

Jewish Sportsmen

Sports in Częstochowa were on a high level. The multitude of sports clubs produced sports champions in all fields. In football, the players of the Warta club distinguished themselves - the team's goalkeeper Kuba Szerer and the wingers Gewercman and Kornbrod. The striker Adolek Goldszajder drew particularly keen attention - upon him lay the entire burden of leading his team to victory by hitting shots into the opponents' goal. He was a well-trained sportsman, who scored goals from any position - and with either foot. In the stands, where he played, the spectators constantly yelled, "*Adolek, shoot!*" In tense moments, when Kuba Szerer, the goalie, had to defend against an 11 metre [penalty] shot, fanatical spectators would recite psalms.

In the spring of 1944, when [only] a small number of Częstochowa Jews were left alive after the massacres, *akcje* and selections and were barracked in the HASAG-Pelcery camp, a whole series of football teams were formed, according to the work departments. The initiators of the idea to form football teams in HASAG were Tadek Zylberszac, Mojsze Krauze, Hillel Gomulinski, Chaim Birenholc and Kadzidło. The teams were Construction, Transport, Recalibration, Toolmaking, Mechanical, Infantry and [Home] Economics.

The playing field was within the camp area, where the barracks stood. The procedures and rules of football were altered to some extent, because the field was too small. The pitch measured 27x47 [metres] and the goals 5x2.40. Instead of penalty kicks, there were free kicks. When a penalty was incurred in the opposing team's half of the pitch, the [free] kick [awarded] was a direct one.

In the football championship matches, the Transport and Construction teams held the first places. Transport also had a reserve team. The kit, or sports attire, was manufactured by the workshop tailors from old things, and the shoes were made by the workshop cobblers.

Players who attracted attention were

- from Transport – Kadzidło, Diamant, Pieprz and Gewercman; from Construction – the Secemski brothers;
- from Infantry – Orbach (now in Ichud¹ in Landsberg), Ofman (now in Makabi in Straubing) and the team's goalkeeper, Kuba Szerer;
- from Recalibration – Bolek Frajermauer who, on 15th January 1945, was evacuated to Buchenwald, from there sent to Dora and, later, to Bergen-Belsen. He contracted a lung disease and, following liberation, died in the English hospital in Celle, near Hannover.
- The referees were Rotsztajn, Grajcer and others.

The sports instructor Leon Wajs established a volleyball section for women. Fajwisz Altman made the hoop and the balls were "organised" by Bajgelman, who took them from the

¹ [TN: Heb., "Union"; a Jewish DP sports club, which had a football team, as did the subsequently mentioned Makabi in Straubing, near Munich.]

German gendarmerie's sports school. This section did not arouse any special interest with the women, due to the general depression and the tragic reality that had been cast upon them.