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## SPORT IN THE PROVINCE OF OPOLE IN THE YEARS 1989–1998. AN OUTLINE

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### Sport w województwie opolskim w latach 1989–1998. Zarys problematyki

#### Streszczenie

Dla państwa polskiego lata 1989–1998 były czasem dynamicznych zmian i adaptacji zarówno do nowej sytuacji politycznej, jak i ekonomicznej. Okres ten kształtował rozwój kultury fizycznej i sportu na obszarze województwa opolskiego. Do głównych czynników warunkujących ten rozwój należały: wysokość środków finansowych przeznaczanych na zadania związane z kulturą fizyczną i sportem, działalność samorządów lokalnych, działalność organizacji środowiskowych, wykwalifikowane kadry trenersko-instruktorskie, działalność aktywu sportowego oraz infrastruktura sportowa. Katastrofalny wpływ na stan bazy sportowej na terenie województwa opolskiego miała powódź z 1997 r., która zniszczyła znaczącą część istniejącej i budowanej infrastruktury sportowej. W związku z powyższymi czynnikami rozwój sportu na terenie województwa opolskiego w latach 1989–1998 był nieregularny. Niestety część dyscyplin znika z prężnych ośrodków. W zakresie upowszechniania sportu na obszarze województwa opolskiego w latach 1989–1998 wymierny wpływ miała działalność Akademickiego Związku Sportowego w Opolu oraz Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Opolu. Mimo wielu trudności, w latach 1989–1998 sportowcy reprezentujący kluby sportowe z województwa opolskiego osiągnęli znaczące sukcesy na różnych szczeblach rywalizacji krajowej. Zawodnicy tychże klubów zdobywali również medale Igrzysk Olimpijskich oraz medale mistrzostw Świata i Europy w różnych kategoriach wiekowych (indywidualnie lub drużynowo).

**Słowa kluczowe:** województwo opolskie, sport, okręgowy związek sportowy, judo, podnoszenie ciężarów.

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## Abstract

For the Polish state, the years 1989–1998 were the times of dynamic changes and adaptation to the new political and economic situation. This period shaped the development of physical culture in the area of the province of Opole. The main factors contributing to this development were: the financial means allocated to the tasks linked with physical culture and sport, the activity of local authorities, the activity of local organisations, qualified training-instructing staff, the activity of sports activists and sports infrastructure. The flood of 1997 occurring on the territory of the province of Opole had a catastrophic impact on the state of both already existing sports infrastructure and the one under construction. Due to the abovementioned factors, the development of sport on the territory of the province of Opole in the years 1989–1998 was irregular. Unfortunately, some sports disciplines disappeared from dynamically operating centres. The activity of the Academic Sports Association in Opole and the Province Association of Folk Sports Teams in Opole in the years 1989–1998 had a tangible impact on spreading sports activity on the territory of the province of Opole. Despite many difficulties, in the years 1989–1998, athletes representing sports clubs from the province of Opole enjoyed success at various levels of sports competition. Members of these clubs were also medalists of the Olympic Games and medalists of the World and European Championships in various age categories (individually and in teams).

**Keywords:** Opole province, sport, sports regional association, judo, weightlifting.

## Introduction

Physical culture can be defined in a broad and a narrow way. Taking the broad perspective, it encompasses physical education, sport, active recreation, rehabilitation and tourism. Its narrow definition does not include tourism.<sup>1</sup> Zbigniew Krawczyk listed and defined the following elements of physical culture (interpreted as a whole): physical education (at school, of children and youth), sport (for everyone, professional), physical recreation (of adults and of people in their prime) and physical rehabilitation.<sup>2</sup> The paper presents mostly sport, and other elements of physical culture to a lesser extent.

The aim of the paper is to present the history of sport in the province of Opole in the years 1989–1998.<sup>3</sup> In the years 1989–1998, sport in the province of Opole underwent significant changes that were the direct aftermath of political

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<sup>1</sup> A. Nowakowski, *Zarządzanie kulturą fizyczną w Polsce w latach 1944–2001. Studium historyczno-porównawcze*, Rzeszów 2005, p. 13.

<sup>2</sup> M. Kobierecki, *Kultura fizyczna a kultura – rozważania teoretyczne*, "Zeszyty Naukowe Zbliżenia Cywilizacyjne" 2016, vol. 12, pp. 116–143. See: Z. Krawczyk, *O kulturze fizycznej. Studia i szkice*, Warszawa 1983, p.13.

<sup>3</sup> The act passed by the Sejm of the Polish Peoples Republic (PPR) on May 28, 1975, introduced a two-degree administrative division of the country. On June 1, 1975, the division was approved and referred to the units of basic level (communes, cities, districts, cities-communes) and the units of the provincial level (49 provinces). See: Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland (Dz. U. – Polish abbreviation) 1975 No 16, item 91.

changes in Poland. The year 1989<sup>4</sup> constitutes the starting point – that is when the process of political transformation began in Poland. The finishing point is the year 1998 – the aftermath of the last administrative reform that was introduced on January 1, 1999. The territorial range of the work encompasses the area of Opole province in its borders from 1989–1998. Its surface equalled 8535 km<sup>2</sup>, with 1 023 700 inhabitants in 1998. In 1998, the province of Opole was divided into 29 cities and 61 communes. It neighboured 6 provinces: from the west, the province of Wałbrzych and Wrocław, from the north, the province of Kalisz and Sieradz, from the east, the province of Częstochowa and Katowice. Its southern border was the border with Czechoslovakia which became the Czech Republic on January 1, 1993.<sup>5</sup>

The state of the art on the history of sport in the province of Opole in the years 1989–1998 is unsatisfactory. The issued publications referred most often to the origins and activity of Folk Sports Teams and sports clubs.<sup>6</sup> There were also works devoted to the activity of sports organisations and associations.<sup>7</sup> The following disciplines received the most coverage: athletics, football, swimming,

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<sup>4</sup> On June 4, 1989, in accordance with the agreement of the round table, parliament elections were organised in Poland, which resulted in victory for the candidates of the “Solidarity” Citizens’ Committee.

<sup>5</sup> [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wojew%C3%B3dztwo\\_opolskie\\_\(1975%E2%80%931998\)](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wojew%C3%B3dztwo_opolskie_(1975%E2%80%931998)) [access: 21.07.2024].

<sup>6</sup> B. Piksa, *Sport w województwie opolskim w latach 1975–1998* (PhD dissertation), Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego im. Jerzego Kukuczki w Katowicach 2019. S. Rosiński, *Sport w działalności Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych na Opolszczyźnie w latach 1946–2006*, [in:] L. Nowak (ed.), *Z najnowszej historii kultury fizycznej Polsce*, vol. 8, Gorzów Wlkp. 2008; Z. Jakubczyk, A. Krawczyk, *Wpływ przemian własnościowych na finansowanie i aktywność Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych w województwie opolskim w latach 1991–1995*, “Człowiek i Ruch” 2000, vol. 2, no. 2, pp. 94–98. B. Latuszkiewicz, *Zielone bractwo*, Warszawa 2000; B. Kociński, *Jubileusz 70-lecia działalności Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych na Opolszczyźnie 1946–2016*, Opole 2016; W. Czaczka, J. Stecki, *Nasze zielone lata*, Opole 1996; Z. Zielonka, *20-lecie klubu olimpijczyka w Grodkowie 1980–2000*, Wrocław 2000; J. Wac, *40-lecie LKS Technik Głubczyce*, Głubczyce 2013; J. Siekaniec, T. Brudniak, *LKS Zarzewie Prudnik. Droga do mistrzostwa*, Prudnik 2015; T. Pokusa (ed.), *Asy ze Wschodniej czyli 50 na 50 Kolejarza Opole*, Opole 2010; J. Kusidło, *LKS Jedność Rozmierka 1946–2011*, Kraków 2011; B. Kociński, *Juvenia Głuchołazy. Jubileusz 35-lecia*, Głuchołazy 2013; K. Jankowski, *Dziesięć lat działalności klubu Japońskich sztuk walki “Bushii”*, Namysłów 2004; M. Sagan, R. Stęporowski, *60 lat Opolskiego Klubu Sportowego “Odra” Opole 1945–2005*, Opole 2005; S. Bergiel, *Znani i zasłużeni niebiesko-czerwoni: 70-lecie Odry Opole*, Opole 2015.

<sup>7</sup> A. Banek, *Z jubileuszowych kart historii Studium Wychowania Fizycznego i Sportu WSI w Opolu*, “Zeszyty Naukowe Politechniki Opolskiej” 1997, nr 226; *Kronika 70-lecia Opolskiego Związku Piłki Nożnej*, Opole 2016; Z. Rektor, J. Żak, *Studencka piłka siatkowa w Wyższej Szkole Inżynierskiej i Politechnice Opolskiej w latach 1966–2000*, Opole 2012; *70 lat Opolskiego Związku Tenisa Stołowego*, Opole 2018; J. Stecki, *Opolski Olimp*, Opole 1995; J. Stecki, K. Stecki, *Opolski Olimp*, [in:] B. Linek, K. Tarka, U. Zajączkowska (eds.), *Opole. Dzieje i tradycja*, Opole 2011.

speedway, cycling, badminton.<sup>8</sup> Some publications tackled the subject matter of sport in local press.<sup>9</sup>

## Research methods and problems

The following research methods were used to prepare the work in question: analysis of historical sources, comparative and geographical analysis, syntheses. The following research questions were formulated:

1. Which factors influenced the development of sport in the province of Opole in the years 1989–1998?
2. How did sport develop in the province of Opole in the years 1989–1998?

With regard to source research, a search for archival resources was conducted. The literature used includes contributions to the history of physical education and sport in the province of Opole in the years 1989–1998.

## Results and discussion

Throughout history, the territory of the province of Opole belonged to various state organisms: the Bohemian monarchy of the Premyslid dynasty (921–990), the Polish Piast monarchy (990–1339), the Bohemian monarchy of the Luxemburgs and Jagiellons (1339–1526), the Austrian Habsburg monarchy (1526–1763), the Prussian Hohenzollern monarchy (1763–1918), the German state

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<sup>8</sup> B. Wojnar, B. Kociński, *Lekka atletyka na Opolszczyźnie w latach 1945–2005*, „Studia i Monografie” 2006 journal 195, B. Kociński, J. Wojnar, *Najlepsi lekkoatleci Opolszczyzny dekady 1950–2009*, „Studia i Monografie” 2011, journal 286; B. Kociński, J. Wojnar, *Osiągnięcia opolskiej lekkiej atletyki w latach 1945–2000*, Opole 2002; B. Kociński, J. Wojnar, *Najlepsi lekkoatleci Opolszczyzny wszystkich kategorii wiekowych w latach 1951–2015*, Opole 2016; A. Szatan, *Historia piłką pisana*, Opole 1996; H. Malisz, *Na kolejarskim torze. Historia opolskiego żużla*, vol. I, Opole 2009; H. Malisz, *Na kolejarskim torze. Historia opolskiego żużla*, vol. II, Opole 2009; D. Bakota, *Joachim Halupczok jako legenda polskiego kolarstwa – od sukcesów do tragicznego finału kariery sportowej*, „Prace Naukowe Akademii im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie. Kultura Fizyczna” 2015, vol. 14, no. 2; E. Wasyliszyn, *Jubileuszowe Asy*, Wydawnictwo Związkowe “Soolpress”, Opole 2000; P. Świętek P, *Opolskie pływanie 1948–2008*, Opole 2008; J. Bąk, *Historia badmintona w Głubczycach. 50 lat Ludowego Klubu Sportowego “Technik” Głubczyce*, Głubczyce 2023.

<sup>9</sup> T. Bohdan, *Jubileusze Odry Opole na łamach “Trybuny Opolskiej” i “Nowej Trybuny Opolskiej”*, [in:] J. Kosiewicz, E. Małolepszy, T. Drozdek-Małolepsza (eds.), *Z dziejów wychowania fizycznego, sportu i turystyki w Polsce i w Europie*, Częstochowa 2016; B. Piksa, *Sport w województwie opolskim w świetle “Nowej Trybuny Opolskiej” w latach 1993–1998*, [in:] J. Kosiewicz, E. Małolepszy, T. Drozdek-Małolepsza (eds.), *Z dziejów wychowania fizycznego, sportu i turystyki w Polsce i w Europie*, Częstochowa 2016.

(1918–1945).<sup>10</sup> After the end of the WWII, Opole Silesia fell within the borders of the Polish state. Since the establishment of the province of Opole, i.e. since the administrative reform of the Polish state conducted in 1950, this province stands out in the country by its cultural specificity consisting in differences deriving from territorial origins of its inhabitants and cultural elements that the aforementioned inhabitants represent (customs, traditions, habits).<sup>11</sup> Opole Silesia, as the 1950 census reads, was inhabited by the Silesians<sup>12</sup> – 436 000, i.e. 54,1%; re-settlers from the east – 188 300, i.e. 23,3%; settlers from the interior of the country – 158 100, i.e. 19,5%.<sup>13</sup> It should be also mentioned here that till 1950, about 2 million people had been displaced from the territory of Lower and Upper Silesia.<sup>14</sup> The next administrative reform conducted in 1975, decreased territorially the province of Opole to a little extent. Part of Olesko administrative unit with Olesno fell within the borders of newly-established province of Częstochowa, and the administrative unit of Racibórz was incorporated into the province of Katowice.

The period of transformation that began in Poland at the end of 1980s, and lasted throughout the 1990s, was the time of profound political, economic, social and cultural changes. Political changes encompassed the transfer from the socialist to the democratic system. As for the area of economics, the centrally managed system was replaced with market economy. First and foremost, it should be mentioned that the most noticeable aspect of Opole province transformation due to the state's economic reform was the strengthening of the private sector. This sector, till the end of the administrative reform of the years 1975–1998, was one of the most important economies of the region. In 1993, this sector occupied a significant position in the number of economic entities and on the job market, and in 1998 the private sector already occupied the dom-

<sup>10</sup> D. Kisielewicz, *Historyczne uwarunkowania odrębności regionu Śląska Opolskiego*, „Pogranicze. Polish Borderland Studies” 2015, vol. 3(1), p. 8. See: M. Lis, *Historyczne uwarunkowania odrębności Śląska Opolskiego*, „Śląsk Opolski” 1998, no. 29, pp. 5–13.

<sup>11</sup> M. Lis, *Śląsk Opolski w warunkach transformacji ustrojowej państwa od 1989 roku*, Opole 2013, pp. 58–60.

<sup>12</sup> According to confidential data of 1935, the German authorities estimated that the Polish minority in Silesia counted 400 000 people, while the Polish authorities' estimate was 750 000 people. See: J. Kokot, *Problemy narodowościowe na Śląsku od X do XX wieku*, Opole 1973, pp. 52.

<sup>13</sup> M. Szejma, *Starzy i nowi mieszkańcy Opolszczyzny*, Opole 1997, p. 56. See: L. Kosiński, *Pochodzenie terytorialne ludności Ziemi Zachodnich*, Dokumentacja Geograficzna, Warszawa 1960, journal 2.

<sup>14</sup> S. Mizia, *Historia Śląska*, Wrocław 1997, p. 41. In the years 1945–1950, certainly the number of the Germans and German autochthones got the most depleted in Silesia. In this period of time, German identification did not completely disappear, it was even increasing. Concealing one's German identity protected against forced resettlement and hostility from the immigrant population. See: M. Czaplński, E. Kaszuba, G. Wąs, R. Żerelik, *Historia Śląska*, Wrocław 2002, p. 463.

inating position in the province of Opole.<sup>15</sup> The transformation also subjected the county to serious social changes. In the period of time in question, Polish society was getting open to the Western culture, which was manifested in the emergence of civic society, also on the territory of Opole province.

The period of political transformation was not favourable to developing new legal regulations concerning physical education and sport as the state authorities were busy with reforming other, more important – in their opinion – fields of social life in Poland of that time. In the years 1989–1990, the act of July 3, 1984 on physical culture<sup>16</sup> was still binding, and the sittings of the Round Table treated the subject matter of physical culture and sport in a rather marginal way. Only on January 25, 1991, a new act introduced a central unit of state administration, i.e. the Office of Physical Education and Tourism (UKFiT).<sup>17</sup> The UKFiT replaced the Committee of Youth Affairs and Physical Culture (KdSMiKF), established in 1987. In 1994, an agreement between the Ministry of Education (MEN) and the UKFiT was signed. It allowed for creating Students Sports Clubs (UKS) in form of physical culture associations. UKS were to complement the curriculum of Physical Education lessons<sup>18</sup> and break the monopoly of School Sports Associations within as for sport practised at school.<sup>19</sup> In this way, youth sport experienced free market competition. The UKFiT became the founding body for state-owned enterprises linked with the production of sports equipment and tourism. What is more, the UKFiT took over the supervision of institutions conducting research in the area of physical culture and sport, and was in charge of training physical education staff in tertiary education institutions.<sup>20</sup>

The first act pertaining to physical culture and sport, adjusted to new reality, was passed on January 18, 1996<sup>21</sup> and divided physical culture into: physical education, professional sport, physical recreation and physical rehabilitation. At the same time, it retained the organisational model based on “associations” – clubs. The aforesaid act also introduced limitations considering professional sport, which was manifested in establishing sports joint-stock companies. In accordance with the requirements of international sports federations and their

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<sup>15</sup> Ibidem, p. 91.

<sup>16</sup> Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland (Dz. U. – Polish abbreviation) 1984 No 34, item 181.

<sup>17</sup> Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland (Dz. U. – Polish abbreviation) 1991 No 14, item 91.

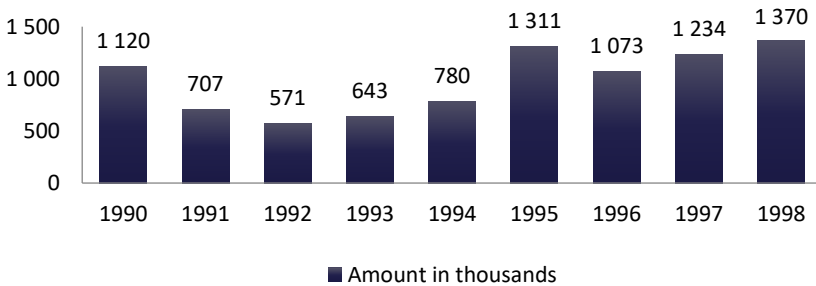
<sup>18</sup> W. Sawicki, *Szkolne stowarzyszenia kultury fizycznej. Uwarunkowania formalnoprawne*, Warszawa 1996, pp. 5-7.

<sup>19</sup> A. Nowakowski, *Cztery tezy krytyczne o Szkolnym Związku Sportowym*, [in:] A. Nowakowski (ed.), *Z przeszłości i współczesności szkolnej kultury fizycznej. Na 50-lecie Szkolnego Związku Sportowego (1957–2007)*, Wadowice 2008, pp. 9–27.

<sup>20</sup> T. Dubrawski, *Zmiany w organizacji kierowania przez państwo kulturą fizyczną w Polsce w okresie od 1984 do 2000 r.*, “Zeszyty Naukowe Wyższej Szkoły Pedagogicznej. Kultura Fizyczna” 2003, vol. 5, p. 134.

<sup>21</sup> Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland (Dz. U. – Polish abbreviation) 1996 No 25, item 113.

statutes, the act confirmed, as an exception in the Polish Constitution, the principle on freedom of association. The principle stated that there could be only one sports association within a given sports discipline in Poland. Disabled people were an exception.<sup>22</sup> Unfortunately, the act preferred professional sport at the expense of the athleticism and healthiness of other citizens.<sup>23</sup> During the first years of the transformation, many sports clubs in the province of Opole faced a challenge of finding new sources of financing, which often resulted in limiting their activity. The funds provided by the headquarters were defined on the basis of nationwide competition of provinces (the points were granted only for events of the rank of Polish Championships in all disciplines). Unfortunately, the inflation in the years 1989–1998 was so high that the provided funds could not cater for all the needs. The turn of 1989 and 1990 and the first half of 1990s were a particularly difficult period of time.



**Chart 1.** State budget expenditure on physical culture realised by the budget of Opole province in the years 1990–1998 (PLN)

Source: Own studies based on *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny. Warszawa 1999, p. 180.

An important contribution to the development of physical culture and sport in Opole province was the act of May 17, 1990, which introduced the division of tasks and competencies between state administration bodies and commune bodies. Communes took over the following duties:

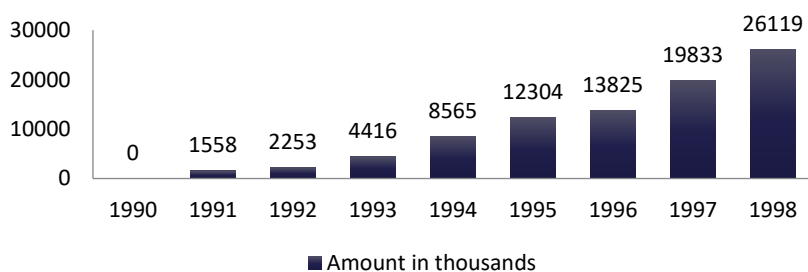
- collaboration with physical culture associations in the area of physical culture development and providing support in executing their duties,
- creating city, regional, city-commune and commune funds of physical culture development,

<sup>22</sup> A. Nowakowski, *Prawo sportowe Trzeciej Rzeczypospolitej (1989–2010)*, [in:] P. Król (ed.), *Studia i szkice w zakresie Polskiej i zagranicznej teorii oraz historii kultury fizycznej*, Rzeszów 2012, p. 251.

<sup>23</sup> A. Nowakowski, *Prawo w kulturze fizycznej Trzeciej Rzeczypospolitej (1989–2005)*, [in:] T. Jurek, K. Obodyński, S. Zaborniak (eds.), *Szkice i studia z dziejów kultury fizycznej*, Rzeszów 2007, p. 440.

- disposition of field resources of physical culture development funds with regard to city, regional, commune and city-commune funds,
- executing tasks concerning the construction of physical culture facilities in rural areas.<sup>24</sup>

The components mentioned above made local committees of physical culture operating at the existing national councils lose their power. As a result of this reform and a further decentralisation process, at the local level, local governments began to play a greater role in sports management. New organisational structures emerged and their aim was to manage sport at the local level more efficiently.<sup>25</sup> Unfortunately, in the period of time in question, efficient functioning depended very often on the professionalism of people working in these structures. In the years 1990–1998, communes in Opole province had to adjust their budgets to the new economic and administrative reality. Investment in infrastructure and education was the key to local development and improving the residents' quality of life. It resulted in communes' bigger financial responsibility, which was linked with more effective management of public funds.



**Chart 2.** The expenditure of the communes' budget in Opole province on physical culture in the years 1990–1998 (PLN)

Source: Own studies based on *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 1999, pp. 180–181.

In 1998, the expenditure of the communes' budget from the province of Opole on physical culture and sport equalled PLN 26 119 000. Out of this amount, PLN 8 788 000 was allocated to physical culture institutions, and PLN 2 333 000 was allocated to physical culture associations. PLN 10 937 000 was allocated to other activity. In this budget, the per capita of Opole province in the area of physical culture and sport was PLN 25.51.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland (Dz. U. – Polish abbreviation) 1990 No 34, item 198.

<sup>25</sup> B. Marszałek, *Zarządzanie sprawami kultury fizycznej na szczeblu lokalnym w Polsce w latach 1973–1990*, "Prace Naukowe Wyższej Szkoły Pedagogicznej w Częstochowie. Kultura Fizyczna" 2003, vol. 5, p. 126.

<sup>26</sup> *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 1999, p. 182.



One of the main factors influencing the development of sport in the area of Opole province was sports infrastructure. In 1989, the area in question held the following sports infrastructure facilities: 83 stadiums and pitches, 14 sports halls, 199 gyms, 41 swimming pools, including 6 indoor ones, and 3 skating rinks.<sup>27</sup> In 1990, the execution of investment and renovation tasks pertaining to sports infrastructure was difficult due to lack of funds, a significant increase in the cost of works and the price of materials. As a result, for example, the construction of a gym at Primary School No 17 in Opole was suspended, as well as the modernisation of "Toropol" skating rink, "Okrażlak" sports and entertainment hall, together with the renovation of an indoor swimming pool at Ozimska St. in Opole.<sup>28</sup> Investment projects and renovations were also suspended in many minor facilities, outside the province's capital. According to the quantitative status of the sports base reviewed by the UKFiT, in 1994, on the territory of Opole province there were: 26 stadiums, 406 football pitches, 14 halls, 257 gyms, 8 indoor swimming pools, 48 outdoor swimming pools, 2 artificial skating rinks and 98 tennis courts.<sup>29</sup> Due to economic improvement in the second half of 1990s, some previously suspended investment projects and renovations were completed. In the years 1990-1998, there was a gradual increase in the number of gyms in primary and secondary schools. In 1990, there were 322 of them in the province of Opole, and in 1998 – 434.<sup>30</sup> One of the main tasks of the Folk Sports Teams Province Association (WZ LZS) in the land of Opole was the completion of projects regarding the construction of sports facilities and infrastructure. In the years 1991-1995, the WZ LZS in the land of Opole was enriched with 68 sports facilities and in 1996 it owned 1 298 facilities.<sup>31</sup> This increase was due to the high activity of social activism and local authorities. On the other hand, the flood of 1997 had a catastrophic impact on the sports base on the territory of Opole province as it destroyed a significant part of already existing sports infrastructure and the one that was under construction. In 1998, sports infrastructure was in good shape (See: Table 1).

In 1989, 138 trainers and 379 instructors supervised work with athletes on the territory of Opole province.<sup>32</sup> In the years 1989–1993, the number of trainers and coaches decreased. In 1993, on the territory in question, there were only 61 trainers and 169 instructors. The personnel situation improved only in the second half of 1990s, when we could notice an increase in the number of trainers

<sup>27</sup> T. Wyspiański, *Kłopoty Salomona*, "Trybuna Opolska" 1989, no 92, p. 19.

<sup>28</sup> Urząd Miasta Opola, *Sprawozdanie z wykonania budżetu miasta Opole za 1990 r.*, pp. 6–19.

<sup>29</sup> Archiwum Akt Nowych, UKFiT, sygn. 840, *Stan ilościowy bazy sportowej w latach 1945–1994*, 1995, pp. 9.

<sup>30</sup> *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 1999, p. 171.

<sup>31</sup> T. Wyspiański, *Prezes nie do zastąpienia*, "Nowa Trybuna Opolska" 1996, no 78, p. 20.

<sup>32</sup> J. Stecki, *Pluralizm sportowy*, "Trybuna Opolska" 1989, no 46, p. 8.

and instructors working in sports clubs. In 1998, 99 trainers and 220 instructors worked with athletes from different age categories.<sup>33</sup>

**Table 1.** Sports facilities on the territory of Opole province in 1998

Type	Number
Basketball courts	37
Handball courts	33
Volleyball courts	37
Universal courts	132
Tennis courts	16
Multi-function sports halls measuring 44 × 22 m and wider	12
Sports halls measuring from 36 × 18 to 44 × 22 m	19
Universal sports halls measuring from 24 × 12 m to 36 × 18 m	117
Auxiliary sports rooms with dimensions below 24 × 12 m	162
Specialist sports halls	4
Indoor swimming pools with pools measuring less than 25 × 12,5 m	5
Indoor swimming pools with pools measuring 25 × 12,5 m	7
Outdoor swimming pools with pools measuring less than 25 × 12,5 m	8
Outdoor swimming pools with pools measuring 25 × 12,5 m	9
Outdoor swimming pools with pools measuring 50 × 20 m	24
Artificial skating rinks	1
Indoor artificial skating rinks	1
Archery tracks	1
Motorcycle and car tracks	1
Speedway	1
Equestrian track	1
Shooting ranges for pneumatic weapon	6
Shooting ranges for shooting – 25 m	10
Indoor shooting ranges for shooting – 25 m	3
Shooting ranges for shooting – 50 m	10
Indoor shooting ranges for shooting – 50 m	1
Other shooting ranges	3
Stadiums with auditoriums up to 3 000	64
Stadiums with auditoriums between 3 001 and 10 000	4
Pitches for big games with a straight raceway	41
Pitches for big games with a circular raceway	33

Source: Own studies based on *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 1999, pp. 172–178.

<sup>33</sup> *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 1999, pp. 72–74.

In 1989, the Province Sports Federation in Opole brought together 25 regional associations<sup>34</sup> and 61 professional clubs. Over ten thousand athletes trained in these clubs.<sup>35</sup> Table 2 presents the situation in the province of Opole in the years 1990–1998.

**Table 2.** Sports clubs on the territory of Opole province in the years 1990–1998

Year	Clubs	Club sections	Members	Athletes registered in Polish Sports Associations	Athletes training in clubs	Women	Youth under 18
1990	71	164	12 493	5967	6703	1179	4343
1991	51	130	8212	4954	6221	1281	4558
1992	63	133	8734	5091	6217	926	4194
1993	54	104	6834	4053	5031	882	3592
1994	55	106	6480	4406	5097	1028	3782
1995	70	124	7750	4563	5997	1011	4177
1996	129	502	22 961	14 775	18 750	2306	7118
1997	157	285	12 554	6768	10 257	1812	5598
1998	111	190	10 213	5960	8028	1265	4533

Source: Own studies based on: K. Teleguj (ed.), *Rocznik statystyczny województwa opolskiego 1993*, Opole 1993, p. 275; K. Teleguj (ed.), *Rocznik statystyczny województwa opolskiego 1996*, Opole 1996, p. 311; *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 1999, pp. 65–71.

Sports rivalry on the territory of Opole province at all levels was administered by the following number of judges affiliated in Polish Sports Associations: 1990 – 1324; 1991 – 1161; 1992 – 887; 1993 – no data; 1994 – 1035 (apart from fishing judges); 1995 – 1072; 1996 – 1383; 1997 – 1087; 1998 – 1040.<sup>36</sup> In the period of time in question, the largest affiliated group of judges in Opole land

<sup>34</sup> The following Regional Sports Associations were gathered in the Province Sports Association in Opole in 1989: the Regional Boxing Association, the Regional Sports Bridge Association, the Regional Ice Hockey Association, the Regional Field Hockey Association, the Regional Equestrian Association, the Regional Judo Association, the Regional Kayaking Association, the Regional Cycling Association, the Regional Basketball Association, the Regional Bowling Association, the Regional Figure Skating Association, the Regional Handball Association, the Regional Volleyball Association, the Regional Swimming Association, the Regional Weightlifting Association, the Regional Shooting Sports Association, the Regional Chess Association, the Regional Tennis Association, the Regional Table Tennis Association, the Regional Wrestling Association, the Regional Opole Sailing Association, the Regional Opole Badminton Association, the Regional Opole Athletics Association, the Regional Opole Archery Association, the Regional Opole Football Association.

<sup>35</sup> J. Stecki, *Pluralizm sportowy*, "Trybuna Opolska" 1989, nr 46, p. 8.

<sup>36</sup> *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 1999, p. 118.

could be found in the Regional Opole Football Association (OOZPN). In 1989, the structures of the OOZPN hosted 473 registered judges of different classes. In the following years, the number of judges in the OOZPN grew, i.e. in 1995, there were 488 of them, and in 2000\*, 578 of them.<sup>37</sup> R. Wójcik was one of the most famous football referees from Opole land, in the period of time in question. In September 1992, R. Wójcik led the UEFA<sup>38</sup> match between Real Madrid and "Politechnica" Timisoara, and in 1998 he was selected by FIFA<sup>39</sup> to be a referee during the Championships in France. R. Wójcik was the second referee after A. Jarguz who was also a referee during the same event. The referee from Opole land officiated one group stage match played on June 20, 1998, between the Netherlands and South Korea (group E), which ended with a score of 5:0 for the Netherlands.<sup>40</sup>

In the years 1989–1998, on the territory of the province in question, academic activities were developing. In 1989, on the territory of Opole province, within the framework of the Academic Sports Association (AZS), there were two clubs hosting 24 sections and 778 registered members.<sup>41</sup> In the academic year 1995–1996, the authorities of the Higher School of Engineering took a decision to create the study of the Institute of Physical Education and Rehabilitation, which led to further development of the academic environment. The Institute consisted of: the Department of Rehabilitation, the Department of Methodology and Pedagogy, and the Department of Physical Education and Sport.<sup>42</sup> The period of time in question also witnessed an increase in the number of sporting events and their participants. These events were organised on the territory of Opole province, under the auspices of the AZS: 1993 – 18 events (814 participants); 1994 – 15 events (770 participants); 1995 – 15 events (680 participants); 1996 – 49 events (1124 participants); 1997 – 122 events (4518 participants).<sup>43</sup> In 1998, on the territory of the province, there were already 4 academic clubs with 1 112 affiliated members.<sup>44</sup> The leading sections at that time were the sections of AZS Opole and AZS WSI Opole.

In the years 1989–1998, the Provincial Board of the School Sports Association (ZW SZS – Polish acronym) in Opole played the role of promoter and anima-

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\* The timeframe has been expanded to show a broader perspective of the OOZPN judging personnel.

<sup>37</sup> *Kronika 70-lecia Opolskiego Związku Piłki Nożnej*, OZPN 2016, no pagination.

<sup>38</sup> *Union of European Football Associations*.

<sup>39</sup> Fédération Internationale de Football Association – International Federation of Association Football.

<sup>40</sup> *Kronika 70-lecia Opolskiego Związku Piłki Nożnej*, Opole, no pagination.

<sup>41</sup> H. Hanusz, B. Korpak, *100 lat Akademickiego Związku Sportowego*, Warszawa 2014, p. 113.

<sup>42</sup> A. Banek, *Z jubileuszowych kart historii Studium Wychowania Fizycznego i Sportu WSI w Opolu*, „Zeszyty Naukowe Politechniki Opolskiej” 1997, nr 226, pp. 5–8.

<sup>43</sup> K. Teleguj (ed.), *Rocznik statystyczny województwa opolskiego 1998*, Opole 1998, p. 297.

<sup>44</sup> *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 1999, pp. 31–35.

tor of physical culture and sport in the province. In the researched period of time, while organising sports events, the ZW SZS collaborated with other organisations and institutions. The ZW SZS in Opole also organised sports competitions for children and youth. Unfortunately, the period of transformation and factors linked with it led to the setback in the ZW SZS in Opole. Apart from the SZS, there were the following entities engaged in school sport in the years 1989–1998 on the territory of Opole province: sports schools, sports classes, classes with the extended PE curriculum, School Sports Clubs (SKS), Interschool Sports Clubs (MKS), Interschool Sports Centres (MOS). It should be also mentioned that the WZ LZS in Opole had a big impact on the development of school sport on the territory in question in the years 1989–1998. From 1994, the establishment of UKS contributed a lot to the process of sports education of children and youth. In the years 1995–1998, there was an increase in the number of UKS members in Opole province, which took the following shape: 1995 – 989 participants; 1996 – 1620 participants; 1997 – 2879 participants; 1998 – 3610 participants.<sup>45</sup>

As far as sport on the territory of Opole province in the years 1989–1998 was concerned, the WZ LZS in Opole had a significant influence. The Author would like to add that on May 16, 1946, the Sports Society “Swornica” was created at the Communal Cooperative “Samopomoc Chłopska”. Later on, its name was changed into the Folk Sports Club in Czarnowąsy. Finally, the club, as the first one in Poland, took the name of the Folk Sports Club “Swornica” Czarnowąsy. The name was taken from the river flowing through that place. A. Janik (the principal of a primary school in Czarnowąsy), S. Grefling and A. Zośka established the club.<sup>46</sup> In 1960, W. Czaczka was elected the Chairman of the Provincial Council of the LZS Association in Opole. Thanks to his activity, the foundations of the development of professional sport were established. They encompassed the following sports disciplines: equestrianism, cycling, handball (11-person-teams), weightlifting, wrestling and athletics.<sup>47</sup> In 1989, on the territory of Opole province, the WZ LZS possessed 500 football pitches, 316 volleyball courts, 155 handball courts, and 37 basketball courts. In 18 places, there were communal sports and recreation centres. 110 communes were equipped with athletics gear. The WZ LZS owned 59 sports halls, 11 swimming pools and bathing facilities, 5 tourism-recreation and leisure centres and 14 stadiums. LZS cells covered 954 villages and hamlets with their activities.<sup>48</sup> Till 1989, one of the elements of the State Farms’ (PGR) activity, with the intention of the centralised

<sup>45</sup> *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1990–1998*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 1999, pp. 52–55.

<sup>46</sup> P. Czaczka, *Z dziejów pierwszego Ludowego Klubu Sportowego w Polsce – LZS Czarnowąsy (województwo opolskie) 1945–1989*, [In:] J. Dżereń (ed.), *Z dziejów kultury fizycznej Polski oraz wybranych regionów i mniejszości narodowych*, Płock 2011, p. 718.

<sup>47</sup> W. Czaczka, J. Stecki, *Nasze zielone lata*, Opole 1996, pp. 5–6.

<sup>48</sup> J. Stecki, *Równy oddech bez wyciągania rąk*, “Trybuna Opolska” 1989, pp. 16, 8.

and planned economy, was partial financing of LZS. This support was provided in the form of grants and services. The first one concerned the investment into sports equipment and remuneration of athletes who were full-time employees in workplaces. The second option concerned the maintenance of sports facilities owned by LZS, delegating employees to renovation works in facilities owned by them and giving access to means of transport.<sup>49</sup> The period of the 1990s, especially its first half, led to the suspension of LZS cells' activity in the region in question. It was caused by the situation in the country and reduction of subsidies for LZS Association activities. The act of January 5, 1991 which limited the role of the state support of physical culture, excluded LZS from the budget zone. As a result, 95% of WZ LZS personnel in Opole province was fired. Mainly weak LZS got liquidated due to these reasons. In order to protect themselves against liquidation, some LZS cells in Opole province made mergers among themselves.<sup>50</sup> In the years 1991-1995, the number of LZS centres and members in the whole country decreased by 28.9%, while in Opole province there was a noticeable increase in the number of members by 15.9%<sup>51</sup> despite liquidating some cells.<sup>52</sup> In the years 1996-1998, LZS and SZS, agricultural schools, rural schools and Volunteer Fire Departments started to cooperate. LZS activity in Opole province was also impacted by their collaboration with local authorities that started realising the provisions of the act of January 18, 1996. According to the act, commune authorities were to take care of the maintenance of sports facilities, equipment and distribution of funds for statute activity of LZS Commune Councils (RG LZS – Polish acronym). What is more, in the period of time in question, LZS in Opole land were also supported by the Department of Culture and Sport (WKiS) of the Provincial Council in Opole, sports associations, unions and organisations. Thanks to this support, at educational institutions and communal culture, sports and entertainment centres Folk Student Sports Clubs (LUKS) were established. The main sports disciplines practised there were football, handball, basketball, volleyball, table tennis and athletics. The schools in Komorno, Namysłów and

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<sup>49</sup> Z. Jakubczyk, A. Krawczyk, *Wpływ przemian własnościowych na finansowanie i aktywność Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych w województwie opolskim w latach 1991–1995*, "Człowiek i Ruch" 2000, vol. 2, no. 2, p. 94.

<sup>50</sup> B. Kociński, *Jubileusz 70-lecia działalności LZS na Opolszczyźnie 1946–2016*, Opole 2016, pp. 13–14.

<sup>51</sup> Składnica Akt Krajowego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Warszawie, Sprawozdanie na XIII Krajowy Zjazd Delegatów Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe za lata 1991–1995. Warszawa 1996, pp. 7–8. See: E. Małolepszy, D. Bakota, T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, A. Płomiński, *Z dziejów sportu i turystyki w działalności Krajowego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w latach 1975–2015*, Częstochowa 2016, p. 34.

<sup>52</sup> S. Rosiński, *Sport w działalności Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych na Opolszczyźnie w latach 1946–2006*, [in:] L. Nowak (ed.), *Z najnowszej historii kultury fizycznej w Polsce*, vol. 8, Gorzów Wlkp. 2008, pp. 511–512.

Głubczyce hosted Leading LKS (WLKS), including dormitories for athletes.<sup>53</sup> These activities contributed to the improvement of sports and recreational activity of the WZ LZS in Opole province in the following years.

Political and economic reforms resulted in a limited activity of sports associations. Numerous centres of the Society for the Promotion of Physical Culture (TKKF) and their activists were not prepared for the pace of these changes. Central authorities did not agree with the demands of the TKKF Board, and even partial financing of their activity from the state budget was out of the question. It resulted in changes regarding the very nature of organised sports events and the very activity of the TKKF in the country and the province of Opole in the years 1989–1998. This period of time witnessed a decrease in the number of TKKF centres and members in Opole province. In this period of time, the TKKF mainly focused on organising smaller sports events, which gathered enthusiasts of amateur sport. This led to the decline in every area of TKKF activity in Opole province between 1989 and 1998.

The development of professional sport on the territory of Opole province in the years 1989–2009 was irregular. This was influenced by the central location of the capital city and the concentration of industry. The prevalent number of sports clubs, sections and training staff as well as athletes was concentrated in the agglomeration of the city of Opole, which gathered most of the sports potential. In the period of time in question, the following capital city clubs stood out in terms of organisation and sports: KS "Kolejarz" Opole, OKS "Odra" Opole, KS "Gwardia" Opole, SKS "Start" Opole, "Budowlani" Opole, AZS WSI Opole or AZS Opole. Outside the provincial city, the development of physical culture and sports was significantly influenced by the activity of such clubs as "Chemik" Kędzierzyn-Koźle (later "Unia" Kędzierzyn-Koźle), Kluczbork Sports Club, LKS "Zarzewie" Prudnik, "Metal" Kluczbork, "Otmęt" Krapkowice, "Pogoń" Prudnik, "Ruch" Zdzieszowice, "Stal" Brzeg, "Stal" Nysa "Stal" Zawadzkie, LKS "Technik" Głubczyce, LZS "Ziemia Opolska", ZKS "Góraźdze", "Mostostal Z.A." Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Kluczbork Karate Club, "Olimp" Grodków or LKS Komprachcice.

In the years 1990–1998, athletes affiliated with sports clubs from the territory of Opole province participating in sports competition won various sports classes. Table 3 presents sports classes won by female and male athletes.

During the Olympic Games held in Barcelona in 1992, the Polish Olympic team included the following athletes from Opole province: A. Brzezińska ("Gwardia" Opole – athletics), K. Siemion, S. Wołczaniecki, A. Kozłowski (all from "Budowlani" Opole – weightlifting), B. Bąk, B. Haracz, K. Krasowska (all from "Technik" Głubczyce – badminton) and M. Kupiec ("Chemik" Kędzierzyn-Koźle – swimming). In 1996, at the Olympic Games held in Atlanta, Opole province was

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<sup>53</sup> Ibidem, p. 512.

represented by: A. Brzezińska (“Gwardia” Opole – athletics), K. Krasowska (“Technik” Głubczyce – badminton) and M. Kupiec (“Chemik” Kędzierzyn-Koźle – swimming), A. Społowicz (LKJ Moszna – equestrianism). Among the aforesaid female and male athletes, only two representatives of Opole province won Olympic medals at that time. It happened in Barcelona, in 1992, and the medals were won by K. Siemion – silver medal in weightlifting (welterweight 82,5 kg) and S. Wołczaniecki – bronze medal in weightlifting (light heavyweight 90 kg).

**Table 3.** Female and male competitors from Opole province with sports classes in the years 1990–1998

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>101</b>	—	<b>130</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>133</b>
International master class	4	4	5	—	5	7	10	16	20
Master class	31	29	19	—	40	37	22	31	37
Class I	111	96	77	—	85	85	90	72	76
<b>Women – total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>29</b>	—	—	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>30</b>
International master class	—	—	1	—	—	4	8	7	5
Master class	11	13	6	—	—	12	6	11	13
Class I	17	21	22	—	—	21	27	17	12
<b>Female and Male Junior Athletes – total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>46</b>	—	—	<b>34</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>37</b>
International master class	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	5
Master class	6	4	4	—	—	9	8	7	7
Class I	47	52	42	—	—	24	32	33	25

Source: *Kultura Fizyczna w latach 1975–1998*, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 1999, pp. 137–145.

During the World and European Championships organised in the years 1989–1998, athletes from Opole province achieved significant results (individually and as a team) in various age categories (See: Table 4).

**Table 4.** Medalists of the World and European Championships in the years 1989–1998 representing sports clubs from Opole province

Discipline	Male/Female Representative	Sports club
<b>Baseball</b>	A. Kędra, M. Pawluk, Ł. Zieliński, J. Głąb, T. Polak, K. Kubik, M. Szymczakiewicz, M. Mórąski, Ł. Kuźdub, M. Świnicki, A. Cybulski,	MKB Brzeg
<b>Equestrianism</b>	Z. Rozpleszcz	LKJ “Moszna”
<b>Judo</b>	J. Wojnarowicz, B. Kucharzewska, M. Węgrzyn, I. Tokarz, A. Mróz	AZS Opole
	A. Chodakowska	AZS WSI Opole



**Table 4.** Medalists of the World and European Championships... (cont.)

Discipline	Male/Female Representative	Sports club
Karate	K. Neugebauer	Kluczborski Klub Karate
	A. Wolna, I. Zakowicz, P. Janiszyn, T. Juszczyk, N. Brudniak, J. Dębińska, I. Juszczyk	LKS "Zarzewie" Prudnik
	P. Głądoch	"Polonia Torakan" Biała
	W. Błoch	Obornicki Klub Karate
Basketball	A. Wojtowicz	"Stal" Brzeg
Road cycling	J. Halupczok	LZS "Ziemia Opolska"
Athletics	A. Brzezińska	"Gwardia" Opole
	R. Pewiński, A. Dyczek, P. Osywała, T. Kszczot	"Centrum" Zdzieszowice
	I. Czut	"Technik" Komorno
Swimming	M. Kupiec	"Chemic" Kędzierzyn-Koźle
Weightlifting	M. Błoniarczyk, E. Piszczek, J. Czerwionka, D. Żagiel, A. Hawryłów, A. Gronowska, M. Kusek, D. Wojtkiewicz, K. Marszałek, K. Mazurkiewicz, K. Karaś, M. Dąbrowski, K. Siemion, S. Wołczaniecki, A. Kozłowski	"Budowlani" Opole
Ringo	M. Boguszewska, M. Domagała, M. Dora, K. Dora, S. Dora, B. Wojnarowski, A. Strózik	Opolskie Towarzystwo Ringo
Softball	M. Błoniarczyk, E. Piszczek, M. Kusek, D. Żagiel, A. Hawryłów, A. Gronowska, M. Kusek, J. Czerwionka D. Wojtkiewicz, K. Marszałek, K. Mazurkiewicz, K. Karaś.	Primary School no 6 in Brzeg
Shooting	M. Minkowski	LOK "Opolanin" Opole
Fencing	D. Gilman	"Zryw" Opole
Powerlifting	H. Bajak, I. Kodziołka, T. Grab, M. Oliwa, D. Ilów, M. Domaradzki	"Olimpia" Pokój
	M. Oliwa	"Olimpia" Pokój
Wrestling	K. Brzozowski	LKS "Orzeł" Namysłów

Source: own study based on B. Piksa, *Sport w województwie opolskim w latach 1975–1998* (PhD dissertation), Jerzy Kukuczka Academy of Physical Education in Katowice 2019.

In the years 1990–1998, athletes from Opole province achieved a lot of success both in the country and abroad in several sports disciplines. These are some of the most important results: gymnastics – in 1995, at the Team Polish Championships, master class, organised in Łódź, the athletes of NTG "Nysa" won the championship title, and in Class III they won a bronze medal;<sup>54</sup> equestrianism –

<sup>54</sup> "Nowa Trybuna Opolska" 1995, no 275, p. 16.

A. Sałacki (LKS "Lewada" Zakrzów) won five medals at the Polish Senior Championships (1991 – gold one; 1992 – bronze one; 1993 – bronze one; 1995 – silver one; 1996 – bronze one);<sup>55</sup> track cycling – in 1992, H. Kołaczek (LKS "Ziemia Opolska") won the title of vice-champion of Poland in track cycling, in the 50 km distance race.<sup>56</sup> In 1995, W. Świrydowicz (LKS "Ziemia Opolska") won the second place in sprint during the track championships of Poland;<sup>57</sup> athletics – in the years 1989-1994, I. Czut ("Technik" Komorno) in the national competition achieved the following results: Ostrów Wielkopolski Polish Championships 1989 – gold medal for the 6km distance run, Olsztyn Polish Championships 1990 – gold medal for the 7km distance run, Skarżysko-Kamienna Polish Championships 1991 – bronze medal for the 6km distance run, Kędzierzyn-Koźle Polish Championships 1992 – gold medal for the 6km distance run, Płock Polish Championships 1993 – gold medal for the 6km distance run, Bydgoszcz Polish Championships 1994 – silver medal for the 5km distance run. The medals won put I. Czut on the 6<sup>th</sup> place in the classification of the best female cross-country runners in the history of the Polish Championships;<sup>58</sup> weightlifting – competitors representing "Budowlani" Opole club, in the years 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997 won Polish Team Championship;<sup>59</sup> badminton – female and male athletes from "Technik" Głubczyce, in the years 1989-1998, won 33 gold, 15 silver and 15 bronze medals of Polish Championships in men's single game, women's single game, men's double game, women's double game and mixed game;<sup>60</sup> field hockey – in the years 1989-1994, the teams of LKS "Rolnik" Nysa (6 times) and LKS "Plon" Skoroszyce (7 times) stood on the podium of Polish Senior Championships, competing on outdoor pitches and indoor sports halls.<sup>61</sup> Indoor football – in 1992, the team of "Novomex" Opole won the title of indoor football Polish champion;<sup>62</sup> male volleyball – a volleyball team from Nysa enjoyed their greatest success in the 1990s, under the names of KS "Stal" Nysa (1990), "Stal-Hochland" Nysa (1993), and Citroën "Stal-Hochland" Nysa. In this period of time, the club won 2 vice-championships of Poland (1994, 1995), and two bronze medals of Polish championships (1992, 1995). The club was also successful in the Polish Cup: a silver medal in

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<sup>55</sup> <https://www.kjlewada.pl/index.php/o-nas/osiagniecia-klubu> [access 27.10.2024]

<sup>56</sup> "Trybuna Opolska" 1992, no 202, p. 8.

<sup>57</sup> "Nowa Trybuna Opolska" 1994, no 199, p. 13. See: R. Stęporowski, *Wygrwać jak Mario*, "Nowa Trybuna Opolska" 1996, no 217, p. 24.

<sup>58</sup> "Nowa Trybuna Opolska" 1994, no 51, p. 12. See: [www.wikiwand.com/pl/Medalistki\\_mistrzostw\\_Polski\\_senior%C3%B3w\\_w\\_biegu\\_prze%C5%82ajowym](http://www.wikiwand.com/pl/Medalistki_mistrzostw_Polski_senior%C3%B3w_w_biegu_prze%C5%82ajowym) [access 28.10.2024].

<sup>59</sup> <http://budowlaniopole.pl/o-nas/osiagniecia> [access 28.10.2024].

<sup>60</sup> B. Haracz, *Historia sekcji badmintona LKS „Technik” Głubczyce w latach 1966–2004* (M.A. thesis), Opole University of Technology 2004, „Badminton Polska” 1997, nr 10, pp. 18–28, [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistrzostwa\\_Polski\\_w\\_badmintonie](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistrzostwa_Polski_w_badmintonie) [access 28.10.2024].

<sup>61</sup> [https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistrzostwa\\_Polski\\_w\\_hokeju\\_na\\_trawie\\_kobiet](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistrzostwa_Polski_w_hokeju_na_trawie_kobiet) [access 28.10.2024].

<sup>62</sup> *Kronika 70-lecia Opolskiego Związku Piłki Nożnej*, Opole 2016, no pagination

1995, a gold medal in 1996.<sup>63</sup> In the season of 1996–1997, the runner-up title was won by the team of “Mostostal Z.A.” Kędzierzyn-Koźle.<sup>64</sup> In 1998, volleyball teams from Opole province enjoyed the best season in the history of that discipline in the land of Opole. The volleyball players of “Mostostal” Azoty Kędzierzyn-Koźle won the Polish championship for the first time, while the team of “Stal-Hochland” Nysa won the third place;<sup>65</sup> table tennis – in the years 1991–1997, D. Djaczyńska-Nowacka (“Stal” Zawadzkie) won five medals of Polish Championships: in singles, doubles and mixed games;<sup>66</sup> tennis – in 1994, A. Żarska (TKS Kędzierzyn-Koźle)<sup>67</sup> became the Polish senior women’s champion; kayaking – in 1996, Gorzów Wielkopolski organised the Polish Championships in kayaking marathon. A. Guzek and A. Zyzik, in K-2 junior competition won a gold medal at a distance of 30km, and their club mate, J. Owczarczyk, won a silver medal for the same distance in K-1 competition. All the athletes represented OTK Opole – former “Kolejarz”. During this championship, representatives of other clubs from Opole also won their medals. A. Jeziorański (“Zryw” Opole)<sup>68</sup> won a silver medal in the junior classification in C-1 15km-distance competition, while A. Madej (“Zryw” Opole)<sup>69</sup> won a bronze medal in K-1 30km-distance competition. In 1995, A. Madej (“Zryw” Opole) won a silver medal in K-1 42km-distance competition, during the Polish Championships in kayaking marathon;<sup>70</sup> swimming – at the beginning of 1990s, the biggest swimming talent in the land of Opole was M. Kupiec from “Chemik” Kędzierzyn-Koźle. This female athlete represented the club in the years 1988-1995, and she was trained by J. Kocjan. M. Kupiec was a seven-time Polish champion (in the 50m<sup>71</sup> and 25m swimming pool<sup>72</sup>). Judo – in October 1990, the athletes of “Gwardia” Opole won a bronze medal of the Team Polish Championships held in Wrocław.<sup>73</sup> In October 1992, Wrocław was the host of the Team Polish Championships during which AZS Opole female judokas won a team gold medal.<sup>74</sup> In the years 1993–1997, the female judokas of AZS Opole won the title of team Polish champions five times

<sup>63</sup> P. Mazur, *Historia piłki siatkowej w Nysie* (M.A. thesis), Opole University of Technology 2007, pp. 66–76.

<sup>64</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1997, no 68, p. 19.

<sup>65</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1998, no 270, p. 26.

<sup>66</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1997, no 88, p. 20.

<sup>67</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1994, no 73, p. 13.

<sup>68</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1996, no 128, p. 20.

<sup>69</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1996, no 128, p. 20.

<sup>70</sup> “Nowa trybuna Opolska” 1995, no 207, p. 12.

<sup>71</sup> 50 m breaststroke (1992,1993); 100 m breaststroke (1991, 1992, 1993, 1995); 200 m breaststroke (1993).

<sup>72</sup> 200 m breaststroke (1993).

<sup>73</sup> “Trybuna Opolska” 1990, nr 242, p. 8.

<sup>74</sup> “Trybuna Opolska” 1992, nr 254, p. 8.

in a row.<sup>75</sup> On the other hand, Gdańsk organised the “Tournament of Champions” ending the struggle for the 1998 Polish Team Championship. During this competition, the female judokas of AZS Opole won the runner-up title.<sup>76</sup> In the years 1989-1998, the female judokas of AZS WSI Opole and AZS Opole and male judokas of “Gwardia” Opole won numerous individual medals in all age categories; karate – in the period of time in question, the most successful karateka from Opole was K. Neugebauer (Kluczbork Karate Club). A multimetalist of Polish, European and World championships in individual and team kumite; fencing – in the years

1989–1996, D. Gilman (player of “Zryw” Opole 1983–1994, player of TSSZ Opole 1995–1996) was Opole’s leading sabre player. In 1995, during the Polish Championships, D. Gilman won a bronze medal in épée fencing;<sup>77</sup> wrestling – in July 1992, Zegrze held Polish Championships in freestyle wrestling. K. Pawlak of LKS „Orzeł” Namysłów won the champion title in 57kg category,<sup>78</sup> and a bronze medal in 52kg category was won by

W. Chwaszcz (ZKS “Góraźdże”);<sup>79</sup> archery – “Obuwnik” Prudnik club hosted Polish Championships in 1989. Then, J. Pawlik-Helbin won two silver and one bronze medal.<sup>80</sup> In 1997, M. Jania (“Obuwnik” Prudnik) won the vice-championship of Poland in archery;<sup>81</sup> rallying and motor racing – in 1990, the title of Polish Champions in navigation rallies went to J. Makowski and M. Pańka (Automobilklub Kędzierzyńsko-Kozielski), and J. Morel and A. Morel (Automobilklub Opolski) were vice-champions. In the team classification, the title of Polish champion was granted to the racers of AKK, the third place went to the representatives of AMO. In the regional classification run by the Polish Motorcyclist Association (PZMot), the region of Opole won the first place.<sup>82</sup> During “Karlík 1992” Opole car rally, which ended up the navigation Polish Championships, the team from Opole, J. Morel and A. Morel, won the title of individual national champions. In the club classification, the second place went to OSA competitors.<sup>83</sup> In the season of 1993 and 1994, OSA won the titles of Club Champion of Poland in the Polish Navigation Car Championships.<sup>84</sup> In Wrocław, in 1994, there was a navigation rally “Ślęza 94”. During this event, the fifth and the sixth quali-

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<sup>75</sup> A. Szatan, *Brązowy puchar*, “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1997, nr 258, p. 24.

<sup>76</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1998, no 280, p. 26.

<sup>77</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1995, no 132, p. 16.

<sup>78</sup> “Trybuna Opolska” 1992, no 158, p. 8.

<sup>79</sup> K. Juźwin, *Historia Zakładowego Klubu Sportowego “Góraźdże”* (M.A. thesis), Opole University of Technology 2004, pp. 93–100.

<sup>80</sup> “Trybuna Opolska” 1989, no 188, p. 8.

<sup>81</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1997, no 213, p. 18.

<sup>82</sup> T. Wyspiański, *Motorowe notowania*, “Trybuna Opolska” 1991, no 1, p. 8.

<sup>83</sup> “Trybuna Opolska” 1992, no 248, p. 8.

<sup>84</sup> [www.agropin.opole.pl/osaopole/wyniki\\_2000.pdf](http://www.agropin.opole.pl/osaopole/wyniki_2000.pdf) [access 15.09.2024].

fiers of the Polish Navigational Car Championships were held. In the general classification, the first place went to the team of J. Herbeć and M. Herbeć (OSA);<sup>85</sup> motorcycle racing – in the years 1995-1998 the drivers from Auto Moto Klub “Tortex” Grodków won championship titles in various motocross and enduro classes; triathlon – in 1993, K. Gwizdoń (TKKF Prudnik) won a bronze medal in short distance Duathlon Polish Championships in Głogów;<sup>86</sup> powerlifting – in November 1993, in Bielsko-Biała, the Second Polish Championships in barbell bench press of the Polish Bodybuilding and Powerlifting Association took place. During this event, the contestants from “Skarabeusz” Opole won three medals.<sup>87</sup> In Dobrzeń Wielki, in 1994, the Fourth Polish Championships in barbell bench press took place. The contestants from “Olimpia” Pokój did very well in these championships. They won three titles of Polish champions.<sup>88</sup> During Polish Championships in barbell bench press organised in Nowy Sącz in 1997, the contestants from “Olimpia” Pokój won three gold and two bronze medals.<sup>89</sup>

## Summary

The years 1989–1998 were a very dynamic period of changes and adaptation to new political and economic circumstances, influencing the development of physical culture and sport on the territory of Opole province. Sport in Opole province developed despite numerous challenges. Legal regulations concerning physical culture and sport, introduced by state authorities had an impact on the process of sports development on the aforesaid territory. During the first years after the transformation, many sports clubs in Opole province faced the challenge of finding new sources of financing, which often led to the reduction of their activity and the number of their athletes. At the local level, territorial authorities started to play a bigger role in sports and sports infrastructure management. As far as popularisation of physical culture, sport and tourism on the territory of Opole province in the years 1989–1998 was concerned, the activity of environmental organisations, i.e. AZS in Opole and the WZ LZS in Opole had a measurable impact. Unfortunately, the reforms of the transformation time led to a regression of operations of the TKKF and the ZW SZS on the territory of Opole province. Moreover, the number of trainers, instructors and sports judges also contributed to the development of sport in Opole province. The condition of sports infrastructure and social activism had a measurable impact on the de-

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<sup>85</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1994, no 112, p. 16.

<sup>86</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1993, no 48, p. 14. (7.3-km-run, 30-km-cycling, 3.65-km-swimming)

<sup>87</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1993, no 190, p. 16.

<sup>88</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1994, no 117, p.14.

<sup>89</sup> “Nowa Trybuna Opolska” 1997, no 66, p. 20.

velopment of sport on the territory of the region in question. Due to the aforementioned factors, in the first half of the 1990s, some sports centres representing such sports disciplines as figure skating, ice hockey, track cycling, acrobatics, speedway limited their activity. The period of time in question witnessed the change of leading sports disciplines. The athletes and clubs from Opole province triumphed in badminton, baseball, weightlifting, field hockey, female and male judo, karate, male volleyball. Despite many difficulties, sportspeople representing clubs from the area of Opole province achieved significant results at various levels of sports competition.

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