Activities. (Melichárek, interview by author, Zlín)

Every student can choose any available sport activity, but in one semester he has to choose the Swimming, which is the only compulsory sport for every student. If somebody is a good swimmer and wants to attend different kind of sport available, he may fulfill this activity in just one day if he is able to swim 100 meters long track in 2 minutes and 5 seconds or less for men and 2 minutes and 15 seconds for women. (Melichárek, interview by author, Zlín)

8.1.2 Sports available

In 2009/2010 academic year the Institution offers these kinds of sport: Aerobics, Aikido, Basketball, Badminton, Floorball, Rock Climbing, Indoor Cycling, Inline Skating, K2 Hiking (indoor running on a treadmill), Swimming, Indoor Soccer, Self-defense, Squash, Tennis, Tai Ji Quan, Taekwondo, Thai-box, Volleyball and Health Physical Education. There is also Skiing and Water boating available and students may choose if they want to go to ski trips. These trips are held either in Czech Republic at Portas Chalet or somewhere abroad, most often in French Alps. The Portas Chalet is owned by Tomas Bata University and that is one of the reasons why domestic ski trips are cheaper than those organized abroad. There are also Cycling and Waterboating trips available in spring and summer time, also organized in the Czech Republic or abroad.³⁹

8.2 Virginia Commonwealth University

There is no compulsory Physical Education or Sport Activities included in students' schedule. When somebody becomes a student of VCU, he also becomes a member of the Recreational Sports Club and has a lot of opportunities to do many kinds of sports, but not compulsory, just voluntarily.⁴⁰

³⁹ Mgr. Zdeněk Melichárek, "Pokyny pro organizaci povinných sportovních aktivit 2011," Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, http://web.fame.utb.cz/?lang=cs&id=0_2_8_3&type= (accessed April 11, 2011).

⁴⁰ Laryssa Goncalves, e-mail to author, April 18, 2011.

8.3 Comparison

There are compulsory sport activities at Tomas Bata University for all students and also a wide range of recreational sports. VCU has not compulsory sport activities; it has only voluntary recreational sports. This means that every student of TBU is somehow engaged in some kind of physical activity, either voluntarily or involuntarily, but it is not the same at VCU. There play sports only if they want to. Those who have not a good relationship with sport, they are not engaged in physical activities at all. The government tried to introduce a law that all American schools must have compulsory physical education in order to American people get used to do some physical activity, but the law failed because the schools complained about the lack of resources and time to implement these compulsory sport activities.⁴¹ So VCU is not different from other American educational institutions in view of the compulsory exercises, but TBU differs from VCU and those other American educational institutions in view of this topic. Compulsory physical education at TBU has been introduced to improve health and physical fitness of students. During the sport activities instructors try to teach beginners basic techniques and skills and those advanced they help eliminate mistakes and develop their skills, they give them advice and tips. Institution of Physical Education and Sports at TBU believes that students will enjoy sports and will make some sport activity in their future lives and due to that they will take care of their health and physical fitness by themselves voluntarily, not compulsory. (Melichárek, interview by author, Zlín)

⁴¹ See Matthew Engel, "Land of the Fat," *Guardian* (London), May 2, 2002.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2002/may/02/usa.medicalscience> (accessed April 20, 2011).

9 RECREATIONAL/VOLUNTARY SPORT

9.1 Tomas Bata University in Zlín

Recreational Sports are organized by the VŠSK (abbreviation for Vysokoškolský sportovní klub, which means University Sport Club).

9.1.1 Membership and Fees

Every university student can join recreational sports, but also some people from the public can join it, such as former TBU officials and university graduates or even people who have somehow cooperated with the university, or even contributed to the development of sport at TBU and successes at various events. Newcomers pay an entrance fee of 700 CZK for full-time students and 1,000 CZK for graduates and the other above-mentioned members (fees in academic year 2010/2011). Membership is valid for one academic year. The newcomers will receive a registration card and become members of one sport compartment which they choose by themselves, but they can use all other available sport activities. Club members can play sports only during time reserved especially for Compulsory Sport Activities. That is how it is implemented for example in Tennis, Badminton, Indoor Soccer, Floorball, Squash, or some other sports. (Svoboda, interview by author, Zlín) Another usage of membership in University Sports Club of TBU is associated with competitive sport at the TBU. Members can simply join some university team and represent the school at various competitions and leagues. (Svoboda, interview by author, Zlín)

9.1.2 Advantages

Students may benefit from any available recreational sports with no additional fees. Moreover, if they wanted to play recreational sports outside the university, they would pay far more money for less time to play. This is especially true for Tennis, Badminton, Squash, as well as Martial Arts and other expensive sports. If members want to play team sports such as Basketball, Floorball, Volleyball, Indoor Soccer and others, they would have a big problem to find other teammates who just want to play recreationally. These sports enthusiasts would therefore have to enter some out-of-school competitive team and it took them more time and effort and, of course, it would be more expensive. But if they want to play these sports only recreationally, club membership is a unique opportunity because they can find a lot of people interested in these team sports among their schoolmates. Another

advantage is the possibility to borrow sport equipment, such as floorball sticks, nets, balls, tennis rackets and other equipment for free. Use of locker rooms and changing rooms is also with no additional fees. (Melichárek, interview by author, Zlín)

9.1.3 Sports Available

Available sports are for example Aikido, Basketball, Badminton, Floorball, Fitball, Rock Climbing, Indoor Cycling, Inline Skating, K2 Hiking, Swimming, Indoor Soccer, Self-defense, Squash, Tennis or Table Tennis, Tai Chi Chuan, Taekwondo, Thai-box, Volleyball and Health TV, as well as Skiing, for which students not only go on ski trips, but they can also use the 230 m long artificial ski slope near the center of Zlín.⁴² Other activities offered are different kinds of Dance and most recently, Golf. Times of sport activities are posted on the website of the University Sports Club of TBU or in the student agenda accessible also through the internet.⁴³ Club members can also play recreational sports at various tournaments and competitions that take place during both semesters, usually on some occasion, such as national holidays or anniversaries. On 17th November, which is an important date in the Czech Republic, there are regularly held Tennis, Badminton, Volleyball or Indoor Soccer tournaments, Inline Skating races etc. Recreational sports club members may also participate in Rector's Sports Day together with those who must participate in this Day, because it is one of the conditions for getting a credit in Compulsory Sport Activities. This day are also held various competitions and tournaments in a large number of sports and hiking tour. All participants must register for this Rector's Sports Day on the website of the Institution of Physical Education and Sport. (Melichárek, interview by author, Zlín)

9.2 Virginia Commonwealth University

Each VCU student who wants to play the recreational sports offered must be a member of VCU Recreational Sports Club. Fee-paying students (students paying school fees by themselves) become automatically members of the Club after being admitted to the VCU.

⁴² See Jan Bělohávek, 100 let českého vysokoškolského sportu, 118.

⁴³ See “VŠSK – Základní informace,” <http://sport.utb.cz/vssk/vssk---zakladniinformace/> (accessed April 15, 2011).

Students, who do not pay school fees, because they might have a scholarship, for example, can obtain a club membership by payment of the entry fee.⁴⁴

9.2.1 Membership and Fees

All full-time, part-time, graduate, undergraduate, and special students, who are enrolled at VCU and who pay school fees, are automatically members of the VCU Recreational Sports Club. They do not pay the entry fee, because the membership is included in school fees. Also non-fee paying students have an opportunity to become members of the club, but they have to purchase membership for \$ 61.66 per semester. But membership is not only for students, but also for alumni, staff, and not only those currently employed, but even those retired (emeritus), the visiting staff, VCU Health System staff and the Virginia Biotechnology Research Park Employees. Staff does not have a club membership for free, but must pay for it as well. Annual membership in the club is valid always from September 1 to August 31.⁴⁵

Fees for membership are:

Fee Paying Students – included in Student Fees

Non-fee paying Students - \$ 61.66*

Faculty and Staff, MCV Physicians, VCU retiree/emeritus - \$ 185 per year

Alumni Association Member - \$ 220 per year

Alumni Non-Association Member - \$ 306 per year

Research Park Employee - \$ 306 per year

VCU Non-Employee Database - \$ 306 per year

*per each semester or per summer (= \$184,98 for the whole year)

Each member can take with him one sparingpartner, or can take children to play recreational sports on weekends with him, but it is for additional fees. Partner of a student member will pay \$ 78.32 per semester or summer months, partner of a staff member will pay \$ 260 for the whole year. The fee for each child over 18 years of age is \$ 120 and \$ 40 for those less than 18 years of age, membership is valid for one year. These children will

⁴⁴ See “Membership,” VCU Recreational Sports, <http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/about/membership.html> (accessed April 10, 2011).

⁴⁵ See “Membership,” VCU Recreational Sports, <http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/about/membership.html> (accessed April 10, 2011).

receive their own registration card and can play recreational sports together with their parents on weekends. Additional fees are paid for locker rooms in two recreational sports centers - Cary Street Gym and MCV Campus Recreational Center. Year-round rental of locker room in Cary Street Gym costs \$ 25, \$ 10 per one semester and \$ 5 per summer months. In MCV Campus Recreational Center the rental of locker room costs \$ 13 for the entire year and \$ 5 per one semester or summer months.⁴⁶

9.2.2 Advantages

Students, who pay compulsory school fees, which would pay anyway, can use first-class sport facilities and a large number of sports and sport programs for free. Sports Centres are luxurious, well equipped and organized, open every day for six hours at least, and throughout the year,⁴⁷ and offers a wide range of sporting activities – everything in one place. Facilities are in the area of two major university campuses - in the Monroe Park Campus and in the The Medical College of Virginia Campus (MCV Campus). Club members have also an opportunity to let their own sport equipment be controlled for free and they can also borrow sports equipment in the Outing Rental Center.⁴⁸

9.2.3 Sports Available

Offer of recreational sports at VCU is very broad. Recreational sports are available in the sport facilities like Cary Street Recreation Complex – it includes Cary Street Gym, Cary Street Field, the Outing Rental Center (sports equipment for the Outing Adventure Program) and Thalhimer Tennis Center, another yard is MCV Campus Recreation & Aquatic Center.⁴⁹ Available sports include Basketball, Badminton, Racquetball, Table Tennis, Volleyball, and Swimming, and Visitors can also use the Fitness Center, which offers a wide range of sport programs, mostly different kinds of group exercises. This

⁴⁶ See “Membership,” VCU Recreational Sports, <http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/about/membership.html> (accessed April 10, 2011).

⁴⁷ See “Facilities,” VCU Recreational Sports, <http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/facilities.html> (accessed April 11, 2011).

⁴⁸ See “Membership,” VCU Recreational Sports, <http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/about/membership.html> (accessed April 10, 2011).

⁴⁹ See “Informal Recreation,” VCU Recreational Sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/informal_rec.html (accessed April 12, 2011).

group exercises include the variety of Dance Exercises (Aerobics, Hip-Hop, Salsa, Zumba), Spinning, Conditioning Exercises, Martial Arts (like Capoeira, Tai Chi), Yoga, Pilates and Water Exercises.⁵⁰ Other sports are Bouldering and Rock Climbing, Tennis, Running / Walking on the indoor track, Indoor Soccer, Lacrosse, Field Hockey and Dodgeball, Squash and Box with boxing bag.⁵¹ Members can also enjoy a wide range of water sports in the MCV Campus Recreation & Aquatic Center, such as Swimming (Swimming lessons for young and old, beginners and advanced, group or private lessons) and variety of Water Exercise Programs, Fitness Swim and interested members can join Lifeguard and Water Safety Courses. There is also a relaxation center with leisure pool and vortex.⁵²

Very popular is also the Outdoor Adventure Program. This program includes low-cost outdoor activity-based trips during which members do Rafting, Kayaking, Rock Climbing, Canoeing, Caving, Hiking, Backpacking and skiing. Students do these activities at various surrounding rivers and lakes, rock formations, caves or stay right in the campus and use a climbing wall, or the Aquatic Center, where they have great conditions for most water activities. One trip costs from 5 to 22 dollars (90 to 400 CZK) plus the cost of rental equipment from Outing Rental Center.⁵³ Equipment for Outdoor Adventure Program, such as backpacks, tents, space bags, canoes, paddles, ski sets, climbing shoes and even stoves or even ice chests and other equipment, members can borrow in the Outing Rental Center for a very low fee, the students have them even little cheaper than other members of the Recreational Sports Club.⁵⁴

Every recreational sport facility has a scheduled time for various recreational sport activities during the day, for the whole week. These schedules are posted in the facilities,

⁵⁰ See “Group Exercise Classes,” VCU Recreational Sports, <http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/fitness/gec.html> (accessed April 12, 2011).

⁵¹ See “Informal Recreation,” VCU Recreational Sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/docs/Program_Guide_Informal_Recreation_Spring_2011.pdf (accessed April 10, 2011).

⁵² See “Aquatics,” VCU Recreational Sports, <http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/aquatics.html> (accessed April 15, 2011).

⁵³ See “Outdoor Adventure Program,” VCU Recreational Sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/outdoor_adventure.html (accessed April 15, 2011).

⁵⁴ See “Outing Rental Center,” VCU Recreational Sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/outdoor_adventure/outing_rental_center.html (accessed April 17, 2011).

where the sports take place, and also on the Recreational Sports website. During those times all members may participate in any kind of game or exercise.⁵⁵

9.3 Comparison

VCU Recreational sports are at a much higher level than TBU Recreational sport. They are highly developed, better organized and club members have a wider choice of sports and activities. There are 21 different sport activities available at TBU, but VCU has more than 30 basic sports available for club members. VCU club members also can obtain certificates in Lifeguard and Water Safety courses. After sport activities they can also use relaxation center with leisure pools and vortex.

All these sport activities are available at sport facilities owned by VCU itself. These facilities are not rented to the public, they are used only by Recreational Sports Club members, so they have much more time and space for playing sports. They have at least six hours a day, seven days a week reserved for sport recreation. TBU must rent ordinary commercial sport facilities even for their Compulsory Sport Activities, and usually only for a short period of time. These facilities are often very far from the university buildings. Recreational Sports Club members can play sport only during Compulsory Sport Activities, moreover only if the capacity of the facility is not full, because students involved in Compulsory Sports, are preferred over the Recreational Sports members. VCU Club members can play sport every day, including weekends, in addition throughout the whole year, Club members at TBU, for example, have only one day and three hours a week during Compulsory Sports available for their chosen sport activity, moreover they might not get a chance to play, because there is no free time and space for them to do the activity. Recreational sports at TBU are held only for 28 weeks a year during semesters, not more, not even during summer and winter breaks. (Svoboda, interview by author, Zlín) VCU offers Recreational Sports during the whole year including summer and winter breaks. VCU has two types of students - those who must pay fees for meals, accomodation, school equipment and other items, by themselves. These students have free access to the club. Other students who do not pay these fees, because they get a scholarship, which covers all

⁵⁵ See "Informal Recreation," VCU Recreational Sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/informal_rec.html (accessed April 17, 2011).

of these expenses, they pay the entrance fee \$ 61.66 per semester.⁵⁶ Nevertheless, VCU students have cheaper the acces to recreational sport, because TBU students must pay both a school costs, as well as recreational sports, VCU students pay only one or the other. However the TBU Recreational Sports members have the advantage that they pay just a membership fee, everything else associated with recreational sport is paid by the university. VCU Recreational athletes have to pay additional fees, such as locker room fees or team entry fee for team participating in recreational matches.

The big advantage for VCU students is an opportunity for Club members to borrow sports equipment for Outdoor Adventure Program in the Outing Rental Center. There is equipment for activities like Kayaking, Caving, Skiing, Hiking, Rock Climbing and other sports like that. Students pay for the borrowing of equipment, but very low fees. TBU does not offer most of these sports, only Skiing and Rock Climbing, but students must have their own equipment for these sports.

The most visible difference is that VCU students have much better access to recreational sports, because sports facilities are located right in the middle of the main campuses. Moreover, these facilities are owned by the VCU, they are accessible to at least 6 hours a day, 7 days a week, so students can use them any time during scheduled hours and there is not a possibility that they have no chance to play sport because of the lecture or seminar held during the same time as they want to do sports. The VCU has also a greater choice of sports and sport facilities and equipment are at a higher level.

⁵⁶ See "Membership," VCU Recreational Sports, <http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/about/membership.html> (accessed April 10, 2011).

10 SPORT COMPETITIONS

10.1 Tomas Bata University in Zlín

TBU achieved many successes in a field of competitive sport. The Institution of Physical Education and Sport and VŠSK cooperate together and look after the running of several sport teams, which represent the university at various events and competitions, or are part of some league. There are teams in sports such as Volleyball (men and women), Tennis (men and women), Floorball (men) Squash (men), Basketball (men), Indoor Soccer (men), Tae Kwon Do (men), Ice Hockey (men) and Judo (men). (Melichárek, interview by author, Zlín)

Each of these college teams has reached different levels and different successes. VŠSK University Volleyball Team plays Zlin regional women's league, but this team also participated in other competitions and tournaments, where achieved great successes. For example, on the International women's volleyball tournament Balaton Kupa in Veszprém (Hungary) in September they won ended on the 4th place and obtained an award for the best foreign team.⁵⁷ The Tennis team VŠSK University Zlin played county Tennis league in the season 2010/2011 and moved to the regional league, which will play next season as well. Men's university squash team plays third highest squash competition in the Czech Republic. Club members of university Taekwon-do team are not part of any competition so far, they only train under the auspices of the University. TBU sometimes create one-off sport teams and allow them to compete at various tournaments, and these teams represent the TBU, for example, at Czech Academic Games, Czech Republic Championships etc. For example, there was created men's volleyball team, men's floorball team, men's indoor soccer team and some more and these teams participated in the Czech Academic Games, which is the most prestigious university tournament in the Czech Republic and they achieved a lot of great successes during years.⁵⁸ For example, TBU hockey team participated in these Czech Academic Games and won the first place.⁵⁹

⁵⁷ See “Hráčky UTB nejlepším zahraničním týmem na volejbalovém turnaji v Maďarsku,” [sport.utb.cz](http://sport.utb.cz/aktuality/hracky-utb-nejlepsim-zahranicnim-tymem-na-volejbalovem-turnaji-v-madarsku), <http://sport.utb.cz/aktuality/hracky-utb-nejlepsim-zahranicnim-tymem-na-volejbalovem-turnaji-v-madarsku> (accessed April 12, 2011).

⁵⁸ See Zdeněk Melichárek, “Historie Sportu UTB,” Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, <http://sport.utb.cz/files/soubory/historie-sportu-utb.pdf> (accessed May 2, 2011).

Competitive sport of TBU, however, is not so developed. Volleyball, tennis and hockey players have already reached many successes, but others are waiting for some bigger success. TBU does not have much money for the development of competitive sports. This level of sport is supported by a few sponsors; most of these are companies that cooperate with the TBU in some way, or firms owned by former graduates of the university. From 100.000 to 150.000 CZK is available for this competitive sport. This money is from the school budget and partly from those sponsors mentioned. This money is used for example for smaller rewards for successful students, transportation to tournaments, food, dress, etc.

Students, who participate in competitions, usually have their own sports equipment. Tryouts are just voluntary and are not held very often, team members can find on the website of VŠSK or at the university building U5, home of the Institution of Physical Education and Sport of TBU.⁶⁰ There is no complex system of recruitment, the students are members of the team voluntarily or are convinced by a leader of sports activities or by the Director of the Institution of Physical Education and Sport (Mgr. Zdeněk Melichárek Ph.D), who noticed them and offer them membership in the club. Students may not perform any limits, do not need to have a good academic performance or do not sign any treaty that would oblige them to something. Competitive sport at the TBU is basically another option for recreational sports. (Melichárek, interview by author, Zlín)

10.2 Virginia Commonwealth University

10.2.1 Intramural Sports

Intramural Sports are a part of Recreational Sports. It is about recreational games and competitions between teams made of only VCU students. Students simply create a team together with their fellow classmates, make the team roster and complete an application form and deliver it to the Intramural Office, which seats at Cary Street Gym, pay the entry fee and compete or play games only against other students of the same campus, which they

⁵⁹ See “ Hokejisté UTB jsou mistry České republiky!“, sport.utb.cz, <http://sport.utb.cz/> (accessed April 12, 2011).

⁶⁰ See “Vysokoškolský sportovní klub (VŠSK UNIVERZITA ZLÍN),“ Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, http://web.fame.utb.cz/?id=0_2_8_0&iid=19&lang=cs&type=0 (accessed April 12, 2011).

live in.⁶¹ Every team has a captain, which is intended to attend the captain's meetings in order to find out the games schedule and other important information. Game schedules and referees of games are handled by the Intramural Sports Coordinator.⁶² Teams may request a rescheduling of the match, but only with the agreement of the opponent team and it must be reported at least one day before the scheduled time. If the team does not come to play the match in a scheduled time without an excuse, it will be fined by the program supervisor. If a team does it twice, it will be excluded from the program of Intramural Sports.⁶³ Teams also receive a rating of "fair play" on a scale of 1 to 10 points. Each team must receive at least 7 points average for the first part of the season. If the rating is lower, a team is not eligible to make the play-offs in intramural games. If a team gets a rating lower than 7 in the playoffs, it is disqualified.⁶⁴

10.2.2 Sport Clubs

At VCU, there exist sports clubs, which belongs also to the category of recreational sports. Any student or university employee, who is a member of the Recreational Sports Club, and who wants to improve in a particular sport or wants to play some sport at least at a lower competitive level, can join one of the clubs. Sports Club is a student organization registered at Department of Recreational Sports of VCU. All sport clubs are represented by the Sport Club Council and affiliated to the Recreational Sports Department. This council provides a leadership and coordination of all sport clubs, but all matters inside individual clubs are controlled and managed by members of the club themselves. Members also train themselves by arrangement with other club members. Trainings are with different frequencies in every club, some of them meet regularly every week while in other club it depends on the

⁶¹ See "Intramural Sports," VCU Recreational Sports,
http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/docs/Program_Guide_Intramurals_Spring_2011.pdf (accessed April 15,2011).

⁶² See "Sport Clubs", VCU Recreational Sports,
http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/docs/Program_Guide_Sport_Clubs_Spring_2011.pdf (accessed April 15,2011).

⁶³ See "Intramural Sports," VCU Recreational Sports,
http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/docs/Program_Guide_Intramurals_Spring_2011.pdf (accessed April 15,2011).

⁶⁴ See "Intramural Sports," VCU Recreational Sports,
http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/docs/Program_Guide_Intramurals_Spring_2011.pdf (accessed April 15,2011).

agreement of all members.⁶⁵ Clubs compete only with other universities. Sport Club members are not covered under University Insurance, so if they get hurt during a match, they do not get a financial compensation from the VCU. The Sports Club Council or Student Government Association may partially fund sports teams, but just occasionally, and these funds cover only a part of expenditures. The main source of money is from club members themselves and sometimes from dues which the club wins at competitions. Another contribution for students is that because they have to run and govern everything in the club by themselves, they obtain leadership skills, because they have to take care of fund raising, public relations, budgeting, administration and scheduling within the club. Some of the clubs have their own webpages managed by one or more members of a certain club. There players and also fans can check all necessary pieces of information like schedule of matches, profiles of the players etc. There are sport clubs in these kinds of sports: Baseball, Basketball, Crew, Cycling, Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Judo, Lacrosse, Volleyball, Rugby, Softball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Ultimate Frisbee, Whitewater and Tennis.⁶⁶

10.2.3 Varsity Athletics

Varsity athletics is a specific sport department, which is funded by the university.⁶⁷ VCU Athletics is one of a lot of members of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), which is the governing body for all members and has many rules and laws that each member must follow and observe. NCAA has three main divisions and also a lot of different conferences in which member universities compete and VCU belongs to the NCAA Division I and plays in the conference called Colonial Athletic Association.⁶⁸

⁶⁵ See "Sport Clubs", VCU Recreational Sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/sport_clubs.html (accessed April 15, 2011).

⁶⁶ See "SPORT CLUBS," VCU Recreational Sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/docs/Program_Guide_Sport_Clubs_Spring_2011.pdf (accessed April 15, 2011).

⁶⁷ See "SPORT CLUBS," VCU Recreational Sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/docs/Program_Guide_Sport_Clubs_Spring_2011.pdf (accessed April 15, 2011).

⁶⁸ See "Division I Members", NCAA Members By Division, <http://web1.ncaa.org/onlineDir/exec/divisionListing> (accessed April 15, 2011).

VCU Varsity athletics includes seven men's teams and seven women's teams. There is men's baseball team, basketball team, cross-country team, golf team, soccer team, tennis team and track and field team and women have basketball team, cross-country team, field hockey team, soccer team, tennis team, track and field team and volleyball team.⁶⁹ All these teams use an official nickname of the VCU - "Rams". The VCU Athletics department employs 111 people, such as Directors, Advisors, Coordinators, Managers, Trainers, Physicians, and Doctors etc. This staff works in 11 main offices, which are Administration, Academic Advising, Athletic Communication and Media Services, Business Services, Compliance and Student Services, Development and Ram Athletic Fund, Marketing and Sponsorships, Siegel Center and Facilities, Sports Medicine, Strength and Conditioning and Ticket Office. Each of the 14 teams also has its own department, which includes Coaches, Directors of Operations, and Trainers etc.⁷⁰ All these offices take care of 260 VCU student-athletes.⁷¹

Varsity athletics is a sports level, which is very similar to professional sports in many ways. Only talented and very carefully selected students can become a part of VCU Rams. Coaches often go to high school sporting events as scouts looking for new talented high school students. When they find them, they watch them for some time, and can offer them the opportunity to study at VCU and to be a team member in a selected sport. Students must meet all conditions for enrollment to the VCU and also for recruitment to the team such as required study results at high school, various test scores, courses completed etc.⁷² University athletics physician must also approve the student's health.⁷³ If students meet all the requirements for admission (if they are eligible), they are enrolled to the VCU and also

⁶⁹ See "Sports," VCUATHLETIC.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/landing/index> (accessed April 15, 2011).

⁷⁰ See "VCU Athletics Staff Directory", VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/information/directory/index> (accessed April 15, 2011).

⁷¹ See "About the Ram Athletic Fund," RAM ATHLETIC FUND, <http://www.ramathleticfund.com/about-us> (accessed April 16, 2011).

⁷² See "Academic-Eligibility Requirements," 2009-10 Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete, <http://vcuathletics.tv/comp/pdf/2008-09College-BoundStudent-Athlete.pdf>, (accessed April 17, 2011).

⁷³ See "Incoming Student-Athletes," VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/information/AthleticTraining> (accessed April 17, 2011).

recruited to a selected team. Students can also get a scholarship, either a full scholarship, which covers the cost of tuition, accommodation, meals and books, or only partial, which covers only some of these school costs. Head coach allocates these scholarships and also decides about the amount. Each sport has different levels of budget. The budget depends on the popularity of the sport. For example, Basketball and Baseball are among the most popular sports and therefore have more sponsors and donors, so they have a higher budget and more money for scholarships. Other sports such as Tennis or Cross-Country are less popular and therefore also have fewer donors and sponsors, and a lower budget. If students want to retain the scholarship during the years of study, they must have good study results, otherwise the scholarship is lowered or taken away at all and students can no longer be a part of the team.⁷⁴

When students are enrolled to the university and recruited to the team, they enjoy the sport on a very high level. For example, university volleyball or basketball teams play their home games in the Verizon Wireless Arena, which has a capacity of 7.500 seats and the VCU Rams games are often completely filled with people from the whole Richmond despite the fact that people must buy a ticket for games. VCU Rams also fly by plane to away games to distant cities and also they get some equipment such as jerseys, shoes etc. for free.⁷⁵ Rams also have their own mascot called Rodney the Ram⁷⁶ and own spirit squads, which include the cheerleaders (team of cheerleaders is coached by professional trainers), the Dance Team (also coached by a professional trainer and choreographer), VCU Pep Band (fans who support the Rams with musical instruments during matches) and also "Rowdy Rams" (that is a branch of Ram Athletic Fund, consisting of student-fans who support the Rams during the games, go with them to away games and also help them to look for sponsors and fundraisers). For their support, members of the "Rowdy Rams" get T-shirts in colors of VCU Rams and they wear them during matches, they also receive discounts at campus restaurants, tickets to some other university tournaments, etc.⁷⁷ NCAA

⁷⁴ Lenka Melichárková, e-mail message to author, April 13, 2011

⁷⁵ Melichárková, e-mail message, April 13, 2011

⁷⁶ See "Rodney he Ram," Virginia Commonwealth University, <http://rodney.vcu.edu/> (accessed April 17, 2011).

⁷⁷ See "Spirit Squads," VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/information/SpiritSquads> (accessed April 13, 2011).

matches are broadcasted on television very often such as ESPN and the VCU Rams basketball game against Butler Bulldogs was in the television broadcast live on April 2, 2011.⁷⁸ Also journalists attend matches and do interviews with players and coaches and VCU Rams are also promoted in local newspapers and television stations as well.⁷⁹

However the main goal of the NCAA is not to grow great athletes, but to encourage student-athletes to graduate.⁸⁰ Student-athletes are primarily students, not athletes. They must therefore cope with all study requirements as other classmates, and must also have minimum prescribed learning outcomes if they want to retain eligibility for scholarship⁸¹ and also stay in the team. However, student-athletes must train at least three times a week and go to the gym, so they have it hard, plus they spend a few days off school to go to away games. Professors excuse student's absence partly if the absence is due to the match and this is confirmed by the team coach. Student-athletes also have some spare dates for tests and they can also take advantage of tutors who help them catch up on these subject matter tests.⁸²

Varsity Athletic at VCU is funded by the University through the Ram Athletic Fund. This fund is the main source of budget of Varsity sports. Companies and individuals enter into this program and contribute cash or other gifts to all teams. The money from this fund covers scholarships for student-athletes, the development of coach programs, sports equipment, travel to away games, etc. Sponsors and donors receive gifts for their contribution, for example tickets to matches, T-shirts, discounts in campus restaurants, companies have a great advertisement during matches etc. The Ram Athletic Fund is lifeblood for the whole varsity athletics.⁸³ Other sources to the budget are revenues of

⁷⁸ See "Virginia Commonwealth Rams," ESPN Men's Basketball, http://espn.go.com/mens-college-basketball/team/_/id/2670/virginia-commonwealth-rams (accessed April 17, 2011).

⁷⁹ See "Media Policies," VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/information/MediaRelations> (accessed April 17, 2011).

⁸⁰ See "Description of DI academic philosophy," National Collegiate Athletic Association, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/Academics/Division+I/> (accessed April 17, 2011).

⁸¹ See "Satisfactory Academic Progress," VCU Enrollment Services, <http://www.enrollment.vcu.edu/finaid/progress.html> (accessed April 17, 2011).

⁸² Melichárková, e-mail message, April 13, 2011

⁸³ See "About the Ram Athletic Fund," Ram Athletic Fund, <http://www.ramathleticfund.com/about-us> (accessed April 17, 2011).

NCAA distributed to the member universities.⁸⁴ These sources include, for example, the money that the NCAA receives for televised matches and other media relations. As already mentioned, the varsity athletics are a member of the NCAA, so it must comply with all NCAA rules and regulations, for example, for admissions, financial aid, eligibility of students and recruiting of them.⁸⁵

10.3 Comparison

Sports at VCU are divided into the Intramural Sports, Sport Clubs and Varsity Athletics. Intramural Sports and Sport Clubs are part of the recreational sport⁸⁶, but still offer some degree of competition. These activities are intended for members of the Recreational Sports Club. Intramural Sports participants compete with fellow students from their faculty or campus.⁸⁷ Each team has a captain, they get points for fair play, and there is also an option to be in play-offs of Intramural League. The teams pay the fines for failure to comply with the commitments and agreements, because Intramural Sports include mainly team sports, so this ensures that when the other responsible recreational athletes want to play some sport, it will not be canceled for lack of participants. This form of competition is not too time consuming and fitness demanding, there are no big requirements, but it is well run and organized and participants have to be responsible. If students want mainly to study and also experience the atmosphere of competition in sport, Intramurals are a great option for them. They can choose from a wide range of sporting activities, can meet with other students, maintain good health and good physical condition and can also let off steam of the study.

Sport Clubs are also included in Recreational Sports; therefore they are intended for members of the Recreational Sports Club. The level of competition is a little higher than in Intramural Sports. Sport Clubs compete with other clubs from surrounding universities.

⁸⁴ See “Undergraduate Scholarships,” National Collegiate Athletic Association, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/ncaa/academics/undergraduate+scholarships> (accessed April 17, 2011).

⁸⁵ See “Obligations of Member Institutions”, 2009-2010 NCAA Division I Manual, <http://vcuathletics.tv/comp/resources/2009-10%20NCAA%20Manual.pdf> (accessed April 16, 2011).

⁸⁶ See “Home page of VCU Recreational Sports,” VCU Recreational Sports, <http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/index.html> (accessed April 16, 2011).

⁸⁷ See “Intramural Sports,” VCU Recreational Sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/docs/Program_Guide_Intramurals_Spring_2011.pdf (accessed April 15, 2011).

The Sports Club is a student organization registered at the Recreational Sports Department and represented by the Sport Club Council, but members of each club control all affairs by themselves. They organize trainings and take care of public relations. Clubs might also have sponsors, or they might get some money for winning tournaments, but all clubs are sponsored mainly by their own members.⁸⁸ The level of Intramural Sports and Sport Clubs is similar to TBU competitive sport. This is a recreational sport at both universities, the members do not have to perform some required study results or limits in order to keep the membership in a team or club, but on the other hand they must be responsible to some extent. TBU teams compete with other university teams at recreational matches or at prestigious academic tournaments, such as Academic Championship of the Czech Republic. In case of the victory at the Academic Championship of the Czech Republic they may advance to the World Academic Championships, where they compete against students from other universities too. Some TBU teams, such as volleyball and tennis teams, use the name of TBU and represent it, but they are part of some common league, which has nothing to do with the TBU. In this case they compete also with people from the general public. (Melichárek, interview by author, Zlín) Members of the VCU teams compete only with their classmates or students from other universities. This kind of competitive sport is much better organized at VCU than at TBU. Teams on VCU log on to the matches via the internet and if they do not come to play the match, pay fines or could be excluded from these programs of recreational competitions. VCU also has several sport facilities for training. Members of the VCU sports clubs, however, pay everything they need for the club, or they can win cash prizes at tournaments. Exceptionally they may obtain some money from VCU Student Government Association or Sport Club Council, but it is only for covering necessary expenses.⁸⁹ TBU participants pay nothing except the entry fee to VŠSK, the school sponsors everything. Participants at both universities may get rewards for good results in tournaments and competitions, but in case of TBU it is just only to cover

⁸⁸ See "Sport Clubs", VCU Recreational Sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/docs/Program_Guide_Sport_Clubs_Spring_2011.pdf (accessed April 15, 2011).

⁸⁹ See "Sport Clubs", VCU Recreational Sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/docs/Program_Guide_Sport_Clubs_Spring_2011.pdf (accessed April 15, 2011).

necessary expenses. VCU has also a much greater choice of sports and has more clubs and teams. There are 16 Sport Club teams and numerous Intramural Sports teams. Each VCU student can make any team in any available sport.

But any form of competitive sport at the TBU is not comparable with the Varsity Sports program at VCU. This program consists of seven men and seven women teams in different sports and it is a member of NCAA Division I and one of its conferences - the Colonial Athletic Association. There are strict NCAA rules, which all the people involved must comply with. VCU has 260 students-athletes altogether⁹⁰ and 111 employees⁹¹ take care of them. The student-athletes are amateurs, and therefore can take no salary for sports, but on the other hand, they can get a scholarship. Some students get a partial scholarship, but others can get a full scholarship that covers all the main costs of student life - tuition, books, meals and housing. Full scholarship can be up to \$ 20,000 per semester, so even though the student-athletes must not take a salary for sports, it is advantageous for them because they have covered all expenses and money received from parents they can keep for their own use. (Melichárková, interview by author, Zlín) Up to 7.500 spectators attend the university games, especially basketball, which is one of the most popular sports. The matches are on television and also journalists go to matches and do post-match interviews with players and coaches.⁹² Teams have their own cheerleaders, Pep Band, Dance Team, "Rowdy Rams"⁹³ and teams fly by a plane to away games. VCU Rams also have plenty of sponsors and donors supporting the Varsity Athletics program with money and gifts.⁹⁴

⁹⁰ See "About the Ram Athletic Fund," RAM ATHLETIC FUND, <http://www.ramathleticfund.com/about-us> (accessed April 16, 2011).

⁹¹ See "VCU Athletics Staff Directory", VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/information/directory/index> (accessed April 15, 2011).

⁹² See "Media Policies," VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/information/MediaRelations> (accessed April 17, 2011).

⁹³ See "Spirti Squads," VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/information/SpiritSquads> (accessed April 15, 2011).

⁹⁴ See "About the Ram Athletic Fund," RAM ATHLETIC FUND, <http://www.ramathleticfund.com/about-us> (accessed April 16, 2011).

The level of Intramural Sports and Sport Clubs is comparable to competitive sport at TBU, but VCU sport is better organized, more accessible for students and there is a greater choice of sports. Members of TBU teams have the advantage of not paying as much as the members of teams and clubs at VCU, but the level of equipment, facilities and organization is much higher at VCU. In addition, TBU does not offer any kind of competitive sports at least somehow comparable to the Varsity Athletics at VCU, because it is a level similar to professional sports in many aspects. On the other hand, these Varsity athletics programs are often criticized, not only at VCU, but at all American universities. Experts say that student-athletes are engaged more in their sport than in studying. Another statement says that student-athletes have far worse results of university entrance tests than other candidates.⁹⁵ But according to NCAA rules, students must have mainly great study results and. If they have poor academic performance, they make the team average study performance results worse, and it can lead to penalties for the team and also the whole Varsity sports program that start with a warning letter and ends with exclusion of the whole program from NCAA Division I.⁹⁶ What is more, student-athletes have no advantages about the study. They have to fulfil all the requirements to get a credit, they have to pass all exams, write all essays, they have to do all homeworks and projects as their classmates. This shows that the main aim of NCAA is to encourage talented students to obtain a college degree even though they play a high-level sport. What is more, another study has shown that student-athletes are more competitive⁹⁷ and earn more money in their jobs than their former classmates. This fact is true especially for men.⁹⁸

⁹⁵ See James L. Shulman and William G. Bowen, *The Game of Life: College Sports and Educational Values* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2002), 260.

⁹⁶ See “How is the Academic Progress Rate calculated?“, National Collegiate Athletic Association, <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/NCAA/Academics/Division+I/How+is+APR+calculated> (accessed April 17, 2011).

⁹⁷ See Shulman, Bowen, *The Game of Life: College Sports and Educational Values*, 260.

⁹⁸ See Shulman, Bowen, *The Game of Life: College Sports and Educational Values*, 263.

11 FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

11.1 Tomas Bata University in Zlín

The TBU does not have a lot of sport facilities in a private ownership. One of the few is a chalet in Javorniky Mountains in location called Portáš-Kohútka. Staff and students of the former Faculty of Technology started to build this chalet in 1971. Despite it is used also by public, it is used mainly as an educational and recreational center for TBU students and staff. It is mainly used for ski training courses, because in the vicinity of the chalet is a popular ski region, full of downhill courses and tracks. TBU staff and student have a cheaper accommodation there than people from public.⁹⁹

University building U5 offers plenty of opportunities for sport too. Inside this building there are two gyms, the first one is quite large, the second one is smaller. Another facility that can be found at U5 is well-equipped gym for bodybuilding and a room equipped with spinning bikes for indoor cycling. In the gyms there are played sports like Floorball, Indoor Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball and other ball games. Also Aerobic, Aikido, Tai Ji Quan, Taekwondo and other appropriate sport activities take place there.¹⁰⁰ The necessary sports equipment such as balls, hockey sticks, nets and more things can be borrowed in the gyms, because the university purchased this equipment for students, so they do not have to have their own. Another facility, which the university uses for sport and partly owns, is a small gym in the university building U10. However, this gym is rarely used, because it is not well-equipped, so there is not a lot of a possibility to use it for sport.

Tomas Bata University does not have in private ownership a lot of sport centers, so that is why it often hires high-quality sport facilities in the center of Zlín and its surroundings. These venues are hired out regularly for certain hours every week and the University receives a lot of discounts very often, because they often use these centers at the time of day that would otherwise remain empty. For example, the morning hours of working days in sports centers are often unused because adult people are working and

⁹⁹ See "Chata na Portáši," Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, http://web.utb.cz/?id=0_0_22_5&lang=cs&type=0 (accessed April 10, 2011).

¹⁰⁰ See Zdeněk Melichárek, "Pokyny pro organizaci povinných sportovních aktivit 2011 - letní semestr," Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, http://web.fame.utb.cz/?lang=cs&id=0_2_8_3&type= (accessed April 10, 2011).

children are at school. Therefore, it is convenient for both sides – for the university and also for sport center. Another advantage is that sports centers lend university students the necessary equipment such as balls, ammunition, rackets and sticks and so on. (Svoboda, interview by author, Zlín)

University very often uses sports hall owned by the Secondary Technical School (Střední průmyslová škola) in Zlín. This hall is located just about 400 meters from the main university building U2. Students use the hall for a large number of sporting activities. These include Indoor Soccer, Volleyball, Floorball, Basketball and other ball sports. Tomas Bata University does not own any tennis courts. For this purpose, the university hires a few tennis courts in the tennis complex in Zlin-Mladcová.¹⁰¹ These courts are considered to be the best in Zlín and they are also very expensive. But the university gets a great discount for using the courts in the hours when they are often empty. In winter months only indoor hard courts are used, but during the main season also open clay courts are used. TBU also purchased the most important sports equipment - a few baskets with high-quality balls and some tennis rackets for students to borrow so that they do not have to have their own. (Svoboda, interview by author, Zlín)

Among the most popular sports at the university is definitely swimming. Unfortunately, Tomas Bata University does not own any swimming pool, so it has to hire the town swimming pool. University has a half of the main pool reserved for their swimming trainings in certain hours and in this time the public are not allowed to swim there. Among other facilities the university use for sporting activities is the gym of the Jednota Orel in Zlin, where students go to trainings of Thai box. Students logged on to climbing, use the small gym in the university building U10 and a climbing tower, which is located near the city ski slopes in Zlin. Students log on to the Soccer, use the soccer stadium of FC Paseky Zlin. The university also does not own any squash courts, so it hires the squash hall in Zlín-Malenovice for their squash trainings.¹⁰² This squash hall is at a

¹⁰¹ See Zdeněk Melichárek, “Pokyny pro organizaci povinných sportovních aktivit 2011 - letní semestr,” Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, http://web.fame.utb.cz/?lang=cs&id=0_2_8_3&type= (accessed April 10, 2011).

¹⁰² See Zdeněk Melichárek, “Pokyny pro organizaci povinných sportovních aktivit 2011 - letní semestr,” Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, http://web.fame.utb.cz/?lang=cs&id=0_2_8_3&type= (accessed April 10, 2011).

very high level and you can find there courts of the highest quality in Zlín district. Therefore, these courts are very expensive, but the University has also special prices that are much lower than standard prices for public, because it leases hours of workdays when the courts would otherwise remain empty. Therefore, it is convenient for both sides - the university and also squash club. They are squash racquets and balls purchased by university available for students, so they do not have the necessary equipment to carry out from home. This year a new kind of sport is offered to students, known as K2 hiking. This sport is held very close to the university building U5 in Bamboo Club.¹⁰³

If students do some compulsory sport activity, they do not pay anything. Rentals of facilities, sports equipment and instructors are paid by the university. Student members of the VŠSK pay only a membership fee and then they can use all the available sports and equipment the university offers. The only sporting activities, which students must pay partly, are skiing and boating trips, but even these are in the large extent subsidized by the university. (Melichárek, interview by author, Zlín)

11.2 Virginia Commonwealth University

For the purposes of recreational and competitive sport, the school has a large number of sport facilities and equipment. Some owned by VCU, others are owned by the city or private owner and the VCU rents them and share them with others, often with professional sport clubs.

11.2.1 Verizon Wireless Arena at the Stuart C. Siegel Center

VCU greatest pride is certainly a multifunctional sports arena called the Verizon Wireless Arena, located in the Stuart C. Siegel Center in the middle of Richmond. This Arena provides a multi-purpose indoor facility of the highest quality that is able to accommodate varsity athletics of Division I NCAA. The Arena also serves for a lot of great special events such as concerts, big meetings of VCU etc. It is the home arena for basketball and volleyball teams VCU varsity athletics. Arena has a capacity of 7,500 seats and includes all the amenities you find in professional sports arenas for games of this kind. There have been

¹⁰³ See Zdeněk Melichárek, "Pokyny pro organizaci povinných sportovních aktivit 2011 - letní semestr," Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, http://web.fame.utb.cz/?lang=cs&id=0_2_8_3&type= (accessed April 10, 2011).

completely refurbished locker rooms and also a new film room called Barkley Room was built there, where team meetings and scouting sessions are held. The Arena also has locker rooms for visiting teams, officials, coaches and also there is an athletic training facility. The Arena served as a training camp facility for the NBA club Washington Wizards.¹⁰⁴ Player locker rooms are equipped with ice, hydrocollator packs, electrical stimulation, ultrasound and a warm whirlpool.¹⁰⁵

11.2.2 Cary Street Field

Cary Street Field is a stadium for field hockey and it is located just two blocks from one of the main campuses. The surface is newly refurbished and there is a high-quality artificial grass. The stadium has a capacity of 1,200 spectators. In 1992 there took place the NCAA Field Hockey Championship and record 1,219 spectators came to the Stadium to watch VCU field hockey team. The popularity of field hockey at VCU is growing nowadays. More and more students play this sport and fans actively support the club.¹⁰⁶

11.2.3 VCU Sports Backers Stadium

This stadium is used for two sports - Soccer and Track and Field. The stadium was opened on 25th August 1999 and ten years of its existence hosted several competitions and championships, such as USA Track & Field Junior National Championships, the CAA Track & Field Championships, four NCAA Tournament soccer games and the Virginia High School Track & Field Championships. The stadium serves as a high-quality training center for elite athletes of the VCU, but it is also used as a large storage shed for sport equipment. At the stadium are three dressing rooms, two-tier press box, luxury skyboxes, and offices. Seating capacity is 3,000 seats. The surface is covered by the highest-quality grass, which makes great conditions for Soccer. The running track is also of the highest

¹⁰⁴ See “Verizon Wireless Arena at the Stuart C. Siegel Center,” VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/facilities/sc> (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹⁰⁵ See “Virginia Commonwealth University Athletic Department Visitor’s Guide,” VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/VisitorsGuide.pdf> (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹⁰⁶ See “Cary Street Field,” VCUATHLETICS.COM, http://www.vcuathletics.com/facilities/carey_street (accessed April 5, 2011).

quality as well as equipment for the HighJump, landing pit and throwing facility (a place for discus throw).¹⁰⁷

11.2.4 The Diamond

It is the home stadium of Richmond Flying Squirrels, a baseball team of Minor League Baseball (MiLB), but VCU leases this venue also for its baseball team VCU Rams. The arena was opened in 1985. The playing surface is covered with high-quality natural grass. The stadium is managed by the Richmond Metropolitan Authority and the VCU leases it for its men's baseball team. At The Diamond stadium can seat up to 12,134 spectators, but far more of them, of course, go to games of Richmond Flying Squirrels. The highest attendance of the VCU baseball was 2,237 spectators. The stadium has also a restaurant with 150 seats, where guests have a great view to the playing surface. There are also 15 superboxes for corporate and private events. There is a spacious press box and space for television and radio broadcasting and photographers. The stadium hosted two All-Star Games of International League in 1985 and 1992.¹⁰⁸

11.2.5 Thalhimer Tennis Center

The tennis center is one of the finest sport facilities owned by VCU. It is located in the middle of the Monroe Park Campus. There are also lights used for night play, because the tennis center is opened 24 hours a day. During the winter months courts are covered with an air roof called "The Bubble". There are six tennis courts with hard surface and also an auditorium for 300 spectators and a new scoreboard for matches.¹⁰⁹

11.2.6 Franklin Street Gym

It is well-equipped gym, with a refurbished floor, a filming tower and a film sessions area, where players meet to watch various videos, such as opponents' previous matches. There are two basketball courts with six basketball baskets, which is great for training of various

¹⁰⁷ See "Sports Backers Stadium," VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/facilities/backers> (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹⁰⁸ See "The Diamond," VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/facilities/diamond> (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹⁰⁹ See "Thalhimer Tennis Center," VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/facilities/thalhimer> (accessed April 5, 2011).

game situations and actions. There are also several rooms for individual training and players have an access to the Gym 24 hours a day.¹¹⁰

11.2.7 Other facilities

There are also a lot of facilities used more or less for recreational sports, for example the Cary Street Gym. This gym offers Recreational Sports Club members a great sport facility, equipped by two heated indoor pools - activity pool and leisure pool, great fitness center with over 185 pieces of fitness equipment, televisions, four courts for Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton and Table Tennis, indoor turf for Soccer, Dodgeball and other sports of this kind, indoor running track, stretching studio and indoor-cycling studio and much more equipment.¹¹¹

MCV Campus Recreation and Aquatic Center is also used primarily for recreational sports and it is equipped by fitness center, 25-meter pool with heated spa and a lift, several courts for Racquetball, Squash, Badminton and Volleyball and there is also Martial Arts studio.¹¹²

Outing Rental Center is a facility serving for renting of equipment necessary for Outdoor Adventure Program activities. The equipment such as backpacks, canoes and paddles, helmets, tents, sleeping bags, climbing shoes, skis or even ice chests and things like that are available in this Center for renting.¹¹³

11.3 Comparison

VCU level of equipment is far higher than the TBU at first glance. VCU owns at least five top-quality sport facilities for varsity athletics and two for recreational sport and leases only

¹¹⁰ See “Franklin Street Gym,” VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/facilities/franklin> (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹¹¹ See “Cary Street Gym,” VCU Recreational sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/facilities/cary_st_complex.html (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹¹² See “MCV Campus Recreation and Aquatic Center,” VCU Recreational sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/facilities/mcv_rec_center.html (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹¹³ See “Outing Rental Center,” VCU Recreational sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/outdoor_adventure/outing_rental_center.html (accessed April 5, 2011).

the baseball stadium called "The Diamond".¹¹⁴ TBU owns only sport facilities, located in the university building U5 and U10 and a chalet in Portáš-Kohútka in Javorníky Mountains.¹¹⁵ In the building U5 there are two gyms, a room equipped with spinning bicycles for indoor cycling and a fitness center for bodybuilding. Gyms are used for sports such as Basketball, Floorball, Soccer, Volleyball or Aerobic and other dance exercises.¹¹⁶ Gym in building U10 is not used very often because of the low level of its equipment. Facilities owned by the TBU are used mainly for compulsory sport activities or training some university teams. These facilities are not opened 24 hours a day and also not on the weekends, for example for recreational sports. The university rents the gym at U5 for public, but very rarely. For most of other sport activities TBU needs to rent facilities, but they are often very far from the university buildings, and they are leased only for a few hours a week mainly for compulsory sport activities, so recreational sportsmen have not so much time and space to play sports recreationally. (Melichárek, interview by author, Zlín) Most facilities of VCU are open 24 hours a day, especially for trainings of student-athletes and for recreational purposes are available for at least half a day on weekdays and all day on weekends.¹¹⁷ Sport equipment at VCU is on a very high level. Facilities for varsity athletics even have space for television broadcasts, press boxes for journalists, the film rooms for players and some of them have also restaurants and each of these varsity sport facilities have seating for spectators. Thalhimmer Tennis Center has only 300 seats for fans¹¹⁸, but for example, Verizon Wireless Arena has 7,500 seats.¹¹⁹ Skyboxes and

¹¹⁴ See "Facilities," VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/landing/index> (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹¹⁵ See "Chata na Portáši," Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, http://web.utb.cz/?id=0_0_22_5&lang=cs&type=0 (accessed April 10, 2011).

¹¹⁶ See Zdeněk Melichárek, "Pokyny pro organizaci povinných sportovních aktivit 2011 - letní semestr," Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, http://web.fame.utb.cz/?lang=cs&id=0_2_8_3&type= (accessed April 10, 2011).

¹¹⁷ See "Facilities," VCU Recreational sports, <http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/facilities.html> (accessed April 5, 2011); "Facilities," VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/landing/index> (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹¹⁸ See "Thalhimer Tennis Center," VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/facilities/thalhimer> (accessed April 5, 2011).

Superboxes for private and corporate meetings are here, too. Players have ice, hydrocollator packs, electrical stimulation, ultrasound and warm whirlpool prepared in the locker room during matches.¹²⁰ Regeneration is also very important for athletes. VCU has a relaxation center for these purposes - MCV Campus Recreation and Aquatic Center, where athletes can find leisure pools with spa and vortex.¹²¹ VCU has also the Outing Rental Center, where students may borrow equipment such as tents, sleeping bags, skis, helmets, canoes and paddles and other equipment for the Outdoor Adventure Program.¹²² Owning of sport facilities and the possibility of renting equipment makes the sport available for more VCU students. TBU students do not have as many opportunities to play sports as VCU students, because the TBU has to lease most of the sport facilities. TBU does not have any equipment that students can borrow, if they do not have their own equipment, they cannot play some sport offered by TBU. TBU students can borrow just necessary equipment, such as tennis rackets, different kind of balls for certain sport, floorball sticks, but it is the same like at VCU. Simply put, VCU has a far more facilities in private ownership, these sports centers are open longer, including weekends, some are covered with a roof in winter, lighted at night and it makes them more accessible to students. The level of most of facilities is almost professional and these facilities are equipped for a larger number of sports and games.

¹¹⁹ See “Verizon Wireless Arena at the Stuart C. Siegel Center,” VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/facilities/sc> (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹²⁰ See “Virginia Commonwealth University Athletic Department Visitor’s Guide,” VCUATHLETICS.COM, <http://www.vcuathletics.com/VisitorsGuide.pdf> (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹²¹ See “MCV Campus Recreation and Aquatic Center,” VCU Recreational sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/facilities/mcv_rec_center.html (accessed April 5, 2011).

¹²² See “Outing Rental Center,” VCU Recreational sports, http://www.recsports.vcu.edu/outdoor_adventure/outing_rental_center.html (accessed April 5, 2011).

CONCLUSION

Working on my bachelor thesis was very beneficial for me because I got a new knowledge about different area of sport, which I am interested in. I learned that university sport is very well organized in both the U.S. and in the Czech Republic. Any competitive sport attract a lot of sponsors, because we can say that more people are engaged in competitive sports than in recreational sports – either actively or passively. It is due to a very good promotion of competitive sport in all types of media. In addition, university sport is not organized only at the national level, but is organized globally, due to the worldwide university sports organization - FISU.

However, when we compare two selected countries and their universities which the work deals with in the first place - the Czech Republic and the U.S. - the U.S has much more sport associations and organizations. That is why the competitive sport in the U.S. is at a much higher level than in the Czech Republic. Competitive sport in the U.S. is, in some aspects, very similar to professional sports, even though the U.S. NCAA is strictly amateur association. Equipment is also in American universities at a much higher level. However, American universities do not provide any form of compulsory physical education as universities in the Czech Republic. Even though in terms of recreational sport, wins the U.S., on the other hand, in the U.S. there is very widespread obesity, so it is evident that the introduction of compulsory physical exercise at American schools would be very beneficial. Moreover, it is a pity not to use luxury sport facilities, which are available at U.S. universities.

So who is the winner? Virginia Commonwealth University is at a far higher level of sports equipment, but this equipment is used only for recreational sports and competitive sports, which means that not all students use it, which is a big pity for both the facilities, and for some American students, who do not do any kind of physical activity. On the other hand, despite the fact that TBU has not as good equipment as VCU, TBU forces all students to do some kind of physical exercise and contributes to their health. The aspect, which is incomparable with the TBU, is a competitive sport, which is in the U.S. much better organized. USA won by a hair, but the big hair in the form of competitive sport. Strength of TBU is in compulsory sport activities and strength of VCU is in facilities and competitive sport.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FISU	Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire - the International University Sports Federation
ČAUS	Česká asociace univerzitního sportu – the Czech University Sports Association
ČSTV	Český svaz tělesné výchovy – the Czech Association of Physical Education
ČAATS	Český svaz akademických technických sportů - Czech Academic Technical Sports Association
ČOV	Český olympijský výbor - the Czech Olympic Committee
ČR	Česká Republika – the Czech Republic
USA	The United States of America
NCAA	National Collegiate Athletic Association
CAA	Colonial Athletic Association
GPA	Grade Point Average
ACT	American College Testing
SAT	Scholastic Aptitude Test
VCU	Virginia Commonwealth University
TBU	Tomas Bata University
VŠSK	Vysokoškolský sportovní klub – the University Sports Club
VUT	Vysoké učení technické – Technical University
MCV Campus	The Medical College of Virginia Campus
CZK	Czech Crown – Currency of the Czech Republic
ESPN	Entertainment and Sports Programming Network
U2	The University Building number 2 (of TBU)
U5	The University Building number 5 (of TBU)
U10	The University Building number 10 (of TBU)
NBA	National Basketball Association
NAIA	National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics
NJCAA	National Junior College Athletic Association
STAG	Studijní agenda – Study Agenda for students