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## Women's Sport in Poland in the Light of "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] Magazine (1931)

### Abstract

The aim of the paper is to present women's sport in Poland in the light of "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] magazine. "Sports Review" popularized women's sport through reports, materials and articles concerning conditions for women's sport, women's sports competition and achievements. Women were active in the organizational structures of sport in Poland. The most popular sports disciplines practised by women in Poland in the period discussed were sports games and athletics. Women also practised other sports disciplines, among others, archery, skating, skiing, swimming, tobogganing, fencing, tennis and rowing. They participated in competitions in these sports fields. In the period discussed women's sports performance improved. Polish women were most successful in the international arena in athletics, archery and tennis.

**Key words:** women, sport, "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] magazine, Poland, 1931.

The aim of this paper is to present women's sport in Poland in the light of "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] from 1931. The periodical was published in the years 1921–1939. In 1931 "Sports Review" was published in Warsaw. The magazine came out twice a week – on Wednesdays and on Saturdays<sup>1</sup>. "Sports Review" 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 M. Rotkiewicz and T. Drozdek-Małołepsza<sup>2</sup>. It must be noted that the publica-

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<sup>1</sup> In 1931 104 issues of the magazine "Sports Review" were released.

<sup>2</sup> T. Drozdek-Małołepsza, *Stan badań nad dziejami wychowania fizycznego i sportu kobiet w Drugiej Rzeczypospolitej* [*The state of research on the history of physical education and*

tions addressing the issue of women's sport in Poland in the interwar period do not include detailed preliminary research of the magazine "Sports Review". So far, seven works have been published concerning women's sport in Poland in the light of "Sports Review" (in the interwar period)<sup>3</sup>.

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; including eadem, *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. 11, pp. 13–25; eadem, *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; eadem, *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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries]*, vol. 1, Częstochowa 2011, 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 "Sports Review" magazine]*, "Prace Naukowe Akademii im. Jana Długosza w Częstochowie. Kultura Fizyczna" ["Physical Education Research Papers of Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa"] 2013, vol. 12, no. 2, pp. 63–72; eadem, *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 Almajer Szkoła Wyższa z siedzibą w Warszawie" ["Research Papers of Almajer Higher School with its seat in Warsaw"] 2014 no. 2 (71), pp. 165–177; eadem, *Sport kobiet w Polsce w 1925 roku w świetle "Przeglądu Sportowego" [Women's sport in Poland in 1925 in the light of "Sports Review" magazine]*, [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; eadem, *Sport kobiet w Polsce w świetle czasopisma "Przegląd Sportowy" (1926) [Women's sport in Poland in the light of "Sports Review" magazine (1926)]*, [in:] M. Zowisło, J. Kosiewicz (ed.), *Sport i turystyka w zwierciadle wartości społecznych [Sport and tourism in the mirror of social values]*, Kraków 2015, pp. 210–219; eadem, Drozdek-Małolepsza, *Sport kobiet w Polsce na łamach czasopisma "Przegląd Sportowy" (1927) [Women's sport in Poland on the pages of "Sports Review" magazine (1927)]*, "Zeszyty Naukowe Almajer Szkoła Wyższa z siedzibą w Warszawie" ["Research papers of Almajer Higher School with its seat in Warsaw"] 2014, no. 3 (72), pp. 273–287; eadem, *Sport kobiet w Polsce w świetle czasopisma "Przegląd Sportowy" (1929) [Women's sport in Poland in the light of "Sports Review" magazine (1929)]*, "Szkice Humanistyczne" ["Selected Humanistic Readings"] 2015, vol. 15, no. 1–2, pp. 61–75; eadem, *Women's Sport in Poland in the Light of "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] Magazine (1930)*, [in:] T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, A. Buková (ed.), *Teoretyczne i praktyczne uwarunkowania kultury fizycznej i turystyki (Teoretické i praktické podmienky telesnej kultúry a turistiky)*, Częstochowa 2015, pp. 29–45.

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

1. Within what scope did the "Sports Review" published in 1931 popularize women's sport?
2. To what extent did international women's sports movement influence the development of women's sports in Poland?
3. What sports level did the Polish sportswomen present in that period in comparison to the international sports achievements?

Women were members of management boards of sports clubs and associations. Zofia Zabawska-Domosławska became the president of the Warsaw Club of Female Rowers (WCFR)<sup>4</sup>. Hoffmannówna was a member of the Pomeranian Regional Association of Athletics<sup>5</sup>. During the General Convention of the Polish Association of Athletics (PAA) the management board of the association was elected. Maria Miłobędzka was appointed to sit on the board (Member of the Board)<sup>6</sup>.

During the General Convention of the Polish Association of Sports Games (PASG), which took place in March 1931, Miedzińska was appointed Vice-President of the Association, while S. Chrupczałowska became a Head of the Czech Handball Department<sup>7</sup>. As the editors of "Sports Review" wrote, "The course of the meeting was stormy. A lively discussion developed about the rejection by the board of a number of protests, expressed by clubs already during championships. Regret was expressed over the ŁSC's [Łódź Sports Club] loss of the correctly won title of the Polish Champion in the game due to, unjust as it later turned out, annulment of the women's basketball winning match with the Warsaw Students' Sport Association (SSA). PASG made its decision on the basis of inaccurate testimony of Łódź DASG"<sup>8</sup>. The team of the Łódź Sports Club (ŁSC) was then (1930) awarded the title of Polish Female Vice-Champions.

An important role in the development of women's physical activity was played by suitably prepared teachers of physical education and sports. For this purpose women participated in courses and camps. On January 11, 1931, a skiing course ended in Białystok, which was attended by 27 people, including 6 women<sup>9</sup>. The head of the skiing course was M. Ludertowicz.

Automobile sport was not popular among women. In spite of that, on 10–20 September 1931 a women's automobile rally was to be held on the route Warsaw – Krynica – Warsaw<sup>10</sup>. On 6 December 1931 an annual convention of auto-

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<sup>4</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 7, p. 2.

<sup>5</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 9, p. 4.

<sup>6</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 16, p. 5.

<sup>7</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 23, p. 4.

<sup>8</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>9</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 5, p. 2.

<sup>10</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 73, p. 4.

mobile clubs representatives was held, where a decision was made about women's rally scheduled for 18–20 September 1932<sup>11</sup>. One of the leading Polish female automobile club members was Maria Koźmianowa.

At the turn of 1920s and 1930s in Poland – among women – sports games developed fairly well. Polish Championship in sports games (basketball, volleyball, Czech handball) in 1930 was won by female competitors of Students' Sports Association (SSA) Warsaw<sup>12</sup>.

The best teams in sports games were selected in a new formula of matches. At the first stage of the matches champions of districts were selected, in the second phase games in individual regions were played, and next final games. A title of Warsaw Female Champions in volleyball was awarded to the team of SSA Warsaw (third time running), ahead of "Polonia", "Warszawianka", Jewish Students' Sport Association (JSSA) and "Maccabi"; in the championships of Cracow the 1st place went to YMCA Cracow<sup>13</sup>. Polish Championships in volleyball in the North-Western group was won by competitors of Scouts' Sports Association (SSA) Łódź; in the Eastern group – SSA Warsaw; and in the Southern group – YMCA Cracow<sup>14</sup>. Polish Volleyball Championships were held in Cracow on 28–29 June 1931<sup>15</sup>.

In regional women's basketball matches the best teams were: in the district of Cracow – Cracovia "(the team was composed of: Brzezińska, Helena Czerska, Jaworska, Z. Majerówna, Morawska, Urbańska and Żurawska)<sup>16</sup>. The following teams advanced to the last stage of competition for the Polish Championship in basketball: SSA Warsaw "Cracovia", IKP Łódź and "Falcon" Grudziądz<sup>17</sup>. The final tournament was to be played in Łódź on 26–27 September 1931.

In the competition of Czech handball the champion of Warsaw was the team of "Polonia", beating the teams of SSA (8:2), and Legia (12:5); in Cracow Championships – "Cracovia" (in the Cracovia team the outstanding players were H.Czerska, Z. Majerówna and Morawska)<sup>18</sup>. On 26–27 September 1931, in Warsaw, a final tournament of Polish Championships in Czech handball took place with the participation of SSC Łódź, "Polonia" Warsaw and "Warta" Poznań<sup>19</sup>. The team of "Cracovia", for financial reasons, did not participate in the event. The team of "Polonia" won the title of Polish Champion beating in the decisive match Czech handball female players of SSC Łódź 3:2<sup>20</sup>. The best players of the final stage must include Smidówna ("Polonia")<sup>21</sup>.

<sup>11</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 99, p. 3.

<sup>12</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 4, p. 5.

<sup>13</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 48, p. 5; 1931, no. 61, p. 6.

<sup>14</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 48, p. 2; 1931, no. 49, p. 5; 1931, no. 50, p. 5.

<sup>15</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 50, p. 5.

<sup>16</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 61, p. 6.

<sup>17</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 65, p. 5.

<sup>18</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 51, p. 2; 1931, no. 61, p. 6.

<sup>19</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 65, p. 5.

<sup>20</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 80, p. 1; 1931, no. 80, p. 5.

<sup>21</sup> Smidówna was Czech by descent.

Intercity matches of Czech handball were also played, In one of them the team of Warsaw (B. Cegielska, Duch, Gawska, Olczak, Olesińska, Smidówna, Wierzbołowska, Zdzisława Wiszniewska, Woynarowska) tied with the representation of Łódź (Celina Gapińska, Jadwiga Głazewska, Gruszczyńska, Hołyszewska, Kordowska, Maria Kwaśniewska, Połomska I, Połomska II) 3:3<sup>22</sup>. After the match the players of both teams began a few days' keep-fit training camp at the facilities of Central Institute of Physical Education (CIPE). Coaching staff at the camp included Lieut. Baran and Przewracki. The team for the games in Czechoslovakia included: Gawska, Duch, Olczak and Smidówna ("Polonia"), C. Gapińska (ŁSC), Wierzbołowska ("Warszawianka"), Z. Wiszniewska (SSA Warsaw), Bogumiła Połomska (SSC Łódź), J. Głazewska and M. Kwaśniewska (ŁSC)<sup>23</sup>. The Polish national team played, among others, two matches with the Prague team drawing 4:4 and losing 1:5<sup>24</sup>. Despite adverse results, the sports level presented by Polish women was satisfactory.

Polish club teams in Czech handball maintained international contacts, in order to raise their sports level. Czech handball female players of „Polonia” in 1931 also participated in a sports trip to Czechoslovakia, during which they played several friendly matches, among others losing (3:5) to one of the best club teams of Czechoslovakia – Victoria “Žižkóv; lost to the team of SK Mlada Bolesław (3:5) and tied with the team “Sokół” Vinohrady – 2:2<sup>25</sup>.



**Print No. 1.** “Polonia” Warszawa Female Czech handball players before the match with “Victoria” Žižkov in Prague

Source: National Digital Archive, sign. 1-S-229-1.

<sup>22</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 65, p. 3.

<sup>23</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 67, p. 5. The Polish national team in Czech handball was to play matches in Pardubice and Prague with teams from Czechoslovakia.

<sup>24</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 72, p. 2.

<sup>25</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no.44, p. 1, 5.



In February 1931, PAA associated athletics sections of 233 clubs and associations and 6991 female and male competitors<sup>26</sup>. In 1930, the number of athletes belonging to PAA increased by 1793 men and 436 women. The calendar of events for 1931, as regards women provided for, among others, international athletics matches with Austria, Czechoslovakia and Italy. Works at PAA were conducted by two coaches of the association: an Estonian, Aleksander Klumberg, and Antoni Cejzik. In Poland, numerous competitions in women's athletics were organized at a local, regional, national, and international level. During track and field events of SSA in Poznań, Wanda Jasińska (SSA Poznań) in the shot put achieved 11 m 56 cm – A result better than Lewin's Polish record by 10 cm<sup>27</sup>. Before the Polish Championships, competition at the district level was held, among others such competition took place in June 1931 in Królewska Huta, in Lviv (involving female athletes of SSA Lviv, „Lechia” Lviv and GS „Falcon” Macierz), in Warsaw, as well as the Championship of Pomerania<sup>28</sup>.

In June 1931, athletics championships of workers' clubs were held, which were a qualifying competition for the “Workers' Olympic Games” in Vienna<sup>29</sup>. The best results were achieved by female representatives of „Skra”: Kwaśniewska, Sawicka and Wenclówna. At the “Workers' Olympic Games Poland was to be represented by 10 female athletes.

On the pages of “Sports Review”, in the issue No 4 of 1931, a list of Polish female champions in athletics was published for 1930<sup>30</sup>. Championship titles were won by: Alina Hulanicka (Gymnastic Society – GS – “Falcon” Grażyna Warsaw) – in 60-m run and standing long jump; Felicja Schabińska I (“Legia” Warsaw) – in the 100-m run and in the 80-m hurdle race; Otylia Orłowska (“Stadion” Królewska Huta) – in the 200-m run and in the cross-country race; S. Lewin (“Maccabi” Vilnius) – in shot put; Halina Konopacka-Matuszewska (SSA Warsaw) – in discus throw, in javelin throw, in athletic triathlon and pentathlon; Jadwiga Janowska (GS “Falcon” Pabianice) – in high jump; Maria Kwaśniewska (Łódź Sports Club – ŁSC) in long jump, in 4×100 m relay – GS “Falcon” Grażyna Warsaw; in 4×200 m relay – “Stadion” Królewska Huta; in team competition – GS “Falcon” Grażyna Warsaw. The Polish Association of Athletics approved the 12 women's records in athletics<sup>31</sup>. Out of 51 female athletes representing Poland in 1930, H. Konopacka defended the national colours of Poland 8 times; F. Schabińska 7 times, G. Kilos and O. Orłowska – 6 times; M. Freiwald – 5 times; Irena Jaśnikowska “Jasna”, A. Hulanicka, G. Kobielska and S. Walasiewicz – 4 times.

<sup>26</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 16, p. 5.

<sup>27</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 34, p. 5.

<sup>28</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 46, p. 2; 1931, no. 48, p. 2; 1931, no. 49, p. 5; no. 51, p. 2.

<sup>29</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 48, p. 2.

<sup>30</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 4, p. 5.

<sup>31</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 18, p. 5.

Warsaw hosted the Polish Championships in women's athletics, which took place on 18–19 July 1931<sup>32</sup>. The level of the competition was high although neither Stanisława Walasiewicz nor another female representative of Poland S. Lewin participated. S. Lewin was not entered for the competition in due time by her home club – “Maccabi” Vilnius<sup>33</sup>. In individual competitions, championship titles were awarded to: J. Manteuffel (SSA Warsaw) in the 60-m run (8.0 sec), in the 100-m run (12.8 sec) and in high jump (145 cm); O. Orłowska in the 200-m run (27.8 sec); G. Kilos („Pogoń” Katowice) in the 800-m run (2 min. 29.8 sec); F. Schabińska in the 80-m hurdle race (13.1 sec); M. Kwaśniewska (ŁSC) in javelin throw (34.48 m); W. Jasińska (SSA Poznań) in shot put (11.03 m); H. Konopacka in discus throw (37.86); A. Hulanicka in standing long jump (240 cm); A. Sikora (“Stadion” Królewska Huta) in long jump (5.18 m); “Stadion” Królewska Huta (A. Sikora, Pach, Hofińska, O. Orłowska) in the 4×100 m relay – 53.0 sec; SSA Warsaw J. Manteuffel, H. Konopacka Louis Gorloff, Helena Woynarowska) in the 4×200 m relay – 1 min.52.0 sec – the result better than the Polish record<sup>34</sup>. In the team classification the winner was SSA Warsaw (135 points), ahead of “Stadion” Królewska Huta (103 points) and “Pogoń” Katowice (66 points)<sup>35</sup>.

Maria Kwaśniewska became a Polish female champion in athletic triathlon during a competition which took place in Łódź<sup>36</sup>. The title of Polish female vice-champion was awarded to J. Manteuffel, and the bronze medal went to A. Hulanicka. Polish Championships in women's (1200-m) cross-country run were held in April 1931 in Lublin<sup>37</sup>. The competition, which was attended by 7 female athletes, a member of GS “Falcon” Kozłówka- Bystrzycka was the winner ahead of Grzesik (“Stadion” Krolewska Huta) and Januskiewicz (“Unia” Lublin).

In the competition for the team championship of Warsaw, female athletes of SSA won ahead of “Grażyna” team 62:57<sup>38</sup>. In the competition A. Hulanicka, H. Konopacka and J. Manteuffel gave an outstanding performance.

Polish female athletes participated in sports competitions at the international level. In the international competition, the so-called “Festival of Gracja” in Florence good results were achieved by Helena Bersohn (“Frieda Berson”) – Jewish Students' Sport Association (JSSA Warsaw), W. Jasińska, J. Manteuffel, F. Schabińska<sup>39</sup>. In the shot put competition W. Jasińska took the 2nd place (11.64 m). The winner was Fleischer – Germany (12.23 m). Other Polish female

<sup>32</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 58, p. 3.

<sup>33</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 58, p. 3.

<sup>34</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 58, p. 3.

<sup>35</sup> The following clubs came further down the ranking list: “Grażyna” Warsaw (57 points), SSA Poznań (47 points), ŁSC (37 points).

<sup>36</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 72, p. 2.

<sup>37</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 34, p. 5.

<sup>38</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 50, p. 6.

<sup>39</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 44, p. 2.

athletes advanced to the final competition; H. Bersohn came in the 3rd place in discus throw (34.38 m), J. Manteuffel was ranked the 5th in the 100-m run, F. Schabińska also took the 5th place in the 80-m hurdle race<sup>40</sup>. The head of the Polish team of female athletes was M. Miłobędzka. As part of the so-called "Festival of Gracja" competition, women's sports competition was held in archery, fencing and tennis.

On 8–9 August 1931 an international athletics match Poland-Italy took place in Królewska Huta<sup>41</sup>. The match ended with the victory of Polish female competitors 87:61. In the match the 1st places from among female representatives of the Polish team were taken by: O. Orłowska in the 200-m run (26.8 sec); A. Sikora in long jump (5.13 m); J. Manteuffel in the 100-m run (12.8 sec) and in high jump (142 cm); H. Konopacka in discus throw (37.69 m); W. Jasińska in shot put (11.62 m); M. Kwaśniewska in javelin throw (36.60 m) and in athletic triathlon; Poland (J. Manteuffel, A. Breuer, A. Sikora, O. Orłowska) in the 4×100 m relay (50.8 sec) and the Polish national team in the 200×100×75×60 m relay<sup>42</sup>. Female representatives of Poland in athletics match with Italian women achieved very good results, better than those in the Polish Championships.

Another international match of the female Polish national team was held on 27 September 1931 in Prague with Czechoslovakia<sup>43</sup>. The match, won by the Polish team (61:45), took place in unfavourable weather conditions of cold and quite strong wind. The Polish women won the following competitions: J. Manteuffel in the 100-m run (12.6 sec) and in the 200-m run (26.4 sec); J. Wajs in discus throw (35.19 m); W. Jasińska in javelin throw (33.40 m) and in shot put (10.96 m); Poland in the 4×100 m relay (52.5 sec) The editors of "Sports Review" published very positive opinions about the performance of Polish women in Prague<sup>44</sup>.

The best Polish athlete still remained Stanisława Walasiewicz, who in 1931, among others in the competition in Cleveland, achieved a number of very good results: in the 60-m run – 7.6 sec.; in the 100-m run – 12.4 sec.; in the 200-m run – 25.8 sec.; in the 800-m run – 2 min., 18.3 sec.; in long jump – 572 cm<sup>45</sup>.

The performance and sports level of Polish female athletes was promising in the pre-Olympic season. Activists of PAA at the beginning of December 1931 prepared a calendar of starts. Polish Women's Championships were to be held in Lviv on 4–5 June 1932<sup>46</sup>. The main competition, which was the Olympic Games in Los Angeles had a date set for the period between 30 July and 14 August 1932.

<sup>40</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 45, p. 6.

<sup>41</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 64, p. 1.

<sup>42</sup> Ibidem, pp. 1–2.

<sup>43</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 77, p. 2; 1931, no. 78, p. 1.

<sup>44</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 79, p. 4.

<sup>45</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 51, p. 1.

<sup>46</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 97, p. 5.



Polish female champions in archery in 1930 were archers of the Sports Club (SC) of Military Family: Stanisława Sikora (in shooting at the distance of 20 m, in shooting at the distance of 40 m and in triathlon) and Janina Kurkowska (in shooting at the distance of 30 m)<sup>47</sup>. The competition for the Polish Championship in archery was held as part of the National Shooting Competition in 1931 in Lviv<sup>48</sup>. The title of the Polish female champion went to Maria Król; the title of the “King of Civilian Archers’ Fraternity” of the Polish Archery Association (PAA) was awarded to Janina Kurkowska, “The Best Female Archer of Poland” in the junior category was Helena Macielewicz (Organization of Women’s Military Training for National Defence). Archery competitions were intended to select the best female archers in order to organize a sports camp for them before the World Championships. The following were appointed to participate in the camp: M. Król, J. Kurkowska, Irena Komańska, Maria Kościeszacka, S. Sikora, Irena Stefańska and Maria Trajdos. World Archery Championships were held in 1931 in Lviv<sup>49</sup>. J. Kurkowska-Spychajowa was a huge success taking the 2nd place in the archery triathlon competition (shooting with a bow at the distance of 30 m, 40 m and 50 m)<sup>50</sup>. Both men and women participated in this competition (in one category).



**Print No. 2.** Maria Król, Polish champion in archery in 1931

Source: National Digital Archive, sign. 1-S-1309.

<sup>47</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 4, p. 5.

<sup>48</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 60, p. 5.

<sup>49</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 69, p. 3.

<sup>50</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 71, p. 4.

Skating also developed among women. Importance was attached to sports training. Skaters did not participate in the trainings organized by parent clubs and sports societies only. Five figure skaters of Warsaw Figure Skating Society (WFSS), including two pairs Barbara Chachlewska and Narcyz Pelczyński and Jadwiga Cukiertówna and Polubiec in January 1931 participated in two-day trainings on an artificial skating rink in Katowice<sup>51</sup>. In order to promote figure skating sports shows (skating shows) were organized<sup>52</sup>. Their participants were figure skaters (sports pairs), including Wanda and Stanisław Żmudziński and Elżbieta Czorówna with Tadeusz Skupieński.

B. Chachlewska (in singles) and a pair Zofia Bilor, Tadeusz Kowalski (Lviv Skating Association – LSA – Lviv) became Polish champions in figure skating in 1930<sup>53</sup>. In 1931 Polish Championships in figure skating took place in Katowice<sup>54</sup>. In the pair competition the winners were Z. Bilor and T. Kowalski, while in singles – Barbara Śniadecka<sup>55</sup>.

Polish Championships in speed skating were held in February 1931 in Warsaw<sup>56</sup>. In the women's competition Zofia Nehring (SC "Polonia" Warsaw) proved to be unbeatable. She won the 500-m race beating J. Sutyńska, J. Bąkowska and J. Nowacka, and the 3000-m race, ahead of J. Sutyńska, J. Nowacka and J. Bąkowska. In addition, Z. Nehring established a Polish record in the 5000-m run (in 11 min. 30,5 sec).

Quite a popular sport among women was skiing. On the initiative of the Vilnius Regional Skiing Association (RSA), on 24–25 January 1931 a skiing competition was held<sup>57</sup>. One of the competitions at the skiing event was women's 2-km race. The winner of the race was Waszkielsówna (11 min. 53 sec, School of Economics) ahead of Skorukówna. The competition for the championship of Warsaw RSA took place on 25 January 1931 and were conducted by the Warsaw Skiing Club (WSC)<sup>58</sup>. In the ski race the best results were achieved by the competitors of SSA Warsaw. The 1st place went to Jadwiga Grotowska, followed by Jabłczyńska and Tryniszewska. The competition was attended by 36 women, of whom 21 completed the competition. In the Silesian district championships (1931), the women's 6-km race was won by Hilda Malec (SSC) ahead of Poelschówna (WSC) and Zofia Musialikówna (SSC) Rybnik<sup>59</sup>. The competition

<sup>51</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 7, p. 2.

<sup>52</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 13, p. 4.

<sup>53</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 4, p. 5.

<sup>54</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 20, p. 6.

<sup>55</sup> In the pair competition the 2nd place was taken by W. and S. Żmudziński (Silesian Skating Association – SSA), the 3rd – Rudnicka, A. Theuer (LSA); in singles – 2nd place went to J. Cukiertówna (WSA).

<sup>56</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 14, p. 3.

<sup>57</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 7, p. 2.

<sup>58</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 8, p. 5.

<sup>59</sup> Ibidem.

gathered 12 female skiers at the start line, including Wanda Dubieńska (she was out of competition), who took the 2nd place. Skiing activists in Silesia organized other ski races at regional level, in which women participated, among others in Barania Góra, Zakopane or Zwardoń (organized by the Skiing Section of the Polish Tatra Association – SS PTA)<sup>60</sup>. The highest sports level – in regional competitions – was presented by women in the 5-km ski run in the championships of Podhale held in 1931 in Zakopane<sup>61</sup>. The winner was Bronisława Polankowa, ahead of Zofia Stopkówna, Lorenc, L. Schwarzbart (“Maccabi” Zakopane) and Wilżanka.

SSA in Cieszyn planned to organize Polish Students' Championships in skiing on 1–2 February 1931 in Wisła<sup>62</sup>. The competition programme provided for 6-km women's race. The Polish female champion in (7-km) ski race in 1930 was B. Polankowa<sup>63</sup>. The next Polish Championships in skiing were held on 21–22 February 1931 in Wisła<sup>64</sup>. In 6300-m women's ski race (downhill run) the 1st place was taken by B. Polankowa (GS “Falcon” Zakopane), the 2nd went to Z. Stopkówna (SSPTA Zakopane) and the 3rd – Zofia Giewontówna (Strzelec Zakopane)<sup>65</sup>. The consecutive places were taken by: 4th – Wilżanka (“Wisła” Zakopane), 5th – Janina Loteczkowa (Carpathian Skiing Society – CSS Lviv), 6th – Lindertówna (WSC Bielsko), 7th – Jadwiga Grotowska (SSA Warsaw). The former Polish female champion – J. Loteczkowa during the competition had a slight temperature.



**Print No. 3.** Bronisława Staszek-Polankowa, Polish champion in skiing in 1931

Source: National Digital Archive, sign. 1-S-1545-2.

<sup>60</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 5, p. 2; 1931, no. 7, p. 3.

<sup>61</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 10, p. 3.

<sup>62</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 8, p. 5.

<sup>63</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 4, p. 5.

<sup>64</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 13, p. 4.

<sup>65</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 16, p. 2.

The skiing competition was conducted in the category of girls. The competition in ski races for girls and boys took place in Zakopane, in March 1931<sup>66</sup>. In the girls' competition (in the category of 8–10 years of age) the winner was Maria Marusarz ahead of Józefa Gładczan; in the category of 12–14 years of age, in the 600-m ski race the 1st place was taken by Stanisława Lorenz, the 2nd place went to Helena Fudalówna, and the 3rd – Helena Marusarz.

Students' Polish Championships in swimming took place on 13–14 June 1931 in Cieszyn, with the participation of SSA Cieszyn and SSA Warsaw<sup>67</sup>. Students' female champions in swimming were: in the 100-m breaststroke race – Święcińska (SSA Warsaw); in the 100-m freestyle race – Thomme (SSA Warsaw); in the 3 × 50 m freestyle relay – SSA Warsaw.

European Championships in swimming in 1931 were to be held in Paris<sup>68</sup>. According to the editors of "Sport Review", in the competition – among women – the following among others had a good chance of taking part in the event: Aniela Jarkulisz, Lotta Klaus, Krystyna Nowak, Erna Schnatzkówna and Alina Szczerba<sup>69</sup>. Eventually, the Polish national team – for the European Championships in Paris – was composed of L. Klaus, A. Jarkulisz and K. Nowak. The best result was achieved by L. Klaus, taking the 7th place in the competition of jumps off tower<sup>70</sup>.

Polish female champions in 1930 were: A. Szczerba ("Pogoń" Lwów) – in the 100-m freestyle race; A. Jarkulisz (BS) – in the 400-m freestyle race and in the 200-m breaststroke race; Kretschmanówna (Schimm-Verein Poznań) – in the 1500-m freestyle race; Lisa Reicher ("Hakoach" Bielsko) – in the 100-m backstroke race; in 4 × 100 freestyle relays and 3 × 100 m medley relays – Giszowiec, L. Klaus (IKP Siemianowice) – in platform (high) diving; Erna Schnatzkówna (BBSV Bielsko) – in springboard diving.

Jubilee (10th) Polish Championships in swimming took place in the 1st half of August 1931.<sup>71</sup> In women's events the winners were: in the 100-m freestyle race Renata Morawska – "Polonia" Warsaw (1 min. 24.2 sec.), in the 100-m backstroke race K. Nowak – "Cracovia" (1 min. 37.6 sec); in the 200-m breaststroke race A. Jarkulisz – BS (3 min. 30.7 sec); in the 400-m freestyle race Mirosława Kratochwilówna (SSA Warsaw) – 7 min. 10 sec., a result better than the Polish record; in the 1500-m freestyle race M. Kratochwilówna (29 min., 11.8 sec) – the result better than the Polish record; in springboard diving and platform diving – L. Klaus; in the 4 × 100-m freestyle relay SSA Warsaw (Tomaszewska, Thomme, Święcińska, Kratochwilówna) – 6 min. 29.3 sec –

<sup>66</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 25, p. 5.

<sup>67</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 47, p. 2; 1931, no. 48, p. 4.

<sup>68</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 8, p. 5.

<sup>69</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>70</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 70, p. 6.

<sup>71</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 64, p. 2.

a result better than the Polish record by 21 sec; in the 3 × 100-m medley relay TPSN (Schmidt, E. Fitzówna, M. Fitzówna) – 5 min. 6 sec – a result better than the Polish record<sup>72</sup>. The level of women's sports competitions was higher than in the previous Polish Championships<sup>73</sup>.

An international match in swimming Czechoslovakia – Poland (women's and men's competition) conducted in mid-August 1931 in Prague, was an important event for Polish swimming<sup>74</sup>. Although the match ended in a victory of Czechoslovakia (63:39), Polish female swimmers still lived up to expectations. They had a number of good results in the following events: K. Nowak in the 100-m backstroke race (1 min.35,4 sec.); A. Jarkulisz in the 200-m breaststroke race (3 min, 26.3 sec.) – a result better than the Polish record; L. Klaus in springboard diving and platform diving; Polish national team (A. Szczerba, Szmidówna, R. Morawska, M. Kratochwilówna) in the 4 × 100-m freestyle relay (5 min. 45.5 sec – a result better than the Polish record<sup>75</sup>. Moreover, despite losing, Polish women achieved results better than the Polish record in other competitions: in the 100-m freestyle race – R. Morawska (1 min. 21.9 sec); in the 3 × 100-m medley relay – Polish relay (K. Nowak, A. Jarkulisz, M. Kratochwilówna) – 4 min. 40.4 sec.

Tobogganing was not too popular with women. As far as sports rivalry is concerned competitions for Polish Championships were conducted with the participation of foreign female competitors. The first competition of this kind took place in Krynica at the end of January 1931<sup>76</sup>. In the women's singles competition the winner was a female tobogganist of Austria – Christine Klecker, ahead of Helena Szeraucówna (Poland) and Langer (Austria). In the mixed pairs competition the best competitors were H. Szeraucówna and Posselt (Czechoslovakia).

A national women's shooting competition was held in March 1931 in Warsaw<sup>77</sup>. In the four-day event 164 female athletes competed. In the team competitions the best teams proved to be the following: Organization of Women's Military Training for National Defence, Women's Shooting Club Warsaw, Military Family Bydgoszcz, in individual events: Dzięwulakowska (Kielce), Woźniak (Biała Podlaska), Stawarz (Przemyśl), Buškiewicz (Warsaw), Dreyer (Toruń).

As part of fencing competition, women practised foil fencing. In January 1931 a fencing match was held between SSA Poznań and the Police Sports Club (PSC) Warsaw<sup>78</sup>. After the match ended, a show match in foil fencing was held, attended by Gertruda Gronowska (Polish female vice-champion of 1929) and Maria Lange ("Lanzanka").

<sup>72</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 64, p. 2; 1931, no. 65, p. 2.

<sup>73</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 65, p. 3.

<sup>74</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 65, p. 1; 1931, no. 68, p. 2.

<sup>75</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 68, p. 2.

<sup>76</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 9, p. 5.

<sup>77</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 25, p. 5.

<sup>78</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 9, p. 5.



Within the structures of the Polish Fencing Association (PFA) a department for women's fencing was established<sup>79</sup>. Its Head was Laskowska. With her considerable help and efforts, after a year's absence as part of the Polish Championships in fencing a women's foil competition was held. The competition took place on 28–29 March 1931 in Warsaw. The Polish female champion was G. Gronowska (SSA Poznań), the title of the Polish female vice-champion went to Jadwiga Duch ("Polonia" Warsaw), while the 3rd place went to Maria Lange ("Lanżanka") – SSA Poznań<sup>80</sup>. 7 competitors participated in the competition.

Editors of the "Sports Review" summarised the best Polish female tennis players for the 1930 season<sup>81</sup>. Jadwiga Jędrzejowska was listed in the first position, then Wanda Dubieńska, Gertruda Volkmer and Wera Richter. In the years 1921–1930 the title of the Polish female champion in tennis was awarded to: W. Richter (1921–1922, 1924–1927), W. Dubieńska (1928), J. Jędrzejowska (1929–1930)<sup>82</sup>.

Polish female tennis players participated in tournaments of local, regional, national and international importance. Polish Championships in tennis were held in 1931 in Lviv<sup>83</sup>. In the final game of singles J. Jędrzejowska beat G. Volkmer (6:2, 6:1); in doubles J. Jędrzejowska and W. Dubieńska won with a pair of G. Volkmer and M. Rudowska (6:2, 6:2); in mixed doubles G. Volkmer and Popławski won with a pair of W. Dubieńska, Ignacy Tłoczyński (7:5, 6:1)<sup>84</sup>.

Tournaments of international importance were organized in Poland. In 1931, in Upper Silesia a tournament with the participation of tennis players from abroad was held<sup>85</sup>. In the final game of singles the female champion of Austria – Herbst defeated G. Volkmer (9:7, 7:9, 6:3). From among Polish female tennis players, J. Jędrzejowska participated in international tournaments (other than in Poland), including in Berlin, Hamburg, London and Paris; G. Volkmer participated in tournaments in Romania and Hungary<sup>86</sup>. At the tournament in Berlin (June 1931), J. Jędrzejowska advanced to the final tournament in doubles, together with Neppach (Germany). Jadwiga Jędrzejowska in 1931 for the first time participated in the Wimbledon tournament on the courts of London<sup>87</sup>. Her debut was a failure. J. Jędrzejowska lost to Kathleen McKane Godfree – 6:2, 6:4, 3:6 – (United Kingdom)<sup>88</sup>.

<sup>79</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 25, p. 5.

<sup>80</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 26, p. 4.

<sup>81</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 5, p. 3.

<sup>82</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 68, p. 4.

<sup>83</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 69, p. 2.

<sup>84</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 71, p. 6.

<sup>85</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 44, p. 5; 1931, no. 45, p. 2.

<sup>86</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 44, p. 5; 1931, no. 45, p. 2; 1931, no. 50, p. 2; 1931, no. 62, p. 5; 1931, no. 63, p. 5.

<sup>87</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 50, p. 6. Jadwiga Jędrzejowska played with Dunlop rackets at that time.

<sup>88</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 51, p. 2.



**Print No. 4.** Tennis tournament on Wimbledon tennis courts (1931). Participants in Ladies Doubles (from the left: Jadwiga Jędrzejowska, Sachs, Elsie Pittmann, Joan Ridley. J. Jędrzejowska and Sachs (USA) lost to the Great Britain tennis players (E. Pittmann and J. Ridley) 2:6, 3:6.

Source: National Digital Archive, sign. 1-M-1826-17.

Regatta for the Polish championship in rowing was held on 26 July 1931 in Bydgoszcz on the track in Brdyujście<sup>89</sup>. The only championship competition for women was conducted as part of the coxed fours competition. The winner was a favoured crew of the Warsaw Club of Female Rowers (WCFR), composed of: A. Konckiewicz, Maria Gaszczyńska, Hablewska, Hanna Strauss, Halina Kożuchowska – coxswain. The 2nd place in this competition went to a crew of Bydgoszcz Club of Female Rowers (BCFR), the 3rd – to Poznań Club of Female Rowers (PCFR), and the 4th – SSA Cracow.

Female rowers of WCFR participated in international regatta on the River Thames in England<sup>90</sup>. Polish female rowers received an invitation from the English Women's Rowing Association to participate in the competition. The head of the trip of Polish rowers was the coxswain, H. Kożuchowska. The first regatta was held on 1 August 1931. In the single sculls competition, the winner was Janina Grabicka ahead of an English woman Chamberlen; in the coxed fours competition, a crew of WCFR beat the English crew (Isleworth)<sup>91</sup>. The next regatta ended with the victory of WCFR rowers too<sup>92</sup>.

<sup>89</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 60, p. 2.

<sup>90</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 62, p. 1.

<sup>91</sup> The Polish crew, apart from the coxswain, H. Kożuchowska, included the following, selected competitors: Jadwiga Chabalewska, Aleksandra Dzięgielewska, Maria Gaszczyńska, Aniela Konckiewicz, Hanna Strauss.

<sup>92</sup> "Przegląd Sportowy" ["Sports Review"] 1931, no. 64, p. 5.

In the annually organized poll of “Sports Review” for “The best sportsperson of Poland” for 1930 the winner was Stanisława Walasiewicz – “Grażyna” Warsaw (37284 points), Halina Konopacka came in 5th (21190 points), 6th – Jadwiga Jędrzejowska – SSA Kraków (15560 points), while Bronisława Staszek-Polankowa was ranked the 20th (926 points)<sup>93</sup>. In the competition for the 10 Best Jewish Sportspeople the 3rd place went to S. Lewin (athletics), the 5th place to M. Freiwald (athletics), the 8th place to H. Bersohn (athletics, JSSA Warsaw)<sup>94</sup>.

“Sports Review” popularized women’s sport through reports, materials and articles concerning conditions for women’s sport, women’s sports competitions and achievements. Women were active in the organizational structures of sport in Poland. The most popular sports disciplines practised by women in Poland in the discussed period were sports games and athletics. Women also practised other sports disciplines, among others, archery, skating, skiing, swimming, tobogganing, fencing, tennis and rowing. They participated in competitions in these sports fields. In the period discussed women’s sports performance improved. Polish women were most successful in the international arena in athletics, archery and tennis, including Jadwiga Jędrzejowska, Janina Kurkowska-Spychajowa, Stanisława Walasiewicz.

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<sup>93</sup> “Przegląd Sportowy” [“Sports Review”] 1931, no. 17, p. 2.

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