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Mircea Rusu - Professor and international rugby player

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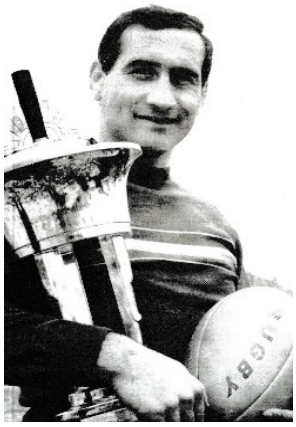
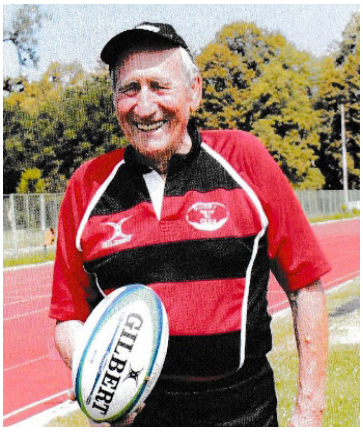
Abstract
A remarkable personality, Mircea Rusu was Professor - Engineer, instructor, coach, writer and international rugby player.
Keywords: professor, teacher, school master, international rugby player



In 1964, winner of the European Rugby Cup with the team Grivița Roșie Bucharest.

Romanian Rugby legends (from left to right) Mircea Rusu, Petrica Motrescu, Mircea Ortelecan, Ioan Bucan.



At the 80th birthday anniversary, always active.

Mircea Rusu is a living sports legend, for more than 50 years a citizen of Cluj-Napoca, celebrating this year – 2023 – his 90th birthday. Behind this venerable age there is an exceptional career in sports and engineering, doubled by an outstanding moral integrity. Born in Blaj, he was educated in the spirit of justice, Christian morality and the values of Transylvanian school. He was born on 29 July 1933 in Blaj, went to the highschool "Sfântul Vasile cel Mare [St. Vasile the Great]" of the same town. In Alba Iulia, the county capital, he continued high school studies at the "Horea, Cloșca and Crișan" lyceum, being deeply attached to the spiritual and moral values of the Transylvanian forerunners who fought for the making of a United Romania. His family, unfortunately, was persecuted during the communist regime, which strengthened young Mircea Rusu's character in his pursue of fairness and justice.

At the age of 18 years he is admitted to the Faculty of Mechanics of the Polytechnic Institute in Bucharest. A quiet and friendly nature, with a well built, athletic figure, he impressed his colleagues of the Grivița Roșie rugby club, the best in the country at that time, who persuaded him to join. Shortly, due to his athletic qualities, strength, agility, speed, he became an essential member of the team, contributing to the victories at the national and international level – winning the European Rugby Cup. He was selected in the national rugby team and head tournaments in France, Italy, Germany, winning matches against strong and reputed teams. He was part of the gold rugby generation of Romania, along with Viorel Moraru, Radu Demian,

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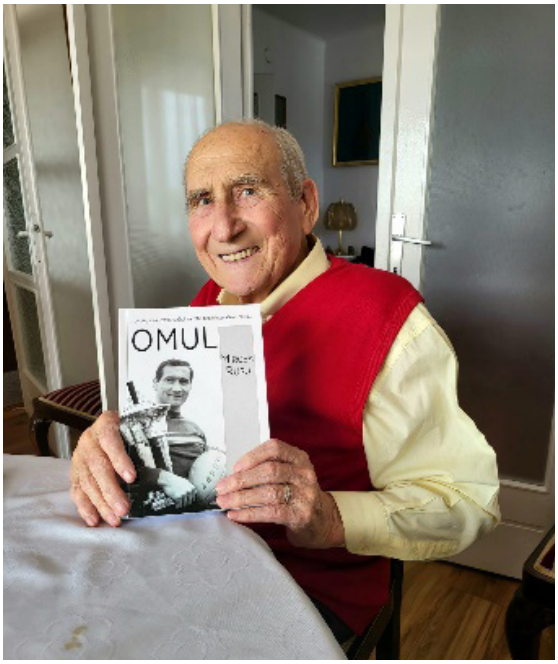
Viorel Irimescu, Alexandru Penciu, nicknamed Alexander the Great, Costel Stănescu and others, who managed to beat the strong team of France in 1960 for the first time. He was selected in the Romanian team 23 times, the National of Oaks, with a strong international reputation; he was awarded the title of Master Emeritus in Sports. He graduated the Faculty of Mechanics successfully and started to work as an engineer at the Grivița Roșie factory. His longing to come back to his beloved Transylvania is speedily fulfilled by the tragedy of his wife's death, which left him a widower with three children to raise. He came back to Cluj, where he is appointed Director and Professor Engineer at the Railway School. He did not abandon sport, playing another 2 years for the University rugby team. Rugby gave him the strength to overcome the hardships of life. His professionalism and earnestness is appreciated by all his colleagues and students."MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO", the motto embraced by Professor Iuliu Hațieganu, who lent his name to the sports park and "temple" of Cluj rugby, prompted him to found the rugby team "Railway Engine 16 February", whose couach and player he was until the age of 46, assisted by the young Chihaia N, Stef P. și Deleanu T. Dedicated to his profession, a true teacher, kind and understanding with his students, he was an example and at the same time an inspiration. The Ministry of Transportation asked him to help establish rugby teams in all the Transylvanian schools subordinated. Due to his dedication and efforts, rugby teams were founded in Baia Mare, Satu Mare, Oradea, Arad, Simeria, and especially Cluj, the junior team, which provided the senior team with valuable athletes. His passion and dedication for sports won him wide appreciation; he formed characters and true athletes. Many of his students were also rugby players for the Cluj team or other national and international teams. After 24 years of uninterrupted work, he retired from the Railway School; an active nature, he continued as a maintenance engineer at the URSUS factory. He became founding member of the Rotary Club of Cluj. Here Mircea Rusu is colleague with Prof. Dr. Ionel Haiduc, former President of the Romanian Academy and also with the current President, Prof. Ioan Aurel Pop. The Rotary committee also includes personalities like Prof. Dr. Petre Mircea, Prof. Dr. Radu Badea, Prof. Dr. Cornel Cătoi, Rector of USAMV, Prof. Dr. Ioan Sbârciu, former Rector of the University of Art and Design, the renowned painter Radu Ciorbea etc. Over the years, his contributions and advice are still viable and appreciated and applied by the young disciples.

As a teacher and school master of Cluj-Napoca, with and exceptional sports and professional career, Mircea Rusu educated hundreds of students, who appreciated, respected and followed his example, considering him a living legend.

On 11 May this year (2023) he launched his autobiographical book with a suggestive title THE MAN, proving he is also a talented writer.

For his outstanding sporting and professional achievements, Professor Engineer Mircea Rusu was nominated for being awarded the status of ***Honorary Citizen of Cluj-Napoca***.



Mircea Rusu (90 yrs. old) – launching his book OMUL (THE MAN)