



## *The Revitalization of Handball Game in Bacau*

Our town, Bacau, enjoys a long and rich tradition in handball. Its first performances, the bronze medal, were obtained in 1968 by Dinamo Team. This team was coached by Lascar Pana and many important players evolved in it. (Maricel Voinea is one of them and he was a colleague of mine in the junior team).

The Dinamo Team was undertaken by Stiinta Bacau Club and it obtained another bronze medal in 1973. The performances were continued by the women team of Stiinta, which dominated the Romanian handball during the '80<sup>th</sup>. In that period, the Sports Hall from Bacau was crowded and the public were rewarded with great performances: 9 Champion Titles of Romania, 5 Romanian Cups, a final of Champions Cup in 1985-1986 and the triumph in Winners' Cup in 1989.

In the early years of democracy, the whole attention was drawn to the football game and great investments was made for it. As a consequence, without any support, the handball teams had a mediocre evolution oscillating between the first and the second division.

In order to revive the male handball in Bacau, The Top Sport Association was founded in 2006. This Association, which I manage, wanted to bring the handball men team on the first stage of the Romanian handball. In order to realize this, we made a partnership with Stiinta Bacau Club by taking over the men handball team. Due to this partnership, The Top Sport Association took over the pay contracts of the players, technical stuff and also the other costs, specially because Stiinta did not have the necessary funds to sustain the team. The amounts for those mentioned above derive from the accessing project of the unrepayable funds from the Local budget and also due to the sponsors. The main sponsor is Dedeman, the largest bricolage retailer in Romania and this is the reason why the name of the team is *Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau*:

- *Stiinta* - the club where the team comes from (a brand of our town);
- *Municipal* - because the most of the amounts come from the Local Council;
- *Dedeman* - the main sponsor.



Therefore, *Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau* won all the matches from the second division in 2006-2007 season and promoted in the National League, having a great progress from one year to another. The Sports Hall from Bacau was crowded again and the interest of the children became increasingly higher.

In present, there are juniors teams for all levels and *another Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau Team* in the second division, which classified in the top three during the last three years. This team is a result of a partnership began in 2010 with the Handball Federation from the Moldavia Republic in agreement with the friendship interstate. We transferred a group of children to whom we have provided optimal conditions for performance and who obtain the Romanian citizenship. Starting with the first year, this team won the National Championship for Juniors 1st class and they are the lab for the second team in our club. Due to this progress, we intend to undertake more other teams from Moldavia in order to perform in our championship.

In addition to the evolution of the national championship, we scored in the European Cup circuit taking part in three consecutive editions of *Challenge Cup*. Our best performance were two quarter-final in 2009 and 2010 and the semifinal in 2011 against RK Cimos Koper, the winner of this trophy that year. After three seasons in *Challenge Cup*, our team increased the performance and provided two presence in *EHF Cup* in 2012 and 2013. The vice-national champion in 2012 and 2013 are the best result in the history of our club. At the same time, *Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau* played three consecutive finals in Romanian Cup for the first time.

Regarding the relations with media, we must say that *Stiinta* received the most TV broadcasts in national channels from all handball teams in the national championship. The local media also enjoys a special attention from the club, revealing the good cooperation in all matters respecting the standards of EHF.

Thanks to our performance achieved in the last period of time, the Sports Hall in Bacau became overcrowded, reminding us of the '80<sup>th</sup> and the success of the women team. In these circumstances, the construction of a new Sports Hall became absolutely necessary for our town. The project implies a modern arena with more than 7000 seats which will be finished in 2015. We really hope to have a Final Four tournament in the following years. We also hope to revive the women's handball in Bacau following the same steps and to breathe new life to sport generally and for handball in particular.

Best regards,  
Ioan Ciobanu

