

Teresa DROZDEK-MAŁOLEPSZA\*

## Women's sport in Poland in the light of „Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*] magazine (1930)

### Summary

The work presents women's sport in Poland in the light of “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*] magazine from 1930. The periodical “Przegląd Sportowy” published materials depicting, among others, conditions for the development of women's sport, sports competition and the competition results of Polish sportswomen in the all-Poland and international arena. The activity of the international women's sport structures was also reported.

The most popular sports disciplines practised by Polish women in the year discussed were sports games and athletics. Women also actively practised automobile sport, skiing, skating, water sports, tennis, and, to a lesser extent, gymnastics and table tennis. The most important international event in which Polish sportswomen participated was the 3rd Women's World Games in Prague.

The best sportswomen in Poland in 1930 included: Halina Konopacka, Stanisława Walasiewicz (athletics), Jadwiga Jędrzejowska and Wanda Dubieńska (tennis) and Bronisława Staszek – Polankowa (skiing).

**Keywords:** women, sport, “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*] magazine, Poland, 1930.

The aim of this paper is to present women's sport in Poland in the light of “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*] from 1930. The periodical was published in the years 1921 – 1939. In 1930 “Przegląd Sportowy” was published in Warsaw. The magazine came out twice a week – on Wednesdays and Saturdays<sup>1</sup>. “Przegląd Sportowy” was dedicated to current sports events in Poland and abroad. It also introduced various aspects of women's sports movement. The volume of the magazine was usually 6 pages.

In relation to the literature on the development of women's sport in the Second Republic the most important informative works are those by

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\* Dr, Institute of Physical Education, Tourism and Physiotherapy, Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa.

<sup>1</sup> In 1930 104 issues of the magazine “Przegląd Sportowy” were released.

M. Rotkiewicz and T. Drozdek-Małolepsza<sup>2</sup>. It is worth mentioning that the publications addressing the issue of women's sport in Poland in the interwar period do not include detailed preliminary research of the magazine "Przegląd Sportowy". Within the scope of women's sport in Poland in the light of "Przegląd Sportowy" so far four works have been published<sup>3</sup>.

The research has used the following methods: analysis of historical sources, induction, deduction, synthesis, and the comparative method. The following research areas have been put forward:

1. Within what scope did "Przegląd Sportowy" from 1930 popularize women's sport?

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<sup>2</sup> T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *Stan badań nad dziejami wychowania fizycznego i sportu kobiet w Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej* [The state of research on the history of physical education and women's sport in the Second Republic], [in:] S. Zaborniak (ed.), *Z dziejów kultury fizycznej w Polsce* [History of physical culture in Poland], Rzeszów 2005, pp. 13–21; among others: T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *Sport strzelecki kobiet w Polsce w okresie międzywojennym* [Women's shooting sport in Poland in the interwar period], "Prace Naukowe Akademii im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie Kultura Fizyczna" [Physical education research papers of Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa], 2012, no. XI, pp. 13–25; T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *Sporty zimowe kobiet w Polsce w latach 1919–1939* [Women's winter sports in Poland in the years 1919–1939], [in:] L. Rak, E. Małolepszy (ed.), *Narciarstwo Polskie 1888–2008* [Polish skiing 1888–2008], Jasło 2009, pp. 105–115; T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *Uwarunkowania rozwoju ruchu sportowego kobiet w Polsce w latach 1919–1939. Zarys problematyki* [Conditions for the development of women's sports movement in Poland in the years 1919–1939. Outline of the issues], [in:] T. Drozdek-Małolepsza (ed.), *Z najnowszych dziejów kultury fizycznej i turystyki w Polsce. Dzieje kultury fizycznej i turystyki w Polsce w końcu XIX i XX w.* [Recent history of physical education and tourism in Poland. History of physical culture and tourism in Poland in the late 19th and 20th centuries], vol. 1. Częstochowa 2011, vol. 1, pp. 149–163; M. Rotkiewicz, *Rozwój sportu kobiet w Polsce okresu międzywojennego* [Development of women's sport in the interwar Poland], "Sport Wyczynowy" [Professional Sport], 1979, no. 3–4, pp. 3–21.

<sup>3</sup> T. Drozdek-Małolepsza *Sport kobiet w Polsce w latach 1921–1922 w świetle czasopisma "Przegląd Sportowy"* [Women's sport in Poland in the years 1921–1922 in the light of "Przegląd Sportowy" magazine], "Prace Naukowe Akademii im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie Kultura Fizyczna" [Physical education research papers of Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa], 2013, vol. XII, no. 2, pp. 63–72; T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *Sport kobiet w Polsce na łamach czasopisma "Przegląd Sportowy" (1923–1924)* [Women's sport in Poland on the pages of "Przegląd Sportowy" magazine (1923–1924)], "Zeszyty Naukowe Almamery Szkoła Wyższa z siedzibą w Warszawie" [Research Papers of Almamery Higher School with its seat in Warsaw], 2014 no. 2 (71), pp. 165–177; T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *Sport kobiet w Polsce w 1925 roku w świetle "Przeglądu Sportowego"* [Women's sport in Poland in 1925 in the light of "Przegląd Sportowy"], [in:] J. Kwieciński, M. Tomczak, M. Łuczak (ed.), *Sport i wychowanie fizyczne w badaniach naukowych. Teoria praktyce* [Sport and physical education in scientific research. Theory to practice], Konin 2014, pp. 223–233; T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *Sport kobiet w Polsce na łamach czasopisma "Przegląd Sportowy" (1927)* [Women's sport in Poland on the pages of "Przegląd Sportowy" magazine (1927)], "Zeszyty Naukowe Almamery Szkoła Wyższa z siedzibą w Warszawie" [Research Papers of Almamery Higher School with its seat in Warsaw], 2014, no. 3 (72), pp. 273–287.

2. To what extent did international women's sports movement influence the development of female sport in Poland?
3. What sports level did the Polish sportswomen present in that period compared to the international one?

Women in the interwar period fought for their rights to participate in sport on an equal footing with men. The result of these actions was a wider and wider programme of disciplines and events of women's sport during the Olympic Games (OG). During the Olympic Congress in Berlin, which took place in May 1930, the "matter of participation" of women in athletics during OG was discussed<sup>4</sup>. Eventually, apart from athletics, women during OG in Lake Placid and Los Angeles (1932) could participate, among others, in the following disciplines: gymnastics, skating, swimming, fencing and tennis<sup>5</sup>. A positive view of women's participation in OG was taken by the International Federation of Athletics. The Federation activists threatened that in the event of "the exclusion of women" from OG, men will not participate in the games<sup>6</sup>. The most important sporting event in 1930 in which women participated was Women's World Games (WWG) in Prague<sup>7</sup>. In the May issue (no. 37) of "Przegląd Sportowy" from 1930, information can be found about the application for WWG of the following national teams: Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Japan, Yugoslavia, France, the Netherlands, Latvia, Germany, Poland, Switzerland, Sweden, USA, United Kingdom and Italy<sup>8</sup>. Major Felicjan Sterba was appointed to the Appeal Committee of WWG.

Women were present in the structures of Polish sports associations. The Management Board of the Union of Polish Sports Associations (UPSA) was constituted on 18 April 1930<sup>9</sup>. The Women's Department of UPSA was managed by Kazimiera Muszałówna. At the General Meeting of the Polish Association of Athletics (PAA) in Warsaw, on 27 April 1930 the appointment of the new management board of the association was completed<sup>10</sup>. Maria Miłobędzka was appointed to sit on the new board. In February, 1930 the General Meeting of the Polish Association of Sports Games (PASG) was held<sup>11</sup>. Vice President of the association was Wanda Prażmowska, the female members of the board –

<sup>4</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 44, p. 2.

<sup>5</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 44, p. 2; 1930, no. 46, p. 6.

<sup>6</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 43, p. 6. On the initiative of the International Federation of Athletics, as we read on the pages of "Przegląd Sportowy" in the issue 43 of 1930, "the programme of the Olympic Games introduced a 50 km walk, while women's 800 m run, 80 m hurdle race and javelin throw were removed from the Olympic programme". Eventually, during OG in Los Angeles in 1932 the women's event of 800 m run did not take place.

<sup>7</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 37, p. 6.

<sup>8</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>9</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 32, p. 4.

<sup>10</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 36, p. 3.

<sup>11</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 14, p. 4.

Helena Olszewska and Tyburska, and the head of the Czech handball department – Lisowska (Warsaw). In the Vilnius Association of Sports Games the following heads of female sections were elected: Sonia Lewin and Waschówna<sup>12</sup>. The women's department of Students' Sport Association (SSA) Warsaw was managed by Jadwiga Wolicka<sup>13</sup>.

An important role in the development of women's sport in Poland was played by suitably prepared teachers of physical education and sport. The sport instructor courses were organized by Centres of Physical Education (CPS), among others CPS in Poznań in 1930 organized a women's course in sports games with Lieut. Stanisław Łapiński as its manager<sup>14</sup>. In Sławsko on December 28, 1930 a skiing course for instructors and teachers was to be held<sup>15</sup>. The organizer of the course was the Regional Office of Physical Education at the Headquarters of 6th Corps District (HCD). The course was scheduled to be attended by 15 women and 15 men. On the initiative of the Jewish Sports Club "Ewa" in Warsaw a skiing course for Jewish female instructors in Krynica was to be organized on 23 December 1930 – 6 January 1931<sup>16</sup>.

The editors of "Przegląd Sportowy" informed their readers about the courses included in the programme of the Central Institute of Physical Education (CIPE) in Warsaw<sup>17</sup>. In January, 1930 a skiing course was held attended by about 130 female and male students of CIPE. At the end of the course a skiing competition took place, among others women's 8 km run, which was attended by 42 female students. The winner was Zajączkowska ahead of S. Chrupczałowska and Wróblewska.

An important factor in relation to sporting activities was suitable sports infrastructure. In the period of 3 years of the activity of the State Office of Physical Education and Military Training (SOPEMT) among others the following facilities were built: 193 sports fields, 187 running tracks, 159 shooting ranges and 12 swimming pools<sup>18</sup>. On the initiative of SOPEMT CPS were established, of which, as of 1930, there were 12, in Białystok, Grodno, Katowice, Cracow, Lublin, Lviv, Łódź, Poznań, Przemyśl, Toruń, Warsaw and Vilnius. One of the newly built swimming pools opened in Poznań in the suburbs in the so-called Rataje<sup>19</sup>. The swimming pool was 50 m long and had 10 tracks. Next to it was a separate swimming pool for water polo with a springboard and a 10 m high jump, as well as the third pool for children who could not swim.

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<sup>12</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>13</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 103, p. 4.

<sup>14</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 46, p. 4.

<sup>15</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 96, p. 4.

<sup>16</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 98, p. 2.

<sup>17</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 9, p. 5.

<sup>18</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>19</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 71, p. 5.

The manifestation of discrimination against women in air sports was the prohibition of women's training on "machines assigned to clubs by the army" released by the Department of Aeronautics of the Ministry of Military Affairs (MMA)<sup>20</sup>. As we can read on the pages of "Sports Review" in issue 4 of 1930: "The Department's reason for the ban is not taking female pilots into account as material in the event of war. Therefore, aeroplanes assigned to military training cannot be used for training women"<sup>21</sup>. The decision of the Department of Aeronautics did not cover the 7 female pilots, members of the Students' Flying Clubs (SFC), trained in the years 1928–1929. The first Polish female pilot was Karolina Iwaszkiewicz-Borchardt – from Vilnius – trained in 1928 in SFC in Cracow. In 1929, the diplomas were awarded to consecutive female pilots; Halina Grzybowska and Maria Tomaszewska from SFC in Poznań; SFC in Vilnius trained Irena Bajkowska and Nina Klos (from Warsaw); SFC in Lviv granted diplomas to Wanda Olszewska and Danuta Sikowicz<sup>22</sup>. Several women had their flying courses in progress.

Automobile sport was practised by women although it was not popular. The most important event organised in Poland was women's rally organized by the Polish Automobile Club (PAC)<sup>23</sup>. The rally took place on 27–29 September 1930 – and was divided into three stages, on the route Warsaw – Mińsk Mazowiecki – Biała Podlaska – Brest on Bug – Prużany – Białowieża – Białystok (1st stage); Białystok – Sokółka – Grodno – Vilnius (2nd stage); Vilnius – Grodno – Białystok – Ostrów Mazowiecka – Radzymin – Warsaw (3rd stage)<sup>24</sup>. The event was attended by nine female automobile club members. The rally ended with the victory of Maria Koźmianowa (Austro-Daimler), the 2nd place went to Klementyna Śliwińska (Praga-Piccolo), and the 3rd one to Stałowska (Praga-Piccolo)<sup>25</sup>. On the second day of the rally (near Vilnius), a speed test took place on the 8 km route. The best competitor in the speed test turned out to be M. Koźmianowa who covered the 8 km distance at an average speed of 119 km per hour.

Gymnastics was quite popular with women. The Association of Jewish Women's Sports Associations in Warsaw established a number of groups of women performing gymnastic exercises<sup>26</sup>.

The year 1930 saw a significant development of sports games in Poland. In Czech handball competitions for the Polish Championship (PCh) two teams competed, SSA Warsaw – champion of the Warsaw district and Łódź Sports Club (ŁSC) – champion of the Łódź district<sup>27</sup>. A deciding match for PCh in

<sup>20</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 4, p. 4.

<sup>21</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>22</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>23</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 12, p. 2.

<sup>24</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 74, p. 4; 1930, no. 80, p. 6.

<sup>25</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 80, p. 6.

<sup>26</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 99, p. 4.

<sup>27</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 82, p. 3.

Czech handball between ŁSC and SSA Warsaw was held in Poznań<sup>28</sup>. The match was verified as a walkover for the SSA team (3:0) who became a champion of Poland. Polish Czech handball female players participated in WWG<sup>29</sup>. The Polish team suffered a crushing defeat to Czechoslovakia (0:17) and lost to Yugoslavia. The team of Czechoslovakia took the title of the world female champions in the final defeating Yugoslavia (9:5).

The teams of SSA Warsaw (champion of the Warsaw district), "Cracovia" (champion of the Cracow district) and ŁSC Łódź (champion of the Łódź district) advanced to the final phase of the PCh in basketball<sup>30</sup>. In the decisive match for PCh, female basketball players of SSC Warsaw beat ŁSC 12:10<sup>31</sup>. The team of SSA was composed of: Aleksandrowiczówna, Halina Grotowska, Zdzisława Wiszniewska, Jadwiga Wolicka and Helena Woynarowska; while in the team of ŁSC the following players performed: Irena Ejbuszycówna, Celina Gapińska, Jadwiga Gałazewska, Orlicka and Edyta Zylberżanka. The commentary to the match reads: "The strength of opponents was equal, however the female players from Warsaw were in better form. SSA had its best players in Z. Wiszniewska and Aleksandrowiczówna, who also scored the largest number of goals. In ŁSC a good play was presented by Zylberżanka and Orlicka"<sup>32</sup>.

The Polish national team in women's basketball participated in international competitions. The biggest success of Polish female players was winning vice-championship of Europe. In final competition preliminaries female basketball players from Poland played on 29 June 1930 in Cracow a match with Sweden<sup>33</sup>. The match ended with the victory of the Poles. It is worth mentioning that PASG provided substantial aid to the female basketball players. Before the match with Sweden from 22 to 29 June, 1930 a training camp in Cracow was held, to which, among others, the following players were appointed: H. Grotowska, J. Wolicka, H. Woynarowska (Warsaw); C. Gapińska, Kwaśniewska, Bogumiła Połomska (Łódź); Helena Czerska, Irena Jaśnikowska – "Jasna" (Cracow) and Tabeńska<sup>34</sup>. The head of the camp was Lieut. Woskowicz<sup>35</sup>.

<sup>28</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 98, p. 2.

<sup>29</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 73, p. 2.

<sup>30</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 82, p. 3.

<sup>31</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 98, p. 2; 1930, no. 103, p. 4. It is worth noting that before this meeting a match between SSA and ŁSC took place, which brought a victory to the team of ŁSC (7:4). At the request of activists from SSA Warsaw it was cancelled due to refereeing by an unauthorized person.

<sup>32</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>33</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 49, p. 2.

<sup>34</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 52, p. 2. As the editors of "Przegląd Sportowy" write "PASG in its understanding of the importance of this meeting as far as it was possible due to its modest means made every effort – for our team in the first contact with the foreign team to proudly defend the national colours of Poland".

<sup>35</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 49, p. 2.

The final tournament of women's basketball took place in Strasbourg (France)<sup>36</sup>. In the match qualifying for the finals of the tournament, which was played on 12 July 1930, the Polish national team beat Czechoslovakia 14:8<sup>37</sup>. The following day – July 13 – the final match was held, in which teams of France and Poland met. The match ended with the victory of the French female players 33:17. The team of female European champions was composed of: Lunnet, Marinnet, Moreau, Radideau, Roche, while the Polish team was represented by: H. Czerska, Irena Jaśnikowska (“Jasna”), Kwaśniewska, B. Połomska, J. Wolicka and H. Woynarowska<sup>38</sup>. The best team of Europe – France played in the final of WWG in Prague in 1930, in competition with the best team from the American continent – Canada<sup>39</sup>. The Canadians won 18:14 (14:8).

Sports games were played by women in the rural environment. On the occasion of (Presidential) harvest festival in Spała, held in August, 1930, sports competitions were held<sup>40</sup>. In the game of women's volleyball the team of 4th district of the Association of Rural Youth (ARY) beat the team of Peasants Youth Association (PYA).

The editors of “Przegląd Sportowy” in issue 35 from 1930 included information about a female footballer – Karwacka<sup>41</sup>. Karwacka during her stay in France participated in the women's football matches in one of women's football teams in Paris. After arriving in Poland she played two matches in colours of the men's team “Pogoń” Grodzisk Mazowiecki.

One of the most popular sports disciplines in Poland was athletics. In 1928, in the Polish Association of Athletics (PAA) 2621 athletes were registered, while in 1930 this figure amounted to 4762, including 882 female athletes<sup>42</sup>. In individual districts the following number of athletes was registered: in the Warsaw district – 1207 (including 263 female athletes); in the Upper-Silesian district – 494 (including 118 women); in the Lviv district – 445 (including 90 women); in the Pomeranian district – 406 (78); in the Cracow district – 354 (112); in the Poznań district 349 (88); in the Vilnius district – 340 (52); in the Łódź district – 249 (75); in the Lublin district – 36 (6).

Women participated in a number of track and field events, among others in district championships, intercity matches or local competitions. An example could be a women's match “Stadion” Królewska Huta: “Warta” Poznań, ended with the victory of sportswomen from Poznań<sup>43</sup>. The team of “Stadion” stood

<sup>36</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 57, p. 2.

<sup>37</sup> The Polish national team came to Strasbourg on 12 July 1930 in the morning after a 36-hour journey. A few hours later the match against Czechoslovakia took place.

<sup>38</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 55, p. 2; 1930, no. 58, p. 1. In the qualifying match the female basketball players from France beat the Italian team 33:4.

<sup>39</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 74, p. 2.

<sup>40</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 68, p. 4.

<sup>41</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 35, p. 5.

<sup>42</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 18, p. 2.

<sup>43</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 75, p. 4.

out with A. Sikora and O. Orłowska. Athletics was widespread not only in the urban environment, but also in the countryside. In sports competitions held on the occasion of harvest festival in Spała, in the women's athletic triathlon, the team of the 3rd district of ARY – Białystok (Pieniążkiewicz, Kudaszewicz) – won, ahead of the team of the 2nd district of ARY<sup>44</sup>.

Polish Women's Championships in athletics took place on 26–27 July, 1930 in Bydgoszcz<sup>45</sup>. The leading female athletes failed to participate in the competitions, among others: Maryla Freiwald (Makkabi Cracow) and Nina Gędziorowska (“Cracovia”) – because of their clubs' failure to make applications for the female competitors in due time; Seweryna Krajewska – SSA Poznań (due to no training). The best female athletes in Poland were the following: in the 60 m run – the 1st place was taken by Alina Hulanicka – GS “Sokół” Grażyna Warsaw (8.0 sec.) ahead of H. Woynarowska (SSA Warsaw) and Anna Breuer (Roździeń Szopienice); the best athlete in the 100 m run turned out to be Felicja Schabińska who took the 1st place “Legia” Warsaw (13.2 sec.), the 2nd place was taken by A. Hulanicka, the 3rd one by – A. Breuer; in the 200 m run Otylia Orłowska was the winner – “Stadion” Królewska Huta (27.8 sec.), the silver medal went to Franka Turecka (“Makkabi” Warsaw), the bronze one to – Jadwiga Janowska – GS “Sokół” Pabianice; in the competition of 80 m hurdle race F. Schabińska was the winner (13.6 sec.), ahead of Helena Rakoczy (Roździeń Szopienice) and Ludwika Gorloff (SSA Warsaw); in the 800 m run Otylia Tabacka won the gold medal – “Stadion” Królewska Huta (2.35.6 min.), the silver medal went to Gertruda Kilos, the bronze one to – Maria Niewodowska (“Warta” Poznań); J. Janowska (138 cm) won in high jump ahead of Zofia Żółkiewicz – GS “Sokół” Bydgoszcz (female nest) – 138 cm and Barbara Ekerland (“Stadion”); the winner in the shot put competition was S. Lewin – “Makkabi” Vilnius (10.71 m) ahead of Halina Konopacka-Matuszewska (SSA Warsaw) and Wanda Jasińska (SSA Poznań); in the javelin throw the 1st place was taken by H. Konopacka-Matuszewska (32.63 m), the 2nd place by – Genowefa Kobielska (“Polonia” Warsaw), the 3rd place – W. Jasińska; in the standing long jump the winner was A. Hulanicka (2.44 m) ahead of H. Konopacka-Matuszewska and Lubecka (GS “Sokół” Grażyna); in the long jump the 1st place was taken by Maria Kwaśniewska – ŁSC (4.86 m), the 2nd place by – A. Hulanicka, the 3rd one by – J. Grabicka; in the discus throw the best athlete turned out to be H. Konopacka-Matuszewska (36.22 m) ahead of Irena Schabińska who took the 2nd place and Wanda Mierkis (both from GS “Sokół” Grażyna Warsaw); in the 4 × 100 m relay the winners were the following athletes of GS “Sokół” Grażyna Warsaw (55.3 sec.): A. Hulanicka, Wacława Sadkowska, Marta Lubecka, J. Grabicka; the winners in the 4 × 200 m relay

<sup>44</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 68, p. 4.

<sup>45</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 61, p. 1.



were sprinters from "Stadion" Królewska Huta (1.56.8 min.)<sup>46</sup>. The relay of "Stadion" was represented by: B. Ekerland, O. Orłowska, Komórkówna and Aniela Sikora. In the team classification of PCh the winners were female athletes of "Grażyna" (126 points) ahead of SSC Warsaw (97 points) and "Stadion" Królewska Huta (78 points).

Polish Championships in athletic triathlon were held in Lviv<sup>47</sup>. The winner was H. Konopacka-Matuszewska (185 points), ahead of A. Hulanicka (183 points) and J. Grabicka (131 points)<sup>48</sup>. A very good result was achieved by A. Hulanicka in a 100 m run (12.7 sec.). On 5 October 1930 PCh in athletic pentathlon were held in Królewska Huta<sup>49</sup>. In the absence of S. Walasiewicz, the winner of PCh was H. Konopacka-Matuszewska (3,989.88 points) ahead of female competitors from "Sokół-Grażyna" Warsaw, A. Hulanicka (3,497.97 points) and J. Grabicka (3,184.07 points). H. Konopacka-Matuszewska won the following competitions: in the discus throw (33.21 m.); in the javelin throw (32.35 m); in the 200 m run (28.0 sec.). A. Hulanicka won the 60 m run (8.0 sec.) and the long jump, with a very good result – 517.5 cm<sup>50</sup>.

For female athletes the most important sporting event in 1930 was WWG. For this purpose training camps were held. A keep-fit camp was conducted in February and March 1930 in Bukowina<sup>51</sup>. The camp was attended by 18 female athletes including: Gorazdowska, "Kazia", H. Konopacka, F. Schabińska, Wieczorkiewicz (Warsaw); A. Breuer, Elżbieta Czaja, B. Ekerland, G. Kilos, H. Rakoczy, O. Tabacka (Upper Silesia); M. Freiwald, Gędziorowska, Metzen-dorf (Cracow); Musielewska (Poznań) and J. Janowska (Pabianice). The coach of female athletes was Aleksander Klumberg, and the manager was Maria Miłobędzka. The programme of the camp included gymnastics, skiing, marches, specialized training and theoretical classes<sup>52</sup>. The last camp before the competition began on 1 August 1930 and was held on the premises of the Central Institute of Physical Education (CIPE)<sup>53</sup>. The following athletes were appointed to attend the camp: A. Hulanicka, G. Kobielska, H. Konopacka-Matuszewska, F. Schabińska, Jolanta Manteuffel, S. Walasiewicz (Warsaw); M. Freiwald, Irena Jaśnikowska ("Jasna"), Maria Malinowska ("Lonka") (Cracow); J. Janowska, M. Kwaśniewska (Łódź); S. Lewin (Vilnius), W. Jasińska, S. Krajewska, Lanżanka (Poznań) and A. Breuer, G. Kilos, O. Orłowska, A. Sikora (Upper Silesia)<sup>54</sup>. In the

<sup>46</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>47</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 77, p. 3.

<sup>48</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>49</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 81, p. 3.

<sup>50</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>51</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 10, p. 2; 1930, no. 21, p. 5.

<sup>52</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 17, p. 4.

<sup>53</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 58, p. 1.

<sup>54</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 58, p. 1; 1930, no. 69, p. 1. The above team was to be supplemented with 3–4 female athletes selected after the Polish Championships in

final phase of the sports camp – on 30 – 31 August 1930 – “preliminary competition” took place<sup>55</sup>. In individual events there were the following winners: in the 60 m run – S. Walasiewicz (7.8 sec.); in the 100 m run – S. Walasiewicz (12.4 sec. – the result better than the Polish record [PR]); 200 m run – S. Walasiewicz (25.3 sec. – the result better than PR); 80 m hurdle race – F. Schabińska (12.6 sec. – the result better than PR); discus throw – H. Konopacka (36.73 m); shot put – W. Jasińska (11.44 m); javelin throw – G. Kobielska (36.24 m); long jump – M. Kwaśniewska (5.08 m); high jump – J. Janowska (145 cm), 4 × 100 m relay – (A. Breuer, M. Freiwald, S. Walasiewicz, F. Schabińska) – 50.2 sec<sup>56</sup>. The commentary to the competition, on the pages of “Przegląd Sportowy” in issue 71 of 1930 reads as follows: “Four-week Klumberg’s work bore great fruit. The Polish national team in Prague will play a dominant role and will score highly not only thanks to Konopacka and Walasiewiczówna”<sup>57</sup>. One cannot but agree with this opinion. The competition results could be even better, as because of injuries some athletes did not participate in the competition, among others: S. Lewin, (injuries), O. Orłowska (illness).

In track and field events during WWG in Prague, held on 6–8 September 1930 nearly 300 female athletes from 17 countries participated, including 10 athletes representing Poland<sup>58</sup>. The team of Polish female athletes, whose head was M. Miłobędzka, arrived in Prague on 2 September 1930. The performance of Polish representatives in athletic competition was extremely successful. Stanisława Walasiewicz won 3 gold medals. She won the 60 m run in 7.7 sec., beating a German Gelius and K. Hitomi (Japan)<sup>59</sup>; she took the 1st place in 100 m run (12.5 sec.) ahead of Schourman (the Netherlands) and Gelius (Germany). She won another gold medal in 200 m run (25.7 sec.). The world champion in the discus throw was H. Konopacka-Matuszewska (36.80 m), the 2nd place went to Fleischer (Germany) – 35.82 m, the 3rd one – Vivenza (Italy) – 35.23 m. The winner of the bronze medal was the 4 × 100 relay (A. Hulanicka, M. Freiwald, F. Schabińska and S. Walasiewicz) – 50.8 sec. Germans (49.9 sec.) won ahead of the UK (50.5 sec.). In the shot put competition S. Lewin took the 4th place, while W. Jasińska was the 5th. The excellent 4th place was taken by

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Bydgoszcz (26–27.07.1930). S. Walasiewicz was to arrive in Poland – according to earlier arrangements – in late July 1930. It was only on 23 August 1930 that she came to the French capital – Paris.

<sup>55</sup> T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *Udział reprezentantek Polski w Światowych Igrzyskach Kobięcych (1926–1934)* [*Participation of Polish female athletes in Women’s World Games (1926–1934)*], “Aktywność Ruchowa Ludzi w Różnym Wiek” [*Physical activity of people at different ages*], 2014, no. 1–4, p. 14.

<sup>56</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 71, p. 3.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>58</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 72, p. 5.

<sup>59</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 73, pp. 1–2.

M. Freiwald in the final 80 m hurdle race (12.8 sec.)<sup>60</sup>. Another Polish female athlete who entered this competition, F. Schabińska, was eliminated in the qualifying rounds. A very good performance was given by G. Kilos in 800 m run. She took the 4th place with the result better than PR (2.26.8 min.). Some members of the Polish national team were dogged by misfortune. Because of illness O. Orłowska did not enter the 200 m run competition<sup>61</sup>. In the team classification female athletes from Poland won 26 points and took the 2nd place after the female competitors from Germany.

After the competition in Prague, an athletic match Poland - Japan was played in Warsaw, which ended with the victory of Polish women 54:36<sup>62</sup>. Polish female athletes proved to be the best in the following disciplines: S. Walasiewicz in the 60 m run (7.8 sec.), in the 100 m run (12.5 sec.), in the 200 m run (25.7 sec.); M. Freiwald in the 80 m hurdle race (12.8 sec.); H. Konopacka-Matuszewska in the discus throw (37.48 m); in the 4 x 100 m relay (A. Hulanicka, M. Freiwald, S. Walasiewicz, F. Schabińska (51 sec.)<sup>63</sup>.

During the Congress of the International Women's Sports Federation (IWSF), which took place in Prague in 1930, women's world records in athletics were approved, among others the world record by H. Konopacka in the discus throw with both hands (66.48 m); also equalization of the world record by S. Walasiewicz in the 60 m run (7.6 sec.) was approved. During the Congress Major F. Sterba was appointed Vice-President. On the pages of issue 93 of "Przegląd Sportowy" from 1930 the history of Polish records in women's athletics was published starting from 1922<sup>64</sup>. Based on the analysis of the results, it must be concluded that there was a significant development of the level of this women's discipline in Poland.

The Polish champion in figure skating in 1930 was Barbara Chachlewska (Warsaw Skating Association – WSA) ahead of Rudnicka (Lviv Skating Association – LSA) and Kulbińska (KKŁT)<sup>65</sup>. The winners in the pair competition were Bilorówna, Captain Tadeusz Kowalski (LSA), the 2nd place was taken by Rudnicka, Lieut. Alfred Theuer (LSA), while the 3rd one by – B. Chachlewska, Pełczyński (WSA). On 7 December 1930 an artificial skating rink in Katowice opened<sup>66</sup>. On this occasion, figure skating performances were held, in which the following competitors participated, in ladies' singles: Andrea Kleedorfer (Austria); in pair competition: Bilorówna and Captain T. Kowalski, Hedi Schneider,

<sup>60</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 74, p. 2.

<sup>61</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 73, p. 2.

<sup>62</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 75, p. 6.

<sup>63</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>64</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 93, p. 4.

<sup>65</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 17, p. 4. The competition took place on 15 February 1930. Initially, it was to be held on 9 February 1930 in Lviv.

<sup>66</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 98, p. 2; 1930, no. 99, p. 2.

Eugen Richter (Austria), the Hoppes (champions of Czechoslovakia), Olga Orgonista, Sandor Szalay (champions of Europe and Hungary).

Women successfully practised skiing. Polish Skiing Championships were held on 15 February 1930<sup>67</sup>. Women competed in the 6 km ski run. 20 competitors were entered in the competition, of whom 13 female skiers ran. The Champion of Poland was Bronisława Staszek-Polankowa (GS "Sokół" Zakopane), the 2nd place was taken by Zofia Stopkówna (Skiing Section of the Polish Tatra Association – SS PTA), the 3rd one by – Zofia Giewontówna (Strzelec). A female skier from Czechoslovakia – Klara Hensche (HDV, Karpaten-Verein) participated in the competition and took the 4th place.

The 9th Polish Swimming Championships (PSCh) were held in Warsaw in August 1930<sup>68</sup>. The Polish champions were: in a 100 m race – Alina Szczerba – 1.29.8 min., record of the Lviv district ("Pogoń" Lviv); in the 400 m freestyle race – Aniela Jarkulicz – 7.25.8 min., the result better than PR in freestyle and breaststroke (BS); in the 1500 m freestyle race – Kretschmanówna – 30.52.8 min. (Schimm-Verein Poznań); in the 200 m breaststroke race – A. Jarkulicz – 3.26.5 min. – the result better than PR; in the 100 m backstroke race – Lisa Reicher – 1,42,5 min. ("Hakoach" Bielsko); in the 4 × 100 m freestyle relay – Giszowiec – 6.50.7 min. – the result better than the club PR of SSA Warsaw by 2.6 sec. (Fitzówna 1st, Fitzówna 2nd, R. Kajzer, Schmidtówna); in the 3 × 100 m medley relay – Giszowiec – 5.10.8 min. – the result better than PR (R. Kaiser, Fitzówna, Schmidtówna); in jumps off tower – Lotta Klaus (IKP Siemianowice); in jumps off springboard – Erna Schnatzówna (BBSV Bielsko)<sup>69</sup>. The Polish Championships were at a very good level. There appeared competitors from the young generation, among others: a 15-year-old A.Szczerba from Lviv.

On the pages of issue 96 and 97 of "Przegląd Sportowy" an article by T. Semadeni was released about the best Polish representatives of swimming sport in freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke<sup>70</sup>. Among women, sports profiles of Karolina Raszdorf (BS), Renata Morawska ("Polonia") and A. Szczerba in freestyle as well as L. Reicher, A. Jarkulicz in breaststroke and Krystyna Nowak ("Cracovia") in backstroke<sup>71</sup>.

A major international sporting success in swimming in 1930 was the victory in the international match with Czechoslovakia 51:50<sup>72</sup>. The national teams consisted of women and men. In the women's competition the following results

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<sup>67</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 15, p. 2.

<sup>68</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 67, p. 3.

<sup>69</sup> Ibidem. Kretschmanówna, as we read on the pages of "Przegląd Sportowy", was "the only one in the championships, who did not achieve the minimum giving the title of the Polish champion".

<sup>70</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 96, p. 3; 1930, no. 97, p. 6.

<sup>71</sup> Alina Szczerba was the only female swimmer who won the PCh, without training in the indoor swimming pool.

<sup>72</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 69, pp. 1–2.

were reached: in the 100 m freestyle race the winner was Zdenka Svitáková (Czechoslovakia – CzS) – 1.25.0 – the record of Czechoslovakia, ahead of A. Szczerba (1.28.5 min.) and Friedlanderova-Havlova (CzS) – 1.30.2 min.; in the 100 m backstroke race the winner was Nezavdalova (CzS) – 1.39.8 min., ahead of Maria Svitáková (CzS) – 1.41.9 min. and L. Reicher (1.43.8 min.); in the 200 m breaststroke race the winner was A. Jarkulisz (3.28.8 min.), ahead of Nezavdalova (3.38.6 min.) and Maria Svitakova (3.43.0 min.); in the 400 m freestyle race the 1st place was taken by Friedlanderova-Havlova (7.12.2 min.), the 2nd place went to A. Jarkulisz (7.13.3 min. – the result better than PR), the 3rd place – Zdenka Svitáková – 7.28.7 min.; in women's jumps off springboard the best competitor turned out to be Krongelgerova (CzS), ahead of Poles – L. Klaus. and E. Schnatzkówna; in jumps off towers the winner was L. Klaus, ahead of Krongelgerova (CzS) and E. Schnatzkówna; in the 3 × 100 m medley relay the team of Czechoslovakia won – 4.48.6 min. (Nezavdalova, Maria Svitakova, Zdenka Svitakova), the 2nd place went to the Polish team – 4.55.8 min. – the result better than PR by 15 sec. of Giszowiec relay (L. Reicher, A. Jarkulisz, K. Raszdorf); in the 4 × 100 m freestyle relay the 1st place was taken by the team of Czechoslovakia – 6.04.2 min. – the record of Czechoslovakia beaten by 23 sec. (Friedlanderova-Havlova, Hanslikova, Z. Svitakova, M. Svitakova), the 2nd place was taken by the team from Poland – 6.13.0 min. – the result better than PR by 20 sec. (R. Morawska, Thomme, K. Raszdorf, A. Szczerba)<sup>73</sup>.

Polish Championships in tennis in 1930 took place in Warsaw, on the courts of Warsaw Lawn-Tennis Club (WLTK)<sup>74</sup>. They began on August 27 and lasted until September 1<sup>75</sup>. The best player in women's singles was Jadwiga Jędrzejowska, who in the final beat Wanda Dubieńska (6:4, 6:2). In the semi-final games J. Jędrzejowska beat Pozowska, while W. Dubieńska beat Volkmer. In doubles, in the semifinals Syropowa and W. Dubieńska beat Weleszczuk and Orzechowska in a walkover, while J. Jędrzejowska and Pozowska beat Junżanka and Volkmer. The 1st place in doubles was taken by Syropowa and W. Dubieńska<sup>76</sup>. The Polish champions in mixed doubles were J. Jędrzejowska and Warmiński beating Volkmer and M. Solarowa. In the decisive match for PCh in the team competition, the team of the Łódź Lawn-Tennis Club beat "Legia" Warsaw<sup>77</sup>. In women's singles V. Richter from Łódź lost to W. Dubieńska (2:6, 5:7).

The classification list of the Polish Lawn-Tennis Association (PLTA) was determined by a special committee, chaired by Olechnowicz, at its meeting on

<sup>73</sup> Ibidem, p. 2.

<sup>74</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 71, p. 5.

<sup>75</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 65, p. 5; 1930, no. 69, p. 4.

<sup>76</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 72, p. 1.

<sup>77</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 78, p. 6.

13 December 1930<sup>78</sup>. In the 1st place on the list of women was Jadwiga Jędrzejowska, the 2nd – W. Dubieńska, the 3rd – Volkmer, the 4th – Syropowa, the 5th – Pozowska, the 6th – Orzechowska, the 7th – Bielecka, the 8th – the 12th – Lilpop, Neuman, Pajonk, Stephan and Weleszczuk. Unclassified female tennis players were: Boniecka, Geissler, Posellt, Richter and Scarpowa.

Polish female players took part in international tournaments, among others W. Dubieńska and J. Jędrzejowska. The performance of J. Jędrzejowska at Lenz Cup in Merano proved successful, which earned her an advance to the final phase of the tournament<sup>79</sup>. Apart from her, the following players advanced to this phase of the tournament: Cilly Aussem, Payot (the champion of Switzerland) and Valerio (the champion of Italy).

On the pages of “Przegląd Sportowy” material about women’s table tennis was published. All-Poland Championships for Jewish clubs in women’s competition were scheduled for January 1931 in Łódź<sup>80</sup>.

Women’s rowing developed quite well. In 1929 in Poland there were several women’s rowing centres, among others: Bydgoszcz Club of Female Rowers, Kalisz Association of Female Rowers, Poznań Club of Female Rowers, Warsaw Club of Female Rowers and SSA Vilnius, Vilnius Rowing Association, Rowing Associations in Łomża and Włocławek, Rowing Branch of GS “Sokół” in Cracow, Military Sports Club (MSC) of the 3rd regiment of sappers in Vilnius<sup>81</sup>. On September 15, 1930 at the marina of Warsaw Club of Female Rowers inter-club women’s regatta was held, with the participation of crews from Bydgoszcz, Kalisz and Warsaw<sup>82</sup>. The rowers from Warsaw Club of Female Rowers won the following competitions: in single sculls; in novice single sculls; semi-racing double sculls, semi-racing quad sculls; novice semi-racing quad sculls. In the competition of semi-racing junior quad sculls the best rowers turned out to be the competitors from Bydgoszcz Female Rowers Club.

Apart from sports rowing, tourist rowing developed among women. As the editors of “Przegląd Sportowy” write, “tourist rowing has its separate card [...], which has far more followers than regatta rowing. Unfortunately, however, the data for this chapter shall remain private property of clubs, of which only the scarce part is known to the public”<sup>83</sup>.

Another water sport practised by women was sailing. In the ranking of the Polish Sailing Association (PSA) the high 5th place was occupied by Wolf (sailing section of SSA Warsaw)<sup>84</sup>. In addition to Wolf, the forefront of Polish wom-

<sup>78</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 102, p. 2.

<sup>79</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 82, p. 2.

<sup>80</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 99, p. 4.

<sup>81</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 14, p. 4.

<sup>82</sup> „Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 75, p. 4.

<sup>83</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 14, p. 4.

<sup>84</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 95, p. 5.

en's sailing included TrzetrzeWińska (sailing section of SSA Warsaw) and Lisicka (Warsaw Club of Female Rowers).

In recognition of merits for sports activity, state authorities awarded the Gold Cross of Merit to Halina Konopacka (after OG in Amsterdam – 1928)<sup>85</sup>.

In 1930 Poland was an active member of the International Women's Sports Federation (IWSF). The Federation activists fought for women's rights to participate in the sports movement, which resulted in the popularization of women's sport. Women were active in the organizational structures of sport in Poland, among others they sat on boards of sports associations and clubs. They participated in the training of personnel for the purpose of sport.

The most common sports disciplines practised by Polish women were sports games and athletics. Women also actively practised other areas of sport: automobile sport, skiing, skating, water sports and tennis. They were successful in international competitions, among others in athletics, sports games and tennis. These successes were related to the development of sporting contacts of Polish female representatives in the international arena.

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<sup>85</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [*Sports Review*], 1930, no. 43, p. 5.

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## Streszczenie

### Sport kobiet w Polsce w świetle czasopisma „Przegląd Sportowy” (1930)

Praca ukazuje sport kobiet w Polsce w świetle „Przeglądu Sportowego” z 1930 r. Na łamach „Przeglądu Sportowego” publikowano materiały przedstawiające m. in. uwarunkowania rozwoju sportu kobiet, współzawodnictwo sportowe oraz wyniki rywalizacji Polek na arenie ogólnopolskiej i międzynarodowej. Donoszono o aktywności międzynarodowych struktur sportu kobiecego.

Najpowszechniej uprawianymi dyscyplinami sportu przez Polki w omawianym roku były gry sportowe i lekkoatletyka. Kobiety aktywnie uprawiały również sport automobilowy, narciarstwo, łyżwiarstwo, sporty wodne, tenis, w mniejszym stopniu gimnastykę i tenis stołowy. Najważniejszą imprezą międzynarodową, w której brały udział Polki, były III Światowe Igrzyska Kobiety w Pradze.

Do najlepszych zawodniczek w sporcie w Polsce w 1930 r. należy zaliczyć: Halinę Konopacką, Stanisławę Walasiewicz (lekkoatletyka), Jadwigę Jędrzejowską i Wandę Dubieńską (tenis), Bronisławę Staszal – Polankową (narciarstwo).

**Słowa kluczowe:** kobiety, sport, czasopismo „Przegląd Sportowy”, Polska, 1930 r.