

KOPKARI

Kopkari is the contest of horse riders. Before weddings and other ceremonies our ancestors feasted palow and at the end of the ceremony they conducted kopkari performances. Kopkari is also called as "Uloq".

Kopkari is mainly an individual contest. Under the conditions of the race, the horseman's body needs to be placed first at the designated position by riding around the square holding down to its foot goatling skin. However in kopkari horsemen may act as a team in order to split the award (watches, carpet, sheep, cattle, certain amount of money). For taking the goatling skin energetic, strong horseman with sparkling horse is chosen. Once he takes the goatling other horsemen surround him and protect him until he reaches the referees.

Some horsemen when getting old, if they cannot participate on their own in kopkari under certain circumstances, give "smart" and "experienced" horses which were trained specially for kopkari to younger participants. At the end in case of victory they divide the award.

This ancient game since several thousand years linked Central Asian, in general Eastern nations with the links of friendship. It brings up young generation in the spirit of physical health, quick-wittedness and strength.

The secrets, knowledge and experience of how to feed the kopkari horses, how to bring

it up, chilling it out, the ways of making them "smart" is being passed from generation to generation.

Kopkari is the game of piece, calmness and plays an important role in bringing up the men to whom grandfathers, mothers and children rely on. At present several kopkari games are being organized in several districts of Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Samarkand and Bukhara regions. The most skillful horsemen of Uzbek, Kazak, Tadjik, Karakalpak and Kyrgyz nationalities organize gatherings in each others' individual and team weddings and participating in big kopkari and *uloq* (goatling skin) contests.



