



EFFECTS OF SPORTSMEN'S GATHERING ON TURKISH ATHLETICS

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Abstract:

The purpose of this research is to examine the positive and negative aspects of foreign athletes competing under the name of Turkish athletics in international competitions, which have often occurred in recent years. What do Turkish sportsmen and coaches think about the foreign athletes who are competing in the name of Turkish athletics? What do these athletes think about their contribution to the sport of the country? What are the achievements of them? What are the difficulties seen in the work with them? Answering these and other questions guides to possible methods to eliminate the difficulties that can be experienced in working with foreign sports athletes competing under the name of Turkey and under the flag of Turkey. This research has been limited to answers given by participants which they had been questioned to collect data. 20 sportsman 15 coaches participated in this research. 15 questions were asked to coaches and 16 questions to sportsmen for prepare interview record. All interviews were recorded and written. In conclusion findings shown that sportsman that converted to Turkish citizenship won some medals but in higher goals like to promote Turkey's recognition by other countries and to advertise Turkey, they have failed.

Keywords: athleticism, gathering sportsmen, sport

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1. Introduction

In the study entitled "The Research of Gathering Sportsmen's Effects to Turkish Athletics" the author used a descriptive quality scanning model which it has purpose describe to truths as they are. This research requires to take athletes who have great deal in athletics sport and Turkish trainer who train them and athletes' opinions on Gathering Sportsmen, and to examine national and international articles and news in the press, and a road map to be more successful in sports.

Nowadays, countries are in competitive environment in almost every field. Also, ambiance of sport is one of the areas with the densest occurring rivalries. In this competing and rivalry environment, the participants can apply almost any strategy to be successful and come to the fore. One of these strategies is to take advantage of the others. The most promising athletes of Africa, Asia and other countries come to the top with the attractive offers of countries like USA. In this way, talented, hard-working and promising people in the sport are invited to become the one of United States. This is called "gathering" (Balcioglu, 2015). International championships and competitions are the arenas where the countries show their capabilities in the field of sports and gain prestige with their achievements. There are many different sports organizations in which countries compete with each other in the international arena. Olympic Games provide an opportunity for publicity of country. While countries make great effort to train sportsmen who can promote and represent the country ideally in these races, they also want to strengthen their teams by taking the successful sportsmen to their country citizenship. (Holmes and Storey, 2011, akt. Hürmeriç and Koçak, 2017).

Today, a spate of amateur and professional foreign sportsmen proceeds their sport life in Turkish sport. The reason of doing sport in Turkey is to strengthen Turkish sports clubs or bring medals to Turkey in their attended international competitions on behalf of Turkey. Clubs spend a lot of money and effort for succeed and to transfer professional sportsman who internationally famous and favorite. Sportsmen should have Turkish identity for taking part in the national teams. The first cause of this sportsman's doing sport in our country is to stay on the second and third line the national team in their own country and compete behalf of other country. In other words, on behalf of Turkey. (Öztek, 2010)

Nowadays according to Olympic rules; the athletes who compete must be citizen of the country which represent. But the rivalry between the countries makes widespread passport changes; in other words: international sportsman transfer. According the "The Telegraph" newspaper; in 2012, the Olympic team of Great Britain has 61 members born in overseas countries. Also USA is inclined country for doing this kind of transfers, moreover USA make an offer them a special visa to ambitious and succeed sportsman for compete on behalf of them. Well, why is the "gathering" exist? In terms of athletes, even if they cannot win an Olympic victory, it will be a good experience to be remembered in Olympics for the rest of their life, and for the countries, the fact that foreign athletes are included in their teams means getting rid of hopeless

and getting one step closer to the medal, there is win-win situation for both parties. Traywick, 2014).

Nowadays, continuously increase in number of gathering sportsman's cause discussions in the society and sport public opinion and create the need more comprehensive search about the issue. Therefore this search identify position of gathering sportsman who compete behalf of Turkey in the Turk Sport History and will be guide for understand the how get the best result.

1.1 What is the Sportsman's Gathering?

Gathering is defined that *"raise soldier for guild of janissaries is "work of collection" or "work of gathering"*. (www.tdk.gov.tr) For sportsman who born different country but take another country citizenship and behalf of that country saying "gathering sportsman" (Hürmeriç and Koçak, 2017).

The history of gathering sportsman dates back to old times. During the Ancient Olympiad Cretan long-distance runner Sotades won on behalf of Creta at the first competitions. Then giving a bribe and he compete behalf of Ephesus. This situation did not go down like a lead balloon by Cretan directors and he was dismissed from city-state and entry was banned. (Joost, 2017)

According to Sheinin (2014) and Mills (2016)'s statement; examples of related to gathering sportsman at England and USA in 1920s and 1930s years. England's most of the ice hockey team consist of Canadian sportsman and in 1936 this team (9 of 13 people is Canadian) won gold medal at the Olympic Games. Also, USA in 1920s and 1930s years, started to gather ice hockey players from Canada. (Mills, 2016, akt. Hürmeriç et al., 2017)

Gathering is defined as transfer of sportsmen from foreign countries and by giving them the citizenship of the country of transfer they will be able represent that country in the national and national competitions. In English, a lot of terms are used for gathering sportsmen. These are: "passportswap", "transfer of allegiance", "brawndrain", "muscledrain" or "nationshopping" terms. According to some sources "passportolympians" and "olympiccarpetbaggers" are other terms for using these players (Sheinin, 2014, akt. Hürmeriç et al., 2017)

Today, Turkish sport has a spate of amateur and professional foreign sportsman. After the passing Turkish nationality, they are mentioned gathering sportsman which is the meaning being Turkish. Why is been in the Turkish sports clubs against payment in Turkey to strengthen their participated in international competitions or on behalf of Turkey to give medals to Turkey and announce the name of the world in sports. The teams burn through the money for transfer the internationally famous and favorite sportsman. Sportsmen should have Turkish identity for take part in the national teams. The first cause of this sportsman' doing sport in our country is stay on the second and third line the national team in their own country and compete behalf of other country in other words behalf of Turkey. (Öztek, 2010)

1.2 Gathering Sportsmen in Turkey

When looking at the Turkish gathering sportsman' history we come across with Naim Süleymanoğlu who is the most important gathering sportsman figure. He took refuge in Turkey during the 1986 World Weightlifting Championships and took part in competitions in 1988 on behalf of Turkey. He brought Turkey many medals in the Olympiads and World Weight lifting Championships. At athletics when Elvan Abeylegesse was seventeen years old come to light by businessman Önder Özbilen who looking an athlete for ENKA. And she come to Turkey by the Enka Club in 1999 (Sözcü, 2017). Afterwards him, Yasemin Can and others followed and competed on national competitions on behalf of Turkey. On the table below, gathering sportsmen names who are competing on behalf of Turkey and their branches.

Table 1: Collecting sportsman in Turkey

Branch	Sportsman
Wrestle	Ramazan Şahin, Selim Yaşar (Dağıstan), Elif Jale Yeşilirmak (Russia)
Table tennis	Melek Hu, Ahmet Li, Şirin He, Zhang Xidoyu, Cem Zeng, Bora Vang, PengFei (China)
Judo	Bekir Özlü (Georgia), Kayra Sayit (France), Hüseyin Özkan (Chechnya), Selim Tataroğlu (Chechnya)
Canoe	Lasma Liepa (Latvia)
Weight lifting	Daniyar İsmayilov (Turkmenistan), Sunay Bulut (Bulgaria), Naim Süleymanoğlu (Bulgaria), Hafız Süleymanoğlu (Azerbaijan), Halil Mutlu (Bulgaria), Taner Sağır (Bulgaria)
Basketball	Lara Sanders, Kuanitra Holingsworth (ABD)
Boxing	Batuhan Gözgeç (Uzbekistan) Ramazan Palyani, Selim Palyani, Agasi Agcıgüloğlu (Georgia) Nurhan Süleymanoğlu, Akın Kuloğlu (Kazakhstan)
Natation	Viktoria Zeynep Güneş (Ukraine), Ekaterina Avramova (Bulgaria), Serkan Atasoy (Ukraine), Demir Atasoy (Ukraine), Deniz Nazar (Ukraine)
Football	Mehmet Aurelio(Brasil)
Tennis	Marsel İlhan (Uzbekistan)
Badminton	Emine Li, Recep Zhou (China)
Fencing	Yusuf Bojte (Hungary)
Volleyball	Natalia Hanikoğlu (Russia)
Archery	Natali Nazaridze (Georgia)

As shown in Table 1, there are gathering sportsman wrestling, table tennis, judo, canoe, weight lifting, basketball, boxing, swimming, football, tennis, badminton, fencing, volleyball and archery. According to table, sport branches that have the most gathering sportsman are boxing, table tennis and weight lifting.

2. Gathering Sportsmen in Athletics

In the field of athletics, the desired success cannot be achieved caused to race gathering sportsmen on behalf of country due to both to obtain political rent and the to reach success as the crow flies and to promote the country desire. Below, a list of gathering athletes who won medals in international competitions.

Table 2: Gathering athletes who won a medal at International Competition

Branch	Sportsman	Medals
400m Steeplechase	Yasmani Capello Escobar (Cuba)	2017 World Championship Silver 400m steeplechase, 2006 Europe Championship Gold 400m steeplechase 2016 Olympics Bronze 400m steeplechase, 2015 Balkan Championship Gold 400m steeplechase 2015 Balkan Championship Silver 400m steeplechase
100-200 m.	Ramil Guliyev (Azerbaijan)	2017 World Championship Gold 200m 2016 Balkan Championship Gold 100m 2016 Balkan Championship Gold 200m 2016 Europe Championship Silver 200m 2015 Balkan Championship Gold 200m 2014 Balkan Championship Gold 100m 2014 Balkan Championship Gold 200m 2013 Mediterranean Games Silver 100m 2013 Mediterranean Games 200m
100m	Jak Ali Harvey(Jamaica)	2016 Europe Championship Silver 100m 2015 Balkan Championship Gold 100m
100m	Emre Zafer Barnes (Jamaica)	2016 Balkan Championship Silver 100m
3000, 5000, 10000m	Polat Kemboi Arikan (Kenya)	2016 Europe Championship Gold 10000m 2015 Europe 10000m Cup Gold 10000m 2014 Europe 10000m Cup Gold 10000m 2014 Europe Cross Gold Cross 2013 Mediterranean Games Gold 10000m 2013 Europe Cross Silver Cross 2013 Balkan Saloon Altın 3000m 2012 Europe 10000m Cup Gold 10000m 2012 Europe Championship Gold 10000m 2012 Europe Championship Bronze 5000
Mountain running, 5000m, 1000m	Yasemin Can (Kenya)	2016 Europe Championship Gold 10000m 2016 Europe Championship Gold 5000m 2011 Europe Mountain running Youngs Silver Mountain running 2010 World Mountain Running Youngs Gold Mountain running 2009 Europe Mountain Running Youngs Bronze Mountain running 2009 World Mountain Running Youngs Gold Mountain running
3000m, 5000m, 10000m	Ali Kaya (Kenya)	2013 Europe Youngs Gold 10000m 2013 Europe Youngs Gold 5000m 2013 Europe Cross Youngs Gold Cross 2014 Europe 10000m Cup Silver 10000m 2014 Europe Cross Silver Cross 2014 Europe Championship Bronze 10000m 2014 Balkan Saloon Gold 3000m 2016 Europe Championship Silver 10000m
5000m, 3000m, Water jump	Tarık Langat Akdağ (Kenya)	2013 Mediterranean Games Silver 3000m water jump 2012 Europe Championship Silver 3000m water jump
800m, 1500m	İlham Tanui Özbilen (Kenya)	2015 Europe Saloon Silver 1500m 2014 Balkan Saloon Gold 1500m

		2013 Mediterranean Games Gold 1500m 2013 Mediterranean Games Gold 800m 2013 Europe Saloon Silver 1500m 2013 Balkan Saloon Gold 1500m 2013 World Saloon Silver 1500m
Long jump	Karin Melis Mey (South Africa)	2009 Mediterranean Games Silver Long jump 2009 World Championship Bronze Long jump
	Elvan Abeylegesse (Ethiopia)	1999 Europe Youngs Championship Silver 5000m 2001 Balkan Saloon Championship Silver 3000m 2001 Europe Cross Youngs Gold Cross 2001 Europe Youngs Championship Gold 5000m 2001 Europe Youngs Championship Gold 1000m 2001 Mediterranean Games Bronze 1000m 2002 Europe Cross Championship Bronze Cross 2003 Europe U23 Championship Gold 5000m 2003 Europe U23 Championship Silver Cross 2006 Europe 1000m Cup Gold 10000m 2006 Europe Championship Bronze 5000m 2007 Europe 10000m Cup Gold 10000m 2009 Mediterranean Games Gold 1000m 2010 Europe Championship Gold 5000m 2010 Europe Championship Gold 10000m 2013 Mediterranean Games Silver 10000m
	Almitu Bekele Degfa (South Africa)	2000 Balkan Championship Bronze 1500m 2001 Balkan Cross Championship Bronze Cross 2007 Balkan Championship Gold 5000m 2007 Balkan Championship Gold 3000m 2008 Balkan Saloon Championship Silver 3000m 2009 Europe Saloon Championship Gold 3000m
	Sultan Haydar (South Africa)	2009 Europe U23 Championship Gold 1500m 2009 Europe Cross Championship Gold Cross U23
3000, 5000, 10000m Half Marathon, Marathon	Kaan Kigen Özbilen	2016 Europe Championship Silver Half Maraton
800, 1500, 3000m,	Svetlana Kandemir	2007 Balkan Saloon Championship Bronze 1500m
1500, 3000, 5000m 10000m	Tezeta Sürekli	1999 Balkan Saloon Championship Bronze 3000m 1999 Europe Youngs Gold 5000m 1999 Europe Youngs Silver 3000m 2000 Balkan Championship Silver 5000m 2000 Balkan Championship Gold 10000m 2000 Balkan Saloon Championship Gold 3000m 2005 Mediterranean Games Bronze Heptathlon
100, 200, 60m	Nora Güner	2000 Balkan Championship Gold 200m 2000 Balkan Championship Bronze 100m 2000 Balkan Saloon Championship Gold 60m 2000 Balkan Saloon Championship Gold 200m 2001 Mediterranean Games Gold 100m 2001 Mediterranean Games Gold 200m
100m Steeplechase, 200,400m,400 m Steeplechase, Long jump Heptathlon	Anzhela Kinet	2000 Balkan Championship Bronze 100 Steeplechase 2000 Balkan Championship Bronze Long Jump 2000 Balkan Saloon Championship Bronze 60m Steeplechase

		2000 Balkan Saloon Championship Silver Long Jump
		2001 Balkan Saloon Championship Silver 60m Steeplechase
		2001 Balkan Championship Bronze Long Jump
		2001 Mediterranean Games Gold Heptathlon
		2002 Balkan Saloon Championship Bronze Long Jump
8000, 1500, 3000, 5000m	Ebru Kavaklıoğlu	2001 Mediterranean Games Gold 5000m
		2001 Mediterranean Games Bronze 1500m

Source: www.taf.org

As shown in Table 2, there are sportsmen in international competitions in the athletics branch. There is only one sportsman who ranked in Olympics. The most achievements were obtained at Mediterranean Games, Europe championships and Balkan championships.

3. Method

In this part are presented the model of research, the working group, the data collection tools and the solution used for analysis the analysis of collected data.

2.1 Model of Research

In this research, a descriptive survey model which aims to describe the truths as they are was used. The survey model is a research approach that aims to describe a situation as that existed in the past or as it still exists (Karasar, 2012). In order to determine these characteristics, interview technique was applied by taking prior appointment. For trainers was arranged a questionnaire which was including 15 questions. For sportsmen was arranged a questionnaire which was including 16 questions. Data which obtained from questionnaires was put on a report.

2.2 The Role and Features of Researcher

The researcher gave information to the participants and it was explained that the participants that it is totally based on voluntariness. In the period of the research, the researcher took an active part where the interview with national team trainers and national team sportsman occurred.

2.3 The Population Sample

The research's population is constituted by 2018 Mersin super league competitions. The sample is 20 sportsmen and 15 trainers who joined 2018 Mersin super league competitions and choosing indiscriminate sample way.

2.4 The Process of Data Collection

In this research, internet and related printed journals, books and photographs were searched by using the key words of athletics and gathering. An appointment was taken

for 15 Trainers and 20 sportsmen in super league organized in Mersin and thus they are interviewed and the interviews were recorded.

2.5 Analysis of data

The data of research was analyzed by using descriptive analysis.

Table 3: Major men open field turkey records which were broken by gathering athletes

Branch	Degree	Athlete	
100 meter	9.92 (0.9)	Jak Ali Harvey	12/06/2016
200 meter	19.76 (+0.7)	Ramil Guliyev	09/08/2018
300 meter	32.61	Ramil Guliyev	27/07/2016
800 meter	1:44.00	İlham Tanui Özbilen	29/06/2013
1000 meter	2:15.08	İlham Tanui Özbilen	(17/06/2014).
1500 meter	3:31.30	İlham Tanui Özbilen	12/06/2016
1 Mile	3:51.71	İlham Tanui Özbilen	09/08/2018
3000 meter	7:38.65	Ali Kaya	(17/07/2015).
5000 meter	13:00.31	Ali Kaya	04/06/2015
10000 meter	27:24.09	Ali Kaya	02/05/2015
400m steeplechase	47.81	Yasmani Copello Escobar	09/08/2018
3000m water jump	8:17.85	Tarik Langat Akdağ	03/08/2012
4x100 meter	37.98	Emre Zafer Barnes, Jak Ali Harvey, Yiğitcan Hekimoğlu, Ramil Guliyev	12/08/2018
4x200 meter	1:23.55	Yavuz Can, Ramil Guliyev, Fatih Aktaş, Ali Ekber Kayaş	03/05/2015
4x400 meter	3:02.22	Halit Kılıç, Batuhan Altıntaş, Yasmani Copello, Yavuz Can	12/06/2016
Half marathon	1:00:08	Kaan Kigen Özbilen	08/04/2018
Marathon	2:06:24	Kaan Kigen Özbilen	21/10/2018

Source: www.taf.org

As it is seen Table 3 is located in Turkey records gathering athletes in the open field. When were examined the most recent breaking records, the year of 2018 was the year when most of the athletes scored the most records.

Table 4: Major women open field turkey records which were broken by gathering athletes

100 meter	11.25	Athlete	11/09/2001
200 meter	22.71	Nora Güner	12/05/2002
300 meter	36.87	Nora Güner	05/05/2002
2000 meter	5:33.83	Elvan Abeylegesse	07/06/2003
3000 meter	8:31.94	Elvan Abeylegesse	30/08/2002
5000 meter	14:24.68	Elvan Abeylegesse	11/06/2004
10000 meter	30:21.67	Elvan Abeylegesse	15/04/2006
Half marathon	1:07.07	Elvan Abeylegesse	19/02/2010
Marathon	2:24.44	Sultan Haydar	23/01/2015
Long jump	6.87m	Karin Melis Mey	31/07/2009
Discus throw	64.25m	Oksana Mert	30/05/1999
Heptathlon	6076 score	Anzhela Kinet	04/06/2000

Source: www.taf.org

In Table 4 are presented the major women open field Turkey Records which were broken by gathering athletes. 2002 was the year which when most athletes broke a record.

Table 5: Open field levels of athletes in the category of large men as same branches as gathering athletes since 2004

Branch	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
100 meter	10,6	10,54	–	10,61	10,63	10,73	10,3
200 meter	21,6	21,69	–	21,57	21,49	21,57	21,29
800 meter	01,50,5	1,52,93	–	01,52,51	01,50,33	01,52,96	01,50,14
1000 meter					02,26,93		
1500 meter	03,42,8	3,40,61	–	03,49,49	03,49,77	03,45,92	03,38,06
3000 meter	08,40,1	7,54,60	–	08,26,22	08,23,63	08,20,44	08,10,80
5000 meter	15,21,2	14,36,68	–	14,20,53	14,19,57	14,04,96	14,02,7
10000 meter	33,19,1	32,38,08	–	31,12,15	32,57,74	29,36,37	29,51,65
400m Steeplechase	53,5	51,78	–				
3000m water jump	09,05,6	09,18,87	–	09,15,09	09,00,51	08,46,87	09,01,0
4x100 meter	42,9	40,85	–	40,49	40,27		40,01
4x200 meter			–				
4x400 meter			–	03,19,59	03,31,05	03,47,87	03,53,99

Source: www.taf.org

As seen in Table 5, there are open field levels of athletes in the category of large men as same branches as gathering athletes. From 2004 to 2010, the performances get visibly better.

Table 6: Open field levels of athletes in the category of large men as same branches as gathering athletes since 2011

Branch	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
100 meter	10,63	10,74	10,50	10,54	10,69	10,72	10,64
200 meter	21,34	21,76	21,01	21,11	21,33	21,00	21,52
800 meter	01,52,72		01,53,31	01,48,79	01,50,23	01,49,07	01,50,90
1000 meter							
1500 meter	03,50,47	03,41,54	03,44,95	03,45,96	03,42,56	03,41,24	03,45,43
3000 meter	08,27,39	08,22,64	07,52,07	08,01,18			
5000 meter	14,55,14	13,46,26	13,51,72	14,04,41	14,03,41	14,30,69	14,24,65
10000 meter	33,11,86	31,57,10	29,22,01	33,17,31	30,14,87		
400m Steeplechase	52,06						
3000m water jump	08,46,43	09,26,95	08,43,30	08,35,66	09,02,96	08,34,43	08,54,52
4x100 meter							41,51
4x200 meter							
4x400 meter							03,24,29

Source: www.taf.org

As seen in Table 6, open field levels of athletes in the category of large women as same branches as gathering athletes. From 2011 to 2017, degrees get visibly better.

Table 7: Open field levels of athletes in the category of large women as same branches as gathering athletes since 2004

Branch	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
100 meter		11,59			11,76	12,28	11,6
200 meter		24,01		23,94	23,93	25,65	24,05
2000 meter							
3000 meter		10,13,20		10,37	09,38,06	09,51,12	10,07,16
5000 meter		18,49,78			23,59,0	17,26,64	15,42,1
10000 meter							53,27,25
Discus throw							
Heptathlon		3880	5043	5043			

Source: www.taf.org

As it is seen in Table 5, there are open field degrees in the major men category, where the gathering athletes have the same branch.

Table 8: Open field degrees of athletes in the category of major men with same branches as gathering athletes since 2011

Branch	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
100 meter	11,68	12,14	11,73	11,96	12,00	11,94	11,88
200 meter	23,84	24,00	23,63	24,68	24,77	24,29	25,61
2000 meter							
3000 meter	09,23,12	09,44,75	09,29,56	09,47,00			
5000 meter	16,28,22	18,57,45	16,34,76	17,07,23	16,42,84	16,49,77	16,28,76
10000 meter	35,55,40	42,21,60	34,52,81				
Long jump							
Discus throw							
Heptathlon							

As it is seen in Table 8, there are open field degrees in the major men category, where the gathering athletes have the same branch. When looking 100 meter degrees, with the passing years recovery, at 200 meter drop, at 5000 meter stability is a matter.

3. Discussion, Result and Suggestions

The result of our interviews when looking trainer's views we see some topics come to the forefront. When looking at the emerging views, with the gathering athletes and the Turkish athletes do not have equal opportunities.

A negative point of view regarding gathering athletes is being developed by Turkish athletes. Gathering athletes help the country to win medals in international competitions and make the competition more austere, but their presence makes difficult for Turkish athletes to find a place in national teams. For this reason, there are worries among the athletes; athletes in their branches will have an early retirement from sports. There is opinion on to gathering sportsmen become a model and an inspiration, they should set up a camp with Turkish athletes and also the fact that gathering sportsmen live in Turkey will increase their sense of belonging and adaptation.

And, when we look at the sportsmen meeting sportsmen' gathering on behalf of Turkey, athletes have won medals in international competitions, and therefore they think that, they do contribute to the promotion of the country. However, Turkish athletes in their branches have the opinion that they have been blocked and have more opportunities. Gathering athletes are very disciplined and they have different system of training from themselves. They have thought that their regular and professional manners have positive effect on them.

In Turkey, existence of gathering athletes an object at issue increasing day by day. Especially, after the 2016 European Championship, in foreign press and national press, news were published on the issue and the authorities have expressed various views on the contributions of the gathering athletes to Turkish athletics.

"Yeniçağ" newspaper in Turkey's European Athletics Championships, after 13 medals in 9 of the gathering sportsman win Germany Athletics Federation president Clemens Prokop said, "*This is a complete farce,*" he said they would move to the IAAF Congress and the success of the political in this situation in Turkey.

Ben Bloom on "The Telegraph" newspaper' has a new topic of criticism regarding the existence of gathering athletes competing on behalf of Turkey. He drove forward Yasemin Can's took gold medal at 10000 m. He said "The majority of the athletes who represent Turkey in the European Championship organized this week were born in other countries and they have never visited Turkey. It is doubtful that they can even find the location of Turkey in map. However, some of them will show up in podium this week, Turkish flag will be raised up to the flagpole, just like Can did on Wednesday night. Winning the golden medals shamelessly is really sad." (Bloom, 2016)

After the European Championships, the European Athletics Federation President Hansen emphasized that athletes should not be allowed to change their nationality so easily, as the European Athletics Federation, they will do their part in this issue, he lay emphasis on this topic. International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) have said they will support them (Eurosport Turkey, 2016).

Dennehy from Ireland Independent newspaper was published a writing by brining golden medals won by Yasemin Can and Kaan Kigen Özbilen in Europe Cross Country Championship to forefront.

Dennehy said in this paper "Another day of pride for Kenya in Europe Cross-Country Championship. One more "get off!" to athleticism sport from Turkey. Turkey indecently continues to gather player and buys sportsmen instead of train them and we (Ireland) do not even dope, Turkey have a criminal record a mile long. If I say something wrong you may object but this country makes Europe Country Championship a bad joke, which is not funny. (Dennehy, 2017).

The gathering system has a lot of examples in the world, but Turkey was criticized intensively. Even before the 2016's Rio Olympiads, an online article published by the International Migration Organization stated that the United States team, which was represented by 558 athletes, 44 born abroad athletes were wearing stelliferous and striped uniforms. These 44 athletes consist of 28 sportsmen originally from different countries. (Ekin, 2016, akt. Jansen et al., 2017)

Turkey, meanwhile, is the reason behind this; so receiving heavy criticism has been explained in Bloom writing *"Turkey, Qatar, along with Bahrain and the other, the situation of the different which makes the use of this method that abuse the system size and persona to indifferent attitudes"*.

There are different views in our country on race gathering athletes on behalf of Turkey. In a news of Al Jazeera on internet related to gathering athletes, Mehmet Yurdadön, Former Head of Athletic Federation emphasized that athletics cannot develop with gathering athletes, gathering athletes should be precursor and system should be changed for this and added: *"We must move to a people-oriented policy, not a medal-oriented one"*.

Ex-national team athlete Necdet Ayvaz said for gathering system: *"...in the world are many samples. However, we have a very large young population, and I am having difficulty understanding the preference of gathering while millions of young people are waiting to be discovered. When seeing the past, medals always get with gathering sportsman. Association should take radical decisions. Will we make an investment own children? We should answer this. The one used now have very big budges"* etc. statement.

In the same topic, past Minister of Youth and Sports Mehmet Atalay declared *"If you want you say that gathering or importing or local. Whoever which sportsman acquired succeed is very big and applaudable thing. The essence of the Turkish Flag and the national anthem-İstiklal Marşı- is the show of strength"* and added *"But a giant country of 80 million should not neglect their talented young people and raise a large army of 25 million licensed sportsmen... IOC' 28 of the 80 Olympic branches, athletics, including 26 disciplines, including in all categories of Olympics, world and European championships to rank sportsman, Paralympic sports, disabled sportsman on the condition of the release. To give them the greatest opportunities, to train managers, trainers and sports personnel, the debt of the neck of this country, he warned the managers as a warning."* (Al Jazeera, 2016).

4. Conclusion

In our study, we can see that the presence of gathering athletes could not make the desired contributions to Turkish athletics. When we look at table 5, 6, 7 and 8 it is seen that the Turkish athletes who have the same branch with the gathering athletes have not achieved any improvement since 2004. Besides, it is thought provoking that there are not even sportsmen in many branches. At this point we can say that gathering system's which was considered to give acceleration to Turkish athletics do not achieve the necessary effect.

In our interviews, it is concluded that trainers and sportsman did not think that the gathering system only contributed to the medal and did not think they had any benefit. It is seen that the sports perspectives of Turkish athletes who do not feel equal to gathering sportsmen affected negatively and athletes who are in same branch as gathering ones can quit sport earlier.

In 2014, the Ministry of Youth and Sports in an article entitled *"Not Gathering, the People of This Land (Devşirme Değil Bu Toprakların İnsanı)"* if it is considered that

there are 6500 gathering sportsmen in that period in Turkey and 800 of them do sport actively, the status is understood better. (Gezer, 2014)

In the news in international press, it was seen that there are reactions for the system applied by Turkey. In this case the gathering athletes should not overlap with the obvious goal of making the promotion of the Turkish athletics and Turkey. In the same article, was stated that "14 countries in the world have benefited from the gathering system effectively." (Gezer, 2014). Considering that the number of countries allowed to participate in the Olympic Games is 206, for example, only the logic of taking these 14 countries is debatable (Kömürçü, 2018).

When considered all of these, it is seen that Gathering Sportsmen bring medals in international competitions but they failed to meet final targets such as give acceleration to Turkish Athletics, recognition of Turkey by more countries and promoting the country.

4.1 Suggestions

The policies which gathering sportsmen are not medal-oriented but pioneering Turkish sportsmen must be followed.

It is necessary to review again the gathering system and to calculate better its effects in the short term.

Taking into account the growing secondary importance position of Turkish athletes, there is a need for fair practices to ensure that our athletes feel more valuable.

If gathering athletes absolutely happen, they should not be continuous and indiscriminately, it should be role model like Naim Süleymanoğlu intended the acceleration.

Common training camps should be arranged, in that way Turkish sportsman and gathering athletes can work together.

It must be ensured to gathering sportsmen live longer in Turkey and learn Turkey and Turkish better.

Alongside substructure and settlement determined a common working system as a country for raise Turkish athletes who can compete with gathering sportsman.

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