

SCHOOL SPORT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN RZESZOWSKIE PROVINCE IN THE YEARS 1944-1957

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Abstract:

Sport reconstruction in post-war Poland (including school sport) took a course in close connection with social-economic and political processes which took place in the whole country. During the first period an initiative in this field was in hands of social sport movement, reconstructed from pre-war organizational structures.

In aroused process a “green light” appeared mainly for the movement with socialistic and communistic attitude. Department school clubs were created, which were under supervision of Public Security Office and Civic Police.

Organisation in Rzeszów School-Board and School Inspectorate created beneficial situation for taking up hard organizational work with reconstructing schools in the city¹. Together with renewing education in all types of school, began realization of physical education which was an obligatory form of school physical culture. Particular pressure put on gradual development of school sport.

In appearing opinions of those days, school sport was very neglected. Reasons for that situations were seek in the lack of sport background and lack of proper organization. An example of this situation may be an opinion of board of directors I Junior High School and High School in Rzeszów of those days about the work of one of physical education teacher: *School Sport Club was set up in 1947/48. At the beginning of the year there was 3 sections: football, volleyball and athletics. Among those only football section revealed weak activity, limited to play only 2 matches, the rest of sections did not reveal any activity. It is teacher's fault because he did not show a proper interest. Local conditions are hard, but also in those conditions sport club should reveal vivacity*².

DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOOL SPORT CIRCLES

Indicated picture should not be treated as the only picture of the reality of those days. There were also seen positive actions for better conditions in which school sport developed in the first years after war. A good exemplar was the work of physical education teacher from II Junior High School and High School in Rzeszów – Michał Rogala. In his first year of teaching he directed bodily exercises (2 hours/week in every class), games and sport preparation. In spite of very hard work conditions, he managed to encourage young people to physical education and organized School Sport Club. In the school year 1945/46 he organized in this school 20 teams of volleyball. He directed with them 80 training games and organized

¹ Por. M. Huzarski, Z. Barabasz: *Stan wychowania fizycznego w szkołach rzeszowskich w latach 1944–1948*, (w:) K. Obodyński (red.): *Z tradycji sportu na Podkarpaciu w 650-lecie lokacji Rzeszowa i 100-lecie Klubu Sportowego Resovia*, Rzeszów 2004, s. 40.

² APR, *Sprawozdanie Dyrekcji I Gimnazjum i Liceum im. St. Konarskiego w Rzeszowie za rok szkolny 1948/49*, sygn. 632, zespół 214, k. 16.

matches between classes. This teacher also managed to organize 8 teams of basketball and set up cycling section with 130 members and athletic section.

In the same school year School Sport Club at II Junior High School in Rzeszów presented 130 pupils at organized lesson on the occasion of "Kościuszkowskie Ceremony" and 2 volleyball teams for the occasion of 3rd May Feast³. In the next school year Sport Club functioned as "Start" and had 163 members. Lessons were conducted in 4 sections. In the frames of this activity organized matches between classes in volleyball, basketball and football. Taking into account energetic development of the Club and big interest among pupils, the teacher Michał Rogala was forced to introduce restrictions connected with the activity of students in sections (each of a student could belong only to 2 summer sections and 2 winter). There were 5 sections in the Club: sections of team games with 11 volleyball teams, 8 basketball teams and 3 football teams, athletics section, cycling section, winter sports section and water sports section. Members of a particular section took part in matches between classes and school in Rzeszów, Łañcut, Przybyszówka and Wilkowyja⁴ and also in national race and competition at "Sport Day" feast⁵.

In 1949 in all high schools in Rzeszów functioned School Sport Clubs. The biggest sport achievements had youth acted in SKS by men high school. In SKS sections developed: gymnastics, basketball, volleyball, athletics, shooting and tourism. SKS competitors took part in many types of sport contest achieving successes in the district, province and also at national events. Youth from Men High School achieved successes also in other disciplines: cycling, skating, football, handball, swimming, chess, table tennis⁶.

Sport activity in women high school was also not neglected. SKS conducted by Maria Ordyna, put a pressure mainly on volleyball. Thanks to high level of training, the best members took part in province league tournament in the colours of KS "Czarni" team from Rzeszów. The condition which enables to take part in SKS trainings was the lack of fail-marks. By SKS existed 3 sport sections: football, handball and volleyball. Youth from this sections took part in many tournaments competing on sports arenas of rzeszowskie province with other schools.

Relatively worse situation with school sport was in districts. Brzozowski district may be a good example in which- as it was mentioned at Presidium WRN meeting in 1953-*SKS develop very slowly in brzozowski district. Preparation for national race and cycling race is very weak*⁷. In leski district, where functioned 40 schools at those times⁸, only 5 of them conducted activity in the field of school sport SKS: in Baligród, Lesko, Olszanica, Poraż and Uherce. Together they had 80 members. There were conducted lessons of team games, gymnastics and skiing. As in the case of all other districts, the influence of communistic ideology was clearly seen- children had to take part in cross-country and patrol marches as a celebration of gen. Świerczewski and in other national holidays⁹.

In the estimation of authorities of those days, school sport on the terrain of jasielski district developed relatively good. According to the state from 1st January 1953, there existed 105 primary schools and 4 high schools. In the primary schools functioned 4 SKS (592

³ APR, *Sprawozdanie roczne Dyrekcji II Państwowego Liceum i Gimnazjum im. St. Sobińskiego za rok szkolny 1945/46*, sygn. 93, zespół 219, k. 20.

⁴ Tamże.

⁵ APR, *Sprawozdanie roczne Dyrekcji II Państwowego Liceum i Gimnazjum im. St. Sobińskiego za rok szkolny 1948/49*, sygn. 96, zespół 219; por. M. Huzarski, Z. Barabasz: *Stan wychowania fizycznego...*, dz. cyt., s. 45.

⁶ APR, *Sprawozdanie z działalności SKS przy Liceum Ogólnokształcącym męskim w Rzeszowie z lat 1950–1953*, sygn. 634–635, zespół 214.

⁷ APR, PWRN, nr 21503, k. 40.

⁸ APR, Oddział w Sanoku, PPRN w Lesku, nr 1892, k. 1

⁹ Tamże, k. 1–19.

members) and 14 other sport circles (493 members). Also scout organizations resiliently marked its presence. In its structures 336 students were registered. In high schools existed 4 SKS uniting 517 students. On the terrain of a whole district acted 69 sport sections uniting 1749 students¹⁰.

Despite of a large number of SKS, during the meeting of party authorities which took place 18th April 1953 at Presidium WRN in Rzeszów, accused representatives of jasielski district of that *at schools where sport can develop, it is hard to convince teachers of physical education to turn from mass sport into professional sport*¹¹. It showed that school sport was treated by authorities as one of the forms of ubiquitous competition in every sphere of life.

Hard situation was in sanocki district. In 1956 on its terrain functioned 63 primary schools in which acted 16 athletic sections, 8 handball sections, 2 skating, 6 skiing, 5 volleyball, 1 swimming, 2 football sections¹². Professional school sport was represented by Sport Club "Zryw".

Reflection of that situation was also small number of schools' circles and sport circles functioning on the terrain of tarnobrzieski district. In functioning on its terrain primary schools and high schools in 1954 worked 8 SKS with 610 members. In 1955 there was slight increase of a number of SKS and increase of its members to 631 people¹³ and then it noted a drastic decline. It was clearly seen in the number of an active members which declines five times during 2 years.

According to a disposition of a GKKF chairman, Minister of Education and a chairman of a Central Occupational Training Department from 21st November 1953, began to organize in the country youth sport schools (further: MSS)¹⁴. One of such schools arose in 1956 in Rzeszów. There were conducting specialist sport activities for children and youth in two classes: gymnastic and archery. Under a supervision of experienced trainers and tutors the school prepared many good sportsmen. Its graduates were archers: Romuald Buko, Ludmiła Kuśnierz, Jerzy Sitek, Maria i Zofia Wisz, Zdzisława Zychowicz, and gymnasts: Krystyna Bednarczyk, Ewa Celewicz, Grażyna Grądalska, Wiesław Grzyś, Krystyna Kamuda, Krystyna Kusz, Stanisław i Władysław Kuśnierz, Janusz Michalik, Antonii Zdzisław Nizioł i Romana Trzyna. A manager of MSS was Józef Dyląg and he worked with: Antoni Gromski, Stanisław Grzesik, Kazimierz Kwiatkowski, Katarzyna Wiśniowska, Olga Wraga, Janina Żelazko.

In the 50's in the frame of a debate of Province Presidium National Council in Rzeszów, very often situation of a development of school sport was raised. Pointing to activities which came within physical education teachers and instructors' duties in the range of a popularization of sport among young people, it was emphasized that school sport still was not on a right, satisfying level. Basic obstacle which enabled achieving "satisfying level" in the range of realizing tasks by physical education and sport, was lack of satisfactory number of educated teachers and instructors of school sport and also not sufficient number of sport devices¹⁵.

An interesting initiative prepared by WRN Presidium was a questionnaire connected with an organizations of school sport. A questionnaire was carried out among physical education teachers and sport trainers and touched upon questions:

¹⁰ APR, Sprawozdanie zbiorcze dla Głównego Urzędu Statystycznego z rozwoju kultury fizycznej i sportu w szkolnictwie ogólnokształcącym za okres od 1 stycznia do 31 grudnia 1953 roku.

¹¹ APR, PWRN w Rzeszowie, nr 21503, k. 32.

¹² APR, Oddział w Sanoku, PPRN w Sanoku, nr 2393, k. 1–63.

¹³ APR, *Sprawozdania zbiorcze dla Głównego Urzędu Statystycznego z rozwoju kultury fizycznej i sportu w szkolnictwie ogólnokształcącym za lata 1954–1956*

¹⁴ Dz. Urz. Ministerstwa Oświaty z 1953 r., nr 17, poz. 146.

¹⁵ „Nowiny Rzeszowskie”, 1953, nr 14, s. 1–2.

- 1) Is current organization of youth sport in Poland right?
- 2) How do you assess the activity of ZS "Zryw" and SKS?
- 3) Should school sport be organized in the same way as ZS "Zryw"?
- 4) Should school sport be connected with adults' sport?
- 5) How do you assess sport calendar of school youth?¹⁶

Sport's picture at schools presented on the basis of an analysis of the questionnaire was not optimistic. Basic problem was lack of proper organization of school sport what resulted in weak sport results¹⁷. Next element which had an influence on weak results of SKS was physical education teachers' team. They conduct obligatory activities with young people in the range of mass sport but they did not have a proper qualifications to educate students in the range of several sport disciplines. There was put forward a demand to organize school sport in the same way as it was made by "Zryw" association or to create from SKS and "Zryw" association a new organization which will take care of school sport in a professional way¹⁸.

Gradual changes in school sport started at the beginning of 1955. At those times in "Nowiny" it was proposed: *Youth from our province more often starts to declare that they want creation of leagues in different disciplines as they seen in such form of education faster raise of sport level among school pupils*¹⁹. They demanded creating school leagues to which will belong representatives of an individual classes. It should ensure bigger participation of students in planned tournaments. Organized in that way school league was to be a basis of a "interschools" league. Obviously, those plans were not only for football as a most popular sport, but also for basketball, athletics, handball, volleyball, chess or table tennis. At the same time undermined were suggestions about organizational difficulties and some disproportions on SKS level. It was claimed that only by many contacts and systematic work, weak team can lift up its technical level²⁰.

In 1957 school circles united 68 % of high school youth. Very often activities of school sport were realized according to chosen sport disciplines. The most popular forms of sport activity among high school students were: gymnastics, basketball, athletics, skiing, football, volleyball and handball. Less popular were archery and skating²¹.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERSCHOOL SPORT CLUBS

Social – political changes that took place in Poland in the years 1956/1957, found their reflection also in school sport sphere. II Meeting of ZS "Zryw" which took place in 26-27 October 1957 in Warsaw passed a resolution about transforming ZS "Zryw" into School Sport Association (further: SZS). This association was to take up with its activity both schools of general education and vocational²². Main assumption of SZS was caring about development of a qualified sport among youth and make students be more sporty. On a terrain level created regional boards SZS. In an organizational structure remained school sport center as a basis of

¹⁶ APR, PWRN w Rzeszowie, sygn. 216/9, zespół 4, s.1–16

¹⁷ Lack of proper organization of sport movement at schools was the main cause of bad situation of school sport. Each SKS was an internal organization which did not have an uniform direction and organizational connections with other SKS. SKS did not possess their own funds and equipment what makes difficult organization of meetings, especially those connected with a trip. There was lack of a professional instructions, trainers advice, care about good competitors. SKS did not have a possibility to start in different tournaments and sport eliminations on district and national scale together with other sport sections what led to lost of rivalry factor. *Zbiór dokumentów Zrzeszenia Sportowego Szkolnictwa Zawodowego „Zryw”*, Warszawa 1953, s. 9–10.

¹⁸ Tamże.

¹⁹ „Nowiny Rzeszowskie”, 1955, nr 261, s. 4

²⁰ W. Pietraszkiewicz: *U progu nowego roku szkolnego*, „Kultura Fizyczna”, 1953, nr 5, s. 772.

²¹ APR, Sprawozdanie z działalności TKKF, sygn. 21551, b. p.

²² J. Topisz: *Szybciej-dalej-wyżej. Sport szkolny w dwudziestopięcioleciu*, „Wychowanie Fizyczne i Higiena Szkolna” (dalej: WF i HSz), 1969, nr 9, s. 29.

a school youth voluntary activity and as a base of training based on his own tournament calendar²³. New opened Regional Board SZS in Rzeszów since the beginning of its activity was directed on a further development of MKS. In 1957 in Rzeszów district functioned 7 MKS: in Dębica, Gorlice, Jarosław, Krosno, Przemyśl with the seat in Krasiczyn, Rzeszów and Sanok. Strong influence was put on the development of a following sport sections: gymnastics, basketball, athletics, skiing, handball, volleyball and fencing.

There were 11 sections in athletics; those sections were in all MKS and SKS at High School in Żołynia. In 1957 trained there 420 competitors (both women and men) which gave effects during sport tournaments. To the sections which came to the top were: Krosno, Łańcut, Mielec, Rzeszów, Żołynia.



Pic. 1. Section athletics MKS Rzeszów

Gymnastic sections existed in Biecz, Gorlice, Jarosław, Krosno, Łańcut, Przemyśl and Rzeszów. Undoubted success of those sections was winning, in organized in Zielona Góra Championships of Poland, the title of a team champion of Poland²⁴.

Skiing was trained by members of MKS Gorlice, MKS Krosno, MKS Przemyśl with its seat in Krasiczyn, To the biggest and the strongest belonged section from Krosno, whose skiers in the next years 1958-1959 won juniors championship VI Region PZN and a cup of 50 years anniversary of PZN²⁵.

Volleyball teams existed in SKS Mielec and Stalowa Wola, MKS Przemyśl, Rzeszów, Sanok. They took part in many tournaments organized by the Volleyball Association. Female team from Mielec and male team from Sanok played in A class²⁶.

Basketball was trained in Gorlice (male team), Jarosław (male team), Mielece (female team), Rzeszów (female and male teams) and Stalowa Wola (male team). Those teams contested for championship's points in A class and junior group.

To the strong sections also belonged handball section and fencing. In Krosno and Stalowa Wola existed fencing teams which started in championships organized by krakowski district. Whereas handball sections existed in Rozwadów with the seat in Stalowa Wola

²³J. Gaj, K. Hądzelek: *Dzieje kultury fizycznej ...*, dz. cyt., s. 210.

²⁴Archiwum SZS. Rzeszów, 1959, b. p.

²⁵Tamże.

²⁶„Nowiny Rzeszowskie”, 1957, nr 28, s. 2

(female team), Przeworsk (male team), Mielec (female and male teams) and in Krosno (female team).

Interschool sport clubs played a very important role on the school sport firmament. For instance, in krośnieński district the most significant role played two- MKS “Zryw” in Sanok and MKS “Orlęta” in Krosno. MKS “Zryw” in Sanok started its activity in 1953. First club’s section was skiing section trained by Edward Lichnowski and then by Adam Polityński. Second section, consisted of students from Mechanical School Complex, was a volleyball section trained by Wanda Lichnowska. To the biggest success of this team belonged winning the title of junior championship of Poland in 1969. Since 1954 its activity started athletics section and its trainer was Jerzy Lisowski²⁷. The basic club’s discipline became skiing – since then the first section of this discipline started to function.



Pic. 2. Wanda Lichnowska

The next MKS which gained regional successes was MKS “Orlęta” in Krosno. Its forerunner was set up in 1950 Sport Circle “Zryw” at Fundamental Oil Industry School in Krosno. Its originator was Jan Baran. At the beginning, the circle consisted of two sections: skiing and athletics.

In 1957 KS was turned to MKS “Orlęta”. Big interest of sport among children and youth led to creation of new club sections: girls’ handball, boys’ football and fencing. At the end of 50’s and in the 60’s the greatest club’s successes belonged to skiers. Four centres created this section: gorlicki, sanocki, ustrzycki and krośnieński. 200 competitors trained there. Sensation in the activity of the club was that it had only one fencing section functioned in the frames of ZW SZS in Rzeszów. It was conducted by Julian Muller. Competitors of this section had successes on national arena, e.x. on Central School Sport Association Championships, winning in the next years championship of Poland and in 1960 vice championship of Poland²⁸.

²⁷ APR, Oddział w Sanoku, PPRN w Sanoku, nr 4320, k. 4.

²⁸ APR, PWRN w Rzeszowie, nr 21652, k. 77.

CONCLUSION

Reconstruction of a destroyed local base and national team increase let for gradual school sport development. In many school on mentioned terrains pre - war school clubs came into existence. In those clubs young people could take an active part and develop their sport interests. In worse situation was youth from village regions where sport development was slower. It was mainly caused by staff situation. Very often physical education classes were conducted by teachers who did not have proper qualifications and who were not able to ensure a proper conduct of sport lessons in the frames of SKS.

The weak point of that times school sport was “chase” for records and sport result. School sport was directed for scoring sport badges and achieving the best sport results. As a consequence, physical education teachers neglected physical culture classes and they spend more time for preparing more talented pupils for competitions. Very often sport training was not conducted in full time dimension. Also during SKS classes teachers usually worked only with the best students. One of the main causes of mediocre level of physical education and sport in many schools was lack of proper administration.

The beginning of the 50's is the period of school reconstruction, conducted in Poland as it was done by Soviets. At those time Vocational Sport School Association “Zryw” was created. As to the authorities, only because of political-ideological nature, the activity of “Zryw” was limited to the surrounding of youth from vocational and technical schools. The main idea that this environment had to become “avant-garde” of a qualified labor class. The rest of children and young people from primary and high schools had to satisfy themselves with school sport circles.