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Chess in the Częstochowa Voivodeship in the years 1975–1998

Abstract

The paper discusses the development of chess on the territory of the Częstochowa Voivodeship, which existed in the years 1975–1998. The content of the text relates primarily to activities of the Regional Chess Association in Częstochowa established in 1976, as well as to successes of chess players. Not only representatives of Częstochowa clubs were successful, but also those of clubs located in neighbouring communes and towns. These were successes at both all-Poland and international events.

Key words: chess, province of częstochowskie, sport

The aim of this paper is to present the development of chess in the Voivodeship of Częstochowa. 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 ones¹. The closing date is marked by year 1998 when the national administrative reform was enforced, as a result of which since 1 January 1999 a three-tier administrative division has started to operate (voivodeships (provinces), districts and communes).

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

- What conditions had an impact on the development of chess in the Voivodeship of Częstochowa in the discussed period?

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

- Were chess players of the Częstochowa Voivodeship in the years 1975–1998 successful in the national and international arena?

The development of chess in the Voivodeship of Częstochowa was under the management of the Regional Chess Association (RChA), whose registered office was located in Częstochowa. It was set up on July 11, 1976. The founding meeting was attended by, among others: Stefan Furs – Vice President of the Polish Chess Association (PChA), Jan Szyma – Vice President of the Voivodeship Sport Federation in Częstochowa, Alojzy Płonka – President of RChA in Katowice and Franciszek Burczyk – member of the Management Board of RChA in Katowice². The Presidents of the Częstochowa RChA in the years 1976–1998 were: Eugeniusz Iwanow (1976–1991), Dariusz Goliszek (1991–1995), Krzysztof Wołek (1995–1997) and Igor Pyrkosz (1997–1998)³.

From 1976 to 1986 RChA of Częstochowa organized, among others: three International Female Junior Tournaments (1976, 1977, 1979), Polish Championships of Voluntary Labour Corps three times (1976, 1977, 1978), Polish Steelworkers' Championships of three times (1984, 1985, 1986), international tournament three times⁴ (in 1981-III cat. of FIDE⁵, in 1983 – 5th cat. of FIDE and in 1984 – 6th cat. of FIDE), qualifiers for the Cadet World Championships (1979), semi-finals of Seniors World Individual Championships (1981, 1983), the final of Individual Polish Championships for the Blind (1979), finals of All-Poland Youth Spartakiade (with 500 participants 1982), 32nd Individual Polish Women's Championships of (1980) and Junior and Senior Team Championship of Silesian Macro region of (1986). In addition, during the period of its activity RChA organized chess matches in different competition classes (“A”, “B” and “C”) on the terri-

² Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 1–3 (VIII-X), 1976, unpaginated. On 13 February 1991 RChA was entered in the register of associations of physical culture and their societies at the Voivodeship Office in Częstochowa. Cf. Wykaz stowarzyszeń kultury fizycznej i ich związków przekazanych wraz z aktami rejestrowymi z Urzędu Wojewódzkiego do Sądu Wojewódzkiego w Częstochowie [*List of physical culture organizations and their associations submitted together with registration files from the Voivodeship Office to the Voivodeship Court in Częstochowa*], p. 6.

³ Compiled from bulletins on the activity of RChA in Częstochowa in the years 1976–1990; Oral account given by Wiesław Goliszek (Vice-President for sport affairs in RChA in Częstochowa in the years 1976–1988) on 17 August 2011.

⁴ Participants in the event included representatives of Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, India, Yugoslavia, GDR, Poland, FRG, Romania and Hungary. See Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 52–55 (I-IV.1985), p. 3.

⁵ FIDE (Federation Internationale des Echecs)-International Chess Federation. It was established on 20 July 1924 in Paris during the 8th Sports Olympic Games on the initiative of P. Vincent, Secretary General of the French Federation. The fifteen countries, whose representatives set up FIDE also included Poland. See. W. Litmanowicz, J. Giżycki, *Szachy od A do Z (a-m)* [*Chess from A to Z (a-m)*], Warsaw, 1986, p. 592.

tory of the Voivodeship of Częstochowa⁶. On 9–11 September 1988 Częstochowa hosted the 1st International Active Chess Tournament. The invited guests came from Magdeburg and Smolensk. The best among Poles was a representative of “Skra” Tadeusz Karpik (3rd place)⁷.

At the beginning of the 1990s RChA in Częstochowa organized a number of tournaments to popularize playing chess, especially among young people in the region of Częstochowa, e.g.: A.Czarnota Memorial “Częstochowa Open” and the Independence Tournament. It is also worth mentioning that in 1991 International Tournament of Chess Talents was held in Częstochowa⁸. In addition, in 1992 and 1993, RChA organized Individual Polish Senior Championships⁹.

Numerous exhibitions also fostered the promotion of chess. From 24 November 1983 until 15 February 1984 an exhibition originated by Andrzej Wasiak could be admired at the District Museum in Częstochowa. The exhibits were lent mainly by such institutions as: Youth Culture Centre (YCC) in Częstochowa, District Museum in Częstochowa, the Malbork Castle Museum, Historical Museum of the City of Cracow, Art Museum in Łódź and National Museums in Kielce, Cracow and Warsaw. In addition, a contribution to the exhibition was made by – the monastery of Jasna Góra in Częstochowa, RChA of Częstochowa and private collectors¹⁰. The second exhibition in a row, dedicated to the chess bookplates, was held in October and November 1984. 385 bookplates were shared by Jerzy Giżycki – a collector from Warsaw¹¹. The theme of the exhibition organized in 1990 were Chess Pieces (among others, there were chess pieces made of ivory, porcelain and metal presented)¹², and in 1998 – Chess Pieces in Art¹³.

In the years 1976–1998, the largest number of chess sections in the Voivodeship of Częstochowa, registered in RChA of Częstochowa was located on the territory of Częstochowa. These sections were present in: Intercompany Workers’ Sports Club (IWSC) „Skra-Barbara” – from 17 December 1978 IWSC „Skra-Komobex, Chess Club (ChC) „Maraton”, Sports Club (SC) „Orkan”, SC „Victoria”, Students’ Sports Club (SSC) „Filutek”, YCC „Skoczki”, Workers’ Sports Club (WSC) „Raków”, WSC „Kolejarz”, SC „Stradom”, SC „Częstochowianka”, Company Community Centre at the B. Bierut Steelworks, Students’ Sports Association “Metalplast”, Inter-School Sports Centre “Żak”, Club of the Polish Association of the Deaf (PAD), Division of PAD “Warta” and “Start-Renoma”. Whereas, in the neighbouring communes and towns chess sections registered in RChA were run

⁶ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa. Jubilee issue of the 40th anniversary of RChA, pp. 8–9.

⁷ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 97–98 (XI-XII.1988), p. 3.

⁸ „Gazeta Częstochowska” [„Częstochowa daily” (newspaper)] 1991, no. 22, p. 9.

⁹ „Gazeta Częstochowska” [„Częstochowa daily” (newspaper)] 1993, no. 16 (94), p. 11.

¹⁰ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 39–42 (I-IV.1984.), p. 6.

¹¹ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 52–55 (I-IV.1985), p. 13.

¹² Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 124 (XII.1990), p. 3.

¹³ „Życie Częstochowy” [„Life of Częstochowa” (daily)] 1998, no. 112, p. 15.

by, among others: SC of Lubliniec “Sparta” Lubliniec, Rural Sports Club (RSC) “Znicz” Kłobuck, Rural Sports Team (RST) Rudniki Wieluńskie, RST “Grom” Poczesna, RST „Vis” Gidle, RST „Piast” Przyrów, RST „Ruch” Hutki, RST Wręczyca Wielka, Company Sports Club (CSC) “Motor” Praszka, SC “Pogoń” Blachownia, SC “Mystal” Myszków, Pulp and Paper Works of Kalety, SSC “Orzeł” Cykarzew and SSC-CC Mykanów.

According to the data from the 1980s, Regional Chess Association had qualified judges. In the ranking list (for the years 1981-1983) developed by the Committee of PChA Referees covering active referees of the central class, that is, those who in the period covered refereed tournaments included in the sports calendar of PChA, referees of Częstochowa took the 8th place in team classification. In individual scoring Józef Żesławski was also ranked the 8th. The following referees came further down the ranking list: D. Borkowski, Ryszard Chmielewski, Tadeusz Goliszek, Eugeniusz Iwanow, Jan Jończyk, R. Kansy, Marek Kozłowski and Piotr Wójcik¹⁴. On 24 April – 5 May 1988 RChA in Częstochowa organized a course for referees. The qualifications of class II referees were awarded to: Ryszard Gawron („Start-Renoma”), Dariusz Goliszek (WSC „Kolejarz”), Albin Kawelczyk and Henryk Kawelczyk (SC „Pogoń” Blachownia) and Mariusz Kula and Witold Żyłan (SC „Stradom”). While the following referees were appointed class III referees: Maciej Dudkiewicz (SC „Stradom”), Ryszard Kapica (non-attached), Krzysztof Kawelczyk (SC „Pogoń” Blachownia), Jerzy Kiedrzyński (SC „Stradom”) and Ryszard Kozieł (WSC „Raków”)¹⁵.

From among the aforementioned sections the most successful one in the national and international arena was the chess section at IWSC “Skra-Barbara”. After the reorganization of competitions in 1975 “Skra” chess players, having played in a separate class for two years, were again included in the Silesian league¹⁶. “Skra” players finished the season of 1975/1976 in the 1st place and participated in the qualifiers for the 2nd league. Unfortunately, these efforts were unsuccessful. However, in the next tournament season (1976/1977) they again took the 1st place in the Silesian league and this time they beat all challengers in qualifiers thus advancing to the 2nd league (after the advance, a coach – Jerzy Konikowski – was assigned to the section)¹⁷.

The chess team of Częstochowa “Skra” was not only successful as a team, but also individually. In 1976, in the Tournament of the Teams of the Voivodeship of Częstochowa, Wiesław Goliszek took the 3rd place (in 1978, in the international tournament in Świnoujście – in group “B” – he won the 2nd place). In 1976, high

¹⁴ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 39–42 (I-IV.1984.), p. 13.

¹⁵ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 99–100 (I-II.1989), p. 8.

¹⁶ J. Sambor, *60 lat Klubu Sportowego „Skra” w Częstochowie /opracowanie monograficzne/ [60 years of “Skra” Sports Club in Częstochowa /monograph study/]*, master’s thesis, University of Physical Education in Katowice 1989, p. 55.

¹⁷ Ibidem, pp. 55–56.

positions of “Skra” chess players were also won at Individual Championships of the City of Częstochowa. Krzysztof Wołek was the winner among seniors, and Elżbieta Jakubowska was the best player among women. In the junior category, the 3rd place went to Tomasz Giżyński, and among sub-juniors the 2nd place was won by Jacek Flis and the 5th place – by Tadeusz Karpik¹⁸.

Another person who also contributed to the successes of “Skra” Częstochowa was Roman Tomaszewski. He won the 1st place at the Polish Younger Junior Championships in Bolesławiec and at the International Junior Tournament in Strzybnica in 1977. In turn, in 1978, at the Individual Polish Championships in fast chess in Kalisz, he took the 3rd place, in qualifiers to the World Junior Championships in Warsaw he won the 1st place, and at the Older Junior Polish Championships he was ranked the 3rd¹⁹.

The tournament season of 1978/1979 ended for the IWSC “Skra-Komobex chess players with their advance to the 1st league. In addition, the end of the 1970s turned out to be a period of further significant successes of “Skra” individual chess players. Roman Tomaszewski took the 11th place at the World Junior Championships in Skien (Norway) and he was 12th at the Polish Senior Championships in Tarnów. Another representative of “Skra” – Jacek Flis – was ranked the 2nd in the International Junior Tournament in Eklo (Belgium) and at the Festival of Kalisz Region. In turn, Tomasz Giżyński won the 1st place in the Tournament of Junior National Team in Warsaw and was ranked the 5th in the tournament in Zalegerszeg (Hungary) and at the Festival of Kalisz Region²⁰.

Individual successes of “Skra” players continued in the next year (1980). In the final of Polish Women’s Championships held in Częstochowa Bożena Sikora was ranked in the 8th position. Other successes were: Roman Tomaszewski’s 10th place in the Akiba Rubinstein’s Remembrance Memorial in Polanica, as well as winning the 1st place in the International Chess Tournament in Mielno by Bogusław Sygulski and the 2nd place in the Junior Tournament in Ploesti (Romania) by Jacek Flis²¹.

At the 33rd Polish Women’s Chess Championships in 1981 Bożena Sikora took the 2nd place. Similarly, the 2nd place, but in 1982, at the Individual Polish Championships, was won by Artur Sygulski. His appointment in 1982 to the Olympic team and a trip to the Chess Olympiad, held in Lucerne (Switzerland), was a great success for this player. It ended with the competitor from Częstochowa taking the 7th place (the best position among Poles)²².

In the 1st half of 1984, the “Skra” Częstochowa players appeared at several international events, and in competitions at the Polish championship level. In the

¹⁸ Ibidem, p. 56.

¹⁹ Ibidem.

²⁰ Ibidem, p. 57.

²¹ Ibidem, p. 58.

²² Ibidem, pp. 59–61.

international tournament for the Liberation of Katowice Cup Jacek Flis took the 2nd place (thus for the first time fulfilling the requirement for the norm of an international master). After the tournament in Koprivnica (Yugoslavia), Artur Sygulski fulfilled the requirement for this norm for the third time. In the tournament in Zrenjanin (Yugoslavia) Witalij Sapis won the 3rd place (out of 22 competing players). At the national events the highest place in the 1st half of 1984 was taken by Bożena Sikora-Giżyńska (she was ranked the 2nd at the Polish Championships in fast chess)²³. In the 2nd half of 1984, Tadeusz Karpik won the title of the Polish champion in the final of the 25th Polish Correspondence Championships. In the following year (1985), another “Skra” player – Witalij Sapis – won the 2nd place at the Individual Polish Championships in Częstochowa²⁴.

In the 1st half of the 1980s, the team successes of “Skra” included: 1st place at the Polish Championships in fast chess (Katowice – 1982), 2nd place at the Polish Team Championships in chess (Kule near Wąsosz – 1983) and the 3rd place at the Polish Team Championships in fast chess (Kalisz – 1984)²⁵.

In October 1987, the seniors of “Skra”, after several years of playing in the 1st league slipped down to the 2nd league²⁶. A year earlier, the same fate befell the juniors who had been playing in the 1st league since 1980 (similarly to the seniors). After taking the 9th place in the 1st league in 1986 they were demoted²⁷.

In 1987, at the Polish Youth Championships in chess (introduced to the calendar of PChA in 1986) the winner was a player of “Skra” – Dariusz Szopka. Thus, he obtained the 1st norm for the national champion and the right to compete in 1988 in the final of the Polish Championships of seniors²⁸.

Despite the setbacks in the league matches players of “Skra” in the early 1990s were considerably successful individually. In 1990, in the 3rd Schach – Open in Magdeburg Jacek Flis took the 5th place²⁹. In the following year (1991) in the International Chess Tournament in Chorzów Adrian Gleń was ranked the 2nd, and he also won the 1st place in the International Tournament of Chess Talents up to 14 years of age. In the team competition in the International Tournament of Sub Juniors in Strumień in 1991 the team of “Skra” won the 2nd place³⁰. In 1992, the chess section of WSC “Skra” Częstochowa ended its activity.

²³ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 43–49 (V-X.1984), pp. 2–3.

²⁴ J. Sambor, *60 lat Klubu Sportowego...*, p. 65.

²⁵ Ibidem, p. 62.

²⁶ Archiwum Państwowe w Częstochowie [*State Archive in Częstochowa*] (hereinafter: SACz), Urząd Wojewódzki w Częstochowie [*Provincial Office in Częstochowa*] (hereinafter: POCz), file no. 35/35, Report on activities of the Management Board of IWSC “Skra” for the period from 24.03.1984 to 10.09.1988, unpub.

²⁷ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa. Jubilee issue of the 40th anniversary of RChA, p. 3.

²⁸ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 85–86 (IX-XI.1987), p. 3.

²⁹ SACz, POCz, file no. 35/35, Report on activities of WSC “Skra” in Częstochowa for 1990, unpub.

³⁰ SACz, POCz, file no. 35/35, Report on activities of WSC “Skra” in Częstochowa for 1991, p. 56.

A chess section was active in the SC “Victoria” on the territory of Częstochowa, continuously over the years when the Voivodeship of Częstochowa existed. In 1976, the Częstochowa club had two teams that participated in matches of class “A” and “B”. Whereas, in the mid 1980s “Victoria” had three active teams of the chess section totalling 82 players (they were: seniors participating in class “A” matches, class “B” seniors, and juniors participating in class “A” matches)³¹. In the 1990s the chess section was run by one coach – Józef Pydziński (instructor).

The most outstanding among individual successes of “Victoria” players achieved in 1977 was Stanisław Najgebauer’s 1st place in the Tournament of Liberation of Częstochowa³². In 1983, the Championships of Częstochowa ended with the victory of Anna Radecka (junior). Bogusław Nocuń was ranked the 4th at the 1983 Polish Championships (owing to this high position he was appointed a member of the Polish junior national team)³³. Ten years later, in 1993, his club colleague – Sławomir Pilarski at the Voivodeship of Częstochowa Individual Championships took the 2nd place and was thus advanced to semi-finals of the Polish championships³⁴.

In the years 1990–1998, seniors and juniors of “Victoria” were ranked in top positions in class “A” matches (most often took the 2nd and 3rd places). In addition to class “A” competition players of the chess section, they actively participated in tournaments organized on the territory of Częstochowa. For example, in 1994, they took part in the All-Poland Tournament on the occasion of the “Steelworker’s Day”, in the International Tournament on the occasion of the “Power Engineer’s Day”, in the International Tournament on the occasion of the “Railwayman’s Day”, in the International Tournament on the occasion of the “National Independence Day” and in the International Tournament of Chess Talents³⁵.

A strong Częstochowa club specializing in chess only was ChC “Maraton”. Significant results of this club were owed, among others, to Czesław Sajkowho took the 3rd place in 1978 in the international tournament in Świnoujście (in group “B”)³⁶ and Włodzimierz Boborowski who won the 1st place in the 1st H.Szapiela Memorial in Piła, in 1978)³⁷. A great success for the ChC “Marathon” team was their promotion to the 2nd league at the end of the 1970s³⁸. SSC “Filutek”, established in 1995 at the Częstochowa University of Technology was another player from Częstochowa among the 2nd-league teams, albeit only in the 2nd half of the

³¹ SACz, POCz, file no. 35/33, Report on activities of SC “Victoria” in Częstochowa for 1985, unpubl.

³² SACz, POCz, file no. 35/33, Report on activities of SC “Victoria” in Częstochowa for years 1976–1978. Częstochowa, dated 3.06.1978, p. 230.

³³ SACz, POCz, file no. 35/33, Report on activities of SC “Victoria” in Częstochowa for years 1981–1984, unpubl.

³⁴ SACz, POCz, file no. 35/33, Report on activities of SC “Victoria” in Częstochowa in 1994, p. 60.

³⁵ Ibidem.

³⁶ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 6–10 (I-VIII), 1978, unpubl.

³⁷ Ibidem.

³⁸ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 22–25 (V.1980-VI.1981), p. 15.

1990s. A club from the vicinity of Częstochowa, which marked its presence among the 2nd-league teams was SC “Orkan” Gnaszyn. The Gnaszyn chess players won their promotion to the 2nd league in 1984³⁹.

Until 1978, there was a chess section operated at the RST “Grom” Poczesna (founded in 1974). It was dissolved because of shortage of financial resources⁴⁰. The best player of “Grom” was Hanna Grabczyńska (in 1977 she took the 1st place at the RST International Championships, and in 1978, she won the 2nd place in the “Golden Tower” Competition in Warsaw)⁴¹. Similarly, the 2nd place in the 1978 “Golden Tower” Competition was won by an RSC “Znicz” Kłobuck player – Wiesław Skwarczyński⁴².

A chess section also existed in the RSC “Sokół” in Olesno. They, did not participate in any regular competitions, however. Their chess players competed only in “Golden Tower” tournaments and in communal spartakiads of RST⁴³.

The titles of champions of the Voivodeship of Częstochowa (in the category of seniors) in the years 1976-1990 were won by: Krzysztof Wołek (1976 – IWSC „Skra-Barbara”), Bolesław Kawa (1977 – WSC „Raków”), L. Kasprzyk (1978), Tadeusz Karpik (1979 – IWSC „Skra-Komobex”), Włodzimierz Boborowski (1980 – ChC „Maraton”), Jacek Flis (1981 – IWSC „Skra – Komobex”), Witalij Sapis (1982 – IWSC „Skra-Komobex”), Wiesław Szyszkowski (1983 – ChC „Maraton”), Bogusław Nocuń (1984 – SC „Victoria”), Jan Kubik (1985 – IWSC „Skra”), Zdzisław Piech (1986 – ChC „Maraton”), Sławomir Pilarski (1987 – SC „Victoria”), Czesław Sajko (1988 – WSC „Skra”), Bartosz Koćwin (1989 – WSC „Skra”) and Janusz Robaszek (1990 – WSC „Skra”)⁴⁴. Studying this list one may easily notice that the winners of the championships of the Voivodeship of Częstochowa were exclusively representatives of Częstochowa clubs.

The chess players of Students’ Sports Club (SSC) “Hetman” in Częstochowa were particularly successful. The association was established in 1995 on the foundation of the chess club operating at the Primary School No. 33 in Częstochowa. The President of “Hetman” was Elżbieta Pyrkosz. The greatest achievement of the club was Edyta Kupczyk’s Polish female junior vice-championship in classic chess for players up to 14 years of age. Apart from that SSC “Hetman” became in 1998 a club winner of All-Poland Youth Olympiad⁴⁵.

³⁹ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 43–49 (V-X.1984), p. 4.

⁴⁰ P. Kozłowski, *Tenis stołowy w gminie Poczesna* [Table tennis in the commune of Poczesna], final work, Jan Długosz University Częstochowa 2005, p. 9.

⁴¹ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 6–10 (I-VIII), 1978, unpubl.

⁴² Ibidem.

⁴³ SACz, POCz, file no. 18/40, Report on activities of the Rural Sports Club “Sokół” Olesno for the period from 28 November 1975 until 20 December 1978, p. 55.

⁴⁴ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 88–90 (I-IV.1988), p. 16; Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 101–104 (III-VI.1989), p. 5; Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 118–120 (VI-VIII.1990), p. 4.

⁴⁵ <http://hetman.czest.pl/o-klubie/historia> [accessed on: 23.08.2011]

In the years 1976-1987, notable achievements were attained by correspondence chess players at the Polish Championships: Stefan Brzózka (1976 – 1st place), Tadeusz Karpik (1984 – 1st place) and August Warta (1984 – 3rd place, 1987 – 1st place). In 1984 correspondence chess players were promoted to the 2nd league, and Stefan Brzózka reached the semi final of the World Championships in individual competition⁴⁶.

In the period of 1979-1985 chess problemists were also successful at Polish championships: Eugeniusz Iwanow (in the group of selfmates⁴⁷: 3rd place in 1979, 1st place in 1981 together with Saturnin Limbach, 2nd place in 1983 and 1st place in 1984; in the group of helpmates: 2nd place in 1979 and 1983, 3rd place in 1985; in the group of three-movers⁴⁸: 3rd place in 1982), Ryszard Kapica (in the group of helpmates: 2nd place in 1981, 1st place in 1982, 3rd place in 1983 and 1st place in 1985 together with Saturnin Limbach; in the group of three-movers: 1st place in 1981), Saturnin Limbach (in the group of selfmates: 3rd place in 1979 and 1st place in 1981 together with Eugeniusz Iwanow; in the group of helpmates: 1st place in 1979, 3rd place in 1981 and 1st place in 1985 together with Ryszard Kapica) and Jarosław Brzozowicz (in the group of selfmates: 3rd place in 1984; in the group of two-movers⁴⁹: 3rd place in 1985). Whereas at Polish championships in solving chess tasks the best players in the 1980s were Eugeniusz Iwanow (1980 – 3rd place) and Witalij Sapis (1984 – 2nd place)⁵⁰. In 1984, at the Chess Olympiad in Thessaloniki, Eugeniusz Iwanow together with the Polish national team won the 1st place in the group of self-mates⁵¹. Moreover, Eugeniusz Iwanow took the 6th place at the World Championship in Riccione (Italy) in 1985,⁵². In the 3rd World Team Championships in setting chess puzzles (scheduled in 1984.) Eugeniusz Iwanow won the world vice-championship⁵³.

⁴⁶ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 52–55 (I-IV.1985), p. 3.

⁴⁷ selfmate – chess composition, in which Whites start and force Blacks to mate them despite best defensive games of the Blacks. See. W. Litmanowicz, J. Giżycki, *Szachy od A do Z (n – z) [Chess from A to Z (n – z)]*, Warsaw, 1987, p. 1079.

⁴⁸ three-mover- a chess task, in which Whites start and mate Blacks in three moves. This makes it possible to implement complex subjects. See. W. Litmanowicz, J. Giżycki, *Szachy od A do Z (n – z)...*, p. 1253.

⁴⁹ two-mover- a chess task, in which Whites start and mate Blacks in two moves. There can be a threat two-mover, consisting of the following members: 1. start, 2. threat, 3. defence of Blacks, 4. move of the mating side, it can also be of tempo type consisting of the following members: 1. start, 2. move of Blacks, 3. move of the mating side. Additional elements of a two-mover can be: game prepared in the position of a diagram, deceptive moves of the start. See. W. Litmanowicz, J. Giżycki, *Szachy od A do Z (a – m)...*, p. 217.

⁵⁰ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa. Jubilee issue of the 40th anniversary of RChA, pp. 16–17.

⁵¹ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 97–98 (XI-XII.1988), p. 2.

⁵² Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 64–67 (I-IV 1986), p. 5.

⁵³ Bulletin of Regional Chess Association of PSF in Częstochowa, no. 85–86 (X-XI.1987), p. 2.

At the Polish Championships in chess composition in 1988, Stanisław Wójcik took the 6th place in the group of studies, Eugeniusz Iwanow took the 2nd place in the group of selfmates and he took the 1st place in the group of fairy tasks, whereas Ryszard Kapica won the 2nd place in the group of helpmates⁵⁴.

To sum up, it must be noted that chess developed quite rapidly in the Voivodeship of Częstochowa in the years 1975–1998. The activity of the Częstochowa RChA, which throughout the period of its existence organized chess matches in individual competition classes, had a decisive, very positive impact on this process. It was also a highly regarded organizer of many events on the all-Poland and even international level. In addition, the promotion of this game, which also affected its development, was fostered by numerous exhibitions. The most successful players of the discussed period were representatives of Częstochowa “Skra”, e.g. Jacek Flis, Tadeusz Karpik, Witalij Sapis, Bożena Sikora-Giżyńska, Artur Sygulski and Roman Tomaszewski. In the years 1975–1998, correspondence chess players and chess problemists also had considerable achievements.

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Szachy w województwie częstochowskim w latach 1975–1998

Streszczenie

W pracy omówiono rozwój szachów na terenie, istniejącego w latach 1975–1998, województwa częstochowskiego. Tekst dotyczy przede wszystkim działalności powołanego w 1976 r. Okręgowego Związku Szachowego w Częstochowie, jak również osiągniętych przez szachistów sukcesów. Odnosili je reprezentanci nie tylko klubów częstochowskich, ale i klubów położonych w gminach i miastach ościennych. Były to sukcesy zarówno w imprezach ogólnopolskich, jak i międzynarodowych.

Słowa kluczowe: szachy, województwo częstochowskie, sport