



ISSN: 2456-0057

IJPNPE 2018; 3(1): 2205-2206

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www.journalofsports.com

Received: 23-11-2017

Accepted: 25-12-2017

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## A historical study on rural sports of Ludhiana

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### Abstract

The purpose of the present study was to know about the history and development of rural sports of Ludhiana (Punjab). According to study Baba Gajjan Shah Memorial Tournaments was selected. This tournament was started from 1953 at Falaud Kalan Ludhiana. The researcher has collected the data through primary and secondary sources. This was used interview and written material as standard tools. After the data collection researcher was found that the Baba Gajjan Shah Memorial Tournaments is most popular rural sports festival in ludhaina area. The participation of sports man is very high. In this tournament folk culture also involve with rural sports.

**Keywords:** Rural Sports, Sports festival, folk culture.

### Introduction

#### History

Egyptian civilization period 1500 B.C these period physical activities included Gymnastic exercise and wrestling, both for performed to honor the gods. Wrestling became a favorite entertainment; children's games were plentiful, as excavations have revealed; lifting and swinging, weights, swimming, ball games of a men, women and children (including racquets), and bull fighting represent other physical activities peculiar to this early civilization (Emmetta. Rice 1958) [2].

The history of sports in India dates back to the Vedic era. There is a fascinating link between Greece and India, which stretches back to 975 B.C. It is more than likely that many of today's Olympic disciplines are sophisticated versions of the games of strength and speed that flourished in ancient India and Greece. Chess, wrestling, polo, archery and hockey (possibly a fall-out from polo) are some of the games that have originated in India.

Many of the religious games and festivals held by the Athenians and other Greeks during this period (1000 to 300 B.C.) were generally and other by athletic contests, dance, and music. Some of festivals were celebrated within a single city-state and by only sex, as in the case of honoring local gods, for example; other festivals, however, were broader in appeal and sometimes were celebrated by all the Greek people. Ancient Olympic Games first time included first time some events foot race, chariot race, horse racing, wrestling in several different styles, boxing and the pentathlon. (William H. Freemun 1982) [1]

#### Sports Festivals

Popularly also known as the 'Rural Olympics', this festival of sports take place in Punjab and covers a wide variety of sports. Kila Raipur is situated in Ludhiana, Punjab and the sports festival is celebrated every year in February and thousands of people including foreigners attend the event. In addition to sporting events, animals like bulls, dogs, camels, donkeys, mules and other animals are also used. The purpose is to cultivate individual strength for working in the fields and garnering the specifics. The winner is awarded and respected.

Men, women and children of all ages, classes and creeds flock in thousands to enjoy various fascinating features of the like race, wrestling, bouts, singing, dancing, acrobatics etc. on these occasions people decorate their bullocks, horses and camels tastefully, which reflect their vivacious and gay attitude. (Dr. Harjinder walla 2002) [5]

#### Aim of Study

- To show the background and development of rural sports.

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- To find out how these rural sports festivals have achieved such a respectable status.
- To examine the organizational development of rural sports festival.

### **Procedure**

For this study the researcher was select the sports festivals of Ludhiana, Punjab state. The maximum rural sports festivals are organized in Punjab from last many years. In Punjab, Malwa area (Ludhiana) was selected.

Firstly researchers found the following popular rural sports festivals in selected area.

Baba Gajjan Shah Memorial Tournaments, Falaud Kalan (from 1953 to till).

Then contact with particular organization of event. Researcher collect the data from primary and secondary sources. The interview and other releted documents were tools of this study.

### **Result**

The Gajjan Singh Memorial Tournaments was started for the memory of village founder Baba Gajjan Singh. Baba Gajjan Singh Shah ji was an esteemed personality and this tournaments is organized to commemorate the memory of baba ji therefore, many leaders and famous personalities visit in this place to pay obeisance to him.

This tournaments is famous as a rural sports festival in Ludhiana area. In this tournaments many sports events are organized those have releted to Punjabi tradition and culture. There are many sportsmen are perform their events in this tournaments with fully dedication and spirit. Many folk events are also organized. This tournaments one of the best rural sports in Punjab State.

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