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## Sport for the Disabled in the Province of Częstochowskie in the Years 1975–1998

### Abstract

The paper discusses the development of sport for the disabled on the territory of the częstochowskie province existing in the years 1975–1998. The content of the text relates to activities of the Inter-Cooperative Centre of Sport, Rehabilitation, Tourism and Recreation of the Sports Association “Start” established on 17 November 1975 and the Provincial Sports Association of Labour Cooperatives “Start” set up on 27 January 1976. The article also outlines successful performances of disabled sportspeople from the province of częstochowskie. These were successes at both all-Poland and international events.

**Keywords:** Sports Association of Labour Cooperatives “Start”, sport for the disabled, province of częstochowskie

The aim of this paper is to discuss the development of sport for the disabled in the province of częstochowskie. The time periods cover the years 1975–1998. The initial date is 1975 – under the act of the Sejm (lower chamber of the Polish parliament) of the People’s Republic of Poland of 28 May 1975 on the national administrative reform, 49 provinces were established in place of the then 17 ones<sup>1</sup>. The closing date is marked by the year 1998 when the national administrative reform was enforced, as a result of which since 1 January 1999 a three-tier administrative division started to operate (provinces, districts and communes).

The basic research method used in the writing of this paper was an analysis of historical sources. Also, a method of induction and deduction has been applied. The following research areas have been put forward:

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<sup>1</sup> K. Łabędź, M. Mikołajczyk, *Wielka Historia Polski po 1956 [Great history of Poland after 1956]*, vol. XV, Kraków 2001, p. 132.

- Did Sports Association of Labour Cooperatives “Start” (SALC) help disabled sportspeople from the province of częstochowskie to pursue sports aspirations?
- Were disabled sportspeople from the province of częstochowskie successful in the years 1975–1998 in the all-Polish and international arena?

As far as the present state of research is concerned there are two papers discussing sport for the disabled on the territories of selected provinces from the years 1975–1998<sup>2</sup>. The existing works – taking into account the period discussed – relate to a greater extent to sport of people with disabilities within all-Poland scope, starts of sportspeople at the Paralympic Games, as well as the activity of the organizations dealing with sport for the disabled<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> A. Połaniecka, P. Lenik, *Sport osób niepełnosprawnych w województwie koszalińskim w latach 1975–1998* [Sport for the disabled in the province of koszalińskie in the years 1975–1998], [in:] L. Nowak, T. Jurek (ed.), *Z najnowszej historii kultury fizycznej w Polsce*, t. 12 (2): *Kultura fizyczna w Polsce Ludowej* [Recent history of physical culture in Poland, vol. 12 (2): *Physical culture in People's Republic of Poland*], Gorzów Wlkp. 2016, pp. 263–271; W. Nadolski, R. Krasowski, *Sporty zimowe osób niepełnosprawnych w województwie nowosądeckim (1975–1998)* [Winter sports for the disabled in the province of nowosądeckie (1975–1998)], [in:] I. Pezdan-Słiż (ed.), *Kultura fizyczna w rehabilitacji życiowej osób niepełnosprawnych* [Physical culture in life rehabilitation of the disabled], Rzeszów 2014, pp. 78–90.

<sup>3</sup> M. Kowalczyk, R. Szaj, M. Maniak-Iwaniszewska, T. Woźny, J. Gugąła, K. Durczok, P. Kowal, *Sport osób niepełnosprawnych* [Sport for the disabled], Truszczyń 2013; *Vademecum. Sport niepełnosprawnych* [Vademecum. Sport for the disabled], ed. K. Hady-Bartkowiak et al., Warszawa, n.d.; J. Patkiewicz, *Pół wieku pasji nurkowej osób niepełnosprawnych 1963–2013* [Half a century of diving passion of people with disabilities 1963–2013], Wrocław 2014; M. Luczak, P. Kolak, *Z dziejów szermierki niepełnosprawnych na wózkach w Polsce na przełomie XX i XXI wieku* [History of fencing of the disabled people using wheelchairs in Poland at the turn of 20th and 21st century], “Marketing i Rynek” [“Marketing and the Market”] 2015, 11, pp. 193–202; W. Duński, *Od Paryża 1924 do Sydney 2000: polscy medaliści olimpijscy i paraolimpijcy: encyklopedia ilustrowana* [From Paris 1924 to Sydney 2000: Polish Olympic and Paralympic medallists: illustrated encyclopedia], Warszawa 2000; A. Płomiński, *Przygotowanie i udział reprezentacji Polski w I Zimowych Igrzyskach Paraolimpijskich – Örnköldsvik 1976 r.* [Preparation and participation of the Polish national team in the 1st Winter Paralympic Games – Örnköldsvik 1976], “Prace Naukowe Akademii im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie. Kultura Fizyczna” [“Research Papers of Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa. Physical Culture”] 2015, vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 135–142; Ł. Wójcik, *Geneza i rozwój paraolimpizmu na Pomorzu Zachodnim (1948–2005)* [Origins and development of Paralympic movement in Western Pomerania (1948–2005)], “Zeszyty Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego. Prace Instytutu Kultury Fizycznej” [“Research Papers of Szczecin University. Papers of the Institute of Physical Culture”] 2010, no. 27, pp. 141–154; Z. Szafkowski, *30-lecie Gorzowskiego Związku Sportu Niepełnosprawnych “Start” (1976–2006)* [Thirty years of the Gorzów Association of Sport for the Disabled “Start” (1976–2006)], Gorzów Wlkp. 2007; Z. Szafkowski, *35-lecie Gorzowskiego Związku Sportu Niepełnosprawnych “Start” (1976–2011)* [Thirty-five years of the Gorzów Association of Sport for the Disabled “Start” (1976–2011)], Gorzów Wlkp. 2011; Z. Szafkowski, *40-lecie Gorzowskiego Związku Sportu Niepełnosprawnych “Start” (1976–2016)* [Thirty-five years of the Gorzów Association of Sport for the Disabled “Start” (1976–2016)], Gorzów Wlkp. 2016.

The responsibility for sports activities among invalids and disabled people was shouldered by SALC "Start". The association was engaged in the related activity within the scope of physical education, sport and tourism among people with different dysfunctions. Basic statutory and policy objectives were achieved by the Association primarily through "[...] providing sports classes in a variety of disciplines and competitions, organizing competitions, camps and excursions, conducting recreational gymnastics during breaks at work and organizing other forms of recreation and sports activities"<sup>4</sup>. The provincial SALC "Start" operated from 27 January 1976 to 30 November 1990<sup>5</sup>.

On 17 November 1975, before the Provincial SALC "Start" was established, the Inter-Cooperative Centre of Sport, Rehabilitation, Tourism and Recreation (ICSRTR) of the Sports Association "Start" was set up with its seat in Częstochowa in Świerczewskiego 25/27 street<sup>6</sup>. It was established on the basis of the Inter-Cooperative Centre of Sport, Tourism and Recreation "Start" created on 4 October 1974<sup>7</sup>.

At the founding meeting Aleksander Izarta was elected he President of ICSRTR "Start" with Vice-Presidents: Jerzy Girek, Zdzisław Kowalik and Julian Penca<sup>8</sup>. The activity of the Centre focused on members and employees of labour cooperatives, cooperatives of the disabled, members of their families and school youth of the Central Union of Labour Cooperatives<sup>9</sup>.

The primary goal of ICSRTR "Start" was organizing and developing its activity within the scope of sport, rehabilitation, tourism and recreation after finished work. These objectives were pursued through mass sport, gymnastics during breaks at work, rehabilitative exercises (conducted by mgr Łukomski in the Orłowski Hospital in Tysiąclecie district of Częstochowa) and tourism<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> K. Warchoń, *Kultura fizyczna w województwie przemyskim w latach 1975–1998* [*Physical culture in the province of przemyskie in the years 1975–1998*], doctoral thesis, University of Physical Education, Warszawa 2000, p. 157.

<sup>5</sup> J. Mielczarek (ed.), *20 lat województwa częstochowskiego* [*Twenty years of the province of częstochowskie*], Częstochowa 1995, p. 115.

<sup>6</sup> Archiwum Państwowe w Częstochowie [State Archive in Częstochowa] (hereinafter: SACz), Urząd Miejski w Częstochowie [the City Council in Częstochowa] (hereinafter: CCCz), file no. 34/14, Extract from the minutes of the General Meeting establishing the Inter-Cooperative Centre of Sport, Rehabilitation, Tourism and Recreation of the Sports Association "Start" in Częstochowa held on November 17, 1975, p. 16.

<sup>7</sup> SACz, CCCz, file no. 34/14, Minutes of the General Meeting establishing the Inter-Cooperative Centre of Sport, Rehabilitation, Tourism and Recreation of the Sports Association "Start" in Częstochowa held on 4 October 1974, p. 22.

<sup>8</sup> SACz, CCCz, file no. 34/14, Extract from the minutes of the General Meeting establishing the Inter-Cooperative Centre of Sport, Rehabilitation, Tourism and Recreation of the Sports Association "Start" in Częstochowa held on November 17, 1975, p. 16.

<sup>9</sup> SACz, CCCz, file no. 34/14, Framework statutes of Inter-Cooperative Centre of Sport, Rehabilitation, Tourism and Recreation of the Sports Association of Labour Cooperatives "Start", p. 7.

<sup>10</sup> SACz, CCCz, file no. 34/14, Report on the inspection conducted on 10 June 1976 in the Inter-Cooperative Centre of Sport, Rehabilitation, Tourism and Recreation "Start" in Częstochowa, p. 5.

The activity of the Inter-Cooperative Centre of Sport, Rehabilitation, Tourism and Recreation "Start" according to the data of 1976 coordinated 23 sports and tourist clubs of labour cooperatives and cooperatives of the disabled as well as 4 sports clubs. At that time the Centre had 5.200 members<sup>11</sup>. In the same year (23 November 1976) ICSRTR "Start" was deleted from the register of associations and unions of the City Council in Częstochowa<sup>12</sup>.

In the second half of the 1980s on the territory of the częstochowskie province there were 26 sports and tourist clubs, 3 sports clubs "Start" and a section of orienteering<sup>13</sup>.

The following associations were engaged in sport for the disabled in the province of częstochowskie: Provincial SALC "Start" in Częstochowa, Rural Sports Club (RSC) "Goliat" in Częstochowa (conducting sections of bodybuilding, swimming, chess and draughts), Częstochowa Sports Club (CKS) of the Deaf "Warta" in Częstochowa (established in 1992), the Association of Physical Culture, Sport and Tourism of the Blind and Partially Sighted "Jutrzenka" in Częstochowa (founded in 1997 and conducting sections of horse riding, swimming, chess, tourism and draughts) and the Students' Sports Club (SSC) of the Deaf "Junior" in Lubliniec.

The best disabled competitor of the częstochowskie province in the 2nd half of 1980s was Halina Zawadzka – a representative of CKS "Budowlani" in Częstochowa. During the 15th Games of the Deaf (GD), which took place in 1985 in Los Angeles she stood on the podium twice. She won the gold medal in the 400-m run (57.83), and the silver medal in the 800-m run (2:16.11)<sup>14</sup>.

In this period also athletes of the Provincial SALC "Start" were successful. In 1987 in the Polish Championships of the disabled they won medals in the following disciplines: table tennis (bronze medal); swimming (1 silver medal and 3 bronze ones); in track and field events (a three-person team representing the province won 6 medals: 2 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze ones) and in chess (a bronze medal in a team)<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> SACz, Komitet Wojewódzki Polskiej Zjednoczonej Partii Robotniczej w Częstochowie [Provincial Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party in Częstochowa] (hereinafter: PC PUWPCz), file no. 602, Study for the Executive of the Provincial Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party in Częstochowa, subject: Programme for the development of physical culture and sport for the years 1977–1980 and prospects until 1990, Częstochowa, 1976, unpubl.

<sup>12</sup> SACz, CCCz, file no. 34/14, Decision of the Internal Affairs Office of the City Council in Częstochowa on deletion of ICSRTR "Start" from the register of associations and unions in Częstochowa, Częstochowa, 23 November 1976, p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> SACz, PC PUWPCz, file no. 603, Study for the Provincial Committee of PUWP in Częstochowa, subject: Information on the implementation of the resolution of the Plenum of the Provincial Committee of PUWP in Częstochowa on the role of physical culture, sport and tourism in the process of educating young generation, Częstochowa, April 1988, unpubl.

<sup>14</sup> "Gazeta Częstochowska" ["Częstochowa Daily" (newspaper)] 1985, no. 31/1511, p. 11.

<sup>15</sup> SACz, PC PUWPCz, file no. 603, Study for the Provincial Committee of PUWP in Częstochowa, subject: Information on the implementation of the resolution of the Plenum of

In 1989, representatives of Provincial SALC "Start" took part in the Polish Championships of the Disabled in swimming. In the team classification the competitors from the province of częstochowskie were ranked the 15th. The best results were achieved by: Andrzej Dądela (Cooperative of the Disabled "Rozwój" in Kłobuck) and Antoni Wymysło (CD "Polimer" in Lubliniec) – won 2 silver and bronze medals each; Jan Grzesiak (PCD "Uniwersum") and Paweł Wardega (CD "Renoma") – won 2 bronze medals each and Tomasz Migalski who won one bronze medal. The competitors were prepared to start in the championships by Kazimierz Żak<sup>16</sup>.

In the 1990s, the best results in sport for the disabled – for Częstochowa – were achieved by Rafał Nowak (an athlete of the Częstochowa Sports Club (CKS) "Budowlani"). He represented Poland at GD twice. At the 17th GD, which took place in Sofia in 1993, in the 3,000-m obstacle race he took the 5th place (10:15.77), whereas at the 18th GD in Copenhagen in 1997, he won two medals: gold in the 3,000-m obstacle race (9:21.10) and silver in the 1,500-m run (4:02.52). He was also successful in 1995 during European Championships in Lausanne. In the 3,000-m obstacle race he won the gold medal<sup>17</sup>.

Another (deaf) sportsman who was successful in the 1990s was Paweł Pięta (a table tennis player) training in the Students' Sports Association (SSA) of Higher Teacher Training School. During German International Championships of the Deaf which were held in 1998 he won the silver medal<sup>18</sup>. In 1998 he also won two bronze medals (in singles and doubles) in Individual Polish Championships of the Deaf in table tennis<sup>19</sup>.

In 1998, in Częstochowa for the first time Open Championships of the Disabled in chess were held. They were organized on the initiative of RSC "Goliat" established at the beginning of 1998. There were separate classifications for the deaf, blind and the remaining disabled. Among the deaf the 1st place was taken by Józef Kudliński with Alfred Wierus ranked the 2nd and Zbigniew Łągiewka taking the 3rd place. In the classification of the blind Franciszek Kala won ahead of Tadeusz Goliszek and Waclaw Dąbek. The winner of the tournament awarded the cup funded by the President of "Warta" was Józef Drózdź. The second place was taken by Roman Dabiałek, and the 3rd – Zdzisław Grabczyński<sup>20</sup>.

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the Provincial Committee of PUWP in Częstochowa on the role of physical culture, sport and tourism in the process of educating young generation, Częstochowa, April 1988, unpubl.

<sup>16</sup> "Gazeta Częstochowska" ["Częstochowa Daily" (newspaper)] 1989, no. 21, p. 12.

<sup>17</sup> C. Michalski, *Analiza obciążeń treningowych w rocznym cyklu szkoleniowym w biegach średnich i długich zawodnika niesłyszącego – studium przypadku* [Training load analysis in the annual training cycle in the deaf competitor's medium and long runs – case study], [in:] R. Muszkieta, W. Żukow, M. Napierała, E. Saks (ed.), *Stan i rozwój regionalnego sportu i rekreacji* [Condition and development of regional sport and recreation], Bydgoszcz 2010, p. 80.

<sup>18</sup> W. Pięta, *Akademicki Związek Sportowy w Częstochowie w latach 1945–2000* [Students' Sports Association in Częstochowa in the years 1945–2000], Częstochowa 2007, p. 274.

<sup>19</sup> "Gazeta Częstochowska" ["Częstochowa Daily" (newspaper)] 1998, no. 116, p. 16.

<sup>20</sup> "Gazeta Częstochowska" ["Częstochowa Daily" (newspaper)] 1998, no. 48, p. 15.

During the Polish Championships of the Disabled in swimming, which were held in 1998 in Oświęcim the silver medal in the 50-m backstroke race was awarded to Grzegorz Włochowicz (RSC "Goliat")<sup>21</sup>.

Significant results in sport of people with disabilities were also achieved by students of the Basic Vocational School from the School and Educational Centre for the Deaf in Lubliniec. In April 1993 in sports competitions (no discipline was specified) of the Polish deaf youth championship level they won Polish team championship<sup>22</sup>. In turn, on 5 March 1994 in Polish Indoor Championships in athletics young competitors from Lubliniec won 13 medals (5 gold, 4 silver and 4 bronze ones). The team representing Lubliniec, performing as "Warta" Częstochowa, in unofficial classification was ranked the 1st<sup>23</sup>.

At the Winter Spartakiad in Racibórz held on 15–20 March 1994 a team of girls from the Basic Vocational School of the School and Educational Centre for the Deaf No. 1 won Polish championship in volleyball. The winning team was made up of: Alina Domin, Alicja Imiołczyk, Izabela Jura, Agnieszka Kokoszka, Agnieszka Kołodziej, Lidia Krymarys, Iwona Olejniczak and Agnieszka Saliszewska<sup>24</sup>.

On 9–10 April 1995 the 2nd National Winter Spartakiad for Deaf Youth was held. There were competitions in five disciplines: cross-country races, indoor football, basketball, swimming and table tennis. Swimming and table tennis competitions were held in Częstochowa; cross-country races in Grunwald Park in Lubliniec, with start and finish at the "Sparta" stadium; whereas the indoor football tournament was played in the hall of a military unit of the 1st Special Regiment in Lubliniec. The Spartakiad was attended by 253 athletes (representing 18 clubs) from across Poland. In the overall medal count competitors from Lubliniec took the 6th place winning 1 silver medal<sup>25</sup>.

The representatives of SSC of the Deaf "Junior", which operated in the School and Educational Centre for the Deaf in Lubliniec achieved success both on the national and international scale. In the years 1994–1998 the club enjoyed many successes, among others it won the team Polish championship in athletics three times, vice-Polish championship in girls' volleyball and Polish championship of secondary schools in girls' volleyball<sup>26</sup>. A strong link of SSC of the Deaf "Junior" was Monika Nowak who trained swimming under the tutelage of Janusz Bosiacki. At the 2nd National Winter Spartakiad for Deaf Youth in 1995 she won 7 medals (3 gold – 50-m breaststroke, 50-m backstroke and 200-m medley; 3 silver – 100-m freestyle, 200-m backstroke and 100-m butterfly stroke

<sup>21</sup> "Gazeta Częstochowska" ["Częstochowa Daily" (newspaper)] 1998, no. 116, p. 16.

<sup>22</sup> "Nowiny Lublinieckie" ["Lubliniec News" (newspaper)] 1993, no. 12, p. 17.

<sup>23</sup> "Nowiny Lublinieckie" ["Lubliniec News" (newspaper)] 1994, no. 23, p. 14.

<sup>24</sup> "Nowiny Lublinieckie" ["Lubliniec News" (newspaper)] 1994, no. 24, p. 14.

<sup>25</sup> "Nowiny Lublinieckie" ["Lubliniec News" (newspaper)] 1995, no. 36, p. 11.

<sup>26</sup> "Nowiny Lublinieckie" ["Lubliniec News" (newspaper)] 1998, no. 89/130, p. 7.

and 1 bronze medal in 100-m backstroke). Then, at the 4th National Youth Spartakiad held in 1997 in Poznań she won 10 medals, improving five Polish records of female juniors and two of female seniors. In addition, during these competitions she reached the Olympic minimum in 200-m and 400-m freestyle<sup>27</sup>. That is why she represented Poland in 1997 at the GD in Copenhagen and at the European Championships of the Deaf in Vilnius, where she won the bronze medal in 200-m breaststroke<sup>28</sup>.

The competitors of SSC of the Deaf "Junior" at the Polish Youth Championships in Athletics held in 1998 won 36 medals. Thus they dominated team classification. They obtained a total of 240 points and were ahead by 57 points of "Olimpijczyk" Olecko which was ranked the 2nd. Among the most prominent competitors of Lubliniec "Junior" during these championships were: Krzysztof Domin, Marta Hołownia, Michał Jamrozik, Mariusz Kwasek, Anna Radzewicz, Grzegorz and Sebastian Szynczewscy. The Polish record in high jump of younger juniors was established by Mariusz Kwasek (186 cm) who also won triple jump (12.68 m). The 2nd place in triple jump was taken by his club colleague – Krzysztof Domin (11.89 m). Athletes of Lubliniec "Junior" were also successful in javelin and discus throw. The third places in discus throw were taken by: Michał Jamrozik and Grzegorz and Sebastian Szynczewscy. Similarly, in javelin throw three competitors from Lubliniec stood on the podium. Medal-winning positions were also taken by the 4×100-m (boys – 1st place, girls – 2nd) and the 4×400-m (boys – 2nd place, girls – 3rd) relay teams. In addition, Anna Radzewicz and Marta Hołownia are also worth mentioning. Anna Radzewicz in the 100-m run won vice-championship of Poland (13.69) and Marta Hołownia in javelin throw took the 2nd place, and in discus throw – the 3rd one. All the successes achieved by the competitors of SSC of the Deaf "Junior" were made possible owing to the commitment of Jan Wojciechowski and Mirosław Wysocki (athletics instructors)<sup>29</sup>.

To sum up, it must be noted that the Provincial SALC "Start" – despite its short activity (1976–1990) – enabled people with disabilities to meet their physical movement needs, shape physical fitness, and develop motor skills within certain disciplines and sports competitions. Because of this commitment of the Association, the disabled from the częstochowskie province were successful primarily in such disciplines as athletics, volleyball, swimming, chess and table tennis. They won victories not only in Polish championships, but also at games or other international sports events for people with various organ dysfunctions (hearing, sight, amputated limbs, with paralysis and other diseases of the locomotor system). It is noteworthy that in the 1990s disabled athletes were also successful starting in colours of SSA, RSC, SSC and other sports clubs.

<sup>27</sup> "Nowiny Lublinieckie" ["Lubliniec News" (newspaper)] 1997, no. 44/85, p. 6.

<sup>28</sup> "Nowiny Lublinieckie" ["Lubliniec News" (newspaper)] 1998, no. 89/130, p. 7.

<sup>29</sup> "Nowiny Lublinieckie" ["Lubliniec News" (newspaper)] 1998, no. 79/120, p. 8.

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## Sport osób niepełnosprawnych w województwie częstochowskim w latach 1975–1998

### Streszczenie

W pracy omówiono rozwój sportu osób niepełnosprawnych na terenie istniejącego w latach 1975–1998 województwa częstochowskiego. Treści zamieszczone w tekście dotyczą działalności powołanego 17 listopada 1975 r. Międzyspółdzielnicznego Ogniska Sportu, Rehabilitacji, Turystyki i Wypoczynku Zrzeszenia Sportowego „Start” i powstałego 27 stycznia 1976 r. Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Sportowego Spółdzielczości Pracy „Start”. Przybliżono też sukcesy, które osiągnęli niepełnosprawni sportowcy z województwa częstochowskiego. Były to sukcesy zarówno w imprezach ogólnopolskich, jak i międzynarodowych.

**Słowa kluczowe:** Zrzeszenie Sportowe Spółdzielczości Pracy „Start”, sport osób niepełnosprawnych, województwo częstochowskie.