

STATE OF POLISH TRAINING TEAM IN BASKETBALL IN 1975-1989

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Abstract:

This article presents a state of Polish training team in basketball in 1975-1989 years. Conditions and their impact on people's health involved in the training were presented. Also the circumstances which affected the organizational basketballs level in Poland in discussed period as well as team members were presented.

The training team and its level of training provides about the quality of competitors game. Coaches and instructors with proper technical and organizational preparation have an impact on the discipline development. Therefore, it is possible to state that training is a crux of discipline dynamization. The author after in-depth analysis of archive materials and subject literature decided to present the state of Polish training team in 1975-1989.

Transformations which took place in Poland in a middle of 1970s considerably affected the state of training team. Polish Basketball Federation (hereinafter: PZKosz) – the same as remaining sports associations – not being fully autonomous entity, and thus without a significant impact on training activities, wasn't able to control the discipline development. However, the task of Training Department and subordinate teams was inter alia protection of training continuity, to approve courses in the central rank and supplementary education of teaching staff at different levels.

Creation of the Polish Federation of Sport (hereinafter: PFS) in 1973 caused that sequence of programs followed and carried out by the PZKosz were seized by newly created unit¹. This fact in terms of central sports management affected negatively on participation and coach's activity in works of the Training Department. Subordination of PFS trade union instructors resulted in a serious isolation from the Department and limited possibilities to impact on planning and programming training. It also impossible appropriate supervision above their activity and limited works at the organization of training process in country and abroad. Above proceedings adversely affected the level of training team in Poland.

Participation in training conferences organized by International Basketball Federation (farther: FIBA) held the Department of Foreign Relations². In such a system the Department activities include central training support of individual age groups, with disadvantage to standardize the concept of training-starting system in the entire discipline. A new system resulted also in changes of employing instructors, since on 19 October 1973 with ordering of Prime Minister the new guidelines were entered about recruiting staff in additional places of employment. Such actions caused enormous difficulties in acquiring the staff; therefore clubs often employed instructors without the Education Office knowledge or on a half-time job. A very common practice was hiring of instructors at the Civil Service in order to raise its financial pay³. These actions caused that in the Department of PFS Staffs Improvement along

¹ SA GKKFiT, Sport Department. Organizational-training system of championship sports, b. 33

² ANA, PFS, ref. 4/211, b. 53. Team of foreign contacts. Report from the foreign contact implementation in 1974-1978

³ ANA, PFS, ref. 13/31, p. 5. WFS annual report from review plan for 1975

with the Departmental Centre of Staffs Improvement developed a plan for coach's staff improvement for 1976-1980 years. It included training instructors by Provincial Sports Federations (hereafter: WFS), training coaches by Universities of the Physical Culture (hereafter: PE) on coaching direction, as well as one-year post-graduate studies for graduate and two-year courses for instructors. Moreover, drew up and formed "Coach Cards", which were a record of trainers employed in PFS⁴. As a result the PZKosz lost a full control over training issues, what in 1976-1978 resulted in incessant changes in competition or interference of central training course, as well as club training. Activity of the Department in this period was focused mainly on supplementary training team education on central courses of III level, organization of coaches conference both I and II men's and women's league or participation of trade union instructors in training conferences organized by Regional Basketball Associations (hereafter: OZKosz) and Education Department.



Fot. 1. Andrzej Pstrokoński.

On 2 January 1976 there have been changes in Training Department. A. Pstrokoński took over the coach position of men's national team. However, on 15 March 1976 a new Education Manager Ryszard Woźniak was appointed. These changes resulted in personal changes on some positions. Training Department and subordinate training teams mainly focused on drafting project matches up to the end of 1980s and establishing closer contacts in order to determine principles of cooperation training with club coaches. For that purpose in January and June 1977 two meetings were held with instructors of I and II men's league and similar in June and September with coaches of women's leagues. The department on 2-6 April 1977 also organized the training conference for instructors of I and II women's league with participation of 34 coaches. A similar meeting was organized for coaches of men's teams, which were held in Warsaw on 13-14 September 1977 for 38 coaches. Additionally, in order to increase a number of trainers the Department organized a training course by the Departmental Centre of Staffs Improvement of the Physical Culture (hereafter: RC DKKF) in Warsaw on 1-19 July 1977, which completed 33 basketball coaches⁵. Coincident actions were carried out by the Education and Science Department, which completed 86 persons. A major part was also raising already trained abilities of coaches. Activities in this respect a qualifier of "Resovii" Rzeszów – M. Raba was provided, who in June 1976 undertook coaching internship on Cuba⁶. Slightly different behavior, but of a similar nature was towards coaches J. Żyliński and B. Wiśniewski, who in May 1976 went to France for Finals of the European Women's Championships. An analogous was sending J. Bętkowski, A. Grzegorzewski, Z. Niedziela and M. Raba for Basketball Championships as a part of the Olympic Games in Montreal. In order to increase a number of instructors in the country, 14 instructors were directed on one-year postgraduate coaching studies at RC DKKF in Warsaw and 31 instructors on two-year coaching courses at AWF Wrocław⁷.

Only in 1979, when PFS reduced the area of its activities, there was noticeable progress in terms of training as well as retraining coach and instructor's staffs. Creation of the vice-chairman position in PZKosz, which embraced Władysław Maleszewski, enabled to grant the

⁴ SA GKKFiT, Sport Department, Report from the PFS activity for a period of 09/1973-12/1977. Warsaw 1978, p. 53-55

⁵ ANA, PSF, ref. Lists of subject associations – PZKosz 1/2. Budget and plan for 1977, Timetable of PZKosz competition for 1977 in training coaches, activists, judges

⁶ ANA, PFS, ref. 4/86, Team of foreign contacts. Foreign contacts, reports, compositions of groups, conclusions, correspondence in terms of basketball

⁷ SA PZKosz, Activity report for 1973-1976. Warsaw 1976, p. 4, 7, 10, 13

high rank to training activities⁸. Summing up, it is necessary to state that PFS activity in training and supplementary education of training team adversely affected the training level. This situation changed after seizing all training programs by PZKosz⁹.

In 1978-1980 years PZKosz organized three training conferences with participation of coaches from the USA in which total of 186 coaches from I and II leagues took part¹⁰. However, still a well-qualified staff employed evenly in all centers in Poland was missing. The most coaching-instructor's staff in 1976-1977 was in centers having a developed training base, among others in Katowice, Warsaw or in Wrocław. Katowice employed a total of 24% coaches and 18% of instructors from the entire instructors of basketball in Poland¹¹. The above employment level resulted for a lack of sufficiency financial resources to pay for trainers on a full-time basis in other centers in Poland. Since the Polish State didn't provide sufficient subsidies for clubs, and thus for coaches and instructors¹². A consequence of those restrictions was a large outflow of highly qualified training staff beyond the State borders. However, those who stayed in Poland changed trade, which affected in an increase of coaching-instructor's staff, who treated the work in sport as an additional source of revenue, based on part-time jobs¹³.

In order to improve the central training and retraining of new instructor staff at the beginning of 1980s a new unit was appointed in structures of Basketball Association called Trainers Council (hereafter: RT). Its task was to improve the sphere of Training Department function and to represent businesses of all instructors on PZKosz annual general meetings. The Council carried out issues of representation for the European Championships (hereafter: ME), Olympic Games (hereafter: IO), as well as preparation and organization of central instructor's and coaching courses, e.g. as a part of "Baltic Cup"¹⁴. Training conferences were also conducted in OZKosz regions, among others in Gdańsk, Cracow, Poznań and Szczecin¹⁵.



Fot. 2. Ludwik
Miętta-Mikołajewicz

According to statistical data in 1982-1983 in Poland about 280 clubs lead basketball sections (140 women's sections, 195 men's sections). Actively working and registered instructors were about 750, including 80 on full-time jobs, others part-time. Statistically there were 3 instructors to 1 club. Working instructors with M and I class were 95, with II class about 300 and instructors of 355¹⁶.

Introduction of guidelines suggested by RT didn't cause a growth in number of training shares organized in Poland, and to 30 function associations only the half actively trained a new staff. However, such centers as: Katowice, Cracow, Poznań, Warsaw supplementary educated the staff, at least 3 times a year, and Ciechanów, Gdańsk, Kielce, Lublin, Łódź, Przemyśl, Rzeszów, Zielona Góra such courses organized twice a year, which can be considered as a

⁸ SA PZKosz, PZKosz activity report for 1976-1980. Warsaw 1980, p. 14-1

⁹ P. Lenik: **Development directions of basketball in Poland in years 1945-1989**. Review of Physical Culture. Rzeszów 2014 no 4 (3) p. 159-176

¹⁰ SA PZKosz, Training applications for 1978. Warsaw 1979, p. 2

¹¹ SA GKKFiS. Sport Department – Department of analyses. Warsaw 1978, p. 6-10

¹² G. Gawłak-Kica: Development of the physical culture in Greater Poland in 1945-1980. Poznań 1987, p. 104

¹³ J. Gaj: Sport in Poland in the political transformation of local press (1989-1993). (W:) B. Woltmann (ed.): From the recent history of physical culture in Poland. Volume III, Gorzów 1998, p. 202

¹⁴ P. Lenik: *Polish Club Tams in Korac Cup contest*. (w:) L. Nowak (ed.). From the recent history of physical culture in Poland. T. 8, Gorzów Wielkopolski, 2008, p. 729-740

¹⁵ P. Lenik: *Participation of Poles in ME of the men's basketball in 1973-2003*. (w:) From the tradition of physical culture in Poland after the World War II. (ed.) S. Zaborniak, M. Obodyński. Rzeszów 2008: Ed. UR Rzeszów 2008, p. 61-73

¹⁶ SA PZKosz, Information about the situation in training team as well as training and retraining activities. Warsaw 1982, p. 2



Fot. 3. Tadeusz Huciński

positive phenomenon. An above interest in training and retraining staff could probably be a result of the first organizational and legal regulations, which were introduced upon adoption by the Parliament of law about physical culture¹⁷. Pursuant to this Act the Chairman of Main Committee of the Physical Culture and Sport (hereafter: GKFiS) issued a directive regarding principles for obtain classification to conduct sports training. The above order defined three coaching classes (I, II, M – masterly class) and two instructor classes (the instructor, instructor of I class). Introduced guidelines helped to standardize training programs, which simultaneously supported leveling the scope and level of teaching at all centers¹⁸. This program wasn't effective enough, therefore due to still uneven training and retraining coaching-instructor's staff the Council in 1986 developed a system, which was based on 4 training levels:

1. central training organized by PZKosz, concerning coaches of I and II league as well as chairmen of councils of the district coaches
2. training zones in leading districts, in which representatives participated
3. training in districts for all trainers
4. retraining for physical education teachers leading basketball classes

In 1985-1987, in spite of organization 8 central retraining actions and 3 for coaches working with young people, the coach's number of M, I and II class increased up to 400 persons and instructors to 360. A lack of competition phenomenon amongst instructors was one of causes in such a situation. Unfortunately, low pays, work on Saturdays and Sundays, shorter leave than teaching, caused that the state of coaching-instructor's staff at the beginning of 1980s hadn't been sufficient in order to widely propagate the basketball in Poland. There were situations where the club couldn't find a qualified instructor¹⁹. In order to prevent such situation in 1988-1990 years the PZKosz conducted 8 training courses, providing an opportunity to improve the coaching class in which participated 248 coaches. Thanks to that 20 participants finished the instructor's course of I class, and 17 post-graduate educations obtaining the coaching second degree. Total of 14 Polish leading instructors conducted classes among others: T. Huciński, W. Klimontowicz, A. Koniecki L. Mięta, or J. Mróz. Additionally, they cooperated with a group of foreign qualifiers from: Australia, Spain, Netherlands, Sweden, USA and Italy. Apart retraining of the central staff by PZKosz, the Federation actively involved in cooperation with local centers, in which courses for instructors were conducted. It also organized meetings of team coaches both I and II league as well as macro-regional instructors. A major part in increasing the number of instructor's staff had Academies of Physical Education (hereafter: AWF). For that purpose PZKosz conducted a meeting with AWF employees, who were responsible for leading specialization in the basketball in order to standardize the training system. Additionally, the Federation released videos and training materials for club coaches, OZKosz and University of the Physical Education²⁰. In 1988 the Polish Basketball Federation, which wanted to reach to all young people interested in training, via "Basketball" quarterly commenced printing training inserts, which the author was Halina Oszaś²¹. All these activities were aimed to reconstruct the state

¹⁷ Act from 3 July 1984 about the physical culture (OJ No. 34 pos. 181)

¹⁸ W. Puczyński: Development of coaching-instructor's team in Poland after 1989. (W:) B. Woltmann (ed.): Transformation in the physical culture system after 1989 yr. in Poland and Germany. Gorzów Wielkopolski 2002, p. 47-49

¹⁹ SA PZKosz, Council of Coaches activity report for a period of 13.01.1985-30.03.1987. Warsaw 1988, p. 3-4

²⁰ SA PZKosz, PZKosz Board of Directors report to the Extraordinary General Meeting of Delegates. Warsaw 17 February 1991, p. 4-5

²¹ R. Pyjós.: Under Vistula's basket of women and men 1928-2006. Cracow 2006

of training team in connection with its radical reduction. In 1992, 126 instructors finished the work or left Poland. Therefore, PZKosz began wide-ranging activities in order to train new coaches and instructors²². Economic-political transformations at the beginning of 1990s caused that majority of plans related with training had to be postponed. Disturbing signals associated with liquidation of numerous sections, and hence dismissing instructors and insufficient funds to scholarships for athletes caused that the state of training team radically decreased.



Fot. 4 Halina Oszast

Summing up the data source, it is necessary to state that 1975-1989 years didn't improve the state of instructor's-coaching staff in Poland, which clearly presents the following chart. Based on preliminary research of source material it is also necessary to notice that all organizational changes and political turbulence didn't positively affect training activity and state of instructor's-coaching staff.

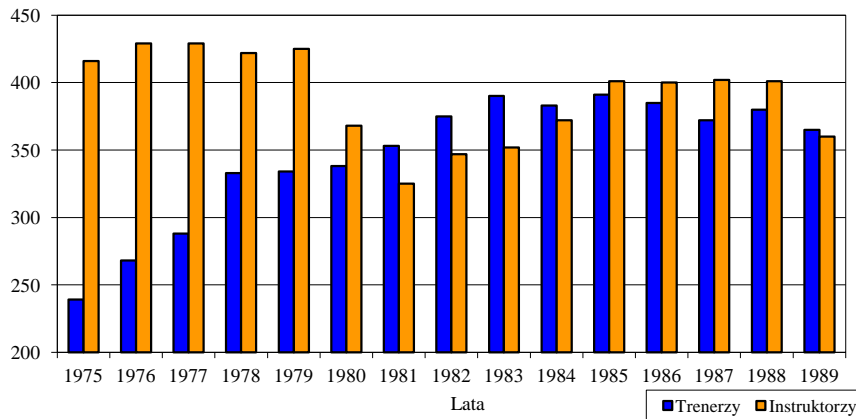


Figure 1. Graphical list of coaching-instructor's team in Poland in 1975-1989

Table 1. Number of registered coaches and instructors in 1975-1989

Years	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Coaches	239	268	288	333	334	388	353	375	390	383	391	385	372	380	365
Instructors	416	429	429	422	425	368	325	347	352	372	401	400	402	401	360

Source: Own study based on Polish Central Statistical Office data in 1975-1989.

²² PZKosz Board of Directors report to the Extraordinary General Meeting of Delegates. Warsaw 28 March 1993. p. 3 (in author's possession)

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