



**First Serbian Basketball Club "Soko" 1940—1943**

**First Row:** Bogdan Stojanovic, Ljubomir Murgaski, Sava Roslov

**Second Row:** Pero Bulat, Steva jankov, Rudi Kahlic, Milan Barac & Bogdan jasin

**Third Row:** Obrad Jasin, Nikola Vujaklija, Slavko Mirk, Josif Prpic & Danilo Uzelac



## SERBIAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

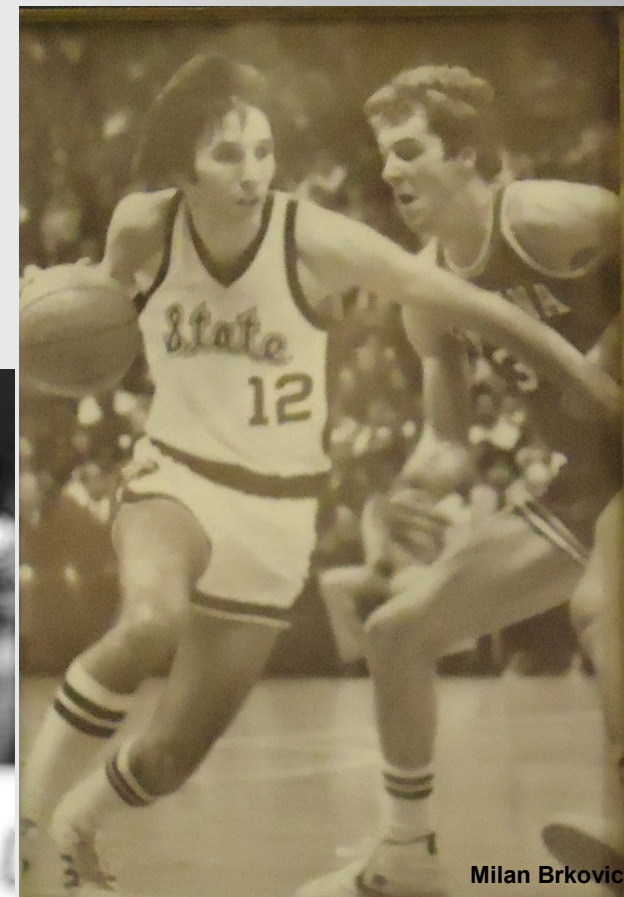
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## SERBIAN ATHLETES IN OUR COMMUNITY



Bojana Kovacevic



Milan Brkovic

## THE HISTORY OF SPORTS IN SERBIAN COMMUNITY OF WINDSOR, DETROIT AND THE REGION

APRIL 20—JUNE 20, 2012

SERBIAN HERITAGE MUSEUM



Michigan State Basketball 1977—78

## THE HISTORY OF SPORTS IN SERBIAN COMMUNITY OF WINDSOR

Since Serb immigrant workers started settling to Windsor and the region in 1929, they brought with them talented athletes and enormous persistence to continue the tradition of sports in their new home.

One Sunday March 24, 1929, Serbs founded their first athletic organization for physical education “Soko”. More than 50 people were in attendance at Kovinsky Hall on 142 Drouillard Rd at Ford City. The main goal of this organization was to offer physical and cultural education to its members following the ancient Greek creed of “In a healthy body is a healthy mind”. The society was the center of social, educational and cultural activity as well and has offered the classes of English, organized trips and excursions and established a stabile financial support from the Serbian community.

The organization was forced to close its doors with the onset of the economic crisis of the 1930s, but has re-emerged seven years later as the first Serbian Basketball Club “Soko”, which accomplished many victories and successes between 1940-43. Again the athletic activity was interrupted with the spreading of WWII and the recruiting of some of its players for the European front. Some of these players have fallen, and are remembered as heroes.

With the ending of the WWII, the Serbian community was healing and slowly reviving their athletes to start many other societies, clubs and teams:

- **SK “White Eagles”** - 1950-53 — 1st Serbian soccer club in Canada
- **Sports Society “Yugoslavia”** - 1956-57 — soccer club, chess club and table tennis club.
- **Serbian Sports Club** - 1958-60
- **SC “Ravanica”** - 1960-64 — Detroit and Windsor Serbian players
- **Maple Leaf Soccer Club** - 1967-1973
- **SC “Windsor Serbs”** - 1973-79
- **Serbian National Federation** - organized Soccer, Bowling, and Basketball tournaments all across North America in all larger Serbian communities, promoting values of healthy living, physical education, cultural traditions and peaceful coexistence of Serbs throughout the whole world.

Many of these organizations and societies have closed, merged and changed their names, but some of them still exist under the same name. The players of the first basketball and soccer teams are now grandfathers proudly watching and encouraging their grandchildren to continue cultivating that same athletic spirit, endurance, perseverance and a desire to play and win. The new generation is proud of their own victories and have respectfully added their contribution to the very strong and prominent athletic talent of the Serbian community in Windsor and the region.

The following families have donated their trophies and awards to illustrate the history of sports from the 1930s to present day, and to illustrate new generation of athletes:

BULAT family — Andrea Bulat — Basketball

CEBARA family — Stefan Cebara — Soccer

CELIC family — Selena Celic — Tennis

Milan Celic — Basketball

CHUK family — Mike Chuk — Football

DOBRIC family — Petar Dobric — Windsor Star

DRAGICEVIC family — Nikola Dragicevic — Basketball

GACESA family — old photos and articles on Serbian basketball players

JAKSIC family — Miroslav Jaksic — Basketball

KONTIC family — Dane Kontic — Baseball

Danica Kontic — Basketball and Soccer

Vlade Kontic — Football

KOVACEVIC family — Bojana Kovacevic — Basketball

MOSCARDELLI family — Nikola Moscardelli — Youth Soccer

SARAPA family — Milan Sarapa — Cross Country

Nada Sarapa — Karate

Jelena Sarapa — Ice Skating

VELICKOVIC family — George Velickovic — Soccer and Rugby

**The Serbian Heritage Museum wishes to express gratitude to many others who have participated in creation of this exhibit, as well as its curators Lili Ciganovic, Bogdan Chuk and Dana Radanovic.**