

KAZIMIERZ GÓRSKI - THE MAN THAT SHAPED LUBLIN FOOTBALL

Emanuel JÓZEFACKI

Faculty of Physical Education, University of Rzeszow, Poland

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Abstract:

Sporting activities formed very dynamically in Lubelszczyzna. This was known as the golden era of football in Lubelszczyzna because it was coach Kazimierz Górski who, in 1963, introduced Lubliniaka to the II league. Thanks to the coach from Lviv, who was an assistant and advisor to the RKS Motor Lublin team, we can talk about the advancement of the Gorski trained juniors and later by the seniors that won and advanced to the I league already thanks to another eminent trainer Waligora in 1979. Kazimierz Klaudiusz Górski was a Polish football player, playing the position of striker, representative of the country, an unusual coach and footballer. He was a distinguished footballer and had a great dribble. Due to his (ectomorphic) posture and grateful movements he obtained the nickname "Sarenka". In 1966 and 1970-1976 he was entrusted with the Polish national team, which led to the triumph at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich or the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, and third place at the 1974 World Championships in West Germany. Then, as a coach, he led clubs in Greece, including Panathinaikos AO and Olympiakos SFP - with both of their hard work, won the national championship. From 1986 he was a member of the PZPN authorities, in 1991-1995 he was its president. In the football plebiscite, he was elected, the best Polish coach of the 20th century. Honored with the highest award granted by UEFA - (Order of Merit in Ruby).

INTRODUCTION

Information about coach Kazimierz Górski's activity in Lubelszczyzna during the 1960s comes from archiva documents, interviews with players whom he coached and books



Figure 1 The training of Lublinianka in 1962

Source: archive of K.S. Lublinianka Club

written about him as the trainer of all time. Who was coach Gorski to Lubelszczyzna, since he was referred to as the "future doe-deer" from Legia Warsaw straight to Wieniawa, later adviser to Motor Lublin and Stal Krasnik, and above all as a friend of Rejowiec sportsmen.

The trainer of all time did not play in any of the Lublin football clubs but without his support and numerous suggestions there would not be any later successes for Lublinianki or Motor Lublin. His advice was also used by the trainers of Stal Krasnik. In this beautiful city, overlooking the Bystrzyca, he left behind many fond memories, and was responsible for later careers of some players all due to the "touch his hand"²⁸. o this day, his name is mainly associated with legendary successes of Polish football. Numerous footballers, sports activists and journalists from the Lubelszczyzna region remember their own experiences with the tainer. Based on an archival interview with Maciej Góracki, who was coached by Górski, we see footballers from the 1962 WKS Lublinianki team reaching their dream of being advance to the II league. You can see players: Kapciński, Kokowicz, Ciupa, Nowara, Olszok, Bartmański, Gorbat, Pietrasiński, Famulski, Kwiatkowski, Wełniak, Rudak, Kostaniak, Bielasz, Leś, Bogusław, and Gałas. The managers of the "golden team" were: Zdzisław Pietrasz and Zdzisław Żurawski. As well as the trainer of all time Kazimierz Górski. Each of these prominent figures has left their mark on sports in Lublin. Certainly, without these players there would not be any advancement for the Motor lublin team to the I league

²⁸ Górski K.(2004), *The ball is round*, Expol, Warszawa, p.14

previously mentioned. It was all thanks to coach Górski, who worked out and advised players of Władysław Giergiel and Góral, Rześny, Kaczewski, Rudak and Famul at the forefront²⁹.

Kazimierz Górski's family history

From the family history, we know that Maximilian Gorski, who was our trainer's father, married Miss Zofia Petrysko (Kazimierz's) and it coincided with the Lviv, headed by Tadeusz Kuchar and his trained Pogoń football team, in Upper Śląsk and especially in Bytom, that they throned German Turn Sport Vereiny. In particular, players from Lviv and then from Krakow and Warsaw contributed to the establishment of Polish football clubs. They did this upon the request of the Polish Plebiscytariat in Bytom. Kazimierz Górski's father was also closely following these events, but now he awaiting the birth of his first child. So on March 2, 1921 the later acclaimed trainer of all time was born - Kazimierz Górski. Zofia and Maksymilian Górski had six children. Kazimierz is 10 years older than his youngest sister, Łucja. The family includes: Jadwiga, Helena, Anna and as well as his brother John. Kazimierz as the oldest brother had to deal with his siblings as it was accustomed in a large family. The whole family lived on Gródek Street in Lviv, in a small two-story house but the whole family only lived on the ground floor³⁰.

As an 8-year-old boy Kazimierz, who already like to socialize, would round up his colleagues and play football. However, football became a first priority, but the role model of the older Lviv people and famous football players was the known by all Waław Kuchara, who practiced almost all disciplines with great success Kazimierz behaved like his peers. In the summer he was running over to a nearby pond, sunbathing, swimming and in the autumn along with his friends, he would roast potatoes on a nearby field. However, during day and night, the most persistent thing that accompanied him a ball, not always true for those times. Sometimes it was a sneaker, rags or an ordinary rubber Zosia. He kick just about anything like cans or boxes, so as to imitate a constant kicking movement. Maksymilian's father, the club activist, already knew what his son wanted to do with his life as he saw passion for the game in his eyes³¹.

His habit of wearing clean shoes was brought out of his house and the way he was taught, but it remained with him until the very end as they had to shine like patent leather shoes, another known well-groomed athlete was Ryszard Kulesza. They both were and can be consider an example of keeping their shoes clean. Kazimierz's dad confided in one of his colleagues in charge of the RKS Lviv club Bolesław Drobotowi: "I think it's time for Kazio to start playing in RKS. Let's give him a chance! Let him show us what he can do ... I know he's physically weak, maybe he can not stand the hardships of some matches, but he has a "knack for". Is agile and good with the ball. I heard that at school they call him "Doe-deer". It suits him perfectly. He's already kicking the ball with Janek Zub, our talented goalkeeper and left midfielder Fredek Nowak and Stasiak Zięba. They asked me to influence you and to bring Kazik to the club. They create a well-paired team, cultivated on our Lviv rules! - "You will not help, they will not help. You will cheat - they will deceive. You will stain our honor, every batiar will turn away. " It was, however, Kazimierz Górski second approach at joining RKS³².

²⁹ Ibidem, pp. 40-44.

³⁰ Górski K. (1974), *From the coach's bench*, Sport and Tourism, Warszawa, pp. 21-29.

³¹ Górski K. (1985), *Half a century with the ball*, Sport and Tourism, Warszawa, pp. 50-61.

³² Grzegorzczak S., Lechowski J. (1992), *Secrets of Górski's coach: my 70's years*, Pasja, Warszawa, pp. 37-47.

The first approach happened in 1936 when his colleagues urged him to: "Sign the club declaration." He did not want to and did not sign. However, he still dreamed about Pogon. Then one of his colleagues, the one who owned his own bike said: "If you sign, I will give you my bike for the whole day. I know you like to pedal ... ". Under some pressure, he signed but had not yet made the team. He did not have the physical examination required at that time, he was frail and small and did not blow out the appropriate standard on the spirometer. It finally made it on the second approach³³.

The beginnings of football

Before the war in 1939, the then 18-year-old Kazimierz Górski was thinking about football more seriously. Then the legendary "Wacek" Waław Kuchar, which he brought shoes for 10 years earlier and sometimes walked out with him onto the Pogoń stadium now he was the sports captain of the Lviv District Football Association. It was he who called up Kazimierz Górski to the second representation of Lviv. So he became an official player. The football player Kazimierz Górski had a place on the team, he travelled with the first team to Przemyśl, Rzeszów and Stanisławów and Zamość. At the juniors' match between RKS and Pogonia, Kazimierz showed off his skills during the match, after which the Austrian coach of this popular club exclaimed: "Das ist de zweite Wilimowski³⁴." Górski was still a junior at the time, but it was after such a performance, he broke into the first RKS team. And it was already the minor league which could be compared to the today's II league. It was already the vestibule of the first league, in which Legia did not play at that time and Cracovia has also dropped once³⁵.

At that time, the following teams were significant: Wisła Kraków, Ruch Chorzów, Pogoń Lwów, AKS Chorzów, Warta Poznań or Polonia Warsaw. In Lviv's minorleague, except for Baran Hogendorf, Link, Górski and Koncewicz - the once famous best shooter "Hasmonei Zygmunt Steuermann" would now play amateurishly. As the witnesses describe, it was the match in June 1939 between RKS Lviv and Korony Sambor where the stake of the match was to remain in the minor league. The visiting team was in a better situation as the match only had to end in a tie for them. The match ended with a score of 3:2 for RKS Lviv, where Kazimierz was hailed a hero for scoring two goals. During the President of Poland Football Cup he also scored two goals. In 1939, Kazimierz Górski attended a mechanical gymnasium. Previously, he studied at the IX gymnasium on Chocimska Street. In addition to football, he was passionate about playing chess as well as table tennis. In the club and school's day room, as well as among colleagues from the Working Youth Organization, he gained considerable recognition. He was so fond of chess that he even won against the champion of Lviv, which undoubtedly indicated that he could think very well. A warm atmosphere created at home prepared him as a future coach³⁶.

Lviv and the Poland sensed the atmosphere of the approaching war. In August 1939 league matches were still normally played. On the eve prior to the Germany's assault on Poland, a international match was held in Warsaw with Hungary. This unusual event to some

³³ Ibidem, pp. 51-54.

³⁴ Lubaś T. (2007), *That's what he wanted. Unpublished interview with the trainer Kazimierz Górski*, Edycja Świętego Pawła, Warszawa. pp. 14-18.

³⁵ Ibidem, pp. 37-40.

³⁶ . Grzegorz S. (1975), *A medal game*, Sport and Tourism, Warszawa, pp. 24-27.

extent "clashed" with the symbolic brace of the war's history with our neighbors. Just for comparison, players like Kuchar, Bacz and Garbień from Pogon would remember the defeat with Hungary 0-1 in 1921, to finally win in August 1939 4-2, remembering that the team from Budapest was World Champion. Ernest Wilimowski specifically distinguished himself amongst the Polish team scoring 3 goals³⁷.

Coach Kazimierz Górski himself talks about these years (1941-1944) reluctantly. At this time, the only thing the trainer could do is kick around old footballs and remain in hiding and away from the Lviv stadiums. Together with the "Liberation of Lviv", newly elected officials decided to revive their lives with sport and start playing football matches. At the time when Górski was playing football the NKVD made subsequent arrests, so he decided in the face different threats to set out into the world³⁸.

First contact with the city of Lublin

And so in 1944 Kazimierz Górski along with several thousand Lviv people he was drafted into the army. It was here that he went to Lublin for the first time and then on to Majdanek. It was there that the 8th Reserves Infantry Regiment was formed. The soldiers who arrived there were terrified of the concentration camp. In January 1945, a great winter offensive started and the 8th reserves Infantry Regiment was abolished in Majdanek. The youngest soldiers, including Kazimierz Górski were sent to the village of Serniki where the 1st Regiment had already been operating. The regiment was constantly being refilled and the soldiers quickly trained, and accordingly uniformed then transferred to units so-called permanent and from there everyone went to the front. The trainer regiment was heading for the front, however, he himself stayed behind in Wasaw of the during the end of 1944 and beginning of 1945, first on Podhorążych Street and then on ul. 29th Listopada Street which is near the Polish Army Stadium and therefore Legia Warsaw³⁹.

However, it is worth coming back to the year 1939 before the war, when Kazimierz Górski stayed in Warsaw and watched with some interest at the modern and well-presented stadium at Łazienkowska Street. He was not able to comprehend the idea that such a great club in Warsaw and a military one on top of that only played in the minor league. He had a comparison just as RKS Lviv was left in the shadow of Pogon, so in Warsaw, Legia football did not equal to tha of Warszawianka or Polonia⁴⁰.

The club still existed, but during 1945 it ceased to exist along with footballers whom no one could find. At that point the front moved on West, but on the Vistula, the reserves of the 1st Regiment organized shooting activities. The artillery, infantry, anti-tank troops or mortar service all took part in these shootings and it lasted until spring. Along with it is the hope of the success of allies on all fronts where they fought battles and the announcement of the imminent defeat of the Germans revived in the command of the Podhorążych Regiment and so on November 29 a certain awareness was born that apart from the different kinds of regulations, orders and bloody fights there was is sport or other kinds of games and activities. And so every soldier wanted to feel what it was like to play football again⁴¹.

³⁷ Ibidem, pp. 38-39.

³⁸ Polkowski M. (2011), *Alphabet of Lord Casimi*,. Adam, Warszawa, pp. 31-35.

³⁹ Grzegorzcyk. S., Lechowski J. (1992), *Secrets of Górski's coach: my 70's years*, Pasja, Warszawa, pp. 58-61.

⁴⁰ Górski K. (2004), *The ball is round*, Expol, Warszawa, pp. 74-79.

⁴¹ Ibidem, pp. 89-94.

In 1948, Kazimierz Górski marries Maria Stefańczyk and that same year he plays his first and only match on June 26 for the Polish National Team. This ended his career as a player where he could not live without the ball which he cared for so much⁴².

Kazimierz górski - the official trainer

In 1952, he completed a training course at the Higher School of Physical Education in Krakow where in that same year he advanced to the Polish Cup finals with Legia Warsaw. The official ending of his career as a footballer was when he became Waclaw Kuchar's assistant at Legia Warsaw in 1953. He becomes trainer of Morymont Warsaw and advances to II league. After these successes, he gets a proposal to take over the Polish National Team juniors in 1959. Later, he comes back to Legia Warsaw as first trainer and stays there until 1962. It is that he returns to becoming a trainer for Lublin and more specially Lublianka⁴³.

CONCLUSION

During the 1961 season, the weakened Lublinianka who plays in the II league after making an advancement and at the same time, losing a few of its regular players, begins receiving lower results, consequently making them appear at risk of being bumped to a lower league. Eventually, the club drops from the second league. For consolation, during this time Lublinianki juniors qualify to finals for the Polish Championship juniors, where they take third place. It was in that same season of 1961/1962 that Lublinianka attempts to return to the II league, but unfortunately fails to do so. Finally, a tie with Motor Lublin club 1: 1 and a loss in the second 0: 1 makes the club advance from "goat town" move up to the II league. Lublinianka, however, can afford good matches and proves this by playing with the Polish champion Górnik Zabrze by tying 2: 2⁴⁴.

The next match Lublinianka wins is with Ruch Chorzów 5: 1. Let's take into account that there are other sections at this club such as: basketball, judo, handball, weightlifting and sport shooting. Sport in Lubelszczyzna flourishes and expands to newer sections. During the remainder of 1963, WKS Lublinianka appoints Kazimierz Górski as trainer or "millennium" trainer with Józef Wiśniewski also being part of the team. The new trainer is set with a difficult task of advancing with team due to being regressed and the loss of key players. The advancement with Lubelszczyzna pride seemed unrealistic even for such a talented trainer that Kazimierz Górski undoubtedly was. The goal, however, was achieved and so at the end of the season, coach Górski introduces the team to the II league. In 1964, the trainer after a great promotion goes back to the Polish capital and trains the local Gwardię Warsaw. The team is led under his direction until 1966 where the team falls to the II league. In 1966, he receives an offer to train the Youth National team, meaning that the trainer has been noticed by the Polish Football Union, noting that not all trainers were so trusted⁴⁵.

⁴² Górski K. (1985), *Half a century with the ball*, Sport and Tourism, Warszawa, pp. 44-47.

⁴³ Grzegorzczak S., Lechowski J. (1992), *Secrets of Górski's coach: my 70's years*, Pasja, Warszawa, pp. 91-97.

⁴⁴ Górski K. (1974), *From the coach's bench*, Sport and Tourism, Warszawa, pp. 61-62.

⁴⁵ *Ibidem*, pp. 74-78.

Poland's Youth National team is lead by Górski until 1970. On the 1st of December 1970 trainer Kazimierz Górski becomes trainer to the first squad of the Polish National team. Within two years of work the trainer reaches for Olympic gold. In 1973, Górski's team stops England's representation in a memorable match in Chorzow and at Wembley we take away the winning draw 1-1. The trainer could lead a league team in addition to running the squad, allowed by the then regulations. Górski's coached the league LKS Łódź. It seems Kazimierz found a golden mean for boys from the team without the smallest problems, they have been promoted to World Championships. In 1974, the Polish National team led by Górski takes third place during the World Championships thus entering permanently into history of Polish football. Kazimierz Górski finishes work with the Polish National Team in 1976, winning a silver medal at the Olympic Games.

Successes and failures are covered by the memories of the trainer that took a team from Lubelszczyzna have reached world level, and were feared by other teams such as England and Germany. Memories that have become an inspiration for future football trainers.

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