

RIVALRY OF WOMEN IN POLISH CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE YEARS 1928-1939

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Abstract:

The 10th edition of cross-country championships of PZLA were carried in the years 1928-1939. Rivalry of women for titles in cross country was held in the following locations: Królewska Huta, Łódź, Lublin, Myslowice, Poznan, Krakow. In particular year's masters of Poland were:

1928 r. Otylia Tabacka (KS "Kolejowy" Katowice)

1929 r. Leokadia Wieczorkiewicz (AZS Warszawa)

1930 r. Otylia Tabacka-Orłowska (KS "Stadion" Królewska Huta)

1931 r. Janina Bystrzycka (TG "Sokół" Kozłówek)

1932 r. Maria Szuas (KS "Pogoń" Katowice)

1933 r. Jadwiga Nowacka (AZS Warszawa)

1934 r. Jadwiga Nowacka (AZS Warszawa)

1935 r. Irena Świdorska (TG "Sokół - Grażyna")

1936 r. Jadwiga Nowacka (AZS Warszawa)

1937 r. Irena Hornstein (ŻKS "Hasmonea" Lwów)

1939r. -

The first race of the Polish Women championship was carried out on 13 October 1928 in Królewska Huta on a distance of 1 200 m. These competitions were organized on the model of cyclo-cross Polish Men championship.

INTRODUCTION

In the years 1928-1939, 10 regional cross-country PZLA championships were held. It was a competition organized on the model of cross-country Polish men's championships. Women's rivalry for championship titles in cross-country races took place in the following cities: Królewska Huta, Łódź, Lublin, Lwów, Myslowice, Poznań, Kraków. Due to the incomparability of conditions in cross-country races, no Polish records are recorded. The first

winner was Otylia Tabacka from KS "Kolejowy" Katowice, who repeated the success two years later.

The first race for the Polish women's championship was carried out on 13 October 1928 in Królewska Huta over a distance of 1 200 m. These were organized on the model of the cross-country Polish men's championships. The first Polish champion in cross-country race was Otylia Tabacka (aka Kałuża aka "Orłowska") KS "Kolejowy" Katowice, which determined the distance in time – 4.36,6 min.⁹⁰

The second at the finishing line was Janina Sawczak KS "Cracovia" and the third Leokadia Perono-Albrecht KS 06 Katowice-Załęże. In the first cross-country championship of Poland, despite the completion of the run by the player Bandera in second place, the referee commission for shortening the route, the runner disqualified. Of the 9 athletes who started the race, only 7 completed it⁹¹.

In 1929, the II Polish Championship in the women's cross-country race on a distance of 1 500 m took place in Łódź. The route was determined from the start of the ŁKS football field through the surrounding fields and forest. At the start there were only two runners: Leokadia Wieczorkiewicz AZS Warsaw and Gałaj ŁKS Łódź. It was won by L. Wieczorkiewicz AZS Warsaw - 4.35,8 minutes, who came almost one minute before the second at the finish line Gałaj ŁKS Łódź – 5.27,0 minutes. The championship in terms of attendance was a complete fiasco⁹².

⁹⁰H. Kurzyński, L. Luftman, J. Rozum, M. Rychwalski, A. Socha: *The history of the athletics finals of the Polish championship 1922-2011. Women's competitions*. Bydgoszcz: Statistical Commission of PZLA, 2011, s. 325.

⁹¹A women's run across the Polish championship, „Stadjon” 1928 nr 42, s. 15.

⁹²Kobięcy bieg na przelaj, „Stadjon” 1929 nr 40, s. 12.



Fig. 1. Victory of "Bronka" in women's cross-country race in Krakow

Source: "Stadjon", No. 17, p.

The third cross-country championship of Poland took place over a distance of 1 200 m in 1930. The Polish championship for the second time was won by Otylia Orłowska - Tabacka KS "Stadion" Królewska Huta, who run under the name Otylia Orłowska - Tabacka. The runner got time - 4.10,0 min.

The next 4th female Polish championship in cross-country races was held on April 26, 1931 in Lublin. Team scoring carried out in this race counted in the rules of the Polish team championships that were held for the "Diana" award. Having the chance to win in the total championship in 1931, the team of TG "Sokół-Grażyna" did not report to the race on the distance of 1 300 m, no athlete. The athletes at AZS Warszawa gained 5 points, allowed them to increase their advantage over their opponents to 31 points. Seven runners took part in the race, Janina Bystrzycka won the Polish championship TG "Sokol" Kozłówek in time – 5.47,0 min.

The order at the finish was as follows:

1. Janina Bystrzycka TG „Sokół” Kozłówek
2. Rozalia Grzesik KS „Stadjon” Królewska Huta
3. Jarnuszkiewicz H. WKS „Unia” Lublin
4. Leokadia Wieczorkiewicz AZS Warszawa
5. Maria Koczan AZS Warszawa
6. Wilszner KS „Stadion” Królewska Huta

7. Komor (vel Kumorek) KS „Stadjon” Królewska Huta⁹³



Fig. 2. 1931r. Lublin, start to run for the championship of Poland. The source "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1931 No. 3, p.3.

The competition for the team championship of Poland in 1932, began the 5th Polish cross-country championships, which took place on 24 April in Królewska Huta. At the start of the race, only 8 runners stood at a distance of 1450 m. The route was marked out in a suburban summer resort near Królewska Huta, called the Swiss Valley. After the start, Jadwiga Nowacka AZS Warsaw took the lead, half of the distance was taken by Maria Szuas KS "Pogoń" Katowice together with Jadwiga Głazewska ŁKS Łódź. The run was hampered by numerous natural obstacles that caused the frequent fall of the runners.

⁹³A women's run across the Polish championship, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1931 nr 2, s. 5; Billa Z. (red.): 40-years of Polish Athletics in years 1919–1960, Warsaw 1969, s. 58.

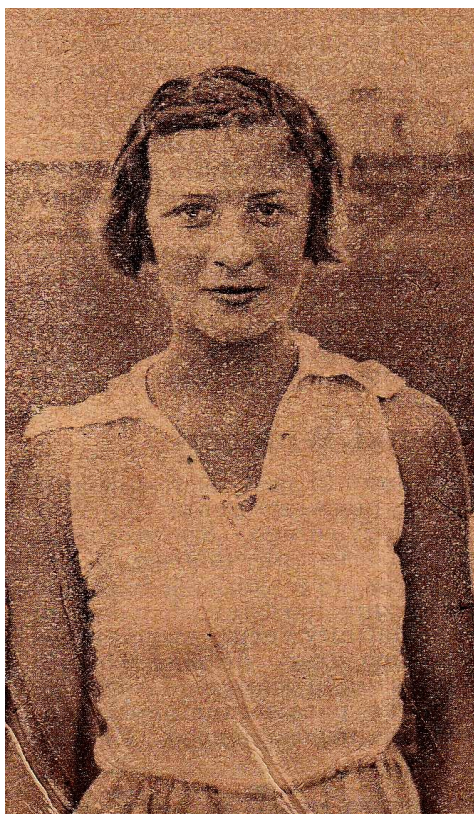


Fig. 3. 1932 r. Maria Szuas „Pogoń” Katowice the best runner in Silesia at 800m

Source: "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1932 No. 44, p. 4.

At the finish line due to the difficult route, the competitors came very tired in the following order:

1. Maria Szuas KS „Pogoń” Katowice,
2. Jadwiga Głażewska ŁKS Łódź,
3. Jadwiga Nowacka AZS Warszawa,
4. Zofia Smętek ŁKS Łódź⁹⁴,
5. Gertuda Szymczyk KS „Pogoń” Katowice,
6. Erna Lebek KS „Pogoń” Katowice,
7. Bronisława Górkowska WKS „Legia” Kraków.

The overall score was won by KS "Pogoń" Katowice runners - 9th place, second place was taken by ŁKS Łódź athletes - 8 points. ⁹⁵.

⁹⁴H. Kurzyński, M. Rychwalski, A. Socha, T. Wołejko: *The history of women's athletics in the interwar period*, Statistical Commission, Warszawa 2008, s. 116.

⁹⁵*Championship of the Lviv region*, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1933 nr 15, s. 7.



Fig. 4. A fragment of the race for the Polish championship, leads the subsequent winner of the race - Maria Szuas (No. 526).

Source: "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1932 No. 18, p. 16.

In 1933, on cross-country trails, no one was surprised by the presence of female runners. Women shyly and rarely appeared on cross-country trails, among others in Lviv on March 26, 6 competitors competed on the distance of 1 000 m, which won "Dzidka" "Lechia" Lviv – 5.26,0 min. 2 "Iza" Lechia Lviv ⁹⁶.



Fig. 5. 1933 start of the women's cross-country race for the championship of the Lviv OZLA

Source: "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1933 No. 16, p. 4

⁹⁶Championship of the Lviv region, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1933 nr 15, s. 7.

In 1933, the 6th edition of the cross-country Polish women's championship took place on 23 April in Łódź. The run was played with the participation of all the best runners in Poland at that time. In cross-country race for the title of Polish champion in 1932, which was defended by Maria Szuas KS "Pogoń" Katowice, who in the opinion of the press even before the start was considered a favorite. In the race also took part: Helena Gasparska (H. Noskiewicz) LKS "Pogoń" Lviv, Klech PZP Katowice, Erna Lebek KS "Pogoń" Katowice, Jadwiga Nowacka-Kalbarczyk AZS Warsaw, Kacan, Samuels and Irena Świdarska from AZS Poznań, Jadwiga Głazewska, Kalert, H. Kasperska and Zofia Smętek from ŁKS Łódź, Eugenia Guzińska and Kłys from KS "Krusch-Ender" Pabianice, Jadwiga Sukiennicka and Marta Wójcik KS "Stany" Łódź and Walentyna Wysocka from ZS "Strzelec" Kalisz.



Fig. 6. 1933. Kasperska H. ŁKS Łódź at the finish line of cross-country racing for the title of LOZLA

The course of competition for subsequent places was as follows. The start for the race took place at the ŁKS Łódź stadium, the further route of the 1000-meter run was marked out

on the grounds around the stadium. Right after the start, Jadwiga Nowacka - Kalbarczyk AZS Warszawa went out to lead, who was the first to finish the finish line in time – 3.05,6 minutes, 2) Irena Świdorska AZS Poznań - 3,88,2 minutes, 3) Maria Szuas KS "Pogoń" Katowice, 4) Jadwiga Głazewska ŁKS Łódź, 5) Walentyna Wysocka ZS „Strzelec” Kalisz, 6) Zofia Smętek ŁKS Łódź⁹⁷.

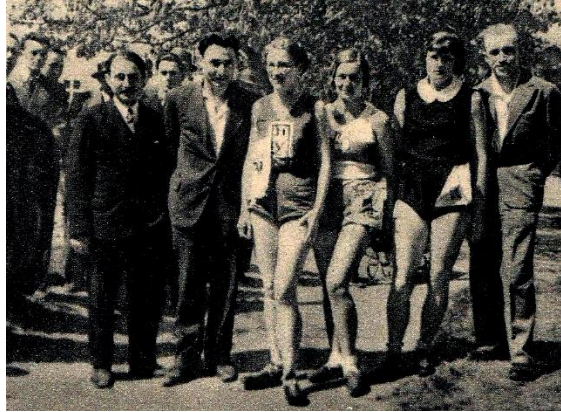


Fig. 7. 1934. Lviv, participants of the Polish cross-country championships, stand from the left: winner Jadwiga Nowacka- Kalbarczyk AZS Warsaw, Helen Gasparska AZS Lviv and Izabela Robakowska TG "Sokol - Matz" Lviv Source: "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1934 No. 18, p. 5.

Female team athletics championship of Poland in 1934 for the award of the director of the State Office of Physical Education and Military Preparation began with competition for the titles of Polish champions in cross-country running. The organizer of the 7th Polish National Championship was the Lviv Regional Athletics Association. Only three competitors took part in the competition. In the course of medical examinations for health reasons, a few players were not allowed. The 1000 m route was beaten the fastest by Jadwiga Nowacka AZS Warsaw - 3.04,0 minutes, 2) Izabela Robakowska TG "Sokół-Macierz" Lviv - 3.38,0 min., 3) Helena Gasparska AZS Lviv (50 m behind)⁹⁸.

⁹⁷Nowacka AZS Warszawa wins the Polish championship in the transition race , „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1933 nr 17,s.6.

⁹⁸Nowacka is a Polish champion in cross-country running, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1934 nr 17, s. 7.



Fig. 8. 1934. Jadwiga Głażewska IKP Łódź was the first in cross-country race for the championship

Only 7 runners were at the start of the VIII cross-country Polish women's championship, which took place on 28 April 1935 in Mysłówice at a distance of 1 800 m. The organizer of the championship was the Silesian Regional Athletics Association. The only competitor from outside of Silesia was Świderska I. AZS Poznań, the others represented clubs from Silesia and Zagłębie Dąbrowskie. The route was organized by the organizers on an easy route, mostly through the forest. The victory was won by Irena Świderska AZS Poznań, who finished the race in time – 8.12.2 min. In the following places: 2) Helena Gediz (aka Gediga) KS "Pogoń" Katowice – 8.36,0 minutes, 3) Hildegarda Losek TG "Sokół" Chorzów - 8.50,0 minutes, 4) Irena Zagórska CKS Czeladź, 5) Piszczyk KS "Pogoń" Katowice, 6) Klara Żyłka KS "Stadion" Królewska Huta, 7) Uocz KS "Pogoń" Katowice. The main judge of the championship was S. Oska from ŚOZLA. The winner received an award funded by Jeziorowski - president of ŚOZLA⁹⁹.

The IX cross-country women's championship in 1936 took place on April 19 in Poznań. About 9 runners took part in the fight for the titles of Polish champions at the distance of about 1000 m. The route of the race was marked out in the area next to the city stadium in Poznań. Initially, the run was led by Świderska I. AZS Poznań Polish champion from 1935, but after 500 m the leadership was taken over by Jadwiga Nowacka AZS Warsaw, who won in time - 5.38,6 minutes. Further places took 2) Świderska I. ps. "Lubicz" AZS Poznań, 3) Kwasiborska Z. KS "Supraślanka" Supraśl, 4) Białkowska I. KPW Poznań, 5) Hildegarda Loska TG "Sokół" Chorzów, 6) Zofia Smętek KS "Warszawianka", 7) Małgorzata Siedlaczka

⁹⁹Only 7 players at the start in the cross-country race for the Polish championship „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1935 nr 18, s. 15.

"Stadjon "Chorzów, 8) Maria Walewska, KPW Poznań, 9) Klara Kraszewska, KPW Poznań¹⁰⁰.



Fig. 9. 1937 Cracow, the first three athletes in cross-country championships of Poland, from left: Maria Tekielaki RKS "Legia" Krakow (III), Irena Homstein ŻKS "Hasmonea" Lviv (I) and Maria Mąka KS "Ciszewski Bydgoszcz Source: "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1937 No. 16, p. 6.

Only 8 runners started to compete for the titles of Polish champions in the cross-country race, which in 1937 took place on 19 April. The race was conducted in sunny weather at the municipal stadium in Krakow. During the race, 3 contestants resigned, and one was disqualified by the judges (Hildegarda Loska TG "Sokół" Królewska Huta currently Chorzów). Jadwiga Nowacka AZS Warszawa did not participate in the competition, the best runner of the time at longer distances in Poland. The distance of 1 150 m was best scored by Irena Horstein, the player of ZKS "Hasmonea" Lviv in the time of 4.14,1 min. She overtook the second at the finishing line Maria Mąka KS "Ciszewski" Bydgoszcz – 4.19,0 minutes, 3) Maria Tekielaki RKS "Legia" Krakow - 4.24,8 min. and 4) Rozalia Joanna TG "Sokół" Chorzów¹⁰¹. Due to the low popularity of cross-country races among Polish athletes, as well

¹⁰⁰Nowacka is a Polish champion in cross-country running, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1936 nr 16, s. 7.

¹⁰¹Only 8 players at the start of the race cross the Polish championship, „Raz Dwa Trzy”, 1937 nr 16, s. 6.

as the lack of interest of the public in 1938 and 1939, PZLA resigned from conducting the Polish championship.

Table 1. Polish champions in cross-country races in the years 1928 – 1939

Rok	Dystans	Zwycięzcy	Klub	Czas
1928	1,2 km	Otylia Tabacka	KS „Kolejowy” Katowice	4.36,6
1929	1,5 km	Leokadia Wiczorkiewicz	AZS Warszawa	4.35,8
1930	1,2 km	Otylia Tabacka-Orłowska	KS „Stadjon” Królewska H.	4.10,00
1931	1,3 km	Janina Bystrzycka	TG „Sokół” Kozłówek	5.47,0
1932	1,4 km	Maria Szuas	KS „Pogoń” Katowice	4.55,6
1933	1,0 km	Jadwiga Nowacka,	AZS Warszawa	3.05,6
1934	1,0 km	Jadwiga Nowacka	AZS Warszawa	3.04,0
1935	1,8 km	Irena Świdorska	TG „Sokół-Grażyna”	8.12,2
1936	1,5km	Jadwiga Nowacka	AZS Warszawa	5.38,6
1937	1,5 km	Irena Hornstein	ŻKS Hasmona” Lwów	4.14,1 ¹⁰² .
1938	-			
1939	-			

¹⁰²Based on the reports from the athletics championships of Poland included in the magazines: "Sport", "Przegląd Sportowy", "Stadjon", "Raz Dwa Trzy", reports from the activity of PZLA for 1919-1939 and Encyclopedia (Statistical) of Polish Athletics, Warszawa 1994, s. 163..

Summary

During the 10th edition of the Polish Championships in cross-country races played in 1928-1939, Jadwiga Nowacka, the representative of AZS Warszawa, scored the most victories, repeating the success three times. Otylia Tabacka won twice, which in 1928 represented KS "Kolejowy" Katowice, and two years later after the change of names, representing KS "Stadjon" Królewska Huta. Women were running at a much shorter distance than men ranging from 1,2 km to 1,8 km.

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10. Nowowska AZS Warszawa wins the Polish championship in cross-country running, "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1933 No. 17, p. 6.
11. Only 8 competitors at the start of the cross-country race for the Polish championship, "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1937 No. 16, p. 6.
12. Silesians of Poland in cross-country racing, Maksymilian Hartlik in the men's competition - Szuasówna. in a woman's, "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1932, No. 17, p. 10.
13. The Lviv district championship, "Raz Dwa Trzy", 1933 No. 15, p. 7.