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Teresa DROZDEK-MAŁOLEPSZA*, Eligiusz MAŁOLEPSZY**

SPORT IN THE ACTIVITY OF THE FOLK SPORTS TEAMS PROVINCE ASSOCIATION IN KATOWICE IN THE YEARS 1952–1975

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Sport w działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach w latach 1952–1975

Streszczenie

Celem pracy jest przedstawienie sportu w działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach w latach 1952–1975. Pierwsze ognia Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych na ziemi górnośląskiej i w Zagłębiu Dąbrowskim zostały powołane w 1946 r. W okresie działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe zwiększyła się liczba ogniw i członków. Szczególnie wzrost liczebny członków dotyczył działalności Rad Powiatowych Zrzeszenia w Będzinie, Cieszynie, Kłobucku, Rybniku, Tarnowskich Górach. Wraz z przyrostem liczebnym ogniw i członków nastąpił rozwój infrastruktury sportowej oraz zwiększenie stanu liczebnego kadry szkoleniowej, trenerów i instruktorów sportu oraz sekcji sportowych.

W działalności na rzecz sportu położono duży nacisk na organizację imprez masowych, m.in. w następujących dyscyplinach: lekkoatletyka, piłka nożna, piłka ręczna, piłka siatkowa, szachy, tenis stołowy i warcaby. Sukcesy sportowe na poziomie ogólnopolskim i międzynarodowym zawodnicy Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach osiągnęli szczególnie w takich dziedzinach jak m.in. akrobatyka sportowa, kolarstwo, saneczkarstwo, narciarstwo.

Słowa kluczowe: Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe, sport, województwo katowickie.

* <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0482-9655>; PhD; Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, Władysław Biegański MD Collegium Medicum; e-mail: t.drozdek-malolepsza@ujd.edu.pl (corresponding author)

** <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2373-6048>; dr hab. (doctor habilitatus) prof. of UJD; Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, The Faculty of Social Sciences; e-mail: e.malolepszy@ujd.edu.pl

Abstract

The aim of this study is to present sport in the activity of the Folk Sports Teams Province Association in Katowice in the years 1952–1975. The first units of Folk Sports Teams in the Upper Silesia territory and in the area of the Dąbrowa Coal Basin were established in 1946. During the time of its activity, the Folk Sports Teams Province Association could enjoy an increasing number of its units and members. It was especially true about the activity of District (local government unit) Councils of the Association in Będzin, Cieszyn, Kłobuck, Rybnik, Tarnowskie Góry. Once the number of units and members had grown, sports infrastructure developed as well, and there was a bigger number of training personnel, i.e. sports coaches, instructors, and sports sections.

The sports activity focused to a great extent on the organization of mass events, among all, in the following disciplines: athletics, football, handball, volleyball, chess, table tennis and draughts. The contestants of the Folk Sports Teams Province Association in Katowice would achieve state and international success especially in such disciplines as sports acrobatics, cycling, tobogganing, skiing.

Keywords: Folk Sports Teams, sport, Katowice Province.

Introduction

The aim of this study is to present sport in the activity of the Folk Sports Teams (FST, Polish acronym: LZS) Province Association (PA, Polish acronym: WZ) in Katowice in the years 1952-1975. The scope of the study covers the territory of Katowice Province. It is worth noting that Katowice Province belonged to one of the most industrialized regions of Poland. The first units of FST in the Upper Silesia territory and in the area of the Dąbrowa Coal Basin were established in 1946 and these were as follows: Orzeł Bobrowniki, LZS Barania Wisła, Czarni Sucha Góra, Orkan Dąbrówka Wielka, Rudno, Rudziniec, Myszków. Already in the first years of their activity, FST took an initiative to organize and participate in sports events, mainly in such sports disciplines as athletics, skiing, football, volleyball, weightlifting, table tennis and wrestling.¹ As far as the state of the art is concerned, a scientific monograph by E. Małolepszy and T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, entitled *The Outline of Sport and Tourism in the activity of the Folk Sports Teams Province Association (1946–2021) (Zarys dziejów sportu i turystyki w działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe (1946–2021))*² is of the biggest value. An important source material used for the preparation of the publication was the printed source *25 Years of FST, Katowice 3.IV.1971 (25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971)*³.

¹ E. Małolepszy, T. Drozdek-Małolepsza, *Zarys dziejów sportu i turystyki w działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe (1946–2021)*, Wydawnictwo Prymat, Białystok 2023, p. 34.

² Ibidem

³ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967-1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r.

Research problems and methods

The following research methods were used to prepare the study: the analysis of historical sources, synthesis, induction and comparative method. The authors posed the following research problems:

1. What was the number of FST PA units in Katowice in the years 1952–1975?
2. What factors influenced the activity of the FST PA in Katowice?
3. What was the sports level of FST PA units in Katowice?

Results and discussion

On 19 April 1952, by the resolution of the Main Committee of Physical Culture, the Folk Sports Teams Association was established. Together with the establishment of the LZS Association, its province structures were founded too, among all, the FST PA in Katowice. In 1960, the FST Province Association in Katowice counted 286 units and 12 209 members; in 1966 – 430 units and 30 052 members; in 1970 – 507 units and 45 248 members; in 1974 – 455 units and 40 615 members.⁴ The growing numbers of the FST Association is particularly noticeable in the activity of FST District Councils in Będzin, Cieszyn, Kłobuck, Rybnik, Tarnowskie Góry (Table no 1). In the years 1971–1973, there were 27 active Folk Sports Clubs (FSC), and in 1974 their number grew up to 31.

Table 1. The number of units and members of the FST PA in Katowice in districts, in the years 1960–1974

District	1960		1966		1969		1974	
	No of units	No of members/ including women	No of units	No of members/ including women	No of units	No of members/ including women	No of units	No of members/ including women
Będzin	17	932/88	19	1783/286	25	2231/574	27	2435/406
Bielsko-Biała	22	536/48	25	2068/319	23	2079/371	21	1887/369
Cieszyn	39	1628/222	42	2753/828	45	3299/1152	44	4214/1156

⁴ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967-1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 9; Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 8; 40 lat Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych Katowice, no publication date, pp. 11. A unit constitutes a basic organisational component in the activity of the FST Association. A unit may be a Folk Sports Club, a Folk Tourist Club, a Folk Sports Team, a Folk Tourist Team.

Table 1. The number of units and members of the FST PA in Katowice... (cont.)

District	1960		1966		1969		1974	
	No of units	No of members/ including women	No of units	No of members/ including women	No of units	No of members/ including women	No of units	No of members/ including women
Częstochowa	28	756/219	39	2384/501	43	2616/707	48	3817/1129
Gliwice	23	824/47	29	2314/434	36	2271/538	36	2743/376
Kłobuck	33	920/91	57	3126/842	69	4031/1092	57	4457/1089
Lubliniec	29	867/65	34	2202/551	39	3050/1025	36	2787/804
Myszków	24	818/98	40	2138/721	41	2622/808	33	2409/742
Pszczyna	21	781/42	23	1602/321	24	1933/444	26	2422/694
Rybnik	40	.	40	2782/593	40	3471/770	40	3342/561
Tarnowskie Góry	25	1311/131	29	2549/297	30	3516/445	26	3560/567
Tychy	7	221/0	9	636/38	10	731/130	9	686/149
Wodzisław Śląski	18	697/68	19	2182/270	20	3692/663	22	3265/404
Zawiercie	19	617/24	25	1533/190	29	2023/359	30	2591/674

Source: 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967-1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., no pagination; Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, no pagination.

Sports infrastructure played a vital role in the sports-leisure activity of the FST PA in Katowice. A contest “A football pitch in each village – a Sports and Leisure Centre in each Commune”,⁵ run from 1962, occupied a special place in the activation of rural environment pertaining to sports infrastructure development. Activists and the rural community achieved a lot of success in this area. Every year, new sports infrastructure objects on the territory of Katowice Province received awards. For the purpose of developing sports infrastructure, the FST Province Association received financial support from the National Lottery via the Province Committee of Physical Culture and Tourism, in the amount of about PLN 1,000,000 a year. This amount covered only about 30 to 40% of all the needs. In this context, the urban community activity within the framework of “voluntary work” (renovation and erection of sports infrastructure objects and devices) was crucial.⁶ It is worth noticing that the value of the community

⁵ 40 lat Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych, Katowice, no publication date, pp. 8.

⁶ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967-1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 31–32.

work performed by the FST PA members in Katowice equalled PLN 3,050,000 in 1963, PLN 3,220,000 in 1964, PLN 4,433,000 in 1966, PLN 6,692,000 in 1969, PLN 4,992,000 in 1970. Meanwhile, the National Lottery support was the following: in 1963 it donated PLN650,000, in 1964 – PLN690 000, in 1966 – PLN987,000, in 1969 – PLN 980,000, and in 1970 – PLN 760,000. In the years 1960–1970, there was an increase in the number of sports facilities, mainly pitches for sports games and athletics equipment (Table no 2).

Table 2. Sports facilities in the Folk Sports Teams Association in Katowice Province in the years 1960–1970

No	Facility name	Year			
		1960	1966	1969	1970
1.	Football pitch	112	242	256	300
2.	Pitch for sports games	163	316	347	459
3.	Athletics equipment	15	71	89	180
4.	Swimming pools	3	10	10	10
5.	Stadiums	1	10	15	18
6.	Gyms	3	16	18	.
7.	Other facilities/ ski jumps, etc./	8	18	21	45

Source: 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967-1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., no pagination.

Apart from training infrastructure, training personnel was of utmost importance in the activity of the FST PA in Katowice, among all, instructor and judge/ referee courses for athletics and football run by the District Committee of Physical Culture in Lubliniec.⁷ The courses in question were also addressed to the members of the FST Association, e.g. to the FST in Sieraków. During the activity period of the FST PA in Katowice, the number of trainers and judges/ referees grew (Table no 3). In 1974, the FST PA in Katowice employed 55 employees, including 17 trainers and instructors.

In the 1960s, there was an increase in the number of sports sections in the FST PA in Katowice, whereas at the turn of the 1960s and 1970s and in the first half of the 1970s their number was stable. In 1960, the FST Association owned 892 sports sections; in 1968 – 1425 sections, in 1969 – 1463 sections, and in

⁷ Private collection of Henryk Malcher, letters of the District Committee of Physical Culture in Lubliniec to sports clubs of 17.10.1959 and 12.01.1960, no pagination

1974 – 1434 sections.⁸ In 1974, there were 9963 athletes (including 501 women) registered in Polish Sports Associations.

Table 3. Training personnel, judges and referees of the FST PA in Katowice (1960–1974)

No	Personnel	1960	1968	1971	1974
1.	Trainers	—	5	3	10
2.	Sports instructors	2	45	28	52
3.	Sports instructors assistants	128	201	156	223
4.	Sports organisers	23	383	267	297
5.	Sports judges/ referees	—	161	11	272

Source: 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., no pagination; Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, no pagination.

The popularity of sport was also reflected in the organisation of sports events and in the number of their participants, all within the framework of the activity performed by the FST PA in Katowice. The number of organized sports events in 1960 and in the 1960s and the first half of the 1970s fluctuated. According to source materials from 1960, the FST Association organized 7411 sports events (with the participation of 106,442 athletes, including 8,693 women); in 1968, the FST Association organized 14,155 sports events (with the participation of 200,460 athletes, including 30,531 women); in 1969, the FST Association organized 17,627 sports events (with the participation of 339,553 athletes, including 54,902 women); in 1971, there were 3,723 events organized with the participation of 171,854 athletes (including 45,606 women); in 1972, there were 9,354 events organized with the participation of 271,390 athletes (including 48,099 women); in 1973, there were 9,956 events organized with the participation of 289,930 athletes (including 52,004 women); in 1974, there were 11,016 events organized with the participation of 368,541 athletes (including 65,060 women).⁹

⁸ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., no pagination; Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, no pagination

⁹ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., no pagination; Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, no pagination.

Among sports events, the following ones should be mentioned: the Volleyball Tournament of "Dziennik Ludowy" Cup, the Football Tournament of "Robotnik Rolny" Cup, "The Golden Rook" Chess Tournament, the mass shooting contest of "Robotnik Rolny" Cup, the athletics contest of the Province Board (PB) of the Union of Rural Youth (URY) Cup, mass cycling races "The Cyclers' Day" for the non-associated, "The Silver Skates" skating competition, mass cross-country skiing competitions, steeplechase races for various age groups, the so-called "Rural League" (class W) football, volleyball and table tennis contests; within the framework of spartakiads: for countryside inhabitants (local and district), for employees working for rural cooperatives and their families, for employees of National Machine Centres and their families, for employees of State Agricultural Farms and their families, for employees of Trade Unions of Agricultural Workers and their families. Great effort was put in organizing mass sports events promoting physical (sports) activity especially in the following sports disciplines: athletics, handball, volleyball, chess, table tennis and draughts. These sports disciplines enjoyed the biggest popularity among commune inhabitants as far as the organization of sports events such as spartakiads or folk festivities was concerned.

The athletes of Wisła Folk Sports Club (FSC, Polish acronym: LKS) (LKS Wisła Istebna), LKS Klimczok Bystra, LKS Skrzyczne Szczyrk, LZS Zwardoń, LKS Orzeł Mikuszowice, LZS Brenna and LZS Pogórze were high-level skiers. Among the athletes from these FSTs who would be awarded gold medals at the Polish Championships in the years 1952–1969 were: Gustaw Bujok, Stanisław Cieślar, Emil Dawid, Stanisław Dąbrowski, Tadeusz Kaczmarczyk, Andrzej Polok, Jerzy Polok, Stanisław Polok, Maria Szalbot, Jerzy Walek (LKS Wisła); Apolonia Heller, Józef Huczek, Andrzej Kocjan, Antoni Łaciak, Henryk Łaciak, Henryk Matejko, Jan Mysłajek, Andrzej Wieczorek, Antoni Wieczorek, Jerzy Wieczorek (LZS Szczyrk); Krystyna Bursy (LZS Zwardoń); Franciszek Sromek, Józef Ślusarczyk, Jan Tyrała (LKS Klimczok Bystra); Franciszek Czapczor, Jan Czapczor, Jerzy Dragan, Paweł Gorzołka, Michał Jałowiczor, Jan Kawulok, Józef Kawulok, Jerzy Lach, Franciszek Łabaj, Gustaw Matynek, Józef Probosz (LKS Wisła-Istebna); Józef Kocjan (LZS Szczyrk, LZS Wisła), Józef Przybyła (LKS Klimczok Bystra, LKS Skrzyczne Szczyrk).¹⁰

Within the framework of preparation for the Olympic Games in Sapporo, the Central Leading Skiing Section FST Silesia (LZS Śląsk) was established. The section was financed by the Chief Council of FST from the funds of the Polish Olympics Committee (POC, Polish acronym: PKOI). There section counted 14 athletes (LKS Wisła – 7, LKS Klimczok Bystra – 5, LKS Skrzyczne Szczyrk – 2).¹¹ At the turn of the 1960s and 1970s, the FSA PA owned 22 skiing sections counting 677 sports-

¹⁰ 40 lat Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych, Katowice no publication date, pp. 14–15.

¹¹ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 19–20.

people, including 61 women. In the Polish Skiing Association (PSA, Polish acronym: PZN) there were 40 female and 204 male skiers.¹² At the end of the 1960s and in the first half of the 1970s, the leading skiers of the FST PA in Katowice were: Eugeniusz Cazura, Franciszek Czepczura, Jan Dragon, Eugeniusz Gazura, Paweł Gorzołka, Apolonia Heller, Józef Kawuloa, Józef Kocjan, Jan Łabaj, Franciszek Małyjurka, Gustaw Martynka, Paweł Pilch (all of them representing LKS Wiśła-Istebna); Elżbieta Dobija, Władysław Dobija, Stanisław Kubica, Alicja Niemczyk, Grażyna Pawlus, Janusz Piel, Józef Przybyła, Józef Ślusarczyk, Jan Tyrała (LKS Klimczok Bystra); Jan Bieniek, Tadeusz Migdał, Franciszek Piętka (LKS Skrzyczne Szczyrk).¹³

The following athletes (Nordic skiing) participated in the Winter Olympic Games: Antoni Wieczorek (Oslo 1952); Antoni Łaciak (Innsbruck 1964), Józef Kocjan (Grenoble 1968), Józef Przybyła (1964, 1968).

As far as tobogganing was concerned, the members of LZS Mikuszowice (Bielsko-Biała commune) and LKS Klimczok Bystra were in the lead. At the turn of the 1960s and 1970s, the tobogganing section from Mikuszowice counted 45 athletes, including 9 women. The section was registered in the Polish Association of Tobogganing Sports. The members of LZS Mikuszowice were awarded medals at the Polish Championships, including gold ones. In the years 1960–1974, the best tobogganists were: Roman Bieszczad, Józef Dobisz, Edward Fender, Paweł Goryl, Józef Greń, Wojciech Kubik, Ewa Miech, Stanisław Paczka, Mieczysław Pawełkiewicz, Gudrun Pysz, Franciszek Siuda, Ryszard Siuda, Maria Śliwa and Zbigniew Wójciga.¹⁴ Among them, the following ones participated in the Winter Olympic Games: Edward Fender, Mieczysław Pawełkiewicz (Innsbruck 1964); Stanisław Paczka (Grenoble 1968). In the first half of the 1970s, the tobogganing section from Mikuszowice moved to LKS Klimczok Bystra. The tobogganists were still enjoying success. Wojciech Kubik got the 5th place at the Olympic Games in Sapporo (1972) whereas juniors, Paweł Goryl and Ewa Miech, participated in the European Championships (1973). At that time, also Roman Bieszczad, Paweł Goryl and Ewa Miech (senior category) participated in the European and World Championships. The tobogganists of Klimczok Bystra won several gold medals of the Polish Championships. They were trained by Eugeniusz Śliwa and Jan Dobisz.¹⁵

¹² Ibidem, pp. 59–61.

¹³ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 19–20; Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 8–9.

¹⁴ 40 lat Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych, Katowice, no publication date, pp. 15.

¹⁵ Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 9.

Apart from winter sports, the athletes of the FST PA in Katowice enjoyed success in sports acrobatics, namely in the years 1957–1975, when the medals of the Polish Championships (senior and junior categories) were awarded to the acrobats of the following FST units: LZS Technik Cieszyn, LKS Kłos Olkusz, LZS Mnich, LZS Orzesze and LZS Pszczyna.¹⁶ Gold medals of the Polish Championships (in various disciplines and age groups) were gained by: Małgorzata Chwaszcza, Krystyna Nawrat, Irena Rajrz, Róża Szweter (LZS Orzesze); Zofia Bukawa, Gerda Czyż, Irena Dadas, Roman Dybna, Antoni Dyczek, Roman Dybczak, Roman Dyczek, Roman Falesza, Maria Faruga, Małgorzata Gibień, Maria Gil, Rudolf Granieczny, Bernard Heming, Brunon Heming, Roman Heniuk, Celina Kincel, Jan Kopsis, Władysław Koźdoń, Maria Koźlik, Władysław Kwidan, Maria Mach, Andrzej Machel, Tadeusz Mróz, Antoni Nowak, Anna Pilarz, Olgierd Poolborski, Barbara Pustelnik, Maria Radzka, Bogdan Ryś, Janina Skorupa, Jan Spratek, Otton Spratek, Małgorzata Szczurek, Zofia Szczypka, Zygmunt Szmajda, Helena Węgrzynek, Danuta Wojda, Zdzisław Wójcik, Andrzej Wyrobek (LZS Technik Cieszyn); Anna Faruga, Franciszek Jasica, Zofia Kuryto, Maria Michalik, Zofia Oleksy, Anna Puferko, Genowefa Tabor, Krystyna Wolna (LZS Mnich); Celina Gabrdyl, Regina Skrobol, Ryta Szczypka (LZS Pszczyna); Witold Majka (LKS Kłos Olkusz).¹⁷ The representatives of LZS Technik Cieszyn¹⁸ received the biggest number of gold medals.

The section of LZS Technik Cieszyn was established in 1953. At the turn of the 1960s and 1970s, it counted 46 female and male members. The section of Technik Cieszyn was also a training location for young people from the Complex of Agricultural Schools in Cieszyn and the youth from Cieszyn commune. The leading athletes of that period were: Władysław Koźdon, Paweł Borecki, Danuta Hajek, Roman Kantorowicz, Grażyna Kłoda, Andrzej Machel, Andrzej Walica, Maria Wójtowicz.¹⁹ The sports acrobatic section with its 18 female athletes was hosted by LZS Kłobuck. Tadeusz Suchański was the trainer in that section.

As far as the activity of the FST PA in Katowice was concerned, football was enjoying great popularity. In the second half of the 20th century, that popularity translated into 325 football sections with 12,104 players. Among them, 250 sections and 7,815 footballers were registered in the Polish Football Association (PZPN). 19 football teams participated in class A matches, 101 teams fought in class B matches, and 88 teams played in class C matches. The Rural League (class W) comprised 75 teams.²⁰ In the following years, the sports level of FST PA teams

¹⁶ 40 lat Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych, Katowice, no publication date, pp. 13–14.

¹⁷ Ibidem.

¹⁸ Ibidem.

¹⁹ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 51–53.

²⁰ Ibidem, pp. 62–64.

improved. In 1974, as far as league matches were concerned, two FST PA teams participated in the regional league; in class A matches we could see 32 teams, 105 teams played in class B matches whereas 109 teams played in class C matches.²¹ The teams of LKS Rudziniec and LZS Łąka played in the local league. It is worth emphasizing that league matches of junior players and trainees constituted the backup for senior teams as, among others, they organized competition in their pre-matches. The factors that influenced the sports level of the football sections belonging to the FST Association were the lack of properly qualified coaches and instructors as well as infrastructure and training conditions. In the District Council of FST in Częstochowa, the following teams participated in class A and B matches in the season of 1971/1972: LZS Warta Mstów, LZS Lot Konopiska, LZS Grom Poczesna, LZS Lotnik Kościelec, LZS Błyskawica Janów, LZS Płomień Czarny Las, LZS Unia Widzów, LZS Start Częstochówka, LZS Przyrów, LZS Wapnorud Rudniki.²² In the District of Tarnowskie Góry, in the first half of the 1960s, there were 19 active football sections with 1713 players. The team of FST PA in Katowice consisting of football players from Tarnowskie Góry gained the 2nd place in an inter-regional competition.²³ The tournaments of the FST PA Chairman Cup with the participation of 14 district teams, and the tournaments of District Leaders Cup enjoyed great popularity.

As far as volleyball was concerned, in the second half of the 1960s, the FST PA had 271 sections counting 5691 athletes, including 2372 volleyball players. 25 teams enrolled in the games of the District Volleyball Association, five of them playing class A matches and 20 of them playing class B matches. As for the so-called rural leagues, 149 teams competed in particular districts. In the first half of the 1970s, within the framework of rural leagues in the area of Katowice Province, 280 male volleyball teams and 50 female volleyball teams of the FST PA in Katowice competed regularly in various tournaments. Five teams of the FST Association took part in league matches (local league matches and class A and class B games), the strongest volleyball section being LZS Rybarzowice (district of Bielsko-Biała).²⁴ In the district of Częstochowa sport sections were accommodated by FSTs in Błeszno, Cykarzew, Konopiska, Mykanów, Olsztyn and Złoty Potok. The team of LZS Błeszno won the third place in 1957, in the province FST championships. "Dziennik Ludowy" Cup games enjoyed great popularity. In 1970, 2991 teams participated in them, including 752 female ones. Volleyball

²¹ Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 7.

²² P. Gazda, *Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w powiecie częstochowskim w latach 1952–1975* (BA thesis), WSP Częstochowa 1999, pp. 32.

²³ "Życie Bytomskie" 1964, no 30, pp. 7.

²⁴ Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 16.

enjoyed the biggest popularity in the districts of Bielsko-Biała, Cieszyn, Kłobuck, Lubliniec, Rybnik and Zawiercie. The ZSR teams from Bielsko-Biała and Cieszyn²⁵ represented a very high-level of sport skills.

Handball was also a relatively popular sports discipline in the area of the FST PA in Katowice. It was practised in 92 sections counting 1936 players, including 786 women. 28 teams took part in league matches. In the years 1971–1974, 46 handball sections were active, out of which four participated in class A matches and one in class B matches. The remaining teams took part in the matches organized by District FST Associations. Handball players of LKS Czarni Sucha Góra (district of Tarnowskie Góry) participated in local league matches. Handball sections of FST Association units in Bobrowniki, Brynek, Kosztowy, Nakło, Ornontowice, Strzemieszyce and Świbie participated in class A and class B matches and the youth category competitions.²⁶ Among sports games, basketball was less popular and practised mainly in agricultural schools. In the district of Częstochowa, basketball sections were run in LZS Bleszno, LZS Kamienica Polska, LZS Lot Konopiska and LZS Złoty Potok. They were not very successful.

The only canoeing section in the FST Association was run in LKS Przełom Kaniów (district of Bielsko-Biała). Due to the lack of its own marina, the canoeing section used the training centre of Górnik Czechowice Sports Club. The section was established in 1957. In the second half of the 1960s, it counted 61 members, including 18 active contestants. A canoeing school was hosted by the section. In the years 1968–1970, the following athletes won gold medals in the Polish Canoeing Championships: Bogdan Bularz, Małgorzata Papla, Teresa Papla, Antoni Sieradzki, Maria Wojtuszek, Władysława Wojtuszek.²⁷ The medals of the Polish championships in the years 1971–1974 were awarded to the following senior contestants: Sieracki and Oborski (K2; 1,000 m), Bogdan Bularz and Antoni Bularz (K2; 10,000 m); at the Polish championships the following youth representatives won gold medals in various contests: Bukowski, Antoni Bularz, Bogdan Bularz, Iwańczyk, Jawin, Łukasik, Majdan, Mazgaj, Oborski, Pączek, Włodzimierz Polok, Raczek, Sieracki, Wojtuszek.²⁸ The canoeists Bularz and Sieracki were included in the preparation programme for the Olympic Games in Munich (1972). The canoeing section from Przełom received the support of Przełom Production Cooperative in Kaniów.

²⁵ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 65–66.

²⁶ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 64–65; Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 16.

²⁷ 40 lat Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych, Katowice, no publication date, pp. 14.

²⁸ Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 11–12.

In the years 1952–1970, cycling was practised among all in LZS Będzin, LZS Cieszyn, LZS Czernica (district of Rybnik) and LZS Wodzisław, as well as in Kłobuck, Lubliniec, Myszków, Wodzisław and Zawiercie. In this period of time, the standout cyclists were: Wiesław Bień, Karol Ciupek, Bogusław Fornalczyk, Józef Gawliczek, Kazimierz Flak, Józef Jochem and Adam Pachotek.²⁹ In the second half of the 1960s, the FST PA comprised 10 cycling sections counting 240 members, including 7 sections and 179 cyclists registered in the Polish Cycling Association.

The cycling section from LZS Będzin went through its transformation. Initially, the Folk Cycling Club Sparta Będzin (LKK Sparta Będzin) was established, and next, on 5 November 1970, it was transformed into LKK Zagłębiak Będzin.³⁰ Zygmunt Baliński became the Chairman of LKK Zagłębiak and the position of the Chairman Deputy was granted to Wiesław Jędrusik. The club functioned under this name until 1990 when in the place of LKK Zagłębiak, LZS Ziemia Będzińska was established. S. Witek writes,

Over the period of more than fifty years, the club with FST roots employed many distinguished trainers among whom the most well-known ones were: Bogusław Fornalczyk, Edward Palka, Ryszard Zaręba, Józef Gawliczek, Jacek Solarz. They raised the whole array of talented cyclists, some of them with outstanding achievements, e.g. Bogusław Fornalczyk (in 1958, he won all the most important races in Poland, in 1959 he became Polish champion, in 1960 he represented Poland in the Olympics in Rome), Jan Stefaniec (Olympic team), Wiesław Kostera, Stanisław Szczepański, Kazimierz Flak (Olympic team), Wiesław Bień, Adam Pachotek, Zdzisław Kuźniak, Józef Gawliczek, Jan Szafranec, Piotr Dwornik, Henryk Krawczyk, Dariusz Gaik, Dariusz Waluszczyk, Andrzej Podhajny, Marcin Koster and Sławomir Frejowski.³¹

In the years 1971–1974, the following clubs had cycling sections: LKK (Folk Cycling Club) Zagłębiak Będzin, LKK Rydułtowy-Czernica, LZS Kłobuck and LZS Cieszyn. The leading cyclists were: Józef Gawliczek, Kazimierz Flak, Zbigniew Ilski, Stanisław Labocha and Lucjan Ottawa. The abovementioned cyclists participated in cycling events both in Poland and abroad such as the Peace Race (Wyścig Pokoju), the Around Poland race, the Polish championship and Around England Race.³² The District FST Local Council in w Częstochowa had its cycling section too. One of the first examples of success was winning the first place in a race in Myszków (1958). Aleksy Ciura was the winner of the race organised to celebrate the Days of Opole, i.e. “The Blue Ribbon” race. As P. Gazda writes, “In 1961, FST cyclists became Częstochowa champions and gained the third place in

²⁹ 40 lat Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych, Katowice, no publication date, pp. 14.

³⁰ S. Witek, *Rozwój sportu i rekreacji, kluby, organizacje, obiekty (1945–2007)*, [in:] A. Glimos-Nadgórska (ed.), *Będzin 1358–2008*, vol. 3, Wydawnictwo Muzeum Zagłębia w Będzinie, Będzin 2008, pp. 687–688.

³¹ Ibidem, pp. 688–689.

³² Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, *Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów*, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 9–10.

the Silesia Team Championships.”³³ The cyclists from Częstochowa were represented by Albin Hyra, Władysław Pieniek and Stanisław Żerdziński. In 1961, S. Żerdziński first crossed the finish line in the Around Rybnik-Wodzisław Land Race. In 1965, Adam Jaworski won the FST Association race, which took place in the Mazurian Lake District. When it comes to sports training in cycling, the PA FST in Katowice employed the following coaches: Józef Gawliczek, Karol Łukoszek, Edward Pelka and Ryszard Zaręba.³⁴

In the second half of the 1960s there were 68 athletics sections with 3135 athletes, including 1519 women. In the Polish Athletics Association (PZLA) there were two sections registered, with 257 training athletes, including 114 women. The sections of LZS Cieszynianka Cieszyn and LZS Liswarta Krzepice were also training athletes. These teams took part, among all, in league competitions (PZLA Class B, Class B of the Local Athletics Association – OZLA, the Silesian junior league). Secondary school students constituted quite a big group of athletics sections’ members. The state of the athletics sections in the FST PA in Katowice was similar in the first half of the 1970s. Its athletes presented a good sports level, enjoying success all over Poland.³⁵ It is worth mentioning that in 1956, Agnieszka Błaszka (LZS Orzesze) won a gold medal in the Polish Championships. One also should mention the following distinguished athletes: Zygmunt Brzozowski, Zofia Duda, Bożena Gorzelniak, Czesław Morawski, Michał Olszar and Barbara Wojaczek.

The activity of the PA FST in Katowice was also enriched by archery sections that were active, among others, at LZS Łobodno, LZS Ornontowice, LZS Pławniowice, LZS Strzemieszyce, LZS Wole, LZS Zawiercie. In the second half of the 1960, there were 8 archery sections. Three of them, together with 136 registered athletes, belonged to the Polish Archery Associations (PZŁ). Among the leading sections, one should mention Strzemieszyce and Zawiercie. Jerzy Ciołek and Włodzimierz Król were trainers of these sections. The archers of LZS Zawiercie enjoyed the biggest success, in 1968 winning individual and youth Polish championship in the junior category, and in 1969 taking the first place in the 1st Youth League (national games). The girls represented by Grażyna Szczepańska, Jolanta Szczubiałek and Barbara Wójcik became individual and team junior vice-champions of Poland. Among the best archers one should mention Robert Fanszewicz, Jacek Kołtoń, Andrzej Komenda and Waldemar Maja. The archers of LZS

³³ P. Gazda, op. cit., pp. 35.

³⁴ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 55–56.

³⁵ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 56–58.

Strzemieszyce achieved less spectacular results. Within the sports level framework, the archers from Strzemieszyce had 4 first sports classes, 32 second ones, 38 third ones and 85 youth sports classes.³⁶

In the years to come (the first half of the 1970s), there were five active sections which were registered in the Province Sports Federation, namely LZS Łobodno, LZS Ornontowice, LZS Pławniowice, LZS Wola, LZS Zawiercie. These teams participated in the 3rd league championships and the 1st (junior) league games. The best results were achieved by the archers of LZS Zawiercie, e.g. Danuta Szota won the Polish champion title and took the third place in the 3rd National Youth Spartakiad. At that time, two archery sections of the FST Association were established in the district of Wodzisław.³⁷

The discipline of shooting was practised in the units of the FST PA in Katowice. This discipline was permanently introduced into the event calendar of the FST Association in order to make it popular among rural youth. Competitions (at particular levels) took place under the patronage of "Robotnik Rolny". The National Defence League co-organised the event. The representatives of the FST PA in Katowice reached top places in team classification at central level competitions. In 1974, Kazimierz Zdeb (district of Rybnik)³⁸ won the individual first place in the national competition. In 1971, the athletes from the FST Association from the district of Częstochowa could celebrate their individual and team victory in the Province Shooting Contest of "Robotnik Rolny" Cup.³⁹ In the district of Częstochowa, shooting sections existed at LZS Mykanów and LZS Żłoty Potok.

One of the first weightlifting sections in the FST PA in Katowice were open at LZS Jankowice, LZS Leszczyny-Świerklany, LZS Siewierz, LZS Syrynia, LZS Tarnowiczanka, LZS Wieszowa, LZS Zawiercie and LZS Żarki (the second half of the 1950s). The representatives of LZS Leszczyny took part in the individual FST PA championships in Katowice, which took place on 14 April 1957, in Szopienice.⁴⁰ The following athletes participated in the competition: E. Fajkis, R. Fizia, H. Klepek, Kopiec, H. Sitek, Stanisław Lampert, Ochojski, Olma and K. Sobocik. Quite fast, this discipline became popular in the rural environment. It is worth mentioning that during the next FST PA individual championship in March 1958, in Jankowice, there were almost 100 weightlifters from the following districts: Rybnik, Pszczyzna, Tarnowskie Góry, Zawiercie, and from LZS Jankowice, Syrynia,

³⁶ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 58–59.

³⁷ Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 14.

³⁸ Ibidem.

³⁹ P. Gazda, op. cit., pp. 36.

⁴⁰ J.T. Michura, *Kronika śląskiej sztangi*, vol. 1: *Kalendarium*, part 1: 1811–1986, Śląski Związek Podnoszenia Ciężarów, no place of publication, 2015, pp. 90.

Wieszowa, Zawiercie and Żarki.⁴¹ The biggest number of championship titles went to LZS Wieszowa weightlifters. In the Polish junior championships taking place on 18–19 April 1959, a weightlifter of LZS Wieszowa, Marek Gołąb, won a silver medal in the light heavyweight category (82.5 kg).⁴² At the end of the 1950s, there were weightlifting sections at LZS Przegęza and LZS Rybnik, whereas in 1961 LZS Widów⁴³ also ran its weightlifting section.

In the 1960s, LZS Tarnowskie Góry (in the sources also known as LZS Tarnowiczanka) used to run a weightlifting section. In 1964, its weightlifter, Andrzej Ryguła, won a gold medal at the Polish championships in the junior category.⁴⁴ In the years 1964–1974, weightlifting was also trained, among all, at LZS Cieszyn, LZS Pomowiec Rudniki, LZS Kłobuck, LZS Boronów, LZS Szarlejka, LZS Myszków, LZS Zorza Wrzosowa, LZS Grabówka, LZS Lipie, LZS Przemsha Siewierz. In 1963, the team of LZS Przemsha Siewierz, fighting in class B team competition, won the fifth place.⁴⁵ Marian Majewski trained the weightlifters from Siewierz. In 1964, a weightlifting section was run at LZS Straconka.⁴⁶ A weightlifter of LZS Zorza Wrzosowa, Andrzej Komorowski, won the third place at the FST Polish championships in Ława, in 1966.⁴⁷

In the second half of the 1960s, the FST PA in Katowice had 20 weightlifting sections counting 441 athletes, four of which were registered at the Polish Weightlifting Association (PZPC). The leading weightlifting sections were located in Kłobuck, Lubliniec, Myszków and Zawiercie, with 133 registered athletes. The most distinguished weightlifters were Zdzisław Borgoń, Antoni Bętkowski, Wiesław Bułka, Leszek Czyż, Tadeusz Dobosz and Jerzy Pępek (Zawiercie), and Mirosław Kuc and Jacek Majewski (Kłobuck). Their trainers were Henryk Dzieciół, Edward Maroński, Stefan Okularczyk and Jan Żyrkow.⁴⁸

In league class A contests (in the years 1971–1974) one could watch the teams of Pomowiec Rudniki and LZS Kłobuck, whereas LZS Boronów and LZS Cieszyn fought in class B, and LZS Szarlejka fought in the junior FST league.⁴⁹ LZS Pomowiec Rudniki with its trainer Mirosław Maj had the strongest section. The best weightlifters in Katowice province were Jan Huras, Józef Jurczak and Tade-

⁴¹ Ibidem, pp. 94–95.

⁴² Ibidem, pp. 107.

⁴³ J.T. Michura, *Kronika śląskiej sztangi*, vol. 2: *Monografie klubów*, Śląski Związek Podnoszenia Ciężarów, no place of publication, 2016, pp. 116, 355.

⁴⁴ 40 lat Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych, Katowice, no publication date, pp. 15.

⁴⁵ J. T. Michura, *Kronika śląskiej sztangi*, vol. 2: *Monografie klubów...*, pp. 7.

⁴⁶ Ibidem, pp. 20.

⁴⁷ Ibidem, pp. 82.

⁴⁸ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 61–62.

⁴⁹ Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice –Marzec 1975, pp. 13.

usz Wiatrek. In 1974, at the Polish junior championships, Józef Jurczak won the third place, and in the same year (1974) Wiesław Wierzbicki (LKS Pomowiec Rudniki) won the seventh place (featherweight) at the FST Association Polish championships in Ostróda.⁵⁰ In the first half of the 1970s, the weightlifting section of LZS Boronów took pride in its best athletes, i.e. Jan Czyż, Roman Czyż and Hubert Rurański⁵¹. Jan Czyż was voted the best FST sportsperson of Lubliniec district in 1972.

At the end of the 1950s, LZS Zieloni Katowice was established. As J.T. Michura writes, "It was composed of the representatives of Folk Sports Teams from the whole Katowice - Częstochowa area. The club was represented by athletes from smaller places and its strong team fought in province and national competitions."⁵² The team of LZS Zieloni Katowice consisted of weightlifters from Iskry Połomia, LZS Częstochowa, LZS Gniazdów, LZS Jedność Boronów, LZS Koszęcin, LZS Liswarta Krzepice, LZS Lipie, LZS Lgota, LZS Mykanów, LZS Pomowiec Rudniki (LZS Borowe Pole – Zawiercie), LZS Przybyszów, LZS Rzeniszów, LZS Rędziny, LZS Sokół Olesno, LZS Sparta Lubliniec, LZS Szarlejka, LZS Światowit Myszków, LZS Tarnowiczanka, LZS Wieszowa, LZS Wręczyca, LZS Wrzosowa, LZS Żarki.⁵³

In the rural environment, table tennis was a popular and widely practised sports discipline, both at the professional level and as a leisure-time activity. The best sections were run by e.g. LZS Rój (district of Rybnik) and LZS Ruch Pniów (district of Gliwice). They played in league contests at the province and regional level. The teams from the districts of Cieszyn and Lubliniec participated in championship contests at the district and regional level.⁵⁴ In the sports season of 1967/1968, the following teams of the FST PA in Katowice took part in class A contests: Orzeł Stanica, Olimpia Pławniowice, Ruch Pniów (Gliwice group); LZS Rogoźna, LZS Syrynia (Rybnik group); LZS Lot Konopiska, LZS Ruch Kochanowice (Częstochowa group).⁵⁵

In the second half of the 1960s and at the beginning of the 1970s, the FST PA in Katowice accommodated 237 table tennis sections and 3859 athletes, including 843 women. There were 78 teams registered at the Polish Table Tennis Association (PZTS), counting 789 table tennis players, including 164 female play-

⁵⁰ Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 13; J.T. Michura (in publication) *Kronika śląskiej sztangi*, vol. 1: *Kalendarium*, part 1: 1811–1986, pp. 325–326, does not confirm winning the bronze medal by Józef Jurczak in the Polish Junior Championships

⁵¹ E. Czyż, *50-lecie Klubu Sportowego Jedność w Boronowie*, Wydawnictwo Plik Piekary Śląskie, Boronów 2003, pp. 7.

⁵² J.T. Michura, *Kronika śląskiej sztangi*, vol. 2: *Monografie klubów...*, pp. 125.

⁵³ *Ibidem*.

⁵⁴ Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 15.

⁵⁵ W. Pięta, *Sport na Śląsku. Tenis stołowy w latach 1929–2019*, Przedsiębiorstwo Usługowe Compus, Gliwice 2019, pp. 84.

ers. Eleven teams participated in Class A contests, 45 teams fought in Class B, and eleven of them in Class C. 111 teams took part in rural leagues games. The leading table tennis players were: Jan Cyrulik, Jan Kozłowski, Mieczysław Pięta and Stanisław Skolik.⁵⁶

In the district of Częstochowa, the following teams took part in Class B matches in the season of 1971/1972: LZS Grom Poczesna, LZS Przyrów, LZS Borowno, LZS Grabówka, LZS Sokole Góry and LZS Konopiska. The District Association of FST in Częstochowa took pride in the following leading table tennis players: Barbara Fikier, Henryk Pałasz, Stanisław Markowski (LZS Grom Poczesna) and Ryszard Gephhard (LZS Lot Konopiska), Barbara Goleniowska (LZS Przyrów).⁵⁷

LKS Pogoń Imielin had a wrestling section. It was one of the leading ones both in the province of Katowice and in Poland. The wrestlers of this section participated in the second league junior contests. In the years 1962-1963, Franciszek Pielorz was among the medallists of the Polish championships.⁵⁸ In 1959, the wrestlers of Pogoń Imielin won the second place in the Polish Team Championships. In the 1950s and 1960s, the wrestling section was represented by: Edward Czamberg, Stanisław Hermyt, Jan Jochemczyk, Antoni Kapołka, Norbert Kasperczyk, Franciszek Koserczyk, Józef Kubica, Wojciech Kubica, Roman Malcharek, Paweł Miczko, Franciszek Pielorz, Leon Siupka, Paweł Siupka, Benedykt Sobota, Ludwik Socha, Ludwik Starczynowski, Edmund Stolarczyk, Franciszek Synowiec, Piotr Synowiec, Rudolf Walczysko, Antoni Warwas and Fryderyk Wybraniec. Franciszek Gorol was a gold medallist of the Polish Championships in 1969.⁵⁹ Andrzej Hermyt, on the other hand, won gold medals in the years 1971-1974 at the Polish Junior Championships and the Third National Youth Spartakiad.⁶⁰ The best wrestlers of Pogoń Imielin were the members of the national junior team. In the second half of the 1960s and at the beginning of the 1970s, the section counted 63 wrestlers. Among the section's activists one should mention Rudolf Gniłek, Józef Stęchły and Franciszek Synowiec.⁶¹

Moreover, the sports disciplines such as chess and draughts also played an important role in sports activity. A very important role goes to chess due to the

⁵⁶ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967-1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 68-69.

⁵⁷ P. Gazda, op. cit., pp. 34.

⁵⁸ 90-lecie Ludowego Klubu Sportowego Pogoń Imielin 1922-2012, no publication date, no pagination.

⁵⁹ 40 lat Ludowych Zespołów Sportowych, Katowice no publication date, pp. 15.

⁶⁰ Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice - Marzec 1975, pp. 13.

⁶¹ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967-1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 69-70.

“The Golden Rook” Chess Tournament organized by the FST Association. “The Golden Rook” Chess Tournament was initiated by the FST Association in 1958. The development of this area of activity was to some extent linked with the emergence of “rural meeting places” (cafés hosting cultural events) in the countryside, destined for cultural and educational activity, within which e.g. board games contests were organised. At the very beginning, there were district competitions organized, e.g. in the edition of 1958/1959 Cieszyn won the district classification; in the editions of 1959/1960–1960/1961 it was Pszczyna, Gliwice won in the edition of 1962/1963, whereas in the years 1966/1967–1967/1968 the first place went to Myszków, and in 1969/1970 to Będzin.⁶² Beginning with preliminary local rounds, via gromada (commune subdivision), district and province qualifiers, there were central (national) finals held. The finals of “The Golden Rook” Chess Tournament were held on 6–8 May 1966, in Warsaw. The chess players of LZS PZGS Lubartów won. The team of FST Nakło Śląskie representing the FST PA in Katowice took the 8th place.⁶³ In the competition among the units of FST PA, the FST PA in Katowice turned out to be the best in the following editions: 1959/1960, 1962/1963–1963/1964, 1966/1967–1969/1970. As S. Drążdżewski writes, “Since 1972, the inter-district and inter-province contests were [...] given up.”⁶⁴

Among the units of the FST PA in Katowice, “The Golden Rook” Chess Tournament enjoyed an immense popularity in the first half of the 1970s. 2 907 teams took part in the 1972/1973 season games, and in the next one (1973/1974) there were 3 428 of them.⁶⁵ In the years 1966–1975, the following teams from Katowice province took part in the finals of “The Golden Rook” Chess Tournament: LZS Cieszyn, LZS Czyżowice, LZS Drzewiarz Kłobuck, LZS Hetman Koszęcin, LZS Kłobuck, LZS Koszęcin, LZS Nakło Śląskie (Table no 3).⁶⁶ The best results in that period of time were reached by LZS Koszęcin chess players during the finals that took place in Cieszyn, on 20–26 April 1972. The team of LZS Koszęcin was represented by: Lesław Bidziński, Tadeusz Bobecki (teachers), Paweł Bogawski (retiree) and Gerda Mucha (employee of “Śląsk” Song and Dance Ensemble). Gerda Mucha and Tadeusz Bobecki won all the matches in their groups. In the individual tournament, Gerda Mucha won the 2nd place, whereas Jadwiga Posytek was fourth. LZS Kłobuck chess player also showed their expertise in the finals of 1973 in Szczecin and in 1974 in Płock, taking the 2nd place. In 1973 and 1974, the Skwarczyński family

⁶² J. Moraś, Z. Tyszkiewicz, *50 lat Turnieju Szachowego o “Złotą Wieżę”*, Wydawnictwo Penelopa, Warszawa 2009, pp. 3–5; S. Drążdżewski, *Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe*, Warszawa 1974, pp. 106–108.

⁶³ J. Moraś, Z. Tyszkiewicz, *50 lat Turnieju Szachowego o “Złotą Wieżę”...*, pp. 8–9.

⁶⁴ S. Drążdżewski, *Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe*, Warszawa 1974, pp. 108.

⁶⁵ Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, *Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów*, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 15.

⁶⁶ J. Moraś, Z. Tyszkiewicz, *50 lat Turnieju Szachowego o “Złotą Wieżę”...*, pp. 10–27.

(Henryk – father, Wiesław and Zdzisław – sons, Zofia – daughter) played for the team of LZS Kłobuck.⁶⁷ In 1973, in the individual tournament (central one), the chess player of LZS Kochanowice won the 5th place. For some participants, “The Golden Rook” Chess Tournament constituted a prelude to their further sports career. In their monograph *40 years of “The Golden Rook” Chess Tournament (40 lat Turnieju Szachowego “O Złotą Wieżę”)*, T. Nycz and S. Witkowski write, “The tournament in Malbork (1967 – the authors) singled out a few promising talents. [...] Many beautiful rounds were played by a future Polish championships finalist, Karol Pinkas, a learner of Tadeusz Przybyła from Wisła (Cieszyn district). Further on, he was a leading chess player and an esteemed trainer.”⁶⁸

Table 4. Places of the representatives of the FST PA in Katowice in the finals of “The Golden Rook” Chess Tournament in the years 1966–1975

Year	The tournament venue	The tournament winner	The best FST PA team in Katowice
1966	Warszawa	LZS PZGS Lubartów (Lublin)	LZS Nakło Śląskie – the 8 th place
1967	Malbork	LZS Huragan Żagań (Zielona Góra)	LZS Cieszyn – the 7 th place
1968	Żagań	LZS Prim EtK (Białystok)	LKS Czyżowice – the 11 th place
1969	Zgorzelec	LZS Huragan Żagań (Zielona Góra)	LZS Drzewiarz Kłobuck – the 4 th place
1970	Kętrzyn	MLKS Piast Słupsk (Koszalin)	LKS Czyżowice – 14 th place
1971	Łańcut	LKS Orzeł Trzciańsko-Zdrój (Szczecin)	LZS Koszęcin – 9 th place
1972	Cieszyn	LZS Koszęcin (Katowice)	LZS Koszęcin
1973	Szczecin	LZS Krzna Biała Podlaska (Lublin)	LZS Kłobuck – the 2 nd place LZS Hetman Koszęcin – the 16 th place
1974	Płock	LKS Mechanik Stargard Szczeciński (Szczecin)	LZS Kłobuck – the 2 nd place
1975	Uniejów	LKS Budrol Legnica (Wrocław)	LZS Kłobuck – the 12 th place

Source: J. Moraś, Z. Tyszkiewicz, *50 lat Turnieju Szachowego o “Złotą Wieżę”*, Wydawnictwo Penelopa, Warszawa 2009, pp. 8–27.

A draught section (100-square draughts) was held in LZS Grom Poczesna. The leading sportspeople in this discipline were: Barbara and Stanisław Markowscy, Andrzej Kosmola and Zdzisław Porodnicki.⁶⁹

⁶⁷ Ibidem, pp. 20–25.

⁶⁸ T. Nycz, S. Witkowski, *40 lat Turnieju Szachowego “O Złotą Wieżę”*, Wydawnictwo Szachowe „Penelopa”, Warszawa 1998, pp. 9.

⁶⁹ P. Gazda, op. cit., pp. 38.

Sports activity was realised in agricultural schools from the area of Katowice province. The following agricultural schools in Katowice province followed suit: CRS Cieszyn, Państwowe Technikum Hodowlane (PTH) Będus, Państwowe Technikum Leśne (PTL) Brynek, Państwowe Technikum Ogrodnicze (PTO) Bielsko-Biała, Państwowe Technikum Rolnicze (PTR) Międzywieć, PTR Nakło Śląskie, PTR Ornontowice, PTR Pszczyna, PTR Żłoty Potok, ZPTR Cieszyn. In the second half of the 1960s, about 3800 students attended these schools (2350 of them were members of FST units). In 1971, there were 3909 of them, and in 1945 – 4390.⁷⁰ On the premises of agricultural schools, 8 LZS units (48 sports sections with 2707 members) were active whereas in 1974 there were 10 of them (71 sports sections and 3716 members). PTO Bielsko-Biała, PTR Ornontowice, ZPTR Cieszyn and PTR Pszczyna had the biggest number of sections (as of 1974): ZPTR Cieszyn (588), PTO Bielsko-Biała (463) and PTR Pszczyna (440).⁷¹ During the National Agricultural Schools Youth Olympics in 1973, the students from Katowice province took the 17th place. The unit of the Agricultural Education of the Province National Council (WRN) in Katowice comprised the Methodology Centre which united physical education teachers who ran physical education lessons in agricultural schools. There was a specially prepared annual calendar of sports events for agricultural schools. The most popular sports disciplines in agricultural education were athletics and sports games. The students practising sports acrobatics presented the highest level of sports skills. They attended the Agricultural Schools Complex (Zespół Szkół Rolniczych – ZSR and CRS) in Cieszyn. Boys training handball represented PTL in Brynek, girls training handball came from PTR Ornontowice, athletics was trained in PTR in Międzywiecie and Ornontowice, volleyball was the domain of PTO in Bielsko-Biała and the School Complex CRS in Cieszyn.⁷² The most distinguished trainers were Bronisław Dzik (PTO Bielsko-Biała), Mieczysław Krukowski (PTL w Brynku), Witold Słowiński (PTR Ornontowice), Jan Guzik (PTR Nakło Śląskie), Witold Czerwiński (Międzywiecie), Jan Konderla and Zdzisław Okarma (Cieszyn).⁷³

The fruitful activity of the FST PA in Katowice was crowned with numerous awards for the units and athletes of the FST PA in Katowice. The following FST units received “Omega” sports quality mark granted by the editors of “Wiado-

⁷⁰ 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 24–27; Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 18.

⁷¹ Wojewódzkie Zrzeszenie Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe Katowice, Materiały Sprawozdawczo-Programowe na VIII Wojewódzki Zjazd Delegatów, Katowice – Marzec 1975, pp. 18.

⁷² 25 lat LZS, Katowice 3.IV.1971. Sprawozdanie z działalności Wojewódzkiego Zrzeszenia Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe w Katowicach za okres 1967–1970. Katowice, dnia 3 kwietnia 1971 r., pp. 26.

⁷³ Ibidem.

mości Sportowe”: in 1967 – LKS Wisła Istebna; in 1970 – LKS Klimczok Bystra and LZS Przełom Kaniów; in 1971 – LZS Olimpia Pławniowice and LZS Blanowice.⁷⁴

The opinion poll for “20” best countryside athletes chosen on the 20th anniversary of FST distinguished the following athletes: the 3rd place went to a cyclist Bogusław Fornalczyk (LKS Będzin, LZS Myszków), the 7th one to a skier Józef Przybyła (LKS Klimczok Bystra, LKS Szczyrk), the 8th one to a tobogganist Mieczysław Pawełekiewicz (LZS Mikuszowice), the 9th one to a skier Antoni Łaciak (LKS Szczyrk), the 11th one to a cyclist Józef Gawliczek (LZS Czernica), the 15th one to a skier Antoni Wieczorek (LKS Szczyrk), the 16th one to a tobogganist Edward Fender (LZS Mikuszowice).⁷⁵ The opinion poll for “10” best countryside athletes chosen on the 25th anniversary of FST distinguished the following athletes: the 2nd place went to a cyclist Bogusław Fornalczyk, the 3rd one to Antoni Łaciak, the 5th one to Józef Gawliczek, the 9th one to Józef Przybyła.⁷⁶ The winner of the opinion poll for “10 best countryside athletes” in 1958 was Bogusław Fornalczyk, in 1962 – Antoni Łaciak, in 1966 – Józef Gawliczek.

The titles of “Distinguished Masters of Sport” were granted to: Bogusław Fornalczyk (LZS Będzin) – the title granted in 1966, Antoni Wieczorek (LKS Szczyrk) - the title granted in 1967, Józef Przybyła (LKS Klimczok Bystra) – the title granted in 1967. The medals for “Outstanding Sporting Achievements” were granted to Józef Łaciak (skiing, LKS Szczyrk, a gold medal in 1962), and to Józef Gawliczek (LZS Czernica, 1967). Silver medals of “Distinguished Masters of Sport” were granted to Bogusław Fornalczyk (1962), Józef Gawliczek and Mieczysław Pawełekiewicz (LKS Mikuszowice, 1965). Bronze medals of “Distinguished Masters of Sport” went to Edward Fender (LKS Mikuszowice) and Mieczysław Pawełekiewicz (1966). The title “Master of Sport” was granted to the following athletes: Antoni Wieczorek in 1954, Bogusław Fornalczyk in 1958, Małgorzata Chwaszcza (LZS Orzesze, sports acrobatics), Edward Fender, Józef Gawliczek, Antoni Łaciak (LKS Szczyrk), Krystyna Nawrat (LZS Orzesze, sports acrobatics), Mieczysław Pawełekiewicz, Róża Prokop (LZS Orzesze, sports acrobatics), Józef Przybyła, Stefan Przybyła (LKS Szczyrk, skiing).⁷⁷

Conclusion

The years 1952–1975 saw an increase in the number of units and members of the FST PA in Katowice. In particular, that phenomenon concerned the activity

⁷⁴ S. Drążdżewski, *Ludowe Zespoły Sportowe*, Warszawa 1974, pp. 419–423.

⁷⁵ Ibidem, pp. 411–412. S. Drążdżewski, mentioned the 17th place of Mieczysław Nowak (weightlifting) – Katowice province. Mieczysław Nowak was, among all, the athlete of FST Wołów (Wrocław province; he did not represent PAFST in Katowice).

⁷⁶ Ibidem, pp. 412.

⁷⁷ Ibidem, pp. 412–417.

of FST District Councils in Będzin, Cieszyn, Kłobuck, Rybnik, Tarnowskie Góry. Once the number of units and members had grown, sports infrastructure developed as well, and there was a bigger number of training personnel, i.e. sports coaches, instructors, and sports sections.

The sports activity of the FST Province Association in Katowice focused to a great extent on the organization of mass events, among all, in the following disciplines: athletics, football, handball, volleyball, chess, table tennis and draughts. It is worth noticing though that the contestants of the Folk Sports Teams Province Association in Katowice would achieve state and international success especially in such disciplines as sports acrobatics, cycling, tobogganing, skiing. Agricultural schools were becoming more and more important as far as sports activity was concerned.

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