

SPORT ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROMAN KAZIMIERZ BOCHENSKI IN 1928-1939

Joanna CZEKALSKA^{1ABF}, Piotr FURMAN^{1BEF}, Iwona TABACZEK-BEJSTER^{2BEF}

1. Faculty of Physical Education, University of Physical Education in Warsaw, Poland

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

Keywords:

- the history of swimming
- Poland
- interwar period,
- Roman Kazimierz Bochenski

Abstract:

Background: After the end of I World War, Poland regained independence, it was time when swimming sport began to develop in several centers, mainly in Krakow, Warsaw, Katowice, Lvov, Lodz and Poznan. However, its proper development occurred at the time of formation in 1922 Polish Swimming Association (PZP). **Material and methods:** For the development of this article, authors made source query mainly in sports press of mentioned period, they also used resources from the National Digital Archives. During query authors made also source analysis from which it was made a descriptive narratives of given problem. **Results:** K. Bochenski was the only Polish swimmer who was competing with leaders from Europe in the interwar period. The most significant result K. Bochenski had in November 1930 in 100 m freestyle had 1:00,4. 1930 year was also the year of his greatest results. During 1929-1939 years he won 17 times Polish Championship and had 18 Polish Swim Records. **Conclusions:** K. Bochenski was an example of a swimmer whose talent has not been used. None of Polish sports activists showed interest in the development of sports, training process, did not analyze swim techniques and finally no one helped him with gain finances

The aim of the study was to show all sports achievements of the best Polish swimmer during interwar period, Roman Kazimierz Bochenski. Despite appearing in publications encyclopedic biographical notes of this swimmer, there are no detailed study about his sports career. For the development of this article, authors made source query mainly in sports press of mentioned period, they also used resources from the National Digital Archives. During query authors made also source analysis from which it was made a descriptive narratives of given problem.

After the end of I World War, Poland regained independence, it was time when swimming sport began to develop in several centers, mainly in Krakow, Warsaw, Katowice, Lvov, Lodz and Poznan. However, its proper development occurred at the time of formation in 1922 Polish Swimming Association (PZP).

Polish Swimming Association started to develop swim by emphasizing its utilitarian qualities, began to organize Polish Championship, standardized rules of competition, in the press there were publications about swimming techniques, rules and techniques of diving and water polo (mainly wrote by E. Baszkoff which were published in "Sport Review"⁹, Lviv

⁹ „Przegląd Sportowy”, 1922 nr 30; „Przegląd Sportowy”, 1922 nr 32; „Wioślarz Polski”, 1925 nr 2; „Przegląd Sportowy”, 1922 nr 33.

"Sport", and "Cracow Sports News"), Polish Swimming Association tried to import foreign trainers and organized training courses for trainers.



Fig. 1. Kazimierz Bochenski

Source: B. Tuszyński: *Księga Sportowców Polskich, ofiar II wojny światowej*. Warszawa 1999

In 1922 there were several swimming centers in Polish lands, for example, in Warsaw functioned AZS, Military Sports Club, Circle Paddlers Warsaw, "Polonia", in Lviv there were "Pogoń", which has organized swim competition of Lviv Championship. In Warsaw (1922) were organized Polish Championship in swimming, in Bielsko were organized competitions for swimmers from Katowice and Krakow.

At that time the most rapidly develop was swim center in Krakow, there was swim section called AZS. They have organized Krakow Championship, competitions' "Swim Through Krakow", AZS had in its structure female and male water polo team, had organized swim and jump courses. In Krakow there were also other swim clubs or organizations: ŻKS "Jutrzenka", which organized swim clubs competition, Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) and Jewish Sports Club (ŻKS) "Makkabi." Despite fact of growing swim sport in Poland and more than dozen well promising competitors (in 1922 Polish Swimming had in its structure 622 members, 65 players (men) and 13 players (women) from 19 sections of swimming), sports results differ significantly from the results of swimmers from other countries in Europe or United States of America¹⁰.

Roman Kazimierz Bochenski was born in 12th of May 1910 in Glinianka (district of Minsk-Mazowiecki). In 1928 graduated Faculty of Road-Building in Secondary Technical School of Railway in Warsaw. In the same year he started his education in the School of Commerce and Consular in Ghent (Belgium). In Belgium, he started year-round training of swimming at the indoor swimming pool in Ghent Swimming Club. Due to lack of funds he did not completed his studies. After returning to Poland in 1931 he worked as a clerk in Warsaw and occasionally dealt with sports journalism. In 1933 he was employed in the journal "Water Sports" in the department of swimming. During 1933-1934 he was in military service in 20 Infantry Regiment of Krakow. On 2nd of September 1939 after aborted academic world championships in Monaco – he exceeded (with other players) Polish-Romanian border in Zaleszczyki. The most probably he joined to Polish Army, where he was fighting to the end of the campaign, and in 1940 was murdered in Starobelsk camp¹¹.

¹⁰ „Przegląd Sportowy”, 1922 nr 52; „Przegląd Sportowy”, 1923 nr 12; R. Wysoczański (red.): *Konferencja naukowo-metodyczna z okazji 50-lecia Polskiego Związku Pływackiego*. AWF Warszawa 1975, s. 12-13.

¹¹ B. Tuszyński B.: *Księga Sportowców Polskich, ofiar II wojny światowej 1939 – 1945* s. 27-29; W. Lipoński: *Polacy na olimpiadach*. Wydawnictwo Podsjedlik Raniowski i Spółka. Poznań 2002, s. 34-36; P. Żak: *Historia polskiego sportu*. Wydawnictwo Dragon. Bielsko-Biała 2015, s. 25-26; <http://www.olimpijski.pl/pl> 10.05.2016.

SPORTS CAREER

Yet in 1927 Kazimierz Bochenski – future 18-times record holder, 17-times Polish Champion, finalist of the European Championships, Olympian from 1936 year in Berlin, could not swim sports techniques. Tadeusz Semadeni described the beginnings of his career: *Bochenski came to AZS - last year (it was in 1928) having 18 years. He could not swim crawl, but he was quite teachable. Immediately he advance to the large group of “promising junior” from AZS. His first start was in so-called “the first step” where he showed what he can: Bochenski won easily with quiet good time, 1:25. When later he improved his time to 1:16, everyone understood that from whole group Bochenski is the best swimmer. His slim build, long arms, batterment crawl and finally diligence, bode him future in swimming*¹².

Table 1. Results achieved by K. Bochenski in 1928

I swimming step - Warsaw – spring 1928	
100 m freestyle	1:25,6
Warsaw Championship - 30.06. - 1.07 1928	
100 m freestyle	1. Kuncewicz 1:12,4 4. Bochenski 1:23,9
5 x 50 m freestyle	1. AZS 2:55,2 (Bochenski – in AZS relay - fourth change)
4 x 200 m freestyle	1. AZS 13:08,7 (Wielinski 3:24; Bochenski 3:22; W. Moritz 3:26; Matysiak 2:56,7)
Polish Championship - Królewska Huta - 14 – 15. 07 1928	
100 m freestyle	1:20,0 start only in eliminations [1- Kuncewicz – 1:12,0]
4 x 200 m freestyle	Bochenski in AZS relay, II relay was disqualified for changing track (2 place)

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1928 No. 27, 29; "Water Sports" in 1930, 16.

In October 1928 "Sport Review" wrote about achievements of eighteen years old swim competitor: *Bochenski very good sprinter from AZS Warsaw, who has achieved for one hundred freestyle - 1:15, will go in winter for studying in Belgium and probably will train in Brussels Swimming Club. We can count that for the next season we will have an excellent sprinter and vater-polo player*¹³. Kazimierz Bochenski was player of Ghent Swimming Club in Ghent squad, which competed in national and international competitions. The first start took place in Ghent, while Junior Hencicap where Bochenski in a distance of 100 m freestyle achieved a time of 1:13.0¹⁴.

In "Sport Review" from 1929 Tadeusz Semadeni¹⁵ wrote about Kazimierz Bochenski: *He returned from Belgium unrecognizable: from the slender boy grew into a broad-shouldered man, with a powerful long arms, strong legs, well-developed chest. His style is not amazing, like typical Belgian style: strong rotation of trunk, unnecessary movements of hips,*

¹² T. Semadeni: *Bocheński, rewelacja sportu Polskiego, Błyskawiczna kariera, europejskie wyniki, nowe rekordy* (w:) „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1929 nr 74.

¹³ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1928 nr 45.

¹⁴ „Sport Wodny“ 1930 nr 16.

¹⁵ Tadeusz Semadeni (4.06. 1902-19.08.1944) Był współzałożycielem Polskiego Związku Pływackiego (1922 r.)

którego został kapitanem sportowym. W 1923 r. ustanowił pierwszy oficjalny rekord Polski na 100 m stylem dowolnym (członek sekcji pływackiej AZS Warszawa). Był sędzią podczas igrzysk olimpijskich w Amsterdamie (1928) i w Berlinie (1936). Oprócz pływania propagował też piłkę wodną był również dziennikarzem sportowym. Uważany jest za ojca sportu pływackiego w Polsce.

legs large deviation at crawl strokes. We can say that Bochenski is taking breath like Taris very good swimmer, once from left side, once from right side. The most significantly Bochenski is working by his hands that reach far and works very hard¹⁶.

Table 2. Results achieved by K. Bochenski in 1929

Belgium – 07.1929	
100 m freestyle	1:08,4 Polish record
200 m freestyle	2:36,0 Polish record
Polish Championship – Warsaw – 3-5.08.1929	
100 m freestyle	1:08,6 (1)
200 m freestyle	2:37,4
400 m freestyle	5:46,7 (2)
1500 m freestyle	24:08,5 (2)
4 x 200 m freestyle	1 AZS Warsaw 11:48 Polish record (Czajkowski, Makowski, Matysiak, Bochenski)
5 x 50 m freestyle	1 AZS Warsaw 2:43,8 (Wielinski, Kotowski, Czajkowski, Matysiak, Bochenski)
5 x 50 m freestyle Polish record attempt	AZS Warsaw 2:40,0 (Makowski, Wielinski, Czajkowski, Matysiak, Bochenski)
Competition on the occasion of 20th anniversary of Makabi – Cracow – 10-11.08.1929	
200 m freestyle	2:34,4 (1) RP
Match Slavic-Prague – 17-18.08.1929	
400 m freestyle	5:36,0 (3) Polish record
1500 m freestyle	23:36,4 (4)
4 x 200 m freestyle	3. AZS Warsaw 10:50,0 Polish record (Kot, Matysiak, Szrajbman, Bochenski – 2:36,0)
Poland – Belgium - Warsaw - 24-25.08.1929	
100 m freestyle	1:06,8 (2) Polish record
400 m freestyle	5:32,8 (2)
4 x 200 m freestyle	2. 10:51,8 (Kot – 2:37; Szrajbman – 2:46; Matysiak – 2:52; Bochenski – 2:37)

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1929, No. 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 53, "Stadjon" 1929 No. 32, 33.

After the season starts in Poland, Kazimierz Bochenski returned to Ghent, where he began preparations for new sport contests in winter season.

The victory in Belgian competition assured club participation in the finals of Cup with French winner of the elimination, Sporting Club Universitaire de France in Paris. After a fierce battle Ghent Swimming Club won with French rival, a club which had in his squad, Kazimierz Bochenski. For six scoring swim competition, Kazimierz Bochenski competed in four. Thanks to Bochenski Ghent SC took part in the finals which took place on 31st of December 1929 in Paris¹⁷. Swim competition ended by a victory of S.C.U.F¹⁸.

¹⁶ T. Semadeni: *Rewelacja sportu pływackiego, Błyskawiczna kariera, europejskie wyniki, nowe rekordy* (w: „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1929 nr 74.

¹⁷ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1930 nr 1.

¹⁸ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1930 nr 4.

Table 3. Results achieved by Kazimierz Bochenski during his sport contests in Belgium in 1929

Ghent - 11.1929	
100 m freestyle	1:03,6
400 m freestyle	2:29,8
Ghent Swimming Club – Enfants de Neptune Toutcoing – Belgium – 2.11.1929	
100 m freestyle	1:04,6
Club competition between Ghent SC – Antwerpsche Z.S – Ghent – 25.11.1929	
100 m freestyle	1:05,6 (1)
400 m freestyle	5:54,6 (1)
Final of the club elimination between Ghent SC and SC Brussels competition for swimmers under 21 years old – Ghent – 12.1929	
100 m freestyle	1. Bochenski 1:05,4 2. de Pauw 1:08,2
400 m freestyle	1. Bochenski 5:46,0 2. Serensen 6:03,0

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" No. 1929, 74, 81; "Sports Review" 1930 No. 1.



Figure 2. Swimming match between Poland and Belgium in Warsaw. On the photograph we can see Lejzor Szrajbman, second place in the race for 100 meters freestyle (carried from left), third place in the race for 100 meters freestyle Roman Kazimierz Bochenski (carried on the right). Warsaw 1929

Source: from the collection NAC sig. 1-S-2680-1.

Table 4. Results Kazimierz Bochenski during a competition in Paris in 1929

Final of Levy Cup for players under 21 years old - Paris - 31.12.1929	
100 m freestyle	1. Taris 1:02,0 2. Bochenski 1:08,0 3. Lesur 1:08,2 4. de Pauw 1:10,0
400 m freestyle	1. Taris 5:23,2 2. Lesur 5:45,0 3. Bochenski 5:45,2 4. Dehaets 6:01,4

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1930 No. 4.

Results which has been achieved by Kazimierz Bochenski in 1929 were appreciated by sport fans. In the competition of "Sport Review" for the 10 Best Polish Athletes Kazimierz Bochenski finished on very good 10th place¹⁹. Here is what was written about the best swimmer in Poland in 1930 by "Review of Sports": *Kazimierz Bochenski (AZS Warsaw) revelation of last swimming season with only 20 years old, coming from Warsaw, but he is permanently resident in Ghent, student of the local technical university on the Faculty of architecture. ... He is a member of Ghent Swimming Club, where he is starting, has got very good results on 100 meters freestyle. Pace of his progress is amazing. He also plays well water polo*²⁰.

1930 was another year of hard work and practice starts crowned with many success made by Polish swimmer. In March, swimmer took part in the international competition in Bruges, organized to celebrate the opening of the new swimming pool. Kazimierz Bochenski was in select group of European swimmers, for example, Barany, Sterner or Dutch Braun. In spite fact of very poor sport form, relay 3x50 m freestyle Thenpont, Van Parys, Bochenski made new record of Belgium - 1:39.0²¹.

Table 5. Results of the National Team of Ghent in 1930. (part I)

Leyson Cup – Belgium – 03.1930	
100 m freestyle	1:07,4 (1)
400 m freestyle	6:03,2 (2)
Club competition – Belgium St. Sauver – 03.1930	
100 m freestyle	1:07,0 (1)
400 m freestyle	5:52,0 (1)

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1930 No. 28.

Correspondent of "Sport Review" in the article *Polish champion in swimming pools of Belgium. Few snapshots about Kazimierz starts in Ghent Swimming Club describes the atmosphere which was created around Polish swimmer... That's what he's done in the name Polish society in Belgium, is perhaps not as great as Pietkiewicz made in America, but the popularity of him was perhaps even bigger... Literally there is no dumb that all Belgian sportsmans know who it is Kazimierz Bochenski (and you should know that sport is very popular in Belgium), newspapers, on which columns at least once a week, his name was published. Really a lot of work would have to put our consular offices, so that at least part of such great results propaganda collect. To illustrate the life of our champion I am going to give you some snapshots. Competition. In mentioned competition starts van Parys from Ghent, ex-World Champion, Bruxellois Verrycken. The audience are encouraged by shouting: *allez Gand! Bruxelles allez!* After a while, another competition. Bochenski is competing with Mathieu. No one screams Gand allez! You can only hear one scream: *Bochenski allez! allez Anglais! Casimir allez!* I have the impression that I am somewhere in Poland in the competition, only the pronunciation *Boszensky* translators shows that we are in Belgium. Bochenski wins. On the sport tribune indescribable joy. *Boszensky Bravo!* A winner uses uproar and secretly escapes to the locker room ...²² (in accordance with the original spelling).*

During the next event in the international swim competition, starting the celebration of 100th anniversary of the Independence of Belgium took part: Barany, Coppieters, Bochenski, Blondeuu, Frick. Kazimierz Bochenski distance of 100 meters crawl swam in 1:06.8, but he

¹⁹ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1930 nr 15.

²⁰ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1930 nr 20.

²¹ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1930 nr 27.

²² „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1930 nr 29.

"stared" at start, jumped into the water 2 seconds later than other players and during the distance he had to catch up opponents. At a distance of 200 meters swam at his normal level, proving that he is in good shape - 2:32.0.

Table 6. Results of the National Team of Ghent in 1930. (part II)

Qualification for the competition Paris - Gent, Brussels – 04.1930	
100 m freestyle	1:05,0 (2)
200 m freestyle	2:30,0 p.k.
International competition (opening of swimming pool) – Brussels – 06.1930	
200 m freestyle	1. Bochenski 2:26,8 RP 2. Blitz 2:35,4 3. de Pauw 2:35,6
International competition – Heyst 20.08.1930	
100 m freestyle	1. Bochenski 1:03,6 2. Guillini 1:11,0 3. de Pauw 1:12,0
5 x 50 m freestyle	Gandawa 2:36,8 (Bochenski 0:28,0)
Competition on the occasion of 25th anniversary of swim club - Bruges 1.11.1930	
50 m freestyle	0:28,6
100 m freestyle	1:01,6
200 m freestyle	2:24,8

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1930 No. 34, 46, 68, 90; "Water Sports" in 1930, 16.

During the competition in Bruges took place strange incident. Here is what wrote in the report of the swim competition correspondent from "Sport Review": *Bochenski swims for new record, leads, after 100 meters has got very good time, 1:04.8.... Suddenly it begins tragedy. Bochenski misjudge the distance and after few meters, he stops. The sudden scream from viewers picks up him and he ends his race. In the locker room, "He was very mad, responds politely in French, but and curses very bad in Polish. Few minutes later Bochenski had relay 3x100 meters. Bochenski comes up to me and ensures that if he will have the same accident, he will end his career, and he will monastery. Fortunately, fears are vain. Bochenski won with very good time - 1:01.6 - a new record, which is relevant in the world*²³. Day of 11th November of 1930 was the most important day in the sports career of Kazimierz Bochenski. During interclub competition of Levy Cup organized on the anniversary of armistice (World War I) swimmer swam 100 meters crawl in 1:00.4 and he also swam 400 meters in 5:17.0 which was also a new Polish record²⁴. Again there were comment published in "Sport Review": *The Triumph of Bochenski in a swimming-pool in Ghent, details of record start of Polish champion during Levy Cup, (original spelling)... After an announcement through megaphone all fans were standing, to locker room went many fans who want to embrace a hand of famous Pole. To me comes Van Parys the chairman of swim judges, and says that the great harm was done to Bocheński, accepting officially result 1:00.4, although that two stoppers were equal to a minute*²⁵.

Next swim competitions in the National Team of Ghent were no longer effective.

²³ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1930 nr 90.

²⁴ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1930 nr 92, 93: „Sport Wodny 1930 nr 16.

²⁵ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1930 nr 93.

Table 7. Results of the last starts in winter season 1930. (Part III)

Ghent SC – SC Brussels – 16.11.1930	
100 m freestyle	1:02,6
400 m freestyle	5:17,0
Final Ghent SC – S.C.U.F. Paris 14.12.1930	
100 m freestyle	1:02,0
400 m freestyle	6:07,3

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1930 No. 93, 101.

The only start in the Polish National Team by Kazimierz Bochenski was participation in the swim match between Poland – Czechoslovakia on 23rd-24th of August in 1930²⁶.

Table 8. Results of swim match between Poland – Czechoslovakia in 1930

Warsaw 23-24.08.1930	
100 m freestyle	1. Bochenski 1:03,2 2. Medricky 1:04,5 3. Svehla 1:09,6 4. Szrajbman 1:11,0
400 m freestyle	1. Bochenski 5:31,2 2. Kot 5:38,9 3. Koutek 5:54,0 4. Polakoff 6:00,0
3 x 100 m medley	1. Poland 3:50,2 (Karliczek, Kaputek, Bochenski 1:03) 2. Czechoslovakia 3:50,8
4 x 200 m freestyle	1. Poland 10:34,6 (Karliczek 2:44, Rouppert 2:45, Kot 2:37, Bochenski 2:26,8) 2. Czechoslovakia 10:37,8

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1930 No. 69; "Sport Water 1930 No. 16.

Sport successes of Kazimierz Bochenski, made that in the plebiscite of very popular "Sport Review" by votes from readers took 2nd place in the competition for the best sportsmen in Poland²⁷.

1930 year was for Kazimierz Bochenski a year of greatest success. In the next years, was without form, or he was giving up his starts, trained chimerical. At its key distance had poor times between 1:02 - 1:04. Foreign rivals were better, but in Poland he was still the best, he was a champion.

J. Hauptman correspondent of "Sport Review" in the article: *Bochenski pre-season swimming with horror* commented behavior of Polish swimmer: *Polish swimming champion, Bochenski after returning from the country buried in Ghent, taking a momentary break from the swimming. Two-month forced break due to close of swimming pools in Ghent, was not good for him, our champion was gaining weight with frightening speed*²⁸ While Kazimierz Bochenski called idiots all those said him that *he is getting fat and he should start to train again*²⁹.

²⁶ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1930 nr 68.

²⁷ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 6.

²⁸ J. Hauptman: *Bocheński przed sezonem pływackim. Co robi i co planuje nasz mistrz w Belgji* (w.:) „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 17.

²⁹ Tamże

To the end of March 1931 *Kazimierz Bochenski did not participate in any swim competition, withdrew its applications from all swim races... The reason for this it is an extremely poor sport form in which Polish champion is now. It is regrettable that we will not be witness of announced swim-fight with the best European swimmers. This time all the blame falls solely on Pole, because being able to train in the nearby Brussels or Bruges, and having material means neglected his form completely*³⁰. (spelling compatible with Original). Although on 28th of March 1931 four of best swimmers in Europe were being competing ... Bochenski (two months without training) knows that will fail. He swam in the distance of 100 meters freestyle and finished fourth (Taris - 1:01.4; Schubert - 1:02.2; Coppieteres - 1:02.4; Bochenski 1:03.8)³¹.

On 27th of April of the same year there were swim competition pin Ghent. Competition called Ghent-Paris ... *At these competition there were unique case. Namely, at the time of starting for 100 meters Bochenski received a track the closest to the audience, he talked with his friend. He did not see the start of competition, but he heard splash of water. He understood that starter will not stop swim race, he jumped to the water and he reached his opponents after 25 meters. The audience rewarded him disasters applause. So Kazimierz Bochenski was accidentally hero of the evening. Kazimierz Bochenski had in competition - 1:03.8, but real time was - 1:01*³².

In July and August 1931 there were Warsaw Championships and Polish Championship, swimmer has started in his Polish club³³. "Sport Review" wrote about Kazimierz Bochenski: *Individually the best swimmer is obviously Bochenski, achieved results results, for him not very good*³⁴.

Table 9. Kazimierz Bochenski results during his starts in Poland in 1931

Warsaw Championship – 07.1931	
100 m freestyle	1:03,4 (1)
400 m freestyle	5:38,4 (1)
4 x 200 m freestyle	1 AZS (Bochenski 2:34,1)
3 x 100 m medley	1 AZS 4:09,6 (Baranowski, Jastrzębski, Bochenski)
Polish Championship – Warsaw – 8-9.08.1931	
100 m freestyle	1:02,3 (1)
200 m freestyle	2:28,0 (1)
400 m freestyle	5:32,7 (1)
4 x 200 m freestyle	1 AZS 10:57,22 Polish record (Makowski, Kratochwita, Matysiak, Bochenski)
3 x 100 m medley	1 AZS 3:59,2 RP (Malanowicz, Kępiniski, Bochenski)

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1931 No. 52, 64.

On 15-16 of August 1931 there were swim match in Prague between Czechoslovakia and Poland, lost by National Team of Poland 39:63³⁵. After this event T. Semadini was

³⁰ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 23.

³¹ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 27.

³² „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 35

³³ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 52, 64.

³⁴ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 54.

³⁵ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 66.

critical: *Bochenski, who was the main protagonist of our last year's victory - this time fell very poor. On 100 and 400 meters relays had times much worse than his norm*³⁶.

On 23rd of August of the same year in Paris, there were European Championship of Swimming. Start of Kazimierz Bochenski failed, he did not qualify to the final of 100 meters of freestyle³⁷. Here's how "Sport Review" has reported about rivalry over this distance: *Bochenski had a fierce battle with Hass. To 90 meters Pole was in the second place, but on the last meters Hass won.*

Explanations fateful time of Bocheński which had Polish swimmer from two years - should be sought on the one hand in his indisposition (heavy cold) – the other in terrible conditions. Piscine des Tourelles. This swim pool is extremely narrow (18 m), resulting of it is strong wave, seriously disturbing swimmers during his race, except the first one. That's why we can explain an excellent results of Barany and Goddard (1st place 100 freestyle women) with a relatively very weak times such aces as Sundahl, Schubert, Hass et al. Cold water also is not good for swimmers³⁸.

Causes of poor results of Polish swimmers in Paris, were on both sides, swimmers and team management... physical and mental preparation should be the main concern of the management team. For example Hungarians certainly would do everything possible to prepper Barany or find in Paris bandage rubber for jumping champion Erdos, if she had sprained his shoulder during training. And in this direction we lost with other National Teams³⁹.

In 1932 before upcoming Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Polish Swimming Federation (PZP) has set minimums for Olympic swimmers. In freestyle qualification was for the following results: 100 m - 1:00.0; 400 m - 5:00.0; 1500 m - 20,40,0. None of swimmers were not able to achieve these requirements⁴⁰. In addition Polish Olympic Committee decided that because of financial reasons in Olympics Games will take part only those athletes who have a chance to win medals. Poles in the world ranking results were outside the top ten⁴¹. It became clear that the intensely overworked winter season will not have an effect of participation in X Olympic Games. Polish swimmers remain only regional championship, Polish championship, international matches with Czechoslovakia and Germany. In response, Kazimierz Bochenski resign from individual competitions. He starts only in relays.

In the first half of 1933 year Kazimierz Bochenski, still in AZS - took part in few swimming events organized on the occasion of the opening of new pools, such as, Warsaw Swimming Yacht Club⁴² or starts on undersized objects⁴³. The results were so promising that his fans still had hope for good swim form. T. Semadeni in the article Underestimated records wrote: Sunday triumphs of Bocheński are more precious for us and not expected ... there was conjecture that his good form was in the past. The results shows "that he can be one of the best European swimmers at medium distances⁴⁴.

In the second half of 1933 Kazimierz Bochenski changed club on championship, he represented Warsaw Club called Delfin⁴⁵.

³⁶ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 67.

³⁷ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 68, 69.

³⁸ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 70.

³⁹ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1931 nr 74.

⁴⁰ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1932 nr 36.

⁴¹ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1932 nr 27, 79.

⁴² „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1933 nr 3.

⁴³ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1933 nr 9, 29.

⁴⁴ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1933 nr 30.

⁴⁵ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1933 nr 53.

Table 10. Results of the individual competition at the Warsaw Cup 1933

Warsaw Championship – 2.07. 1933 r.	
100 m freestyle	1. Bochenski (Delfin) 1:03,0 2. Szwankowski (AZS) 1:05,5 3. Szrajbman (Legia) 1:06,2
400 m freestyle	1. Bochenski (Delfin) 5:30,0 2. Szrajbman (Legia) 5:50,8 3. Kratochwila (AZS) 6:10,4

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1933 No. 53.

Warsaw Championship did not confirm the optimism of T. Semadeni, but times achieved by Kazimierz Bochenski ten days later, during international competitions between Poland and Hungary, once again surprised. Polish swimmer broke Polish record on a distance of 200 meters of freestyle.

Table 11. Match Poland - Hungary 1933

Poland– Hungary - Warsaw 10.07.1933	
100 m freestyle	1. Szekely 1:01,6 Bocheński 1:01,6 3. Mészöly 1:01,7 4. Karliczek 1:05,3
200 m freestyle	1. Bocheński 2:20,6 Polish Record 2. Szekely 2:20,6 3. Mészöly 2:26,5 4. Karliczek 2:27,8 5. Szrajbman 2:36,8
3 x 50 m freestyle	1. Poland 1:24,0 (Szrajbman, Bocheński, Karliczek) 2. Hungary 1:25,0 (Heiling, Szekely, Mészöly)
3 x 100 m medley	1. Poland 3:39,2 (Karliczek 1:14,8; Szrajbman 1:23; Bocheński 1:01,4)

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1933 No. 55.

After competition on the pages of "Sport Review" was published comment: Yes equal start, equal battle till relapse, we have not seen so fantastic finish ever in Poland, and rarely such show can be seen in swimming pools abroad. After 50 meters was not possible to say who is first. Few meters later Szekely was first. Return length of the pool, both Hungarians were swimming with Kazimierz Bochenski. Mészöly who was for some time at third position, was fighting for first place.... What was at the finish line? This question could certainly settle only video-film. Szekely was with his head by a few centimeters before Bochenski, but the hand of Bochenski in the same position. Certain is only that Mészöly was third, as they say "on the nail" ... In the end the result set ... tie. ...⁴⁶ Pearl of these successes were result of Bochenski. If we consider that the previous record on 100 meters was gained by Bochenski in the indoor swimming pool 25 meters (Ghent, 1930) and now in worse conditions received 1:01.6 we can conclude that our record is at the peak of his form⁴⁷.

However, during the second leg in Budapest - Hungarian Championship, Poles were in the background for their opponents⁴⁸. Polish Championship in 1933 were organized in August in Krakow. Kazimierz Bochenski in the final won the following races: 100 meters - 1:02.8

⁴⁶ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1933 nr 55.

⁴⁷ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1933 nr 55.

⁴⁸ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1933 nr 58.

and 200 meters - 2:27.5, 1500 meters he was second with very good time 22:56.8, *but 400 meters race of Polish Championship was without Kazimierz Bochenski. All situation have started with the fact that Kazimierz Bochenski did not come for first pre-race, because someone told him that there are not morning heats. Heats really were not. However, tracks were drawn for the finals. It was some advantage of formalists". The organizer received a request against the Kazimierz Bochenski admission for the final, because he was not during draws. Dura lex, sed lex. Bochenski went on the train which was going to Warsaw*⁴⁹.

At the end of August 1933 there were two-day match between Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Table 12. Match Poland – Czechoslovakia in 1933

Poland – Czechoslovakia – 26-27.08.1933	
100 m freestyle	1. Bochenski 1:03,0 2. Steiner 1:04,1 3. Karliczek 1:04,4 4. Schon 1:04,6
500 m freestyle	1. Bochenski 5:32,6 2. Karliczek 5:36,2 3. Schon 5:38,6 4. Koutek 6:10,0

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1933 No. 69.

Apart from competing in swimming events Kazimierz Bochenski took part in the water polo match, after his pass, Schwaen scored the only goal for the Polish National Team. The match ended with a score 4:1.

In 1934 Kazimierz Bochenski began season from starts in the Warsaw Championship (30.06.-1.07.) "Sport Review" summarizes the level of competition like that: *This year regional championship in the first class belonged to an extremely unsuccessful events, because of the club faults. It was due to an inadequate fill numbers of players, number of withdrawal of competitors and finally poor results. Kazimierz Bochenski, whose application to combinatorial individual is justified of harsh conditions of infantry service, proved to be too careful in fact of unexpectedly weak forms of Szwankowski. Kazimierz Bochenski without any training, won absolutely all combinations freestyle*⁵⁰.

Swimmer also took part in the water polo matches between AZS - Delfin and AZS - combined team of Legia and Delfin, but we can say that it was friendly matches not league matches.

Between 12-19 August of 1934 in Magdeburg was organized European Championships in Swimming. Polish Swim Federation decided to send four swimmers, Bochenski - 100 meters freestyle, Karliczek - 100 meters backstroke and Szrajbman and Szwankowski (the relay 4x200 meters freestyle)⁵¹.

Kazimierz Bochenski in the swim elimination finished 3rd place with a time of 1:02.8, with this time he advance to the final⁵². A day later, he swam worse and finished on the 6th place. The results of the finals in 100 meters freestyle was the following: 1. Csik (Hungary) 0:59.7; 2. Fischer (Germany) 0:59.8; 3. Villas (Germany) 1:01.2; 4. ex aequo: Mool (Netherlands) and Petersson (Sweden) 1:01.4; 6. Bochenski (Poland) 1:03.3; 7. Scheller (Netherlands) 1:04.1⁵³. As we can see swimmer was not in its highest form, he lost to the

⁴⁹ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1933 nr 66.

⁵⁰ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1934 nr 53.

⁵¹ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1934 nr 62.

⁵² „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1934 nr 65.

⁵³ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1934 nr 66.

European Champion four seconds, but became first Pole who took part in the final of the European Championship.

At the end of August this year there were organized an International Polish Championships. Kazimierz Bochenski won title, he swam on his level (1:03.5). Results of Kazimierz Bochenski during the 1935 season 100 meters of 1:02.2 - 1:03.6; 200 meters 2:24 - 2:26.0.

Table 13. Results of Kazimierz Bochenski in 1935

Warsaw Championships – Ciechocinek 29-30.06.1935	
100 m freestyle	1:03,6 (1)
200 m freestyle	2:26,0 (2)
Poland – Germany – Ciechocinek 27-28.07.1935	
100 m freestyle	1:02,5 (1)
200 m freestyle	2:25,0 (2)
Polish Championships– Warsaw – 3-4.08.1935	
100 m freestyle	1:03,5 (1)
200 m freestyle	2:26,0 (1)

Source: own study based on "Sports Review" 1935 No. 66, 78, 81.



Figure 3. Roman Kazimierz Bochenski receives congratulations after the victory in swim race for 100 meters freestyle at Polish Championships of swimming. Warsaw 1935

Source: from the collection of NAC sig. 1-S-2703-5.

The results which Kazimierz Bochenski achieved in 1936 – in Olympic year was not good. Bochenski was chimeric, had dismissive attitude athlete in training, do not participate in organized trainings by Polish Swim Federation, passive recreation in the mountains for a month before the Olympic Games, all this facts did not bode success in the most important for athlete start. Polish Swim Federation decided to send only relay 4 x 200 meters freestyle. Correspondent from Sport Review W. Trojanowski in the article: *Bochenski ruining relay. Do not helped false start from Karliczek, described start of Poles: In the second heat, starts Polish National Team. The order of the tracks is as follows: England, USA, Poland, Luxembourg, Hungary Austria, Denmark. Polish ambitions extend not further than overcome*

Luxembourgers and Austrians. First jumps to the water Kazimierz Bochenki. After 50 meters, he is fourth, 100 meters does not improve his situation, and then begins the worst, he is losing every meter of strength and burying more and more slowly. Finally arrives in sixth position before a hopeless Luxembourger in 2:30.4 s (!). Next is Szrajbman, then Barysz. On the last changed – Karliczek, when Barysz swims, our best swimmer jumps into the water and he is making false start. Relay is disqualified⁵⁴. Unfortunately, the participation of the competitor in the Olympic Games took place after good form in his career. The next years were only "fun" in sport.

Kazimierz Bochenki was an example of a swimmer whose talent has not been used. None of Polish sports activists showed interest in the development of sports, training process, did not analyze swim techniques and finally no one helped him with gain finances and the only true words were said by A. Zalewski⁵⁵: *I am convinced that such trainer like de Handley would helped Bochenki – could improve his swimming - four seconds after few months. ... If de Handley, cannot come to Poland - Bochenki should go to America for trainings. ... For it should find money.... Studies Bocheński in de Handley will not cost much. Until the return of our swimmers, save on the cost of bringing poor foreign trainers⁵⁶.*

K. Bochenki was the only Polish swimmer who was competing with leaders from Europe in the interwar period. In 1927 he could not swim none of swim techniques. Thanks to his talent and opportunity to train in Belgium at the indoor swimming pool (all year), he made rapid progress and achieved excellent results. Three years later, he was already one of the best swimmers in Europe. His sports career has developed very quick. The most significant result K. Bochenki had in November 1930 in 100 m freestyle had 1:00,4 (record survived 20 years in Poland). 1930 year was also the year of his greatest results

Next years despite some "sport flashes" of his good form, during most of an international swim starts K. Bochenki failed. The reason of this was the lack of sport form after long breaks in training, resignation in swim races. In 1934 during European Championships despite fact that he does not even come close to his record he took 6 positions and became the first Pole who took part in finals. Unfortunately, his participation in the Olympics Games (1936) coincided with the time when he has already presented "poor sport form". K. Bochenki was the best Polish Swimmer during interwar period. During 1929-1939 years he won 17 times Polish Championship and had 18 Polish Swim Records. However, it is difficult not to agree with the view that his talent has not been properly used

SUMMARY

The aim of the article was to present sport career of Roman Kazimierz Bocheński, Polish swimming record holder, multiple-times Champion of Poland in swimming from the Interwar period. The analysis was based on articles from 'Przegląd Sportowy', 'Sport Wodny', and 'Stadion' from 1928-1936. All tables show all of his results in a chronological order from the beginning of his career in 1928 until its end in 1939.

⁵⁴ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1936 nr 69; I. Tabaczek-Bejster, P. Ruzbarsky: *Osiągnięcia sportowe polskich pływaków podczas igrzysk olimpijskich (1928-2012)* (w:) J. Junger (red.) Acta Facultatis exercitationis corporis universitatis Presovienis. Presov 2013, s. 118.

⁵⁵ Aleksander Zalewski, propagator pływania w okresie międzywojennym, autor wielu publikacji dotyczących pływania między innymi książki pt. *Pływanie* wydanej w 1928 r.

⁵⁶ „Przegląd Sportowy“ 1934 nr 12.