

## RIVALRY OF MEN IN POLISH CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE YEARS 1921-1939

Matylda KOWAL<sup>ABCDEF</sup>, Lesław LASOTA<sup>ABCDEF</sup>

Faculty of Physical Education, University of Rzeszów

---

### Keywords:

- II Republic,
- Athletics,
- Cross-country,
- Men.

### Abstract:

The 17th edition of cross-country championships of PZLA were carried in the years 1921-1939. Rivalry of men for titles in cross country was held in the following locations: Warsaw, Henryków, Lublin, Vilnius, Krakow, Lutsk, Poznan, Bydgoszcz, Lviv. In particular year's masters of Poland were: Jan Baran, Stefan Szelestowski, Julian Łukasiewicz, Alfred Freyer, Janusz Kusociński, Stanisław Petkiewicz, Maksymilian Hartlik, Kazimierz Fiałka, Józef Noji. Polish Championships in cross-country were held for the first time in Warsaw, October 2, 1921, under the English name "National Cross-Country". The initiator was the Polish Association of Athletics. It was a combination of national running and Polish championships in cross-country running. Run was played at a distance of 8 000 m, and in addition to establishing an individual place among finishers, also team scores were conducted which included the top three players of a one club.

---

## INTRODUCTION

The Polish cross-country races for the first time were played in Warsaw on October 2, 1921 under the English name: "National Cross-Country". The initiator was the Polish Union of Athletics. It was a combination of the national run and the Polish championships in cross-country running. The run took place on the route 8 000 m, and in addition to determining the individual order of the players at the finishing line was also a team scoring which consisted of three best players of one club<sup>48</sup>. Already in the interwar period, this race was included in the championships of Poland, while the "National Race" started to be counted statistically from

---

<sup>48</sup>Cross-country running for the Polish championship for 1921, "Przegląd Sportowy", 1921 No. 11, p. 11; Athletics running cross-country for the championship of Poland (October 2, 1921), „Przegląd Sportowy”, 1925 nr 22, s. 13.

1926, in from the moment of funding for the victory of the "Stadjon"<sup>49</sup> editorial board. In 1922, 1923 the championship did not take place. Until 1930 they were played in the autumn, and later in the spring, in March or April, at the beginning of the summer season<sup>50</sup>.

In 1921, during the first Polish Championships in cross-country races, the winner was Jan Baran of the Lviv Pogoń - 23.10,0 min over a distance of 6,5 km . S. Ziffer took the second place. "Crown" from Warsaw, third place was taken by Otto Abel ŁKS "Sturm" from Lodz<sup>51</sup>, 4th Karczewski "Warszawianka", 5. Header ŁKS "Union" Łódź, 6. Mirtenbaum ŁKS, 7. Frankowski "Korona", 8. Wojda WKS Vilnius, 9. Ginter "Korona", 10. Wyróżębski (unassociated). Among the organizers "Przegląd Sportowy" mentioned: Kowalewski, major Krzyski, Cpt. Misinski and Colonel. dr. Rouppert. Prizes were awarded by Garczyński T., vice-president of PKIO <sup>52</sup>. During the Polish Championships in cross-country running a team scoring was held in which KS "Korona" Warsaw won - 20 p.<sup>53</sup>.

The Polish cross-country races in 1924 took place at a distance of 10 km in Henryków. The first place was taken by S. Szelestowski KS "Polonia" Warsaw in time 34.17,0 min.<sup>54</sup>. The second was S. Ziffer - the representative of "Wisła Kraków" and the third was K. Wituch from "Warszawianka"<sup>55</sup>.

In 1925, the Polish cross-country championship was carried out in Warsaw on the Marymont - Bielany - Marymont route <sup>56</sup>. In Bielański forest, a route of 9,5 km was designated. The start took place from the small islet "Kaskada" on Marymont. Riders as a horse guide, ran the newly elected president of PZLA Cpt. Jerzy Misiński. The whole route was controlled by judges and members of the WTC, as well as many spectators and runners sympathies, including prof. E. Wittig, the founder of the "Łucznik" award.

At the forefront of the race were the green costumes of AZS Warsaw and the black Warsaw "Polonia", and further behind them ran in the group players KS "Amator", ZKS "Makkabi", KS "Varsovia" and other clubs. The competition lacked players from provincial

<sup>49</sup> „National Cross Country”, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1937 nr 45, s. 7.

<sup>50</sup>[https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medali%C5%9Bci\\_mistrzostw\\_Polski\\_senior%C3%B3w\\_w\\_biegu\\_prze%C5%82ajowym](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medali%C5%9Bci_mistrzostw_Polski_senior%C3%B3w_w_biegu_prze%C5%82ajowym)

<sup>51</sup>H. Kurzyński, S. Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wołejko: *The history of the athletic finals of the Polish championship in 1920-2007. Men's competition*. Szczecin – Warszawa: Komisja Statystyczna PZLA, 2008, s. 404.

<sup>52</sup> Compiled: M. Orłowicz: *I Polish Yearbook, op. Cit., P. 220; PZLA's message No. 26: Table 5, dz. cyt.s.87*

<sup>53</sup> There.; Billa Z.: *40 lat...*, dz. cyt., s. 52.

<sup>54</sup> There.; Billa Z.: *40 lat...*, dz. cyt., s. 52.

<sup>55</sup> H. Kurzyński, S. Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wołejko: *The history of the athletic finals of the Polish championship in 1920-2007. Men's competition*. Szczecin – Warszawa: Komisja Statystyczna PZLA, 2008, s. 276.

<sup>56</sup> *Message No. 14 of the Polish Athletics Union of 16 September 1925 r.*, „Stadjon”, 1925 nr 39, s. 14.

clubs. The leading teams were: Czesław Centkiewicz "Varsovia", Jaworski J. AZS Warsaw, Kostrzewski S. AZS Warsaw, J. Łukaszewicz "Polonia" Warsaw, F. Malanowski AZS Warsaw, S. Szelestowski "Polonia" Warsaw and K. Wituch "Warszawianka".

At the finish the fastest was Julian Łukaszewicz "Polonia" Warsaw - 33.37 mi, the second is Czesław Centkiewicz "Varsovia" - 34.07,0 min, and the third J. Jaworski AZS Warsaw - 34.32,0 min.<sup>57</sup>, 4. S. Kostrzewski AZS Warsaw, 5. S. Szelestowski "Polonia" Warsaw, 6. F. Malanowski AZS Warsaw, 7. E. Szbliński "Polonia" Warsaw, 8. Rosa "Polonia" Warsaw.

In the Polish Championships in the cross-country race a club scoring was carried out, the scoring counted three best players at the finish line from each club, the order of arrival at the finish line was scored according to the increasing score. The club whose players gathered the smallest number of points won in the championship<sup>58</sup>. The victory of J. Łukaszewicz decided about the victory of "Polonia" Warsaw in the 1925 edition of the team's Polish championship for the prize of prof. Wittig's sculpture "Łucznik"<sup>59</sup>.

The deadline for the organization of the Polish Championships in cross-country races was criticized in the press and in the athletics environment. The criticism was about placing the cross-country championships on October each year. Under consideration, the author of the critical article subjected the fact that in Poland the cross-country season is being carried out in spring and the Polish cross-country championship should be its summary. I suggest that Cross season begin in February and end with the Polish championships in April, and then compete on the track<sup>60</sup>.

In 1926, a cross-country race for the Polish championship on a distance of 10 000 m took place in Marymont in Warsaw. The last Sunday of October brought together all the runners, including also specializing in hurdle races S. Kostrzewskiego.

In 1926, the Polish champion at both distances at 110 and 400 m hurdles.

---

<sup>57</sup> H. Kurzyński, S. Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wołjko: *The history of the athletic finals of the Polish championship in 1920-2007. Men's competition*. Szczecin – Warszawa: Komisja Statystyczna PZLA, 2008, s. 276.

<sup>58</sup> *Komunikat nr 14 PZLA...*, dz. cyt.

<sup>59</sup> *The results of the cross-country Polish championships for 1925 were approved by the PZLA's statement No. 23 of October 28, 1925*, p. 2. „Przegląd Sportowy” 1925 nr 44, s. 2.

<sup>60</sup> *On cross-country racing*, „Przegląd Sportowy” 1925 nr 46, s. 4.



Fig. 1. Marymont 1926. Cross-country skiing at 10,000 m for the Polish championship

Source: *Stadjon* "1926 No. 44, p. 10.

As predicted, the run was to take place between A. Freyer "Polonia" Warsaw and R. Sawarynem from the Lviv "Pogoń". The route of the run was determined from Marymont by the Bielański forest and return. The initial pace was imposed by J. Łukaszewicz, but after 3 km forward, there are R. Sawaryn, A. Freyer, J. Jaworski, K. Wituch and S. Kostrzewski.



Fig. 2. Alfred Freyer KS "Polonia" Warsaw on the Wilanowska street leads in the course of Wilanów – Warsaw

Source: *Stadjon* "1926 No. 45, p. 1

The winner was A. Freyer "Polonia" Warsaw – 35,25 min, followed by R. Sawaryn "Pogoń" Lviv - 36.20,0 min.<sup>61</sup> and 60 m after him as the third Jaworski J. AZS Warsaw. Team scoring in Polish champions won by AZS Warsaw - 62 points ahead of Polonia Warsaw - 60 points. Thanks to two more points gained in cross-country championships, in 1926 AZS Warszawa overtook in a total score for the "Łucznik" prize in Warsaw "Polonia" by 1 p. The score between the first two teams in 1926 was as follows: 1) AZS - 115 p. "Polonia 114 p."<sup>62</sup>.

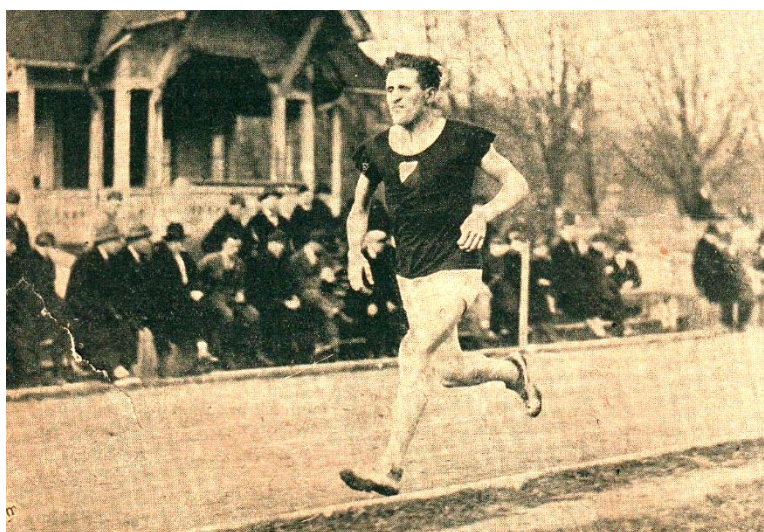


Fig. 3. Alfred Freyer on the track of the Agrykola stadium during the break of the Polish record for 3 km – 9.05,6 min.

Source: "Stadjon" 1926 No. 47, p. 14.

---

<sup>61</sup>H. Kurzyński, S. Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wołjko: *The history of the athletic finals of the Polish championship in 1920-2007. Men's competition*. Szczecin – Warszawa: Komisja Statystyczna PZLA, 2008, s. 276.

<sup>62</sup>*The last act of the 1st athletic championships of Poland*, "Stadjon" 1926 No. 44, pp. 10-11; *Athletics. 31X Run cross-country for the Polish championship (10 km)*, „Sport” 1926 nr 197, s. 310.



Fig. 4. 1.11.1927 Warsaw, AZS Warszawa stadium in Skaryszewski Park (completed in 1927).

Alfred Freyer during the winning cross-country race on a distance of 5 000 m

Source: (in the MSiT collections).

In the cross-country team scoring on MP 1927, KS "Polonia" Warsaw won. Points gained in these competitions were added to the competition for the prize of "Łucznik" prof. Edward Wittig<sup>63</sup>. Progress made by Freyer A. gave hope to qualify for the national team at the Olympic Games in Amsterdam in 1928. Alfred Freyer in the Polish national team appeared 5 times until 1927. For PZLA international meetings won 4 times<sup>64</sup>. He was a 14-time record holder of Poland.

---

<sup>63</sup>*Athletics. Cross-country running for the Polish championship, "Stadjon" 1927 No. 44, p. 12. Report and evaluation of the participation of leading runners and clubs in the competition for the "Łucznik" award prof. Edwarda Wittiga.*

<sup>64</sup>*Polish athletics team, (statistical data), „Stadjon” 1927 nr 39, s. 14.*

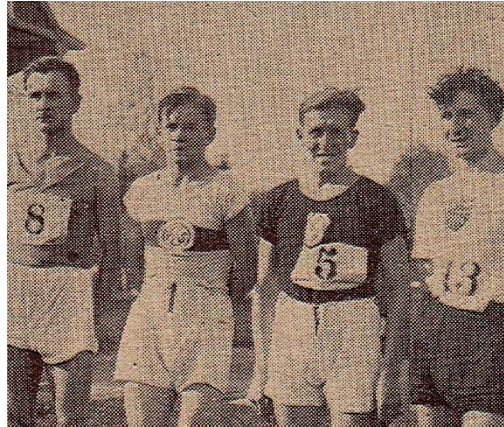


Fig. 5. A commemorative photograph of the first four runners in cross-country Polish championships in the order at the finishing line: No. 5 A. Freyer "Polonia Warsaw, No. 8 S. Szelestowski, No. 1 Z. Motyka AZS Kraków, No. 13 M. Sarnacki

Source: "Stadjon" 1927 No. 44, p. 12.

The penultimate athletics event in the 1928 season of the Polish championships was a cross-country race at a distance of 9 km. The competition entered the scoring for the prize of prof. E. Wittig. The event took place on October 21 in Lublin. The organizer of the race was a member of the board of Lubelski OZLA - Sobociński, and the delegate of PZLA, J. Szkolnikowski. Start and finish line were at the "Sokoła" stadium in Lublin. Shortly after the start, the excellent two runners of "Warszawianka" J. Kusociński and M. Sarnacki came out to run for the lead, and behind them lost more and more distance from them Z. Motyka from AZS Kraków and Szymkiewicz PKS Lublin. After entering the stadium, it was necessary to run three more laps on the track. Running just behind J. Kusociński, M. Sarnacki only in the last meters of a very sharp finish gives up the fight losing to the rising star. At the finish line came:

1) J. Kusociński "Warszawianka" – 27.48,2 minutes, 2) M. Sarnacki "Warszawianka" – 27,49.0 minutes, 3) Z. Motyka Z. AZS Kraków - 28.50,4 minutes<sup>65</sup> , 4) Chrostowski AZS Warsaw - 29.34,0 minutes, 5) Puch PKS Lublin Bus - 29.40,0 minutes, 6) Opoczyński ŁKS Łódź, 7) Skolimowski PKS Lublin<sup>66</sup>.

---

<sup>65</sup>H. Kurzyński, S. Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wołejko: *The history of the athletic finals of the Polish championship in 1920-2007. Men's competition* Szczecin – Warszawa: Komisja Statystyczna PZLA, 2008, s. 276-277. .

<sup>66</sup>*Cross-country racing for the Polish championship*, „Stadjon” 1928 nr 43, s. 14.

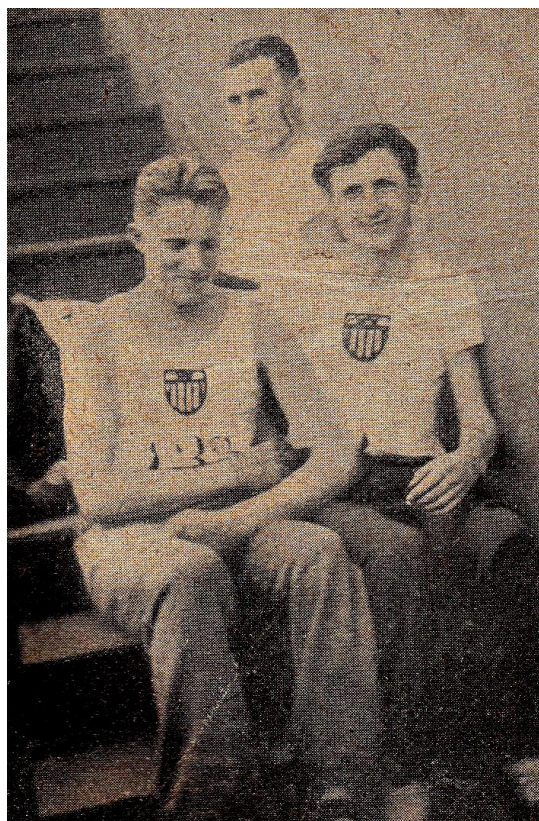


Fig. 6. 1929, three "Warszawianka" runners from the left: S. Petkiewicz, J. Kusociński, M. Sarnacki

Source: "Stadjon" 1929 No. 42, p. 14.

Cross-country for the Polish championship in 1929 were organized at the Królewska Huta Górnośląski OZLA. It was the last stage of the team championships of Poland and the end of the five-year competition for the prize of "Łucznicz" by prof. Wittig E.. Only 12 runners competed in cross-country running. The race route ran 400 m after the track in the stadium, after which the players ran through the gate to the area surrounding the stadium, through the Chorzów woods and back to the stadium. In this run, the runners of "Warszawianka" who in the mentioned order came to the finish line: 1) Petkiewicz - 23.12,6 min, 2) J. Kusociński (25 m behind the winner) 3) M. Sarnacki (about 100 m after J. Kusociński)<sup>67</sup>. Further places were taken by: 4) Puchalski "Huragan" Warsaw, 5) Majer RKS Katowice, 6) Nowara "Sokół" II Katowice, 7) Milicz AZS Warsaw, 8) Orłowski "Polonia" Warsaw, 9)

---

<sup>67</sup>H. Kurzyński, S. Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wolejko: *The history of the athletic finals of the Polish championship in 1920-2007. Men's competition* Szczecin – Warszawa: Komisja Statystyczna PZLA, 2008, s. 277.



Coffee AZS Warsaw, 10) Jaworski J. AZS Warsaw, 11) Mędrzycki "Polonia" Warsaw. After the run, Milicz AZS Warszawa was disqualified for taking Orłowski's path<sup>68</sup>.

Until the end of the Polish championship in 1930, the Polish championship in cross-country<sup>69</sup> running was to be organized. The Polish cross-country championship in 1930 took place in Vilnius at a distance of 7 km, 9 runners competed. A definite victory was awarded to J. Kusociński "Warszawianka" - 25.21,9 min. at the finish line overtook the second Milicz AZS Warsaw – 26.06,06 min. and the third Tadeusz T. Adamczyk "Orzeł" Grochów-Warsaw. Further places were taken by Zemło "Orzeł", Dusilewicz "Pogoń" Wilno and A. Jurkowski AZS Warsaw<sup>70</sup>.

The cross-country Polish championship in 1931 took place in Krakow. The start for the run was organized at the Krakow stadium "Wisła". The team score of the run was included in the Polish championship score for the award of the W. Wiesowski chairman of PZLA. The then results for the championship title were proposed by J. Kusociński "Warszawianka". Krakow's competition attracted an impressive number of over 30,000 viewers. The run route led after the start and circled one lap at the "Wisła" stadium, the runners went through the stadium gate towards the "Sokoła" pitch, after passing it, they headed to "Cichy Kącik", then a dirt road towards the railway track, hence the shaft the old riverbed to the embankment of the new channel of Rudawa, then clinging to the riverbed they ran towards the "Juwenii" stadium, then through the Błonia to the "Wisła" stadium, where after running one lap they finished running. After the start, J. Kusociński went out to run the race and dictated his pace until the end of the race and as the first one passes the finish line during 27.25,0 min<sup>71</sup>. At a distance of 150 m behind him, Czubak "Wawel" Kraków came second, followed by M. Hartlik "Stadjon" Królewska Huta. The following places came running: 4) M. Żak "Polonia" Warsaw, 5) Modzelewski "Wisła" Cracow, 6) R. Ociepko AZS Warsaw, 7) Grzesik "Wawel" Cracow, 8) Szłaga, 9) Z. Motyka AZS Kraków, 10) Gebel "Wisła" Kraków, 11) Parzniewski "Strzała" Sosnowiec, 12) Lech "Police Sports Club"<sup>72</sup>.

---

<sup>68</sup>*Cross-country racing for the Polish championship*, „Stadjon” 1929 nr 42, s. 14.

<sup>69</sup>*Walk 50 km*, „Stadjon” 1930 nr 42, s. 12.

<sup>70</sup>*Athletic week, cross-country running*, „Stadjon” 1930 nr 43, s. 2.

<sup>71</sup>H. Kurzyński, S. Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wolejko: *The history of the athletic finals of the Polish championship in 1920-2007. Men's competition*. Szczecin – Warszawa: Komisja Statystyczna PZLA, 2008, s. 277.

<sup>72</sup>*Kusociński wins...* „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1931 nr 2, s. 5.



Fig. 7. Cracow 1931, start of the cross-country race for the Polish championship, the first on the right the winner of the race – J. Kusociński

Source "Warszawianka", "Raz Dwa Trzy" 1931 No. 2, pp.

The season of men's championships started the Polish championship in cross-country races, which was carried out on April 24, 1932 in Łuck in Wołyń. The organizer of the competition at the request of PZLA was Volyn Regional Athletics Association. The start of the race for 8 000 m gathered 48 competitors from the following sports clubs: "Stadion" Królewska Huta, "Strzelec" Lublin, "Geyer" Łódź, "Warta" Poznań, "Orzeł" Warsaw, "Reserve" Warsaw, military clubs from Kowel, Łucka, Równe and Włodzimierz, representatives of the Volyn organizations "Strzelec", WUT, Police Clubs and representatives from ZKS "Hasmone".

The order in the run, in the absence of J. Kusociński, who was preparing for the Games in Los Angeles, were as follows: 1) M. Maksymilian Hartlik "Stadion" Królewska Huta - 26.16,0 minutes, 2) Miałkas "Warta" Poznań - 26.38,0 minutes, 3) T. T. Adamczyk "Orzeł" Warsaw (about 70 m behind the first one)<sup>73</sup>, 4) Ruslewski "Orzeł" Warsaw, 5) Tryton "Orzeł" Warsaw, 6) T. Adamczyk "Strzelec" Lublin, 7) Jewdokimow "Strzelec" Kowel. In Łuck, the

<sup>73</sup>H. Kurzyński, S. Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wołejko *The history of the athletic finals of the Polish championship in 1920-2007. Men's competition*. Szczecin – Warszawa: Komisja Statystyczna PZLA, 2008, s. 277.

Polish championship were the first in history, hence numerous crowds of interesting athletics spectators came to the competition<sup>74</sup>.

The Polish cross-country races in 1933 took place on 23 April in Poznań. The competitors had to run 9 200 m. It was the first athletics event of the rank of the Polish championships, which in the season of 1933 was part of the competition for the prize of the president of PZLA W. Znajdowski. A start line was in the city stadium. Runners after two rounds in the stadium ran out of the stadium<sup>75</sup>.

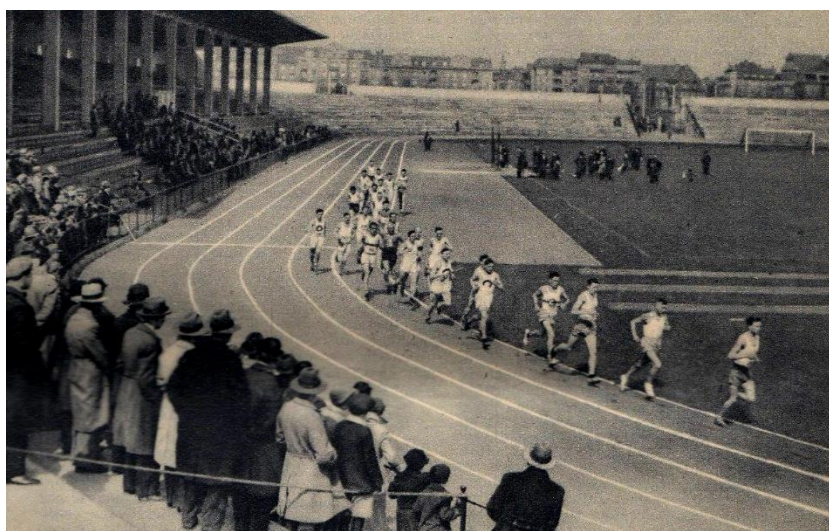


Fig. 8. 1933 Poznań part of a cross-country race on a distance of 9 200 m

for the Polish championship  
Source: "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1933 No. 18, p.

During running, frequent changes took place. The most frequent ones were M. Hartlik "Stadion" Królewska Huta, R. Sawaryn "Pogon" Lviv, J. Strzałkowski "Jagiellonia" Białystok, K. Fiałka "Cracovia", Jankowski and J. Robiński "Warta" Poznań<sup>76</sup> and Puchalski "Legia" Warsaw. The competitors ran almost the entire distance together up to 7 000 m, then M. Hartlik "Stadion" Królewska Huta suddenly broke away from the group of running competitors and increased the lead as the first in 30.13,2 minutes ran to the stadium. As the second to the stadium came J. Strzałkowski "Jagiellonia" Białystok - 30.14,0 minutes, and 15 m after him finished the race as the third J. Robiński "Warta" Poznań. There were 4)

<sup>74</sup>*Silesians from Poland in cross-country racing, Maksymilian Hartlik in a men's competition - Szausówna in a femal*, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1932 nr 17, s. 10.

<sup>75</sup>*Hartlik (Śląsk) again Polish champion in cross-country running*, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1933 nr 17, s. 6.

<sup>76</sup>H. Kurzyński, S.Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wołjko: *The history of the athletic finals of the Polish championship in 1920-2007. Men's competition*. Szczecin – Warszawa: Komisja Statystyczna PZLA, 2008, s. 277.

Puchalski "Legia" Warsaw on the run, 5) F. Janowski "Warta" Poznań, 6) K. Fiałka "Cracovia", 7) R. Sawaryn "Pogon" Lviv, 8) W. Duplicki AZS Warsaw<sup>77</sup>.

On April 22, 1934, cross-country championships of Poland were organized in Krakow, included to the athletics points of the Polish championships. At the start of the race, besides J. Kusociński avoiding cross-country racing for the Polish championship and J. Robinski "Warta" Poznań, who did not receive a leave, in a number of 22 persons, all major long-distance runners in Poland took part. The start of the race, which took place on two laps at the stadium, was led by Puchalski. Janowski led runners from the "Cracovia" stadium, who ran to the 3rd May Avenue (about 1 500 m), T. T. Adamczyk K. Fiałka was running right behind him, and the remaining group of the runners.

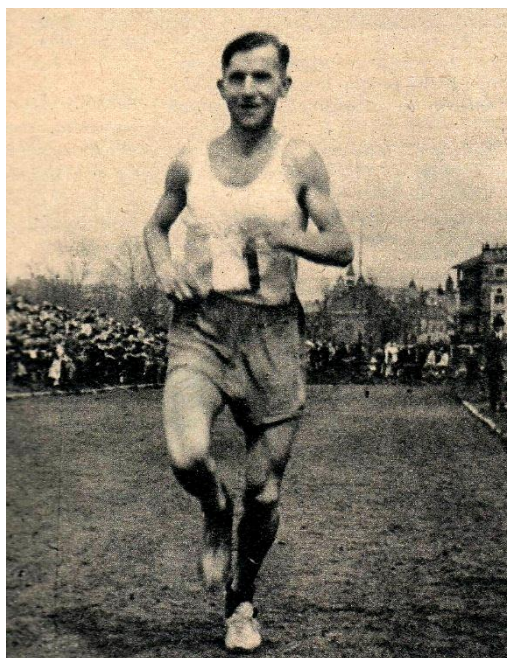


Fig. 9. 1934 Cracow, M. Hartlik "Stadjon" Królewska Huta as the second at the cross-country race for the Polish championship

Source: "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1934, No. 17, p. 7

After 2,5 km, K. Fiałka came out on the head of the race, followed closely by M. Hartlik, then T. T. Adamczyk., Dupliki, Janowski and Puchalski, and the remaining runners' stretched behind them. The two leading the race, increasing the advantage, was moving further and further away from the other competitors. It was known that between Fiałka and M.

---

<sup>77</sup> There.

Hartlik a fight for the title of cross-country champion in 1934 will take place. After over 4 km, K. Fialka and M. Hartlikran after the "Cracovia" stadium, after one lap the players ran again to Krakow's Błonia. Repeat the previously traveled route, which ran along Al. 3-go Maja, street Piastowska to the bridge on the Rudawa river, and then along the Rudawy, outside the park "Juvenii", Al. Focha on the pitch "Cracovia" where there was a finish line. The race was run by K. Fiałka a few meters ahead of M. Hartlik, followed by W. Duplicki, T. T. Adamczyk, Janowski and Puchalski in the distance of few meters. K. Fiałka runs as the first to a stadium with a 20 m advantage over M. Hartlik.



Fig. 10. 1934 Kraków, Fiałka K. ., Cracovia "winner of cross-country race for the Polish championship

Source: "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1934, No. 17, p. 7

With a doping of the spectators, the finish line with a 60 m advantage over M. Hartlik as the first finish line was K. Fiałka "Cracovia" – 31.30,4 minutes, 2) Harlik – 31.40,4 minutes, 3) Janowski <sup>78</sup>, 4) Puchalski, 5) W. Duplicki, 6) Adamczyk, 7) O. Półtorak "Jagiellonia" Białystok, 8) J. Strzałkowski "Jagiellonia" Białystok, 9) Parzniewski "Strzała" Sosnowiec, 10) K. Kucharski "Jagiellonia" Białystok, 11 ) Gancercz "Pogoń" Lviv, 12) Modzelewski "Wisła" Cracow, 13) Rysiewicz "Metal" Tarnów, 14) Konior "Cracovia", 15)

<sup>78</sup>H. Kurzyński, S. Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wołjko: *The history of the athletic finals of the Polish championship in 1920-2007. Men's competition*. Szczecin - Warsaw: Statistical Commission of PZLA, 2008, s. 277.

Frączyk "Metal" Tarnów, 16) Dybcio "Reduta" Warsaw, 17) "Pelican" AZS Lublin, 18) Szlaga" Legia "Kraków, 19) Kotlarski KPW Nowy Sącz, 20 runner did not finish<sup>79</sup>.

The first championships of the Polish championships in 1935 were the Polish championships in cross-country races, which were carried out at the Municipal Stadium in Bydgoszcz on April 14. 26 runners applied for competition at the distance of 8 km, and 23rd athletics took part in a competition. The athletics season together with the Polish championships in cross-country races was opened by the president of the Pomeranian OZLA, director Woda from Bydgoszcz. Among the invited guests there was the president of the city Barciszewski, commander of DOK VIII gene Thomme and commander of the 15th Infantry Division, Colonel Chmurowicz, and representatives of the PUWF and WF. Gen Thomme served as the honorary starter. Of the 23 competitors, the fastest defeated K. Fiałka "Cracovia" - 26.57,0 minutes, 2) Karczewski "Warszawianka", 3) Kurpes J. Łódź<sup>80</sup>, 4) W. Duplicki AZS Warsaw, 5) Kuligowski TG "Sokół" I Bydgoszcz, 6) O. Półtorak "Jagiellonia" Białystok, 7) Wiśniewski AZS Warsaw, 8) J. Robiński "Warta" Poznań. The competition was lacking Kusociński J. struggling with a sick knee and staying at the training camp before the Olympic J. Noji<sup>81</sup>.

In 1936, the Polish championship was played on April 5 in Lublin. The route was 8km. The winner was Józef Noji from "Legia" Warsaw with a score of 25.28.6 min, the second was Kazimierz Fiałka from "Cracovia" and the third was Franciszek Bodal from "AZS Warszawa"<sup>82</sup>.

The Polish cross-country races in 1937 were held on April 11 in Lviv. A 10 km running route has been designated by Krzywczyce, Pasięka, Lesienice and back to the TG "Sokół-Macierz" stadium in Lviv. Despite the rider's running runners, most of the competitors mistook the running route and reported to the finishing line even after 2 hours, some of them were returning by taxi.

---

<sup>79</sup>*Fiałka Polish champion in cross-country race*, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1934 nr 17, s. 7; „Przegląd Sportowy”, 1934 nr 35 s. 5.

<sup>80</sup>H. Kurzyński, S. Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wołejko: *The history of the athletic finals of the Polish championship in 1920-2007. Men's competition*. Szczecin - Warsaw: Statistical Commission of PZLA, 2008, s. 277.

<sup>81</sup>*Fiałka again the Polish champion in cross-country running*, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1935 nr 16, s. 7.

<sup>82</sup>[https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistrzostwa\\_Polski\\_Senior%C3%B3w\\_w\\_Lekkoatletyce\\_1936#M.C4.99.C5.BC czy.C5.BA ni\\_2](https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mistrzostwa_Polski_Senior%C3%B3w_w_Lekkoatletyce_1936#M.C4.99.C5.BC czy.C5.BA ni_2)



Fig. 11. 1937. informal finale of the Polish cross-country championship in Lviv, a group of competitors who left the route by taxi, from the left: Lach, Markiewicz, S. Jankowski, J. Flis and Kramek

Source: "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1937 No. 16, p. 12.

In this situation, the delegate of PZLA Cpt. Misiński canceled the run, which led to many unpleasant situations. The blame was attributed to a not very careful tracking by the runners the rider<sup>83</sup>.

Eventually, the whole Lviv case of the Polish cross-country championship and the relay race Raszyn - Warsaw was considered at a special meeting of the PZLA board. Polish cross-country championships were decided to be repeated in Lviv in October, while the relay race Raszyn - Warsaw was annulled<sup>84</sup>.

---

<sup>83</sup>Players finish running in taxis. Cross-country running for the Polish championship has been annulled, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1937 nr 15, s. 11.

<sup>84</sup>The athletics season began under bad auspices, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1937 nr 16, s. 4.



Fig. 12. 1937. A group of cross-country participants for the Polish championship in Lviv finishes without a fight, as a result of confusing the route, from the left: Zapora, Stefański, Bieniarz and Strasberg

Source: "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1937 No. 16, p. 13.

In Lviv on October 17, the Polish championship in cross-country races was repeated, which was annulled in the spring of 1937. The route of 10 km run was designated at the stadium I LKS "Czarni" Lviv, with paths along the railway tracks headed towards the Persenkówka district and back to the finishing line stadium. 14 runners applied for the title of cross-country champions of Poland. The victory was won by Noja J. "Syrena" Warsaw - 33.13,2 min, 2) Cz. Wirkus "Warszawianka" - 33.24,1 min., 3) J. Marynowski "Warszawianka" - 33.34,0 min., 4) Gancarz B. LKS "Pogon" Lviv - 33.37.4 min., 5) Ruszlewski RKAS "Żagiew" Warsaw , 6) W. Korzeniowski LKS "Pogoń" Lviv, 7) Kujaw RKS "Żagiew" Warsaw, 8) Ruszlewski II RKS "Żagiew" Warsaw, 9) Opiat "Lechia" Lviv, 10) Belbart "Świt" Lviv<sup>85</sup>.

<sup>85</sup>Noji is the Polish champion in cross-country running, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1937 nr 42, s. 15.





Fig. 13, 1937 near the stadium of KS "Wima" in Łódź, part of a cross-country race organized on October 24 at the end of the athletic season of ŁOZLA.

Source: "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1937 No. 44, p. 8.

In 1938, a cross-country Polish championship over a distance of 10 km took place in the capital of the Volhynia region in Lutsk<sup>86</sup>. The prizes for the players were funded by the president of the city of Łuck - for the first and the second player - Colonel Żurawski, for the third place at the finish of the president of Wołyński OZLA. On the run, Noji J. "Syrena" won Warsaw – 35.52,1 minutes, 2) J. Flis ZS "Strzelec" Lublin - 34.21,5 minutes, 3) K. Fiałka "Cracovia", 4) O. Półtorak " Syrena "Warsaw, 5) Gancarz LKS" Pogon "Lviv, 6) Cybulski ZS" Strzelec "Łuck, 7) Ruszlewski RKS" Żagiew ", 8) Sitka KPW Katowice, 9) Gałuszka KPW Warsaw, 10) W. Korzeniowski LKS" Pogoń "Lviv. The competition was watched by around 2 000 people<sup>87</sup>.

<sup>86</sup>In Lutsk: cross for the Polish championship, „Przegląd Sportowy”, 1938 nr 28, s. 4.

<sup>87</sup>1) Noji, 2) Flis, 3) Fiałka. Cross for the Polish championship in Lutsk, „Przegląd Sportowy”, 1938 nr 29, s. 4.



Fig. 14. 1939 Lublin, J. Noji "Syrena" Warsaw at the cross-country race for the Polish championship

Source: "Przegląd Sportowy", 1939 No. 32, p. 1.

The cross-country Polish championship in 1939 was carried out on April 16, 1939 in Lublin on a difficult route leading through meadows and partly along roads near Lublin. The route of 7,5 km distance was won by J. Noja "Syrena" Warsaw - 25.46,8 min., 2) Karwowski KPW Katowice - 25.50,0 min., 3) E. Nowacki ZS "Strzelec" Zakopane - 26.16.9 min. , 4) A. Borus "Pogoń" Lviv, 5) Fialka K. "Cracovia", 6) Markiewicz LWS Lublin, 7) Sitka KPW Katowice, 8) Sokołowski "Syrena" Warsaw, 9) J. Flis ZS "Strzelec" Lublin . J. Kusociński ran out of the championships for whom athletes in Lublin were waiting for the match with J. Noja<sup>88</sup>.

Tab. 1. Polish champions in cross-country races in 1921-1939

Year	Distance	Winner	Club	Score
1921	6,5 km	Jan Baran	LKS „Pogoń” Lwów	23.10,0
1922-1923	biegów przełajowych o mistrzostwo Polski nie organizowano			
1924	9,0 km	Stefan Szelestowski	KS „Polonia” Warszawa	34.22,0
1925	9,0 km	Julian Łukaszewicz	KS „Polonia” Warszawa	33.37,4
1926	10 km	Alfred Freyer	KS „Polonia” Warszawa	35.35,0
1927	9,0 km	Alfred Freyer	KS „Polonia” Warszawa	31.29,0

<sup>88</sup>Noja przed Karwowskim zdobywa mistrzostwo w biegu na przełaj, „Przegląd Sportowy”, 1939 nr 31, s. 4.

1928	9,0 km	Janusz Kusociński	KS „Warszawianka”	27.48,2
1929	7,5 km	Stanisław Petkiewicz	KS „Warszawianka”	25.12,6
1930	7,0 km	Janusz Kusociński	KS „Warszawianka”	25.21,9
1931	8,0 km	Janusz Kusociński	KS „Warszawianka”	27.25,0
1932	8,0 km	Maksymilian Hartlik	KS „Stadion” Królewska Huta	26.17,0
1933	9,2 km	Maksymilian Hartlik	KS „Stadion” Królewska Huta	30.13,2
1934	9,5 km	Kazimierz Fiałka	KS „Cracovia”	31.30,4
1935	8,0 km	Kazimierz Fiałka	KS „Cracovia”	28.57,0
1936	5,0 km	Józef Noji	WKS „Legia” Warszawa	19.09,8
1937	10,0 km	Józef Noji	WKS „Legia” Warszawa	33.13,2
1938	10,0 km	Józef Noji	WKS „Legia” Warszawa	33.52,1
1939	7,5 km	Józef Noji	WKS „Legia” Warszawa	25.45,8 <sup>89</sup> .

Source: Based on own research.

## Summary

During the 17th edition of the Polish Championships in cross-country races played in 1921-1939, the most wins belonged to Józef Noji, the representative of WKS "Legia" Warsaw, who stood on the highest step of the podium four times in a row. Janusz Kusociński from KS "Warszawianka" won three times. Alfred Freyer (KS "Polonia" Warsaw), Maksymilian Hartlik (KS "Stadion" Królewska Huta) and Kazimierz Fiałka (KS "Cracovia") won twice the gold medal. The Polish Championships were held at different distances, the shortest route was 5 km and the longest route was 10 km.

## Bibliography:

1. "Przegląd Sportowy", 1934, No. 35.
2. Athletic week, bandsheep, "Stadjon" 1930 No. 43.
3. Athletics running cross-country for the championship of Poland (October 2, 1921), "Przegląd Sportowy", 1925, No. 22
4. Athletics. 31X Cross-country race for the Polish championship (10 km), "Sport" 1926 No. 197
5. Athletics. Cross-country running for the Polish championship, "Stadjon" 1927 No. 44,

<sup>89</sup> Based on the reports from the athletics championships of Poland included in the magazines: "Sport", "Przegląd Sportowy", "Stadjon", "Dwa Dwa Trzy", reports from the activity of PZLA for 1919-1939 and Encyclopaedia (Statistical) of Polish Athletics, Warsaw 1994, p. 163.

6. Cross-country running for the championship of Poland, "Stadjon" 1928 No. 43
7. Cross-country running for the Polish championship in 1921, "Przegląd Sportowy", 1921 No. 11
8. Cross-country running for the Polish championship, "Stadjon" 1929 No. 42
9. Encyclopedia (Statistical) of the Polish Athletics League, Warsaw 1994
10. Fiałka again the Polish champion in cross-country race, "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1935 No. 16,
11. Fiałka Polish champion in cross-country race, "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1934 No. 17
12. H. Kurzyński, S. Pietkiewicz, J. Rozum, T. Wołejko: History of the Athletics Finals of the Polish Championships in 1920-2007. Men's competition. Szczecin - Warsaw: Statistical Commission of PZLA, 2008, ISBN 978-83-61233-20-6.
13. Hartlik (Śląsk) again the Polish champion in cross-country race, "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1933 No. 17
14. In Lutsk: cross for the Polish championship, "Przegląd Sportowy", 1938 No. 28
15. Kusociński wins ... "Once Two Three", 1931 No. 2
16. Message No. 14 of the Polish Athletics Association of 16 September 1925, "Stadjon", 1925 No. 39,
17. Noji before Karwowski gets the championship in cross-country race, "Przegląd Sportowy", 1939 No. 31
18. Noji, Flis, Fiałka. Cross for the Polish championship in Lutsk, "Przegląd Sportowy", 1938 No. 29.
19. Noji, Polish champion in cross-country race, "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1937 No. 42, The last act of the athletic championships of Poland, "Stadjon" 1926 No. 44
20. On cross-country racing, "Przegląd Sportowy" 1925 No. 46
21. Orłowicz M. has assembled M.: I Polish Rocznik ..., dz. Cyt., P. 220; PZLA's message No. 26: Table 5, op. Cit. P. 87
22. Players finish running in taxis. Cross-country race for the Polish championship canceled, "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1937 No. 15
23. Polish athletics team, (statistical data), "Stadjon" 1927 No. 39,
24. Silesians of Poland in cross-country racing, Maksymilian Hartlik in a men's competition - Szausówna in a woman's, "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1932, No. 17.
25. The athletic season began under bad auspices, "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1937 No. 16.
26. The results of the Polish cross-country championships for 1925 were approved by the PZLA's statement No. 23 of October 28, 1925, p. 2. "Przegląd Sportowy" 1925 No. 44
27. Walk 50 km, "Stadjon" 1930 No. 42,