

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM OF ROMANIA

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Abstract

Purpose. The present study proposes to study the history of the National Football Team of Romania. Romania's national football team is the country's first representative and is under the control of the Romanian Football Federation (FRF). Romania was one of the four countries that participated in the first three world football championships, alongside Brazil, France and Belgium. However, between 1950 and 1986, Romania managed to qualify only for one final tour, the one in Mexico in 1970. Between 1990 and 2000, Romania's qualifier qualified in the sixteen or even the best of three consecutive world championships. This favorable period has reached its peak in the 1994 World Cup final tournament, when Romania, having captain Gheorghe Hagi international, reached the quarterfinals defeating the 1986 champion and Argentina's finalist in 1990 with a 3- 2. Later he lost Sweden to penalties.

Conclusions. Although it seems hard to believe today, Romanian football was once an elite, a magnificent team, a team that led the national team to three consecutive World Championships (1990, 1994, 1998). These players have written an unforgettable page in the history of Romanian football, a page that seems hard to match today. These giants belong to a generation living for football, a welded and perfect team with a formidable game offering moments that many see with pride and pleasure.

Key words: history, players, team, soccer.

Introduction

Sport emerged as a need for symbolic confrontation, when individuals or groups felt the need to prove their supremacy to each other without physically destroying themselves. From the beginning, there was an audience around the sport, with its ambiguous role as a judge and participant in the competition. Fans, galleries satisfy the need of individuals to know together. Contemporary society, dominated by individualism, offers fewer and fewer opportunities to coagulate around common goals (Chivu, 2010). Sports games are one of the most exciting chapters of sports worldwide. Of these, the game of football stands out in particular. 2018 marked 156 years since a sports game that for centuries had developed at random, living longer in the shadow of myths and legends, made its own status, being caught in the straps of a regulation of independent and receiving a perfect organization, developed by the English.

In the spring of 2001, FIFA reported that more than 240 million people regularly played football in more than 200 countries around the world (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football>). The means of direct expression, the geometric simplicity of its rules, the tension of a struggle involving the same collective gestures, the constant demand for intelligence, the need for emotional relief, all these and many more could explain a phenomenon that nowadays produces a flow. strong of emotions and electrifies the crowds. Football means the confrontation of two technical-tactical intelligences, of agility, skill and the will to win, accompanied by the alternation of the predictable with

the unpredictable, of certainty with probability. This game exerts a great force of attraction, because it seems like a world where the best prepared wins. Football is a concentrated history; it is the action of destiny at the dimension of human perception; it is morality transposed into choreography. On the other hand, a game is just a game. If there were no delight in him, the drama of pure and useless pleasure, he would not deserve so much suffering (Dumitrescu, 2010). We can say that football is a unique, complex, original and sometimes even paradoxical game. The game of football is a show that is easy to understand, a show in which you do not speak, but you practically manifest yourself. Football is the only field in which typical individual improvisation becomes collective. Football is a struggle, not the end of the school year. Without strength, without speed, without athletic qualities, you can't succeed with just a dribble (Mazilu, 1972).

The French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre said: "In a football match everything is complicated by the presence of an opposing team" (Insight)! Football has become a kind of chess game in which teams think about the opponent's moves long before (Lucescu, 1981) Football is a miracle, because many of the virtues and qualities of a man are present in this game, this game teaches you to respect the value criteria like no other, because football without ethical values would lose its *raison d'être*.

Andre Maurais (Lucescu, 1981) said: "This sport is nothing but a moving intelligence". He does not have the inhuman rigor of gymnastics, the fluidity of tennis, the choreography of basketball. Football is an intersection without priorities, a meeting place. No

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other sport has such the power to produce heroes and mythologize them. Why? For three reasons. The first, the technical one, consists in the simplicity of the regulation. The second, the literary one, is the ease with which it is told. The third, the emotional one, is related to the way we give in to his formidable power of seduction, from the first day we go out to play. If they are not sick or brilliant, the children hit the ball on the square, or behind the block. The early socialization of the boys involves, obligatorily and almost ritually, the football match. The microbe that then enters the body is actually a spring that helps to relive childhood (Paraschivescu, 2010). Football is the dose of beauty that everyone still believes that good always wins. An ideal team would be composed of 11 people united around an idea, disciplined, willing to do raw work, but able to be soloists when the situation demands it (Geambașu, 2010). Most coaches who now work in football believe that football is now in its maturity in terms of game organization and players' expression possibilities. The current state of the evolution of the game of football worldwide, as a result of the efforts and concerns of specialists and players for the continuous improvement of the game, has inevitably led to the emergence of new ideas and solutions, precisely established on how to play the system. training, coaching and selection of players. Today's football is characterized by speed, dynamism and intensity, the tasks of the players multiplying. The structure of the football game is unique and gives it a special character.

The demands of a modern game require all players, regardless of the position held in the team, to know and be able to solve equally game tasks both in defense and attack, in different compartments and positions, as independent players.

Romania's National Football Team

Romania's national football team is the first representative of the country and is under the control of the Romanian Football Federation (FRF). Romania was one of the four countries that participated in the first three world football championships, along with the

national teams of Brazil, France and Belgium. However, between the 1950 and 1986 editions, Romania managed to qualify for only one final tournament, the one in Mexico in 1970. Between 1990 and 2000, the Romanian national team qualified for the sixteenth or even eighth of three consecutive world championships. This favorable period reached its peak in the final tournament of the 1994 World Championship, when Romania, with captain Gheorghe Hagi as captain, reached the quarterfinals defeating the 1986 champion and the 1990 finalist, Argentina, with 3- 2. He later lost to Sweden on penalties (http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Echipa_na%C8%9Bional_%C4%83_de_fotbal_a_Rom%C3%A2niei). Romania also made a good figure at Euro 2000, when it got a 1-1 with Germany and defeated England 3-2 in groups, moving on to the quarterfinals, being defeated by Italy. Since 2001, the team has gone through a disastrous period, missing out on qualifying for the 2002 and 2006 World Cups, as well as the 2004 European Football Championship.

Trained between 2003 and 2009 by Victor Pițurcă, Romania qualified for the final tournament of the European Championship in 2008, in Austria and Switzerland, finishing first in group "G" of the qualification tournament, defeating the Netherlands in Constanța, the future finalist from World Cup 2010 South Africa. In the final tournament, Romania finished the group in third place, after two draws with France and Italy, and a defeat in front of the same "Mechanical Oranges" (http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Echipa_na%C8%9Bional_%83_de_fotbal_a_Rom%3%4%A2niei). Next, the national team follows the same black period, missing the qualification to the world championship in South Africa 2010 and the European one in Poland and Ukraine 2012. With Anghel Iordănescu returned as coach, the tricolors manage to qualify for Euro 2016 France, but lose the last match for the group against Albania, when everyone expected a victory. A new coach followed, this time a foreign one, the German Christoph Daum, and a new failure at the 2018 World Cup in Russia.



Prima echipă de football românească: Olympia F. C (1909)
De la stânga spre dreapta, în rândul de sus: Neagu Boerescu (civil), Cominoviți, Russo, N. Apostoiescu, Gr. Georgescu, Goșu Dragomirescu, Lazăr Breyer (civil). În mijloc: H. Roman, Th. Davila, Bărbulescu. 'os: Mario Gebauer, Neftzer și Viereck.

Photo no. 1 The first Romanian football team

At the end of the 19th century, in the historical structure of the old kingdom, in Romania, sport experienced a relative development against the background of a relative economic boom. Under these conditions, football also appears, whose beginnings are quite modest and insignificant. Football, the most popular sport in the world, has gained followers in Romania since 1890, when it was brought to Arad from London, the first soccer ball by dentist Iuliu Weiner and the rules of the game written on a piece of paper (http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fotbalul_%C3%AEn_Rom%C3%A2nia). In 1895, a Swiss student brought the first soccer ball to Bucharest. Documentary sources attest that the football game appeared in the summer of 1899 in Arad and Bucharest. In Bucharest it was brought by Romanian students studying in Switzerland and Austria, and in Arad, by those studying in Budapest. In Timișoara, on June 25, 1899, the first football match organized in Romania took place, between the students of Piarist High School. The beginnings of football in Romania gain consistency due to the spirit of the game and the habits introduced by foreign workers in the first industries: oil and textiles. Either the British, or the French or the Germans, they organized, the deadline is a bit forced, football matches on a vacant field, at the end of working hours.

Romanians watched, learned and even started to imitate the new fun, because football was besides play and entertainment. Also, on October 25, 1899, the first match was played between a Romanian and a foreign team (Budapest Polytechnic - Athletic Club Arad). The game of football has penetrated our country through foreign technicians and officials from oil and textile companies. The first meeting, held in Bucharest, took place in 1902, between two teams made up of foreign players. In 1905, the first Bucharest football club was established, FC Olimpia. Two years later he appeared in Ploiești, FC United, and in 1909 the second

Bucharest club was founded, CA Colentina. The players of these teams came mostly from foreign employees of oil and textile companies. Then, in October 1909, the Association of Romanian Athletic Societies (ASAR) was established, which consists of the three existing clubs at the time: Colentina CA and Olimpia SC, both in Bucharest and United AC in Ploiești, with mostly foreign practitioners. The first internal football competition, the ASAR Cup, which is considered to be the first National Championship, takes place in December 1909 - January 1910 and is won by the Olimpia Bucharest team (<http://www.footballfabulous.com/din-istoria-fotbalului-romanesc/>). The first international meeting was played on October 26, 1909 between a team of the three Romanian teams and Sporting Club Universitar from Cluj (Cluj belonged at that time to the Austro-Hungarian Empire). In "Little" Romania, before the First World War, a series of cup competitions were held, the winners of which will be considered the champions of Romania. On December 1, 1912, the Football-Association Commission within the Union of Sports Federations in Romania (UFSR) was established. In June 1919, the Football Clubs Union was established, and 10 years later the football federation was unofficially established. In 1921, the federations from Banat and Transylvania were unified with those from the rest of the country, under the name of the Federation of Sports Societies.

After the war, with the formation of "Greater" Romania, starting with the 1921-1922 edition, the National Championship was played with the participation of teams from all provinces of the country, the most titled Romanian teams from the interwar period being Venus Bucharest, with eight titles and the Chinese Timișoara with six consecutive titles (1921-1927) (https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lista_campioanelor_Rom%C3%A2niei_la_fotbal).



23. 9. 1922. CHINEZUL – VICTORIA 5:1 (2:1)
Din stînga: Toth Bedö, Steiner, Frech I, Hoksáry, Frech II, Ritter, Tánzer, Kondor, Fenvesy, Matek, Rainak.

Photo no. 2 Chinese football team Timisoara with six consecutive titles (1921-1927)



Venus 1934, de la stânga: Papa Alecu (conducător), Lăpușneanu, Actis, Albu, Volodea Vălcov, Colea Vălcov, Stanciu, Sfera, Eisenbeisser, Petea Vălcov, Bărbulescu, ?

Photo no. 5 Venus Bucharest football team, with eight titles

At that time it was not a championship according to a divisional system, it was disputed by regions and later by leagues and then in the eliminatory system, between winners, in 1932 starting the Divisional Championship (<http://www.footballfabulous.com/din-fotbalului-Romanian/>).

Internationally, the first official game of the national team takes place in Belgrade in 1922, a match won by Romania with the score of 2-1. A historic moment for Romanian football took place on February 16, 1930 when the Romanian Football Federation Association was established, as a result of the

application of the Law on physical education. In 1932 Division A was founded, in 1934 Division B appeared, in 1936 Division C, and in 1937 the National Junior Championship.

Our country has participated since the debut years in the competitions organized by FIFA and UEFA, with the end of the Second World War, teams like UTA Arad, FC Argeș Pitești and the University of Craiova win the championship and qualify in the upper phases of European competitions (http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fotbalul_%C3%AEn_Rom%C3%A2nia).

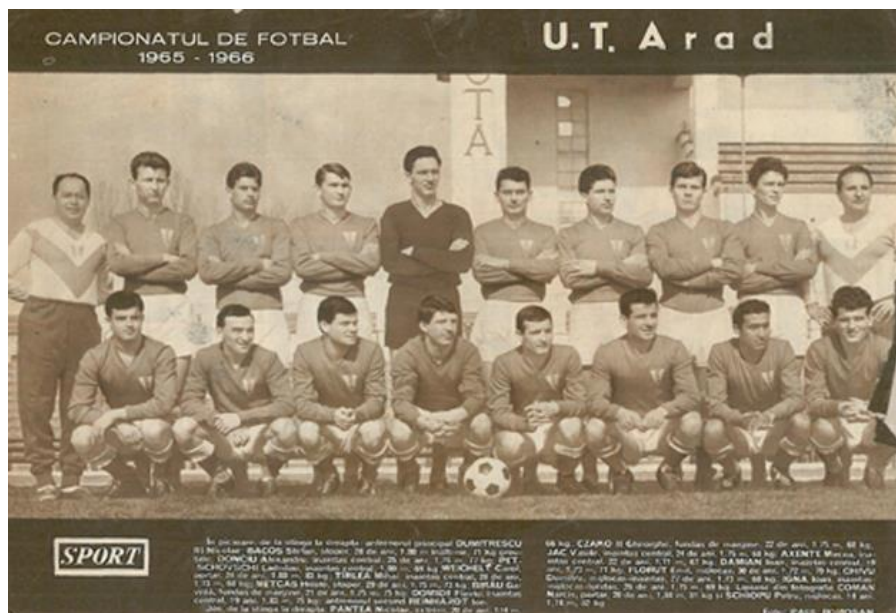


Photo no. 3 UTA Arad team



FC Argeș Pitești - campioana
 României ediția 1978-1979

Photo no. 4 F.C Argeș Pitești Team Romanian Championship 1978-1979



Rîndul de sus (de la stînga la dreapta): Ilie Balaci, Zoltan Crisan, Nicolae Negrîtă, Nicolae Ungureanu, Dumitru Ion, Sorin Cîrju.
 Rîndul din mijloc: Dr. Vasile Frînculeacu, Silviu Lung, Costică Stiefnescu, Mircea Irimescu, Aurică Bălteanu, Florin Ciocoiaru, Aurel Tîcșeanu, Gabriel Boldic, vicepreședintele Clubului Lect. univ. Corneliu Stroe.
 Rîndul de jos: Neculai Trîmbol, Grigore Ciupitu, Rodion Gorun Cărnătaru, Constantin Oțet (antrenor principal), Adrian Popescu, Ion Geolgiu, Costică Donose.

Photo no. 5 University of Craiova football team



FC DINAMO
 BUCUREȘTI - după
 reușirea evenimentului
 (campionat+cupa) 1990

Photo no. 6 F.C Dinamo Bucharest football team



Photo no. 7 „Steaua” football team Bucharest

The most famous football club in Romania is Steaua București, which in 1986 was the first team in Eastern Europe and the only one in Romania that managed to win the European Champions Cup. He also played in a European Champions Cup final in 1989, but lost. So far (2018), it is the club in Romania with the most domestic trophies won: 26 titles, 22 Cups, 6 Super Cups and 2 League Cups. Unfortunately, however, following some misunderstandings between the old management, the army he belonged to until 2003 and the new financier who took over the team, Gigi Becali, the club split in 2017, resulting in FCSB (current in league I) and CSA Steaua Bucharest (current in league IV). Following this separation, the situation of the record is still uncertain, as there is no final decision so far (2018). Steaua's rival, Dinamo Bucharest, won 18 titles and 12 cups, 2 Super Cups and played a semifinal of the European Champions Cup in the 1983-1984 season, and in 1990 the semifinal of the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup ([http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki / Fotbalul_% 3% 3% A2nia AEn_Rom%](http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fotbalul_%3C%3E%20nia%20Rom%3C%3E)). In recent years, under the leadership of Walter Zenga, Steaua qualified in the UEFA Cup groups in the 2004-2005 season, Zenga qualifying a Romanian team in the "European Spring" for the first time after 1993 when Steaua also reached the quarterfinals of the Cup Winners' Cup.

In the 2005-2006 season, Steaua Bucharest and Rapid Bucharest reached the quarterfinals of the UEFA Cup. Steaua managed to qualify for the UEFA Cup semi-finals, being eliminated by Middlesbrough FC. Also, the red-blues qualified in the next three consecutive editions in the Champions League groups. Among the remarkable matches in the League are those with Dinamo Kiev score 4-1 and Lyon 1-1 (http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fotbalul_%3C%3E%20nia%20Rom%3C%3E). In the 2009-2010 season, Unirea Urziceni participates in the UEFA Champions League after winning the first title in history, managing the performance to defeat the Glasgow Rangers teams with

the score of 4-1, away to Ibrox Park and FC Sevilla with 1-0 at Ghencea Stadium . He accumulated 8 points, a record at that time for Romania in the Champions League groups. She finished 3rd in the group and qualified for the 16-mile UEFA Europa League, where she played in February 2010 against FC Liverpool, losing 1-0 in the round and 1-3 in the return leg. Another team from the recent history of League I, which won three titles, is CFR Cluj. In the 2010-2011 season, Oțelul Galați wins its first championship title, but fails to score any points in the Champions League groups

(http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fotbalul_%3C%3E%20nia%20Rom%3C%3E). In the 2012-2013 season, Cluj is crowned champions of Romania for the third time and they manage the performance to obtain 10 points in the Champions League groups, beating Manchester United away. Unfortunately, they do not manage to get through the groups, still qualifying in the Europa League, the former UEFA Cup, where they would be eliminated by Inter Milan in the second round. The star returns in force winning the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 editions of League I, managing in the first year to reach the eighth finals of the Europa League, being dramatically eliminated by the team that later won the trophy that season, Chelsea London ([http: / /www.statisticifotbal.ro/liga_1.htm](http://www.statisticifotbal.ro/liga_1.htm)).

In the 2014-2015 season, Steaua wins the championship in the last stage after a formidable fight with A.S.A Tîrgu Mureș. In the 2015-2016 season, the title of champion was won for the first time by Astra Giurgiu. In the 2016-2017 season, the championship is won for the first time by Gheorghe Hagi's team, Viitorul Constanța. The 2017-2018 season crowns the Transylvanians from C.F.R. Cluj champions of Romania for the fourth time.

In the history of the national team, other internationals have provided evidence of devotion and dedication that should make those who are now fooling the national team to shame. In addition to Stanciu's heroism since

his first participation in the World Cup in 1930, another example is that of goalkeeper Wiliam Zomobory from Ripensia Timișoara. The National Team spent its winter holidays between 1934 and 1935 in Greece, at the Balkan Cup, a friendly competition. In the first match, on December 27, 1934, Romania drew with Greece, score 2-2. On December 30, the tricolors beat Bulgaria 3-2, but remained in one goalkeeper, Burdan, for the decisive match with Yugoslavia, which was to take place on January 1, 1935. Immediately the "rope" was given to the country to bring to a third goalkeeper. Proud to be summoned, William Zombory, from Ripensia, left by train through Yugoslavia, the passage to the neighboring country being facilitated by the minister of the neighboring country in Bucharest, Ilija Colac Antic. Upon crossing into Greece, a representative of the Romanian Consulate in Athens was expected at the Sevglia customs.

After two nights on the train, Zombory arrived in Athens on January 1, and his performance was characterized as "good" by the specialized daily "Gazeta Sporturilor", even if the Romanian national team lost 4-0 to the match with Yugoslavia ([http: / /www.evz.ro/nationala-de-fotbal-a-romaniei-de-la-sacrificiul-lui-stanciu-la-scarba-lui-chivu-931538.html](http://www.evz.ro/nationala-de-fotbal-a-romaniei-de-la-sacrificiul-lui-stanciu-la-scarba-lui-chivu-931538.html)).

The problems in Romanian football are many and can be found everywhere. It is difficult to find a similar institution in another country today that is as sick as ours. Starting with the decisions that are taken at a high level, continuing with the controversial preferences of the coach and ending with the general lack of value of our players, Romanian football suffers, and the situation does not seem to be about to be repaired. The involvement of politics in the landscape is beginning to be even more pressing, as has been observed lately.



Photo no. 8 Gheorghe Hagi

Romanian football is going. He's going, I'm telling you. Zero. In two or three years, zero ", Hagi warned in 1998, wiping his hands as if the dust would be chosen from everything he loved most. Unfortunately, he was right. Not only has that

threshold been reached, but all indications are that Romanian football tends to minus values ".(<http://dandracea.ro/2013/11/20/hagi-avea-dreptate-suntem-zero/>)".



Photo no. 9 National Youth of Romania

Romania's youth national team defeated Liechtenstein 4-0, in Ploiești, and secured its tickets for the Euro 2019 U21 qualification in Italy and San Marino, writes mediafax.ro. Gica Hagi was the first to

react after the qualification of the U21 national team to the Euro, the first final tournament after 20 years. "We are happy, like any Romanian. They treated the match very seriously, all the merits are theirs. They showed

that it is possible, there is talent in Romania. With hope and work we can get where we need to go. My merit is one, I believed and I will always believe in the Romanian player. It's good, it's creative. Nine years ago I started a job and now you can see the fruits. The biggest achievement, after I left, is that I invested in young people. It's normal to come, the children have grown up. They'll take us out on the street. It's their turn! Of course I'm going out, I'm going after them. They are artists now, they will make us happy, as they have made us now. I am very happy for Ianis that he plays football, the rest I am happy for Romania.

Any important performance that takes us out into the world and we fight with outsiders, I'm glad for it. Otherwise, I have a boy who plays football. Likes. The joy of any parent is to see young people succeed. They bring victories, such an important qualification. We hope to make a beautiful figure there. Anything is possible with them ", said Gică Hagi, after the match, at DigiSport (<https://ziarulprenta.ro/sport/gica-hagi-reactioneaza-dupa-calificarea-nationalei-u21-la-euro-2019/19814/>).



Photo no. 10 National Youth of Romania

Along with the wonderful performance achieved by the Romanian U21 National Team to qualify for Euro 2019 U21 WINNING !!! the preliminary group that also included teams such as Portugal U21 or Wales, Gazeta Sporturilor praises the "King", who laid the foundations for the rebirth of Romanian football. Now from the position of club leader. The U21 national team is built in Viitorul and still plays there. Half of the goals scored in the preliminaries and 40% of the footballers used come from Gică Hagi (<https://a1.ro/news/sport/revista-presei-sportive-13092018-hagi-salvatorul-fotbalului-romanesc-id801155.html>).

Marius Șumudică, the former coach of Astra Giurgiu, a team with which he managed to win Liga 1 in 2016, also believes that Gică Hagi has a great merit in this success, who raised an exceptional generation in his team, FC Viitorul. A job that now benefits all Romanian football. "It's a beautiful generation, raised en masse in Hagi, for the most part. In addition to the

merits of Isăilă and Rădoi, there are also the merits of Hagi for that team. Plus Băluță, Răzvan Marin, Drăguș, who will surely be part of the group at the final tournament. It's an exceptional generation. That means doing something organized and growing up in a healthy environment. It's a kind of longer camp. That means that a generation or a group of children will be kept in check by a man who eats football on bread, "Șumudică told Digi Sport Matinal." Hagi deserves respect. I haven't had and still don't have an extraordinary relationship with him, but I can't help but highlight the results he makes and that he lost some of his money in that academy. We have to admit that. Right now, he's a hero to me. It can be seen that Romanian football returns with this generation, congratulations to him ", Șumudică also specified (<https://www.digisport.ro/fotbal/echipa-nationala/e-un-erou-sumudica-il-lauda-pe-hagi-for-qualification-national-company-U21-the-euro-2019-539595>).



Photo no. 11 The team that led the national team to three consecutive World Championships (1990, 1994, 1998).

Conclusion

Although it seems hard to believe today, Romanian football was once an elite, a magnificent, strong team, a team that led the national team to three consecutive World Championships (1990, 1994, 1998). These players wrote an unforgettable page in the history of Romanian football, a page that today seems hard to match. These giants belong to a generation that lived for football, a welded and perfect team with a formidable game offering moments that many see with pride and pleasure. This team includes both the players who were at the end of their international careers at the "Coppa del Mondo 1990" (Lung, Andone, Cămătaru, Balint, Rotariu Rednic), and those who exploded at the "Coupe du Monde" (Adi Ilie, Moldovan, Ciobotariu). In 1994 this great team welded and made history at the "World Cup 1994" with famous names that today mean perfection in Romanian football: Dan Petrescu, Belodedici, Prodan, Selymes, Hagi, Lupescu, Gica Popescu, Dorinel Munteanu, Raducioiu, Ilie Dumitrescu (<http://www.mediadocs.ro/generatia-de-aur>).

Dorinel Munteanu states: "Then I had bad luck in the quarterfinals with Sweden. I was only two minutes away from the semifinals with Brazil. I think even now I could even win the world title at that final US tournament.

Many of the specialists said that Romania was the only team from that World Championship that could beat Brazil. We were a united group, of great value. Great pity (<http://www.prosport2009.ro/%E2%80%9Cromania-avea-forta-de-a-castiga-titulul-mondial-in-america-1994%E2%80%9D/>)".

Differences between generations have been, are and will be, let us also not forget that none of them was, is not and will not be perfect. The continuous thought and desire for self-transcendence is the door and the path to perfection. For in the creation of something, there must first have been a thought

predestined to that something. What hurts the most is this very refusal of the desire of man, the athlete, to be aware of what is happening around him, the attitude and the way he relates to life.

As for the Romanian national football team, our football pride, regardless of the times, people or generations, it will go on, because time is too short and it does not have the patience to wait for the successes to come!

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