

Sport and Sportsmen



The “*Sefer Częstochowa*” Book Committee has turned to me, as one of the few Częstochowa sports activists remaining alive, with the request to document the history of sports and sportsmen in Częstochowa.

This was a difficult task for me for two reasons:

Firstly, it is difficult to grad oneself back to that teary horror and revive in one’s memory all those, mostly young and healthy, people who always showed their heroism, Jewish pride and strong will to live and to acquire as much glory for the Jewish People as possible (and who were so cruelly annihilated by the Nazi murderers).

Secondly, in order to write about all their activities over the course of almost an entire generation, I would need to write a separate, large book just for that – a “Memorial Book” of Jewish sport in Częstochowa.

However, as I cannot concede to Jewish sport and its activists not being immortalised, albeit briefly, in our “Memorial Book”, I have taken this difficult task upon myself and, with deep sorrow and pain, I write this history of those who were, and have remained, sacred and dear to each one of us!



Częstochowa was no different from other cities in Poland at the time when Jewish youth began to become interested in sport and it, too, soon created various sports clubs.

In this, the “Jewish Gymnastics-Sporting Association”^{*} earned the seat of honour. It arranged a good administration, first-class expert instructors and also a suitable venue, where normal activity could be conducted.

No less active was the “*Warta*” sports club, around which congregated the city’s most respected manufacturers, engineers and lawyers, who took their sports activity very seriously and dedicated much of their time and money to it.

They set up their own sports complex on ulica Koszarowa, in a Jewish area, thus also attracting a large section of the youth.

The two sporting associations, “*Ascola*” and the “*Błyskawica*” [Lightning] workers club, had experienced sports activists. However, the Częstochowa sporting youth were not satisfied with this and a whole series of small clubs were created, such as “*Jutrzenka*”^{**} [Pol.; Dawn, Aurora], “*HaKoach*” [Heb.; The Force], “*Gwiazda*” [Pol.; The Star], “*Szturm*” [Pol., Yid; Storm], “*Lauda*”, “*Sport*”, “*Gideon*”, “*Aviv*” [Heb.; Spring] and “*Nordia*”.

^{*} [Translator’s note: Żydowskie Towarzystwo Gimnastyczno-Sportowe in Polish – or “ŻTG-S”.]

^{**} [Translator’s note: On the following page, the author calls this club “*Jutrznia*” (Matins).]

Obviously, such a splintering of the sportsmen brought no benefit to the important matter and, due to lack of money and sports activists, these small clubs were soon liquidated and their members were "absorbed" by the ŻTG-S "*Warta*".

Several political parties attempted to establish their own sports clubs, such as "*Jutrznia*" (*Bund*), "*Nordia*" (*Beitar*), "*Gwiazda*" (*Poalei-Zion*, Left) and "*HaPoel*" [Heb.; The Worker] (*Poalei-Zion*, Right). However, all these clubs were not long-lived and were soon liquidated, yet their names must be mentioned!



Jewish and Polish sportsmen in Częstochowa enjoyed a very good relationship, to the extent that Jewish sports activists were even represented at general sporting trials and had a great influence there.

In the first instance, Mr Pinkus must be mentioned. He was the only Jew in the first Polish cycling association in Częstochowa (CTC) and he remained there even after the Jewish cycling association had been established.

We must also mention M. Hasenfeld of "*Warta*", who was President of the Kielce Football Association, Częstochowa division, Dr L. Goldman, Vice-President; Efraim Szmaragd, T. Kempner, [and] Benjamin Ferens, who were elected several times as members of the Association, as well as the writer of these lines, who was Secretary of the Football Association for several years, as well as that of the bureau for game and discipline; Daniel Markowicz - Chairman of the Football Referees Association (to the outbreak of the Second World War) and Szaję Gliksman, a member of the Disciplinary Bureau.

The Referees Panel included Orensztajn, Menachem Birnholc, Broniatowski, Józef Gitler, Grin, Binem Hofman, A. Horowicz, Henech Helman, Zimmel, Kempner, W. Rozenchwajg, Sztarkman, Leibel Szajkowicz, Natan and K. Szerer.

Bryll, Goldsztajn, Wajnberg, Wajs, Epszajin and Rajch were also active in various fields of Polish sports life, connected with the Polish sports associations.

At the end, I also wish to mention that Częstochowa was the first city in Poland to take the initiative to organise the Polish Table Tennis Association, and the first nationwide masters' competition took place at the Fire Department's hall in Częstochowa.

Its initiators were: A. Horowicz and Józef Gitler (from "*Warta*") and Chaim Birnholc (from "*Ascola*").

The Jewish Gymnastics-Sporting Association ŻTG-S

The revival of Jewish cultural-social life in Częstochowa also awakened, in the youth, a desire to develop a broad activity in physical culture.

According to the sources which I have been able to discover, I am able to affirm, with certainty, that the idea to create a sports movement amongst Jewish youth already originated back in the Tsarist period, prior to the outbreak of the First World War. However, as is known, the Tsarist government, which also ruled over Congress Poland, viewed any communal work with suspicion and saw in it signs of "*kramola*" [dissidence]. It therefore hindered, among others, those who organised sports.

It was only in 1915, when Poland was freed from the Russian yoke (although the German invaders ruled then in Poland), that the opportunity was finally created to do something for the physical development of our youth.

A group of young men, who gathered at the "*Lira*" Society and who were under the influence of the great philanthropist and friend of the Jewish masses, Mr Henryk Markusfeld, and were also supported generously by him, and who additionally had the use, on the other hand, of the Craftsmen's Club at ulica Ogrodowa 22, lay the foundation for the Jewish sports movement in Częstochowa.

These founders were Goldszajder, Gostynski, Szajewicz, Chrobołowski and Krauskopf. They founded the "Jewish Gymnastics-Sporting Association" in Częstochowa.

Henryk Markusfeld was chosen as Honorary President and the German gymnastics teacher Mr Holthausen also taught the first Jewish athletes.

Józef Aronowicz and Brum were delegates to the Central Association of the Jewish Sporting Societies in Poland, which was then in Łódź, and received its approval to open a division in Częstochowa.

The Jewish sportsmen's first public appearance was on *Lag BaOmer* [Jewish festivity in the summer].

The celebration was organised by the Zionist Organisation, with the participation of all the local Zionist groups, the high school, horticultural farms and scouting organisations.

A youth march was organised through the city's main streets and they marched with their blue-and-white flags to Błeszno, where the "Jewish Gymnastics-Sporting Association" conducted various sporting competitions and impressive entertainments.

This was the beginning of later intensive work, the most apparent results of which were shown at the Zagłębie Regional *Turnfest* [Ger.; Gymnastics Festival] tournament, in 1917, when the Częstochowa gymnasts Brum, Krakowiak and Fajga Sztajnic took first places in the competition.

The Polish-Bolshevik war in 1920 paralysed sports activity. The majority of members were mobilised and the venue at ulica Ogrodowa 22 was taken over by the military. However, immediately following the war, work was again renewed.

The gymnastics groups were directed by gymnastics instructor Marek Krakowiak.

Among the best gymnasts of the time were Helfgot, Wajnberg, Majorczyk, Fajga, Kelczygłowski, Rabinowicz, Rozenchwajg, Rajch, Szaja and Szlezinger.

Among the women, Giske, Zlotnik, Trajman, Mauer, Erlich and Szlezinger particularly distinguished themselves.

The annual tournament celebrations, held at the "Nowości" cinema and also at the city park, always produced excitement within the population due to their high standard and attracted new forces to the sporting movement.

Presidents of the association, Dr Hipolit Gajsler, Chaim Dawidowicz and the dentist Aron Perec, contributed greatly to the success.

Mr Szmerek [Shmaryahu] Chajutin performed the duties of president particularly well. Together with Szmul Nemirowski and Michał Ruzewicz, they very much raised the union's level. During their time, the unification with the Jewish Sports Club "*Jordania*" also transpired and the union's ten-year anniversary was held, which was celebrated with the participation of many guest athletes from different cities in Poland.

Also, at the "*Turnfest*" tournament of all Jewish gymnastics organisations in Poland, which was held in Łódź in 1928, our gymnasts received second place.



The union also had a band ensemble comprising forty members. It was conducted by Mr Rapackewicz, and later by the police band's conductor.

The ensemble was created thanks to the efforts of Sz. Chajutin and Dr L. Asz.

One of the ŻTG-S's interesting divisions was that of the cyclists, which existed from the beginning and until the unification with "*Maccabi*" and, afterwards, until the outbreak of the Second World War.

This division was headed by Józef Rozenberg and, among its members were Owieczka, Borzykowski, Brojn, Bryll, Goldfarb, Haftka, Hofman, Wolman, Wassermann, Wajnberg, Włodowski, Zuzowski, Tenenbaum, Laks, Mauer, Majerowicz, Epelbaum, Rabinowicz and Szacher distinguished themselves in particular.

Among the female cyclists, the best were Mses. Altman, Brojn, Nirenberg, Fajnrajch, Fichtencwajg, Fiszman and Szylit.

Larger outings were also organised (treks of up to 30 kilometres), in which all the Zagłębie cycling divisions participated and our cyclists always distinguished themselves.

After Mr Krakowiak had left his work at the ŻTG-S, Mr Dunter[?] from Bielsko-Biała took his place and the women's division was run by Miss H. Trajman.

For a short time, rhythmical gymnastics for women was taught by Mr Borzykowski, from "*HaKoach*" of Będzin.

The sudden death of Shmaryahu Chajutin z''l in 1929 paralysed work for a certain time. However, a little later, Dr L. Asz was placed at the top of the association and he carried out his work with the energetic participation of Szmul Nemirowski, Michał Ruzewicz, L. Wajs, Ruben Bryll, Fajga, Miss Trajman, Józef Rozenberg and Efroim Szmaragd (who was involved in Jewish sport in Częstochowa until his tragic death, when he was shot by the Nazi murderers together with his wife, the famous athlete Ms Nirenberg, and their son, when they hid themselves in a bunker).

The ŻTG-S also had a ladies' volleyball and basketball division, in which Mses. Hauptman, Wolman, Trajman, Jakubowicz, Lenkinska, Nirenberg, Kantor, Kornbrod, Rozenberg and Sztajer especially distinguished themselves.

There was also a division for men, where Binder, Wajnberg, Przerowski, Kaufman, Rajch and Szajn distinguished themselves. On many occasions, they took first place at meetings with players of other sporting unions.

The association also had an exercise group for male seniors which, during the winter, held gymnastic exercises twice weekly. They were conducted by instructors Wajs, Szaja and Szmaragd.

Such exercise groups were also arranged for older women.

Szmaragd, who himself was a good light [i.e., track and field] athlete, also created a fine athletics section. He saw in suitable candidates for athletics and took pains to teach and develop them.

In the middle of the night, one could see him running in the Częstochowa streets with his athletes, testing their running capabilities in order to advance them to serious running competitions!

Among the distinguished sportsmen of the athletics section were Zeligman, Jasiński, the Chwat brothers, Kaufman and Krauze.

For some time, he gave over a large section of his house on Aleja Wolności for gymnastic volleyball exercises, mainly those of the children's groups.

The merging of the ŻTG-S "*Warta*" with "*Ascola*" brought a positive, new change for the development of Jewish sport in Częstochowa.

Negotiations regarding this unification were conducted, on "*Warta's*" behalf, by Dr L. Asz, Szmul Nemirowski, A. Szmaragd, L. Wajs, Ruben Bryll and J. Fajga.

"Warta" Sports Club

The "*Warta*" Sports Club was in a fortunate situation. One of its best sportsmen, Efraim Szmaragd, provided it with a venue, at first at Aleja NMP 10 and, later, at the house of H. Ajzner, at Aleja NMP 23.

This enabled "*Warta*" to quickly develop, becoming the most active club in the entire Zagłębie region.

Although the assimilationist factions usually prevailed in this club, it was, after all, the glory and pride of Częstochowa Jewry and this enabled it to attract to its ranks Jewish youth from all circles.

At first, "*Warta*" specialised mainly in football and it won the Częstochowa championship several times, as well as receiving first place among the sports clubs of the Zagłębie region, to which Częstochowa formally belonged.

At that time, the administration comprised Raicom (long-serving *Prezes*), Dr L. Goldsztajn, S. Gajsler, Adv. Hasenfeld, the Zygmant brothers, W. Chajutin, Markowicz (owner of the factory in Gnaszyn), Adv. Markowicz, Alderman T. Fogelbaum, Pinkus, Kempner, T. Rotbart, Alderman P. Szpiro and Adv. Szperling.

"*Warta's*" patroness was Mrs Bela Zygmant.

Sporting affairs were organised by S. Gajsler, Adv. Hasenfeld, Daniel and S. Markowicz, Benjamin Ferens, Efraim Szmaragd and Natan Szechter.

We should also mention the names of the “Warta” footballers who distinguished themselves, in particular: B. Biber, Józef Goldman, Jakub Goldman, S. Markowicz, J. Kornbrod, L. Rozenberg, Z. Rotsztajn, A. Goldszajder, L. Gewercman, T. Grinberg, Traubman, Szusterman and K. Szerer.

“Warta” had several teams, including a “juniors” division, which was also finely represented. Of these, we must also mention Orensztajn, Biber, J. Broniatowski, L. Grundman, Dawid Diamant, M. Wajnsztok, J. Majer, Skweres, Natan Epsztajn, Kozusznik, Kempner, M. Rozenchwajg, the Rotsztajn brothers, Szmaragd, Natan Szerer, Michał Szperling and Szczupak.

“Warta” also played against the representatives of the Land of Israel once and won (2-1).



From 1928 onwards, after the city authorities had allocated it a sports-venue on ulica Koszarowa Street, “Warta” continued to expand and won a great victory over “Arlenta”^{*}.

Its further development was also greatly aided by a gift from its honorary member, Dr Batawja, who donated to it a spacious venue Aleja NMP 26. “Warta” conducted a variety of activities there. It also organised entertainment and brought over the operetta-theatre from Wilna, which performed there regularly. The notable artistic talents this theatre possessed attracted many visitors and brought the sports club large revenues.

Lectures on various topics were also arranged there, which provided the Częstochowa public with spiritual pleasure.

Thanks to its abundant income, “Warta” created various branches of sport.

In the athletics division, which was directed by Efroim Szmaragd Efrojm [here, surname], A. Goldszajder, S. Grajcer, Majorczyk, Engel, Forberg, the Rotsztajn brothers, Sztajer and Szmaragd distinguished themselves in various disciplines.

A good cyclists’ division was also organised, which was headed by the Częstochowa cycling veteran Pinkus and Mr Neznanowski.

“Warta” also had good basketball and volleyball teams, directed by H. Goldsztajn, and a good table tennis division, directed by A. Horowicz. Its first six representative players were Bieda, Gitler, Helman, Zamel, J. Zolkowicz and Miska.

Natan Epsztajn represented the fencing section and Mr Kozusznik tennis.

Later, “Warta” left its large venue at Aleja NMP 26 and [moved to] the municipal theatre’s premises (formerly the “Harmonia” hall), which later became, following the unification, “Maccabi’s” venue.

Negotiations regarding the unification and the conveyance of “Warta’s” assets to the Jewish Sports Club “Maccabi” were conducted by the “Warta” founders Dr Goldman, Adv. Hasenfeld, Daniel Markowicz, Alter Rotbart and Eng. Raicom.

^{*} [Translator’s note: A Polish football team. Spelled ארלענטא in Yiddish, the proper spelling of the name in Polish is as yet uncertain.]

The Jewish Sports Union “*Maccabi*”

One of the most beautiful chapters in the history of our city’s communal life was the merging of all the Jewish municipal sports clubs in 1933.

This unification inspired great satisfaction in almost all layers of Jewish society.

At the first unification-meeting, the Chairman of the Jewish *Kehilla*, Mr Jakób Rozenberg, was elected President of the unified administration. Vice-Presidents were Dr L. Asz, Dr Goldman, Szmul Nemirowski and Eng. Raicom and, members of the board of management were Chaim Birnholc, Ruben Bryll, L. Wajs, Natan Tajchner, Ms Trajman, Dr Epszajn, Jakób Fajga, Dr Kagan, Eng. Kisin and Alter Rotbart.

The administration chose a sports committee comprising Efroim Szmaraqd, as Chairman, and Ruben Bryll, Chaim Birnholc, H. Goldsztajn, A. Horowicz, L. Wajs, Ms Trajman, J. Fajga and Herman Szaja.

Separate representatives were also chosen:

- boxing and athletics: Efroim Szmaraqd
- gymnastics: Izaak Rabinowicz and Herman Szaja.
- football: A. Horowicz, Erlich and Ferens.
- women’s division: Ms Trajman and Ms Sztajer.
- table tennis: Gitler and Horowicz.
- skiing: Ruben Wajnberg.

Medical supervision of the athletes was entrusted to doctors L. Goldman, Tenenbaum, Nowak, Epszajn and Kagan.

Cultural work was directed by Dr L. Asz and Szmul Nemirowski. Every Saturday, in the late afternoon, they arranged an “*Oyneg Shabbes*” – lectures and singing of a mixed choir, directed by conductor Rotenberg.



*The Częstochowa ŻTG-S basketball team playing against the team of the 27th Infantry Regiment of the Polish military (before the game).
In the photo: Binder and Szajn (both in Israel), Przerowski, Kaufman, Wajnberg and Rajch*

* [Translator’s note: “*Oyneg Shabbes*”, literally “joy of the Sabbath” in Heb., refers here to a celebratory gathering held on Shabbes, usually with food, singing, etc.]

To mark the twentieth anniversary of Jewish sport in Częstochowa, in 1935, a gymnastics tournament was organised, with participation of almost all sports clubs in Zagłębie and Oberschlesien [Górny Śląsk]. This was organised by Henech Goldsztajn and Herman Szaja and took place at the municipal stadium, with the participation of the military orchestra of the 27th [Regiment of] infantrymen. However, the band refused to take part in "*Maccabi's*" march through the Częstochowa streets, from their venue to the stadium.

It should be noted that the Polish Sports Club "*Sokół*" participated in the celebration.

In 1934, boxers Binder and Szajn (who live now in Israel) were chosen to represent the Częstochowa "*Maccabi*" at the "*Maccabiada*"** in the Land of Israel.

At the celebratory *akademia* that was held that same year to propagate the "*Maccabi*" ideal, in which participated Magister Dykies [?] from the "*Maccabi*" Central Committee in Warsaw, the "*Maccabi*" members Szulim Przerowski, Izaak Rabinowicz and Nachman Sztajnhart were also approved for *Aliyah* to the Land of Israel.

In 1938, shortly before his *Aliyah* to the Land of Israel, at the initiative of the activist Ezriel Jakubowicz (now, in Israel, he is now called - E. Ben-Moshe), the mixed choir's activity was renewed, under directorship of the conductor Rozenwajn.

Shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, "*Maccabi's*" last annual general meeting was held, at which the following administration was elected (alphabetically [in Heb.]): Chaim Birnholc, Adv. L. Goldberg, H. Goldsztajn, Gomulinski, M. Działoszyński, Adv. Hocherman, Natan Tajchner, Dr Tenenbaum, Szmul Nemirowski, E. Erlich, Alter Rotbart and S. Sztencel.

The auditing committee comprised R. Bryll, L. Wajs, J. Fajga, E. Proport and M. Ruzewicz.

In the Court of Honour comprised J. Gitler, A. Zorski, Ms H. Trajman, the dentist A. Perec and Eng. Kisin.

The meeting unanimously elected Dr R. Asz and Jakób Fajga as honorary "*Maccabi*" members, in gratitude for their services over a number of years.

The Jewish Sport Club "*Ascola*"

This club was founded by a group of young people who lived in the vicinity of the *Stary Rynek* (the Old Market square).

Its founders were Zajnwel and Mojsze Berkowicz, Mojsze Tauzewicz, Izrail Tiberg, Dawid and Chaim Trembacki, Miska, Cudek Fajner and Henech Koplewicz.

These few, young men were very energetic and adept at organisational work. They succeeded in interesting the management of the Craftsmen's Union (which was located on Old Market 13, headed by Chaim Wajnsztok as *Prezes*, and Dawid Filipowicz and Daniel Dankewicz as *Vice-Prezesi*) in their plan and they immediately agreed to take the sport club (which, at first, was called "*Ha'Tzvi*" [The Deer]) under its guardianship.

** [Translator's note: Early form of the "*Maccabiah*" Jewish Olympics.]



The "Ascola" Sports Union in Częstochowa – the inauguration of the cycling-season in 1932. In the photo (alphabetically [in Heb.]): Urbach, Ofman, Borzykowski, Biber, two Birnholc, Perec Berliner, Berkowicz, Mrs Gotajner, Goldberg, two Chaskelewicz, Woznica, Winczman and Mrs Wajsblum, Wajsfelner, Wajcberg, Waldberg, Wolberg, Tauzewicz, Tiberg, two Trembacki, Luksemburg, Srebrnik, Erlich, Połoniec, Piłowski, Plawner, Falk, Frank, Fridman, Rozencwajg, Rajman, Szternberg and Szymonowicz

The Craftsmen's city council member Józef Goldberg also helped the club extensively.

The number of members grew consistently and the football division created a good atmosphere around itself, which made it possible to recruit members from various circles.

Its active members included J. Orbach, Aron Ajlenberg, J. Biber, A. Berliner, H., Z. and Ch. Gliksman, B. Hofman, A. Wolberg, A. Waldberg, M. Wajsberg, N. Zlotnik, M. Tauzewicz, W. and Ch. Trembacki, Jarkowizna, Z. Jurysta, Laswan [?], Najman, the Secemski brothers, H. Koplewicz, M. Kornberg, M. Rozenblum and N. Sztajnhart.

The administration also saw to the spiritual development of the members and, every Saturday, arranged meetings, which were directed by one of the pioneers training in Częstochowa.

The youth gladly came to hear this pioneer's lectures, which were rich in content and very much broadened the club members' knowledge.

Following the split in "Jordania", "Ascola" drew the best of its members from there to its ranks.

Chaim Birnholc and S. Goldberg began working energetically for the "Ascola" club and they were able to bring Dr Frankenberg, the Assistant Surgeon Moszkowicz and other respected figures in as honorary members.

A chess section was also created, which developed nicely.

In order to increase its income, the "Ascola" Sports Club also began organising balls and events, which brought it such a large revenue, that it was able to rent its own venue at Aleja Wolności 37 and to purchase necessary sports equipment. It also opened a table tennis section and organised a

fine cycling division, which was directed by the *Prezes* Leibel Herc and Motl Wajsblum. This division participated in 30 km. sprinting-wagers [races?], which were organised by the Zionist weekly, "*Unser Weg*".

The writer of these lines represented the club at the Kielce Football Association.

(He performed the duties of Secretary from 1938 until the outbreak of the Second World War, which brought an end to the Jewish people in Poland and also destroyed all that the Jews had built and owned.

Prior to that downfall, "*Ascola*" was affiliated with the Central "*Maccabi*" Association).

"*Gideon*", "*Polonia*", "*Jordania*"

The ŻTG-S was a force and a guide for Jewish youth in the field of gymnastics.

Following the Polish-Bolshevik war, in the Jewish street (and in the Polish one as well), there was a distinct urge to open and develop the sporting movement among various clubs, as well as in the Jewish middle-schools.

It was thus that the "*Gideon*" Sports Club was founded then by the Craft's School. Among its players were S. Goldberg, Woznica, Zandberg, Zilberszac, E. and R. Rozencwajg, the Słomkowicz brothers, as well as Jakubowicz, Manela, Siwan [?] and Koniarski (Sosnowiec lads who were studying in Częstochowa), who particularly distinguished themselves.

Upon finishing the school, the graduate-sportsmen turned into "*Polonia*", carrying their registration through under the name... "*Jordania*"!

They conducted their activities at the "*Poalei Zion*" Right venue on ulica Garibaldiiego. Their first administration comprised Chaim Birnholc, Herszel Blanger [?], Jakób Hofman, Herszel Zajdman, Józef Epszajn, Ziskind Fridrich and Mendel Rechnic.

For financial reasons, "*Jordania*" translocated to the venue of "*Poalei Zion*" Left, at Aleja 12.

At the time, "*Jordania*" was represented in its matches against other groups by players W. Orzechowski, L. Goldberg, M. Gewercman, Gersztajn, K. Grinberg, Zandberg, L. Zilbersztajn, J. Tauzewicz, J. Czarnylas, the Jakubowicz brothers, J. Nudelman, I.M. Estrajch, P. Fridenberg, Sz. Kaufman, Kempner and E. Rozencwajg, as well as members Cukerman and Cincinatus from Radomsko, who would come over to play in different "*Jordania*" matches.

"*Jordania*" was mainly involved in football competitions. Its attempt to organise a cyclists' section did not succeed.

Following a demand from "*Poalei Zion*" Left, in accordance with the instructions from their Central Committee that "*Jordania*" should also participate in this party's sporting activities among its Polish members, "*Jordania*" was liquidated and became included in the ŻTG-S.

"*Maccabi*", "*Sport*", "*Lauda*", "*Szturm*", "*Aviv*" and "*Gwiazda*"

In the early 1920's, various small sports clubs began organising themselves in Częstochowa but, due to various reasons and above all owing to the scant interest these "little creatures" aroused in the

youth and, more importantly, due to the lack of appropriate sports venues and financial resources, they were forced to quickly liquidate.

"Maccabi" and its clubs were the exception. They were located near the Jewish high school and recruited their members and players from among the pupils, especially from the lower classes.

Their main players were: Lateiner, S. Haftka, Zytnicki, L. Zilbersztajn, G. Lerner, Najman, Salat and Rzezak.



The pupils of the higher classes, as well as the Jewish pupils of the Polish high schools, were concentrated in *"Sport"* and *"Lauda"*.

Their main players were Goldman, Goldszajder, Gewercman, Hauptman, Epszajn, Kornbrod, Rozencwajg and both Rotsztajns.



Youth from ulica Warszawska and its vicinity mainly took part in *"Szturm"*. Its main players were Bajgelman and Herszel Gotajner.



Youth of the *"Herzliya"* organisation took part in *"Aviv"* participated. Sadly, I do not remember the names of their main players.



"Gwiazda" was comprised main of members drawn from ulica Garncarska Street and its vicinity. Their players were Dawid Birnholc, Berliner, Jasnowski, Dawid Federman and Karmazin.

The matches of these sport unions always took place either at the Old Market where, each time, they would be pounded with stones by Polish hooligans, or at the municipal stadium, where the Polish "guards" kept order for the payment of handsome bribes.

Such a situation could not last long and everything was liquidated.

The Workers' Sport Club *"Admira"*

As I have mentioned already, together with the foundation of burghers' sport clubs, separate workers' sport clubs were also established. The most important among them was the workers' sport club *"Admira"*.

This club began its activity back in the 1920's under the name *"Ognisko"* [Pol.; Fire]. Owing to annoyances on the part of the Polish authorities, the club was often forced to change its name - earlier to *"Splendid"*, later to *"Błyskawica"* and, lastly, to *"Admira"*.

The club's organisers were Owieczka, Urbach, Berkensztadt, Glikman, Grin, A. Domb, Włoch, Zawadzki, Tendler, Secemski, Lewi and Szmul Essig, Majer Rozenberg, Szaja, Szwarc, Sztajer and Szlimmer.

The club was under the influence of the independent socialist party “*Vereinigt*”, which was headed by Dr Józef Kruk and Dudek Szlezinger.

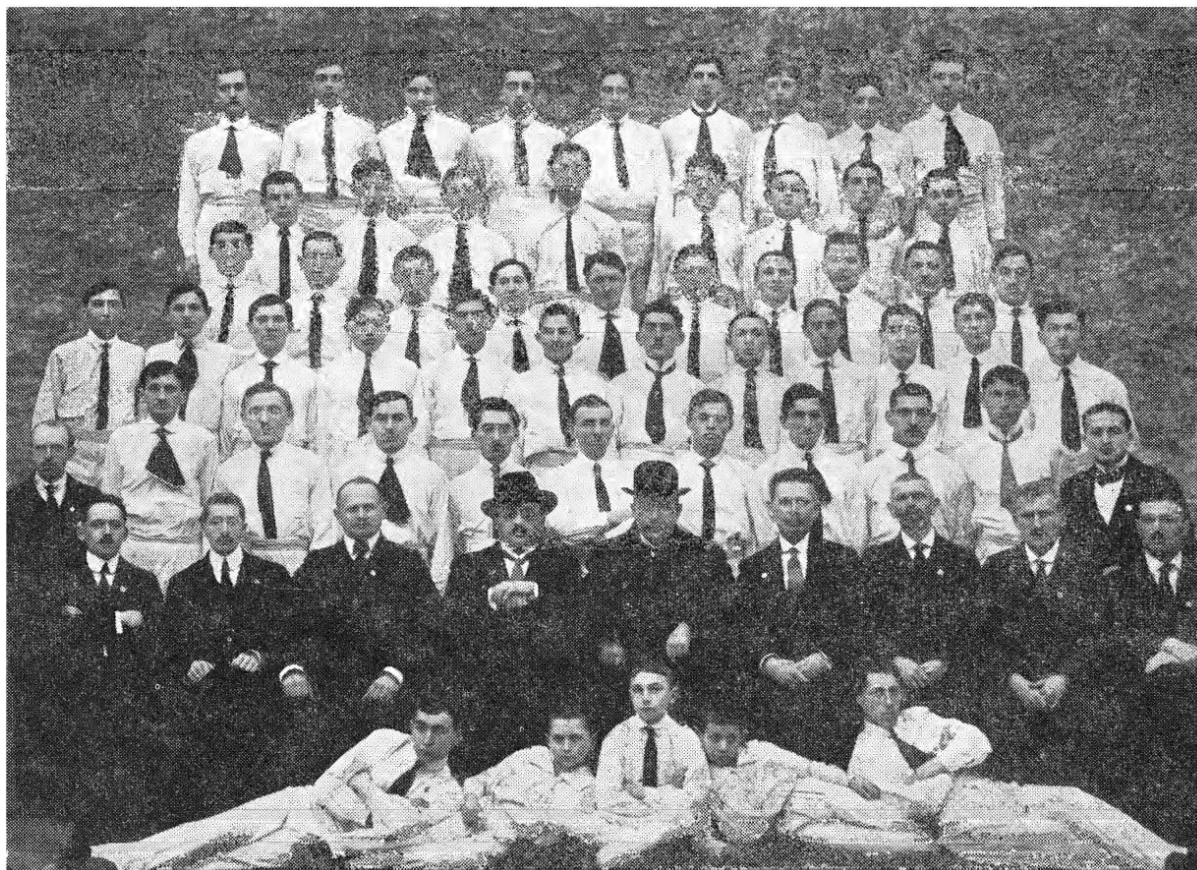
“*Admira*” was loved within Polish and Jewish workers’ circles and among a part of the bourgeois elements for its energetic and ambitious demeanour in different sports competitions.

Its member Glikman was its representative in the Kielce Football Association.

Among its table tennis players, Ch. Kenigsberg distinguished himself.

On the last Saturday before the outbreak of the Second World War, “*Admira*” excelled in a match and ascended to [The Football Association’s] “A” grade.

(But, with that, its existence ended, together with everything that was Jewish. The Nazis put an end to it all!)



Częstochowa ŻTG-S in 1914

- 1st row (laying beneath from right to left):** Unknown, Gostynski (the younger), Kempner, Goldszajder (the younger) and Kremski.
- 2nd row (sitting):** Gotajner, Krauskopf, Szlezinger, Gostynski, Henryk Markusfeld, Maurycy Neufeld, Goldszajder, Eng. Assorodobraj and Lemel.
- 3rd row (standing):** Szmulewicz, Klajnman, Lemel, Brum, Sztajnic, Brum, Lemel, Gotajner, Filipowicz, Mas and Mark Asz.
- 4th row (standing):** Dr Horowicz, Chaskewicz, Unknown, Braun, Helfgot, Krauze, Szlezinger, infantryman Alter, Częstochowski and two Unknown.
- 5th row (standing):** Szaja, Kempner, Proport and Unknown, Goldberg, Kaufman, Unknown, Urbach and Szajewicz.
- 6th row (standing):** two Unknown, Lewkowicz, Oderberg, Storozum, two Unknown, Rubinsztajn and Simche Rajch.
- 7th row (standing):** Unknown, Krauskopf, two Unknown, Szlezinger, Lemel, Rozencwajg, Szmarak and Unknown.