

BEGINNINGS OF THE LUGE IN LVOV BEFORE THE I WORLD WAR

Paweł KRÓL¹, Waldemar NADOLSKI

1. Faculty of Physical Education, University of Rzeszow, Rzeszow, Poland

Key words:

- Lvov,
- physical culture,
- luge.

Abstract:

The Polish population under annexed territories started being interested in winter sports, in it with the luge, however by virtue of applying servicemen in action they were attaching great significance to the skiing. As a M. Nemeč believes “*the original historical patterns of behaviour are defined the factual existence of the human body, which limits the range of working, fighting, game, and defines the activities which consolidates into a compact cultural sphere of sport-specific forms*”¹. The luge turned up on Polish land for the first time about 1900 in Cracow and Zakopane². In 1905 Leopold Scherautz (Szerauc) imported to Lvov the first sledge of the type Davos from Switzerland³, although Dr. Eugeniusz Piasecki staying in Zakopane and in Lvov knew the luge very well and popularized it in the health resort already from 1900. About the pioneering activity of the one and many other sports disciplines in the city took care Company of Games of People and Youth in Lvov (transformed later into the Company of games involving physical movement).

Perhaps parallel the luge was observed by members of TZLiM (TZR) which along with the Danek entrepreneur travelled in 1905 to Vienna in order to tour local bathing units and swimming pools. Among others opening in the season 1905 / 06 of new skating path "Gopło" on one of biggest and prettiest joints in Lvov was an effect of this travel⁴.

*Luge, a sports discipline, in which competitors skidding on the sports sledge are covering determined distance on the special (artificial or natural) path with the ice surface*⁵ – with these words the Small Encyclopedia of Sport defined one of the most popular winter sports disciplines of the 20th century. Its roots date back to the 19th century, when in 1883 in Swiss Davos played the first luge competition. In consecutive years the luge achieved popularity in the Alps and the Sudeten mountains. Captain Roman

¹ M. Nemeč, Agonistika or sport? An outline of the historical-philosophical perspective, [w]: physical education and sport, no 2 (2010), volume XX, p. 36-38.

² E. Piasecki, *About Snow Sport*, „Zakopane inspection” 1900, nr 50, p. 463.

³ „The history of luge In Poland”, [in:] <http://www.umksparkowa.pl/content/sanki-w-polsce> (date of the access 12.02.2012) In the Internet article referring to basics of luge were wrote, that Ludwik Scherautz had brought the sledge to Lvov. However it is probably that it goes about Leopold Scherautz, one of the first skiers "Black" Lvov.

⁴ „The Polish word” 1905, nr 602, p. 8-9.

⁵ „Small Encyclopedia of Sport” 1987, v. 2, p. 381.

Loteczka, distinguished promoter of the luge of the interwar period in Poland, emphasized that residents of these areas had been "only pioneers of this sport"⁶. At the beginning of the 20th century the luge was popularized in Germany, Switzerland and Austro-Hungarian monarchy. In 1911 in the Hanover was formed the first national association, and in 1913 in Dresden they established International Federation of luge (ISSV)⁷.

The first luge competition, participants of which were Polish athletes, were held on Sunday 14 January 1906 at 11.00 in Lvov how announced a contemporary press on "*slopes of the Cadet's street*"⁸. 18 pupils of Lvov secondary schools entered an event, in it 12 from the IV junior secondary School and 6 from Real School. On the small sledge the first gear won Bilor in the time of 76 seconds, as a reward by the sports shopkeeper W. Łukasiewicz received funded skate. Second place, with the loss of 20 sec took Bohacz and Rapacz who were awarded by the sponsor Mr Złotnicki, with the set of minerals. Mamczuk took the next place. Four pairs of "tandems" participated in the second gear. The main prize were the skis were the main prize through W. Łukasiewicz. Won Biroń - Scherantz (Szerautz?) with time 76 seconds before the Bilor - Karasiński crew. TZLiM (TZR) members Dudryk Piasecki and Radwanek refereed the competition. The first two were teachers at the IV junior secondary School. In the summary of the competition they underlined, that "*the race came off to the full and they expressed the wish for TZLiM to repeat such a race still in this season*"⁹. According to TZLiM suggestions they planned organising another luge competition for 15 February 1906¹⁰, but because of the weather conditions it was postponed¹¹. Probably the competition didn't took place this winter¹².

In the consecutive year TZR organised the next luge competition for young people of secondary schools. They were held on 17 February 1907. Gears of number ones, of twos and "omnyum handicap" were in a program. The competition was divided on account of the age of participants up to 15 years and above 15 years¹³. The interest was significant, rivalry lasted two hours, each of runs was held on distance of 800m. In the run of juniors won Rapak before Zamłyński and Rydz. On the run of juniors of twos the top one spot took Rządki with Biernat, the second place fell to the couple Bant - Baar and third Karasiński - Dziudyński. In the seniors run the good result got Gozdawa, Karasiński was second and third was Rządki. In the run of seniors of twos the best was Gozdawa with Marjan before Rządki - Nigdol and Rosicki - Rydz. In rivalry "omnyum handicap" started 38 competitors. The top one spot fell to Rosicki before Bant - Baar and Cengl¹⁴.

A big facilitation in the development of winter sports, including the luge, was allowance of the Railways Ministry to transport the sledge, skis and other sports instruments in railroad cars without incurring extra charges. For that purpose the National Tourist Association in 1907 turned to sports societies for the list of the town in which skiing or toboggan could develop.¹⁵

In February 1908 for the first time an Academic Sports Connection set the luge competition up in Lvov (AZS). This club, coming from TZR, had an own coast located on Iron Water at the Snopkowska street in Lvov.

⁶ R. Loteczka, *In the defence of the luge*, „Sport” 1930, nr 1, p. 2.

⁷ There.

⁸ „Lvov Courier” 1906, nr 12, p. 3; „The Polish Word” 1906, nr 19, p. 5.

⁹ „Lvov Courier” 1906, nr 19, p. 3; „Lvov newspaper” 1906, nr 14, p. 4.

¹⁰ „Lvov Courier” 1906, nr 41, p. 3.

¹¹ „The Polish word” 1906, nr 75, p. 3.

¹² „The Polish word” 1906, nr 78, p. 9.

¹³ „Lvov Courier” 1907, nr 75, p. 3.

¹⁴ „Lvov Courier” 1907, nr 83, p. 4.

¹⁵ „Lvov Courier” 1907, nr 85, p. 4.

In a schedule of the competition was sledge run, for taking three first places AZS granted medals: silver glided, silver and brown¹⁶.

TZR also in February 1908 still organised the luge competition on the Snopkowska street track. Besides traditional starts of individuals and of shared sledge, there was a competition of mixt up settlements¹⁷. Another luge competition conducted AZS on 16 February 1908, there were three starts in the schedule of the competition: the individual run and two gears of the shared sledge. In two competition started also women¹⁸.

In the club "Pursuit" was also being developed winter sports. In autumn 1908 was begun seeking the place for the track. Thanks to the dedication of Dr. E. Stroynowski for this purpose a so-called Kisielki road, on slopes of the High Castle and the Sandy Mountain (900 m). Dr. Dąbrowski gave 100 crowns for purpose of the building the track, and Dr. Woytkowski also backed up attempts of "Pursuit", director of the healing-water plant which administered the Kisielki road. In this issue also young people belonging to the Club didn't shun the work: banking of the path, repairs, constant sweeping aside, and often formal digging up it after snowy blizzards - everything it was work of professional workers only in the small measure. "Pogończyk" worked with pleasure, and the view of the fresh work this way encouraged strange passers, that had often hurried to young people with the active help. The traffic on the truck was considerable. Right after opening were organised 5 events, available to all, at the participation of several lugers. It is exactly LKS "Pursuit", as first in Lvov inserted original bobsleighs, of which 3 was on the truck¹⁹.

In the development of the luge amongst Lvov youth activity a big participation has teachers of the secondary school, forming sports clubs. The IV Lvov junior secondary School from beginning participated in the luge competition organised by TZLiM (later TZR) most actively. Eugeniusz Piasecki played a leading role in disseminating this new sport, from 1899 teacher of the gymnastics at the local school. Active participation in preparing the recreational-sports TZR grounds took I Real School in Lvov which also participated in the luge competition from the beginning. In school year 1907 / 08 on behalf of the school was the teacher Karol Hornung²⁰.

In February 1908 at the III junior secondary School with the effort of young people of upper classes a "Sports Wheel" came into existence, which organised the skating and luge competition. Laskownicki won both competitions, moreover in the luge competition stood out: Bałaban, Barczewski, Mikuliński, Nawrocki i Sokołowski. Care about the „Circle” took the teacher Józef Limbach²¹.

In 1909 the luge in Lvov achieved the significant popularity, local sports clubs started organising the competition. I Lvov football Club (LKPN) "Black" on 6 January this year organised luge competition on the TZR track.

In a schedule of the competition was four competitions: run of individuals for children up to 10 years, run of individuals of women, run of individuals of young people, general run with the release of the sledge of all kinds²².

Unfortunately the universality of the luge revealed its dangerous side, the injuries dangerous to the health of competitors, not to say heavy accidents have more and more often happened. Of course a contemporary press announced these events: "*yesterday day* (8

¹⁶ „Lvov Courier” 1908, nr 53, p. 2.

¹⁷ „Lvov Courier” 1908, nr 65, p. 2.

¹⁸ „Lvov Courier” 1908, nr 77, p. 4.

¹⁹ T. Dregiewicz, S. Polakiewicz, R. Wacek, M. Kobiak, *A guest book ..., qtd. d., p. 38.*

²⁰ XXXV Report of the management of I Real School in Lvov for school year 1907 / 08, Lvov 1908, p. 63.

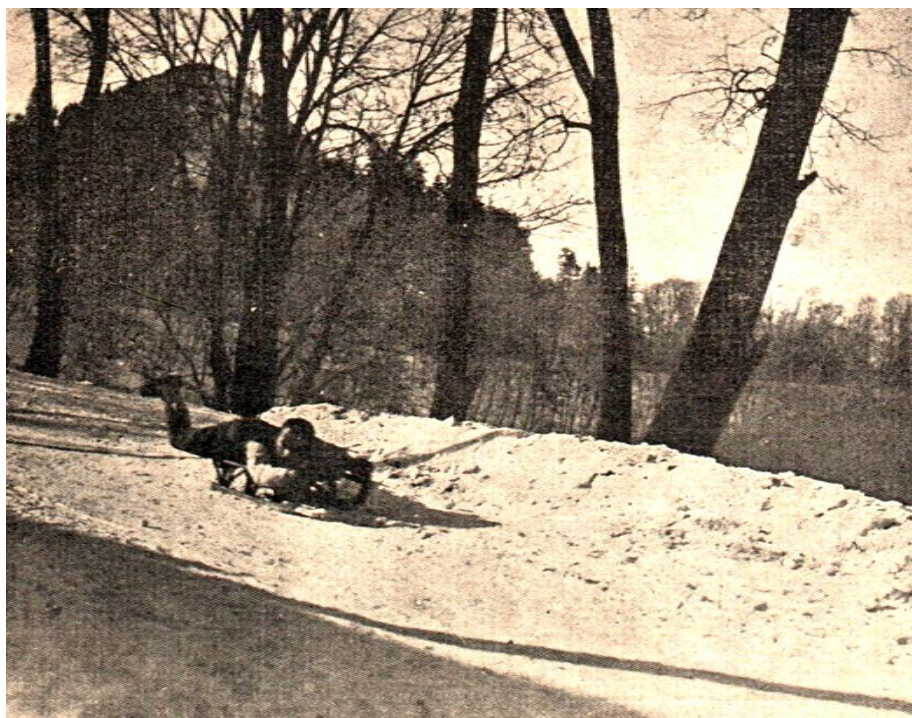
²¹ „Lvov Courier” 1908, nr 92, p. 4; *Report of the c.k management. of Lvov junior secondary School of Franciszek Józef for school year 1908*, Lvov 1908, p. 45.

²² „Lvov Courier” 1909, nr 2, p. 3.

January 1909) was truly disastrous for young people, practising beautiful and healthy, although dangerous for untrained luge. The rescue station intervened in a day in 4 accidents²³. In relation to numerous luge accidents the Lvov magistrate decided to ban going by sledge along all streets and communications roads. Moreover city authorities decided to care about the safety of users of coasts being under the care of societies and sports clubs²⁴.



LKS "Pursuit" Lvov truck at the foot of the High Castle on the Kieselki road, on the sledge J. Kawecki "Black" Lvov, (R. Wacek, T. Dregiewicz, M. Kobiak, S. Polakiewicz: a guest book of the operations of a Lvov sports club "Pursuit" 1904-1939 devoted to 35 anniversary of their activity, Lvov 1939, board 24).



1920 Lvov – sledge track LKS „Pursuit” on Kieselki road.

²³ „Lvov Courier” 1909, nr 13, p. 2.

²⁴ „Lvov Newspaper” 1909, nr 24, p. 3.

However the Most important event in the history of the Lvov luge was opening on 10 the January 1909 of the new sledge track of "Pursuit" Lvov, one of the most well-deserved sports clubs in Poland²⁵. The club received the area up to the track from Dr. Edward Stroynowski. Track on the Kisielki road with access to Teatyńska street, it was the longest in the city, its length was 700 m, width 6 m with two curves. It was made mainly by the young people grouped together in "Pursuit". It became the most frequent place of the competition organised in Lvov, in the winter season about 40 persons per day used the track²⁶. The object was under the supervision of Dr. Eugeniusz Piasecki, the chairman of LKS "Pursuit" Lvov. The first competition was conducted on 17 January 1909 with classical, at that time, program: individual run of men, run mixt up in couples, run of men in couples²⁷.

I LKPN "Black" conducted on 2 February 1909 another luge competition on the TZR track²⁸, a record number of competitors took part in it – 74 persons. On the run "for the championship of the track" started 21 competitors, won Gordon achieving the lowest time in total two starts in the time of 73.2 sec. before Roman Łuszczynski - 74.7 sec. and "Stanisław" from "Pursuit" - 76.8 sec. In the secondo competition – Mied run of couples started 8 teams. The Best result Got couple Łuszczynski – Janka 36,0 sec. Ta king the first place, before the couple Grunwald – Janina 37,7 sec. and Henior – Dziunia 40,0 sec. In the third competition – general run allowing sledges of All kinds started 19 competitors. The Best appeared Łuszczynscy brothers In the time 37,9 sec. before Ponurski and Aer from „Pursuit” 39,1 sec. The third place took a couple Filipowski – Orkan from „Torch” with the time 39,3 sec., fourth place took Gordon and Zabawski 39,4 sec²⁹.

In the next competition organised on 14 February 1909 on the own sledze track by „Pursuit” for the first time they were trying to organize in Lvov competition of the ride on bobsleigh³⁰. This competition wasn't mention In the report. In the run of youth up to 15 years started 8 competitors. The Best was Roman Łuszczynski „Black” 35,3 sec., before Żelechowski „Torch” 41,3 sec. and Putter „Marathon” 42,3 sec. in the run of couples started 15 teams. Won brothers Łuszczynscy „Black” 39,3 sec., before Gordon – Adamski „Black” 40,0 sec. and Zabawski – Henior „Black” 40,3 sec. In the general run took place 21 teams. The Winner was Roman Łuszczynski „Black” before Henior – Pejot – Saes „Black”³¹.

Another luge competition with the announced competition in the ride on bobsleigh was also supposed to be held on 21 February 1909³². However because of the snowy snowstorm the competition was canceled. The next date of the competition was set on 28 February 1909³³. Track was reconstructed so that it could cope with new competitions - for ride on bobsleigh. There was held as many as 5 competitions and competition without competing. On the run of women won Stokłosińska "Pursuit" in the time 1.32 sec before Łabówna also from "Pursuit". On the consolation run participated 9 competitors won Reunior from "Black" 1.26 sec., before Żelechowski "Znicz" 1.32 sec. and Zimels also from "Znicz" 1.34 sec. the record-breaking Run in pairs accumulated 8 crews. The first place took the couple Wojtkowski – Maryla from „Pursuit” with the time 1.20 sec., before Orest – Olga „Poursuit” 1.31 sec. and Bydlewicz – Stokłosińska „Pursuit” 1.24 sec. in sledge couples

²⁵ „Lvov Courier” 1909, nr 13, p. 3.

²⁶ „Wanderer” 1912, nr 15, p. 313.

²⁷ „Lvov Courier” 1909, nr 26, p. 3.

²⁸ „Lvov Courier” 1909, nr 45, p. 2.

²⁹ „Lvov Courier” 1909, nr 54, p. 3.

³⁰ „Lvov Courier” 1909, nr 71, p. 3.

³¹ „Lvov Courier” 1909, nr 76, p. 3.

³² „Lvov Courier” 1909, nr 80, p. 4.

³³ „Lvov Courier” 1909, nr 97, p. 3.

started 11 competitor. The winners were Wojtkowski – Bydlewicz In the time of 1.18 sec. before Reunior – Zabawski 1.19 sec. and W. Litwinowicz – Konrad 1.21 sec. All were representing „Pursuit”. Long expected bobsleigh run assembled 6 teams on the start. The Winner was the team hr. Jan Platter – Garapich – Dąbrowski from „Pursuit” In the time 1.16 sec. Next two places took also competitors from „Pursuit”: Marin – Bydlewicz – Torn and Bydlewicz – Wojtkowski with the same time 1.20 sec. About the order decided samplint. Without competing competed teams "Black" and "Pursuit" on distance of 1200 m Two runs were being played, a sum of both times determined a victory. Won Wojtkowski - Bydlewicz before Reunior - Zabawski³⁴.

On the same day took place another luge competition organized by TZR on the own track on Iron Water. On the run of individuals on the sledge of the type Davos and Hallater started 16 competitors. The winner was Gustek "Black", before Skopal "Marathon" and Czaczel "Black". On the run of comforting individuals started 15 competitors. The winner was Rappaport "Black" with the time 43 sec., before Skopal "Marathon" 44 sec. and with Koniewicz "Black" 44 sec on the genera run won Skopal "Marathon" in the time 42.1 sec. before Nignol - Koniewicz "Black" 45sec. and Tarnawski - Fedorowicz 47 sec.³⁵.

In the Lvov press they were devoting to the luge lot of place, writing usually positively about the new discipline of local young people. However there were also critical voices which residents of Lvov pointed in letters to the editor of " Lvov Courier". This is one of statements: *„involuntarily for me arose reflection , that: the sledge is prepared not at us, casual clothes and generally speaking Germans delivered everything what is needed for this sport to us for moneys. Whether towards the deepening luge it wouldn't pay to put the factory of bentwood furniture on at us, of sledge, and the like, things, where our workers would find the fixed salary?”*³⁶.

In the next winter season 1909 / 10 TZR already before Christmas prepared track and announced organising the 4 luge competition, of which a "luge corso" was a novelty, that is race on the sledge decorated with green and flowers³⁷.

According to press information the sledze sport In Lvov was practised by youth from All schools public, Real, and secondary. Some of schools bought sledges to learn for its pupils, as the VI Secondary School, which in school year 1909/10 bought a few couples³⁸.

Amongst a few clubs going in for the luge in Lvov a sports club "Znicz" deserved the distinction which members recruited oneself from student young people. This club in the winter season 1909 / 10 had 20 pairs of the sledges which free of charge it lent for their members. They were going to organize the luge competition by the St Zofia square. The winter season 1909 / 10 was full of the competitors, organised by clubs and associations, among others competition on 23 of January organised by I LKPN "Black", 30 January TZR, 2 February "Pursuit"³⁹. The last competition was the most popular, player on the track of „Pursuit”, the best in Lvov at that time, it gathered 88 competitors. The distance to Reach was 590 m. The Winner In the individual run was Jurand „Pursuit” with the time 1.19,2 before G. Lord „Pursuit” 1.20,4, Bambus junior „Black” 1.21,3 and Witold „Pursuit” 1.21,8. In the mixed couples the best was representants of „Black” Zabawski – Dziunia 1.18,6 before Henior – Janka „Black”, The third place took Łobkowie with the time 1.21,8. The run of the men couples won brothers Bambus „Black” with the time

³⁴ „Lvov courier” 1909, nr 100, p. 4.

³⁵ Tamże.

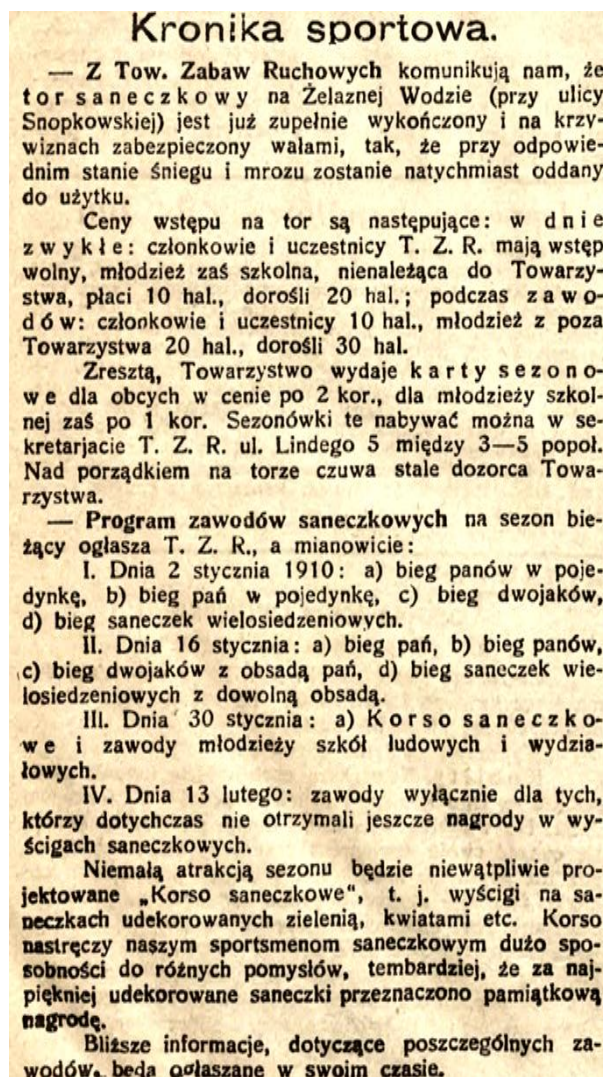
³⁶ „Lvov courier” 1909, nr 78, p. 3.

³⁷ „Polish Word” 1909, nr 601, p. 12; „ Lvov Courier” 1910, nr 14, p. 6.

³⁸ Report of the c.k management. of The VI junior secondary school in Lvov for school year 1909 / 10. Lvov 1910, p. 63.

³⁹ „Lvov courier” 1910, nr 38, p. 7; nr 44, p. 7; nr 52, p. 6.

1.13,1 before Włodek – Mieczysław „Pursuit” 1.15,1 and Staszek – Władysław „Pursuit” 1.15,9⁴⁰.



Phot. 1. Press announcing the schedule of the luge TZR competition in the winter season 1909 / 10.

In 1911 only Lvov clubs and sport associations on professionally prepared ice tracks. The Earliest luge season started TZR which announced the organization of races and the luge corso on 29 January and 19 February 1911⁴¹. The biggest popularity had the competition organised by „Pursuit” on the own 800 m track on the Kiselki road, the biggest number of competitors took place in it, especially those prepared technically⁴². Apart from that the track of „Pursuit” was always well prepared to competition: „*unusually charming location at the foot of the High Castle, electric turn in place, well built curves and so on, and so forth advantages of the path should induce sledging oneself audience to discontinuing reckless rides after paths and slopes of parks but moving on those place*”⁴³.

Wspomniane zawody „Pogoni” odbyły się 12 lutego 1911 roku. W kategorii męskich jedynek zwyciężył zawodnik „Czarnych” posługujący się inicjałami Ł. R. z czasem 1.24,1

⁴⁰ „Lvov courier” 1910, nr 56p. 6.

⁴¹ „Lvov courier” 1911, nr 20, p. 4; nr 73, p. 6; nr 79, p. 3-4.

⁴² „Lvov courier” 1911, nr 65, p. 7.

⁴³ „Lvov courier” 1911, nr 75p. 4.

przed Dąbrowskim z „Pogoni” 1.27,0 i Taddym z „Pogoni” 1.27,1. W biegu saneczek wieloosobowych zwyciężyła para Laskowski – Bydlewicz z „Pogoni” z czasem 1.27,3 przed Wojnarem i Fabianem „Pogoń” 1.29,0 i braćmi Ł⁴⁴. „Czarni” 1.29,1. Nie doszedł do skutku m.in. wyścig osad mieszanych na bobslejach z powodu braku chętnych⁴⁵.

Kazimierz Hemmerling one of main TZLiM organisers, and then TZR in the Lvov press summed up 6 years of the sports operations of the association, among others in the development of the luge: *"sledgeing is also sport, maybe one from the simplest, but which after all requires the exercise, taking control of the vehicle. It has dangers the same as other sports, and these dangers are all the greater, that such a gigantic number of people is devoting itself to its pleasures"*⁴⁶. He added that this is not Orly sport for children and youth *„because sledgeing is a serious sport, and participates in it very serious people abroad and they are competing for the first place. We think that In the small time it will change and old people will not disdain this sport, because it gives collosally big dosen of pleasure"*⁴⁷.

In the Lvov environment a participation of competitors in foreign competitions was confirming the bigger interest in the luge. In January 1911 on the path about the 1800 m long a competition in which the representative of Lvov Jerschina (Jarzyna) made a start was held in Austrian Semmering⁴⁸. The competition of men individuals for the Sonwendstein prize won Ludwig from Graz with the time 2.24,6 before Jerschina 2.33⁴⁹. In Austrian Eisenerz on 9 February 1911 another luge competition was held in difficult weather conditions. A day earlier there was a strong snowstorm which caused that roads had been impassable to went. 27 competitors took part in the competition On distance over 3000 m of individuals of men, high 7 place took Jerschina Inhabitant of Lvov with time 4.42 The first place took one of brothers Perz, Alois from Leoben in the 4.27,6 sec.⁵⁰.

At the beginning of 1912 Lvov had three tracks being found under management of sports spheres (TZR, "Lechia" and "Pursuit"). The luge was practised by the entire crowds of young people, the local press very often advised competitors of many heavy accidents and injuries. It reached even the fact that the magistrate of Lvov had told to close the most perilous tracks from the so-called Devil's Top and from the end of Kadecka street⁵¹.

In school year 1913 / 14 at some Lvov schools the luge was the most popular sports discipline, among others at the Private Real junior secondary School, in which 56 pupils of the class I and II regularly participated in the ride on the sledge. Conventions were held in the course of the main recess school in the descending avenue with switchback into the bottom of the Pełczyńska street. Situations in which simultaneously 40 sledgers drove down have often happened⁵².

⁴⁴ It surely concerns brothers: Roman and Stanisław Łuszczyński.

⁴⁵ „Lvov courier” 1911, nr 69, p. 6.

⁴⁶ „Lvov Courier” 1911, nr 99, p. 12.

⁴⁷ There.

⁴⁸ It is probably here about a representative of "Black" Lvov Jan Jarzyna which along with Menda, Roman and Stanisław Łuszczyński they took participation in many competitions in Alpine countries: „Illustriertes Österreichisches Sportblatt” 1914, nr 11, p. 9.

⁴⁹ „Illustriertes Österreichisches Sportblatt” 1911, nr 4, p. 5.

⁵⁰ „Illustriertes Österreichisches Sportblatt” 1911, nr 7, p. 8.44

⁵¹ „Lvov courier” 1912, nr 13, p. 4.

⁵² *The scientific plant of Dr. J. Niemiec, report for school year 1913 / 14, Lvov 1914, 75-76 p..*



Phot. 2. Pupils of the Private Real junior secondary School in Lvov during sledge races.

To sum up beginnings of luge in Lvov before the I World War one should state, that earliest, at 1906 in the Company of Games of People and Youth (later converted into the Company of games involving physical movement) and school institutions of the IV junior secondary School and of Real School this sport already turned up. A little bit later rivalry started amongst folk and departmental young people of schools. Lvov had a professionally-made tracks after which looked sports organizations so as: TZR, "Pursuit" and "Lechia". Amongst organisers, participants and winners of the organised there competition appeared surnames of pioneers and popularizers of the Polish skiing, so as: Eugeniusz Piasecki, Maksymilian Dudryk, Kazimierz Hemmerling or Roman Łuszczynski, Plater, Rappaport and Jan Jarzyna.

Table 1. Beginings and the development of the luge sport In Lvov.

year	place	Organization/organizers of sledze sport
1906	Lvov (ulica Kadecka)	TZLiM (TZR
1908	Lvov (Żelazna Woda by Snopkowska street)	TZR, AZS
1909	Lvov (Żelazna Woda by Snopkowska street)	„Black”
1909	Lvov (on the Kiselki Road with the entrance to	„Pursuit”
1909/10	Teatyńska street)	„Torch”
	Lvov (by St. Zofia street by the after-exhibition square)	

Source: own Study based on information included in the work.

In 1911 took place a further step in the development of the luge amongst Polish competitors. Rivalry started over the border of Galicja, mainly in Austria. Most often, and what's more with successes participated in it athletes from "Black", practising winter sports, so as: Jan Jarzyna, Roman and Stanisław Łuszczynscy and Menda, who till the outburst Of I World War were best in entire Galicja.