

# Research on Training Mode of Equestrian Athletic Talents in General Colleges and Universities under the Background of Sports-Education Integration: Taking Wuhan Business College as an Example

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**Abstract:** In today's society, the in-depth integration of education and sports has become a key path to promote the all-around development of young people and enhance the physical fitness of the nation. Equestrianism, as a comprehensive sports program integrating sports competition, culture and art, and leisure and entertainment, is gradually attracting widespread attention from all walks of life for its unique charm and educational value. Especially in general higher education institutions, the cultivation of equestrian athletic talents is not only related to the expansion and improvement of physical education disciplines, but also an important way to promote the physical and mental health of students and enhance their comprehensive quality. This paper analyzes the concept of integration of sports and education as well as the value of the training of the equestrian athletic talents in ordinary colleges and universities under the background of sports-education integration, and explores the construction path of new mode of equestrian economic talents cultivation in ordinary colleges and universities under the sports-education integration as an example of Wuhan Business School.

**Keywords:** Sports-education integration; General colleges and universities; The training of equestrian athletic talents

DOI: 10.62639/sspjess16.20240103

With the in-depth implementation of the strategy for the integration of sports and education, the diversification of sports programs has become a new trend in the field of higher education. Equestrian competition, a historically renowned aristocratic sport, is gradually being integrated into ordinary universities, emerging as a new exploration for cultivating students' comprehensive abilities and broadening the scope of sports education<sup>[1]</sup>. In this transformation process, seeking a balance between the professionalism of equestrian sports and the accessibility of higher education, as well as finding the best combination point between inheritance and innovation, has become a new challenge faced by the training of equestrian talents. This involves not only the integration of technical training and theoretical teaching but also comprehensive considerations regarding curriculum system construction, allocation of teaching staff, and optimization of training facilities. Therefore, exploring the training model for equestrian talents in ordinary universities is not only an innovation of the traditional sports education model but also a response to the demands of the times, serving as a key to cultivating internationally competitive equestrian talents. By establishing a training system that emphasizes both theory and practice and complements resources inside and outside the school, it is expected to bring new vitality to the equestrian sports industry in China and promote its development to higher levels.

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(Manuscript NO.: JIESS-24-3-72002)

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## Funding

Teaching and Research Project of Wuhan affiliated Universities: "Research on Training Mode of Equestrian Competitive Talents in Ordinary Universities under the Background of Integration of Sports and Education -- A Case Study of Wuhan Business University" (202334).

## **1. Overview of the Integration of Sports and Education**

### **(1) Definition**

The sports-education integration, an emerging educational concept and practice paradigm, is centered to realize the in-depth integration and synergistic evolution of physical education. This concept transcends the simple addition of traditional sports and education, with a strong emphasis on the profound unity and mutual reinforcement between the two in terms of value orientation, functional realization, and goal pursuit. The sports-education integration aims to integrate sports activities into the education system, not only to enhance students' physical fitness and sports skills, but to promote students' cognitive development, emotional cultivation and social behavioral skills at a deeper level. This necessitates that the education system, in all aspects including curriculum design, teaching implementation, and effectiveness evaluation, regards physical education as an indispensable educational tool. By leveraging the unique charm and functions of sports activities, the education system should enrich educational content, innovate educational methods, and ultimately achieve the goal of students' all-round development encompassing moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor education<sup>[2]</sup>. In this process, physical education plays the role of enhancing physical fitness, but is the key way of shaping personality as well, refining will and stimulating potential, which demonstrates the comprehensive innovation and enhancement of education concept.

### **(2) Characteristics**

The core features of the sports-education integration are reflected in its multidimensional intermingling and systematic construction, and the first one is the gradualness of the depth of integration. The integration of sports and education is not a process that can be accomplished overnight. Rather, it is a gradual and deepening process that requires continuous improvements in systems and mechanisms to facilitate the profound blending of sports and education across multiple dimensions, including curriculum content, teaching methods, and evaluation systems. This process manifests as a gradual evolution from superficial to profound, and from partial to holistic integration. Secondly, this integration highlights the clarity of management levels. From the macro-guidance at the national level to the specific implementation at the local and school levels, each level carries unique responsibilities and missions, constructing a management structure that coordinates and supports each other, ensuring the effective implementation and sustainable development of the sports-education integration policies. Furthermore, the integration of sports and education places emphasis on the long-term and cumulative nature of its effects. Recognizing the non-immediacy of educational outcomes, it stresses the importance of persistent and sustained efforts to gradually reveal the unique value of sports in education and promote the overall physical and mental health of students. Finally, this integration also highlights the comprehensiveness and innovativeness of the educational concept<sup>[3]</sup>. It advocates educators to break through the traditional boundaries of thinking, uphold a more open and inclusive mentality, explore new paths and strategies for the integration of sports and education. By continuously enriching the essence of education and enhancing its quality, this integration lays a solid foundation for the long-term and comprehensive development of students in the future. These features together create the unique attraction and far-reaching influence of the sports-education integration, and provide an important direction and practical path for the reform and development of education in the new era.

## **2. The Value Implication of Equestrian Athletic Talents Training Mode in General Colleges and Universities under the Background of the Sports-education Integration**

### **(1) Further promote the popularization of equestrian sports and enhance economic levels**

Under the background of the sports-education integration, general colleges and universities not only focus on the improvement of professional skills in the cultivation of equestrian athletic talents, but also devote themselves

to the popularization and promotion of equestrian sports as a way to indirectly enhance the social and economic level. This model, through the construction of a systematic education system, integrates equestrian-related knowledge, skills and cultural elements into the curriculum of colleges and universities, thus giving more students the opportunity to have access to and gain a deeper understanding of equestrianism. As students' interest in equestrianism increases and their skills are mastered, they become disseminators of equestrian sports, driving the neighborhood and even the wider society to participate in equestrian activities, which in turn promotes the expansion of the equestrian consumer market<sup>[4]</sup>. The popularity of equestrian sports not only enriches the people's leisure and entertainment choices, but also drives the development of horse breeding, equestrian equipment sales, event organization and other related industries, forming a benign economic ecosystem that effectively promotes the development of the regional economy and highlights the far-reaching significance of the sports-education integration in the promotion of the sports industry and the economic development.

## **(2) Meet the demand of market development and promote industrial development**

In response to the ever-growing market demand, ordinary universities are precisely aligning their equestrian competitive talent cultivation with the development trends of the industry. They are committed to nurturing high-quality equestrian talents who meet the requirements of the market, thereby providing a solid foundation for the sustained prosperity of the equestrian industry. By doing so, these universities are ensuring that the next generation of equestrian professionals is well-equipped to contribute to the growth and advancement of this vibrant sector. Through in-depth analysis of the various links of the equestrian industry chain, including horse breeding, training, event operation, tourism experience, etc., this model optimizes the curriculum and teaching content to ensure that students can comprehensively master equestrian knowledge and skills, and enhance their innovation and market adaptability<sup>[5]</sup>. This not only meets the current equestrian market demand for professionals, but also leads the development direction of the future equestrian industry and promotes the optimization and upgrading of the industrial structure. With the continuous growth of the equestrian talent team, the innovation ability and competitiveness of the equestrian industry will be significantly improved, injecting new vitality into the high-quality development of the economy and society.

## **(3) Innovate the mode of talent cultivation mode to form the characteristic brand**

Under the background of the sports-education integration, ordinary universities are actively exploring innovative paths for the cultivation mode of equestrian athletic talents, aiming to create a unique brand of equestrian education. The model breaks through the traditional single training system, realizes the deep integration of physical education and cultural education, with an emphasis on the comprehensive development of students' comprehensive quality. It not only focuses on the improvement of equestrian skills, but also attaches great importance to the cultivation of students' cultural literacy, innovative thinking and sense of social responsibility. By building a diversified evaluation system and incentive mechanism, the model encourages students to actively participate in equestrian events at home and abroad, adhering to the concept of "promoting learning and practicing through competitions", and continually improving students' individual athletic level and teamwork ability. Meanwhile, it also strengthens exchanges and cooperation with famous equestrian colleges, industry associations and enterprises at home and abroad, and actively introduces advanced teaching concepts and technological means to improve the teaching level and scientific research capability.

# **3. Path of Equestrian Athletic Talent Cultivation Mode in General Colleges and Universities under the Background of Sports-Education Integration**

## **(1) The Industry-education integration: building equestrian training bases together**

Under the background of the deep integration of sports and education, the industry-education integration, as

a bridge connecting higher education and industry, opens up a new path for general colleges and universities to cultivate equestrian athletic talents. This model not only facilitates the optimal allocation of educational resources and industrial resources, but also realizes the deep integration of theoretical knowledge and practical operation through the construction of a practical training platform, which significantly improves the students' professional skills and the level of actual combat<sup>[6]</sup>. As the scholar Clark emphasized, "The quality of higher education is not only about its teaching content, but also lies in the depth of its integration with social practice." Therefore, exploring the application strategies of industry-education integration in the cultivation of equestrian competitive talents holds profound significance for promoting the innovation and development of equestrian education.

Wuhan Business School, as a higher education institution focusing on the training of applied talents, actively practices the concept of industry-education integration in the training of equestrian athletic talents. The university has joined hands with local famous equestrian clubs and centers to build an equestrian training base, realizing the efficient sharing of resources and complementing each other's advantages. Under this model, students are able to receive both systematic theoretical instruction in equestrianism and regularly engage in practical operations at training bases. This comprehensive approach covers a wide range of practical tasks, including horse care, riding skills, and the preparation of equestrian events. By working in real-world scenarios, students are able to hone their skills and accumulate valuable hands-on experience, preparing them well for future careers in the equestrian industry. Furthermore, Wuhan Business University has specially invited experienced equestrian coaches and senior industry experts as part-time teachers to participate in curriculum design and teaching guidance, ensuring that the content taught closely aligns with the needs of the industry. With this deeply integrated practical training system, the university has significantly improved the quality of its equestrian talent cultivation, laying a solid foundation for students' career development in the field.

## **(2) Course integration: innovating the equestrian teaching system**

Course integration, as a key strategy for educational innovation, focuses on breaking down the traditional disciplinary barriers and building a teaching system that better meets the needs of society through interdisciplinary resource integration. In the process of training equestrian athletic talents, the implementation of course integration strategy can not only enrich the teaching content, stimulate students' learning interest and enthusiasm, but also effectively promote the comprehensive quality of students, so that they can better adapt to the diversified and complex needs of the equestrian industry. As educator Howard said, "The future of education rests on interdisciplinary integration, which will be the core of fostering students' ability to innovate and solve complex problems." Therefore, exploring the application path of course integration in equestrian teaching is of great significance in promoting the innovation of equestrian athletic talent cultivation mode.

For example, Wuhan Business School, based on the existing course system, deeply integrates the equestrian curriculum with multidisciplinary knowledge such as physical education, biology, management, etc., and elaborately designs a set of unique equestrian athletic talent cultivation program. Specifically, the inclusion of equestrian sports physiology into the physical education course helps students to deeply understand the mechanism of horse movement and the scientific principles of physical training for riders; the addition of equine behavior and nutrition and other related courses into the biology course promotes the cultivation of students' practical ability of equine care and feeding management; and at the same time, the equestrian event organizing and planning courses are set up in the management course, which is aimed at cultivating students' event. Through this interdisciplinary course integration mode, Wuhan Business School not only effectively broadens students' knowledge horizons, but also significantly improves their comprehensive quality and innovation ability, and delivers a large number of high-quality talents with interdisciplinary backgrounds to the field of equestrian sports.

## **(3) Events integration: building a competitive display platform**

Under the broader context of deep integration between sports and education, the effective construction of

competitive exhibition platforms has become a crucial aspect of the talent cultivation model for equestrian athletics in ordinary universities. As emphasized in the *Opinions on Deepening the Integration of Sports and Education to Promote the Healthy Development of Youth*, "Sports and education departments should work together to improve the youth sports event system, providing more platforms for youth to showcase their abilities." Competitions are not merely testing grounds for athletic prowess; they are indispensable carriers for talents development.

Based on this, we have actively explored and practiced the integration of events. The college not only regularly organizes on-campus equestrian competitions, but also actively connects with famous equestrian events at home and abroad, such as China Equestrian Tour, FEI Show Jumping Challenge, etc., which provides students with valuable opportunities to participate in the competitions and exercise. Through the in-depth integration of events, students of Wuhan Business School are able to compete directly with top riders at home and abroad, which not only greatly improves their personal skill level, but also broadens their international vision. Furthermore, the college has fully leveraged the event platform to establish close partnerships with enterprises, clubs, and other entities, providing students with abundant internship and practical training opportunities. This has achieved a seamless transition from campus to the workplace. Such a deeply integrated event platform not only showcases the students' competitive prowess but also lays a solid foundation for their future careers.

#### **(4) The Science-technology integration: introducing intelligent training equipment**

The rapid advancements in technology have propelled the integration of intelligent training equipment as a crucial tool for enhancing the efficiency and quality of sports training. In the new era, general colleges and universities should keep pace with technological advancements in cultivating equestrian talents. By adopting the "technology integration" strategy, they can introduce advanced technological tools such as smart wearable devices and big data analysis platforms to achieve precision and personalized management of training processes. As pointed out in the document "China Education Modernization 2035", it is necessary to "accelerate the innovation of talent training mode with the help of modern science and technology", and the science-technology integration is the specific embodiment of this guiding ideology in the field of equestrian talent training, which is aimed at utilizing scientific and technological power to enhance the scientific and practical effectiveness of training.

Wuhan Business School has taken a step ahead in the training of equestrian athletic talents by introducing intelligent training equipment including intelligent horse movement tracking system and rider biomechanical analysis software, which has brought revolutionary training experience for teachers and students. The intelligent horse movement tracking system can instantly record the horse's movement parameters, assisting coaches and riders to accurately analyze the horse's condition and optimize the training plan; while the analysis software of rider biomechanics captures the details of the rider's movements, evaluates the reasonableness of the riding posture, and guides the rider to make targeted improvements. The application of these intelligent training equipments not only enhances the accuracy of training, but significantly improves the training efficiency and athletic ability of the riders as well. The practice of the science-technology integration in Wuhan Business School highlights the innovative attempts of ordinary colleges and universities in the cultivation of equestrian athletic talents, and provides a new development path for equestrian education in the context of the integration of sports and education.

## **4. Conclusion**

Under the macro background of the sports-education integration, the exploration and practice of equestrian athletic talents training mode in general colleges and universities not only marks an attempt to innovate the traditional sports education mode, but also an important initiative to follow the trend of the times and devote to cultivating equestrian athletic talents with international competitiveness. Wuhan As a pioneering explorer in this field, Wuhan Business University has provided valuable experience and exemplary cases for the cultivation of

equestrian talents in China's general colleges and universities through multi-dimensional innovative strategies. These include the implementation of industry-education integration to jointly build training bases, the integration of courses to innovate the teaching system, the integration of events to establish competitive platforms, the integration of technology to introduce smart equipment, and the integration of culture to cultivate competitive spirit. This series of practical exploration not only greatly enriches the connotation of equestrian education and significantly improves the cultivation quality of equestrian athletic talents, but also injects new vitality into the popularization and promotion of equestrian sports as well as the synergistic development of the sports industry and economy.

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