



Football in a multiethnic society of Ternopil Province in the years 1920-1939

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Abstract The objective of this study is to present the sports discipline of football in a multiethnic society within Ternopil Province during the years 1920-1939. The area of Ternopil Province was located in the south-eastern part of the Second Polish Republic, and sports clubs and associations within the province that ran football sections were affiliated with the Lviv Regional Football Association (Lviv OZPN). The establishment of the aforementioned sub-region had a positive impact on the development of football in the area discussed, with the number of clubs and associations running football sections increasing in the 1920s and 1930s. Football was played by Polish, Ukrainian and Jewish citizens inhabiting Ternopil Province. This proliferation of clubs contributed to an enhancement in the calibre of football in Ternopil province. The following football teams were the most prominent in Ternopil province: the Military-Civilian Sports Club (Wojskowo-Cywilny Klub Sportowy – WCKS) Kresy Tarnopol, WCKS Janina Złoczów – uniting Polish citizens; the Jewish Sports Club (Żydowski Klub Sportowy (ŻKS) Jehuda Tarnopol, ŻKS Złoczów – uniting Jewish citizens, and the Ukrainian Sports Association (Ukraińskie Sportowe Towarzystwo) Podilla Tarnopol – uniting Ukrainian citizens. In the years 1927-1930, the footballers of Janina Złoczów played in class A (the highest class) matches of the Lviv OZPN.

Keywords: Poland, the Province of Ternopil, the interwar period, sport, football

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INTRODUCTION

The establishment of Ternopil Province occurred on 23 December 1920. The conclusion of the project occurred in September 1939, coinciding with the German invasion on the 1st of that month and the subsequent Soviet aggression. In the aftermath of these operations, the area of Southeastern Borderlands, including Ternopil province, was occupied by the Soviet Union. Ternopil province was located in the south-eastern part of the Second Polish Republic. The eastern border of the province of Ternopil was defined by the border between the Polish Republic and the Soviet Union. The province's area was 16,533 km² and its population was 1,600,400 according to the 1931 census [1]. The following districts were incorporated into Ternopil province: Borshchiv, Brody, Berezhany, Buchach, Chortkiv, Kamionka, Kopychintsy, Podgaytsy, Peremyshlyany, Radekhov, Skalat, Ternopil, Terebovlya, Salischtschyky, Zbarazh, Zborov, Zolochiv [2]. The province's urban population accounted for 16.8 percent of the total population. The province's society was multiethnic. The province of Ternopil was inhabited by Polish (49.3%, i.e. 789.1 thousand inhabitants), Ukrainian (45.5%, i.e. 728.1 thousand inhabitants) and Jewish (4.93%, i.e. 78.9 thousand inhabitants) citizens. It is noteworthy that Ternopil province was among the borderland provinces in Poland with the highest percentage of Polish inhabitants. For instance, in the neighbouring province of Volhynia, the Polish population accounted for 16.6% of the inhabitants, in the province of Stanisławów it was 22.4%, and in the province of Lviv it was 57.7% [1]. In the province of Ternopil, sports activities were pursued by various clubs, sports and social associations that operated among Polish, Ukrainian and Jewish inhabitants. It is noteworthy that this activity transpired in both urban and rural areas [3, 4].

With regard to the period under discussion, scientific research has seldom concentrated on the subject of society's sporting activity in this area. With regard to state of the art, the publications by Teresa Drozdek-Małolepsza, Eligiusz Małolepszy and Stanisław Zaborniak [4-6] are of the greatest cognitive significance.

The beginnings of football in the Land of Ternopil (the territory of the province of Ternopil during the interwar period) date back to the time before the outbreak of World War I. At the end of the first decade of the 20th century, football sections were established in sports clubs Kresy Tarnopol (for the Polish community, established in 1907) and Podilla Tarnopol (for the Ukrainian community, established in 1908) [7]. Moreover, prior to the onset of the First World War in 1910, the Jewish Sports Club (ŻKS) Jehuda Tarnopol was founded. In August 1909, the footballers of Kresy and Podilla competed in two matches. Both of these matches were won by Kresy Tarnopol [8]. The following individuals participated in the matches on the Podilla team: Oleksandr Bilińskij, Michajło Dobromil, Osip Grinkiewicz, Wołodimir Malis, Andrij Fil, Petro Stadnik, Michajło Witoszynskij, Iwan Nazarewicz, Petro Wacik, Iwan Ogar, Wołodymir Dudik. In September 1913, a football tournament was held in Ternopil with the objective of selecting the best team. The victors were the footballers of Kresy Tarnopol, with the runners-up being ŻKS Jehuda and the team of Podilla, respectively [8]. In 1913, the football section of Kresy Tarnopol comprised eight teams and eighty players. Notably, three teams were fully equipped with sports attire and equipment, indicating a commitment to competitive excellence. It is also noteworthy that Kresy had its own sports stadium, a fact that further underscores the organisation's commitment to athletic excellence [9]. In the period between May and June of 1914, a football tournament was held with the participation of Ukrainian teams, including the Ukrainian Sports Club (USC) Lviv, Ukraina Lwów, Sianowa Czajka Przemyśl, and Podilla Tarnopol. The Podilla team secured third place, achieving victories over Sianowa Czajka and drawing with the USC team, while succumbing to Ukraina Lwów [8]. The objective of the present article is to expound the role and significance of football competition in the multiethnic society of the Ternopil region during the period 1920-1939. The article poses the following research questions:

1. What was the organisational and sports level of football in the province of Ternopil in the years 1920-1939?
2. Which factors influenced the development of football in the province of Ternopil?
3. Finally, the article will examine which football teams were among the most successful among Polish, Ukrainian, and Jewish inhabitants?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The following methods were employed in the preparation of this article: analysis of historical sources, synthesis, induction, deduction and the comparative method. The comparative method proved instrumental in ascertaining the state and structure of football with regard to neighbouring provinces, especially the provinces of Lviv and Stanisławów. The article was grounded in both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources included printed materials and press documentation (among others communications Lviv Regional Football Association; First Polish Sports Annual 1925; Sports Annual 1934; Polish Football Association Annual and magazine „Przegląd Sportowy”) that had not been previously utilised within the context of contemporary research.

FINDINGS

In the province of Ternopil, a wide range of sports and social clubs and associations were in operation, offering a diverse selection of activities across various sports disciplines. These included equestrian sports, team sports, water sports, winter sports, cycling, shooting, and gliding. Women participated actively in these sporting activities. However, it is noteworthy that they did not engage in football [9].

After Poland regained independence on 20 December 1919, the Polish Football Association (Polski Związek Piłki Nożnej) was established in Warsaw, accompanied by the formation of five regional football associations: the Cracow, Lviv, Łódź, Poznań, and Warsaw associations [10]. Consequently, a set of regulations and bylaws concerning the football competition system were drawn up. The regional boards were obliged to organise competitions at three levels: A, B, and C. The top-performing teams from each region (the champions of Class A) then competed for the Polish championship. The inaugural Polish football champion was determined in 1921, with the team from Cracovia Kraków emerging as the inaugural Polish champions. This system remained in place until 1927, when a national league was established. The inaugural season of this new league featured fourteen teams, with Wisła Kraków ultimately emerging victorious and securing the Polish championship title. The top teams from the regional competitions, as determined through a series of playoff matches, were promoted to the national league [13]. The football departments of sports clubs and associations in the Ternopil region belonged to the Lviv Regional Football Association (Lviv OZPN), which began its activities when the Polish Football Association (PZPN) was established in December 1919 [11,12]. In fact, the region began its activities in 1920 [13]. The head of the region, which included seven clubs with football departments, was Władysław Chojnacki, who played for the Lviv Sports Club (LKS) Czarni. The activity of the Lviv OZPN covered the provinces of Lviv, Stanisławów, Ternopil and Wolhynia (in the years 1928-1930). In 1922, the number of clubs in the region grew to 29; in 1923, there were already 44 teams (6 teams in the A division, 18 teams in the B division and 20 teams in the C division); in 1924, the number of clubs reached 59 [13].

In 1925 the Lviv OZPN united 94 football sections of sports clubs and associations and counted 2720 footballers (6 teams played in class A, 25 teams in class B and 63 teams in class C). Tadeusz Drągiewicz was appointed as the head of the region, and sub-regions were created to facilitate sports competition. The football teams of the Stanislawowo and

Ternopil provinces formed a playing sub-region [11,13]. The creation of playing sub-regions facilitated the development of football and, above all, motivated local activists to create new football teams. In the following year, 1926, the number of clubs participating in the league grew to 98, and in 1930 the number of footballers increased to 4180. In the third decade of the 20th century, more referees joined the Regional College of Football Referees (OKS) in Lviv; by 1930, the organisation had 102 referees [12].

In the first half of the twenties of the twentieth century, the following clubs and associations had football departments in the Ternopil province: Lubicz Brody, Jewish Sports Club (Żydowski Klub Sportowy - ŻKS) Hakoach Brody, Sports Club (Klub Sportowy - KS) Sieniawa Brzeżany, ŻKS Brzeżany, Polish Sports Club (Policyjny Klub Sportowy - PKS) Kresy Tarnopol, PKS Zarudzianka Tarnopol, ŻKS Gideon Tarnopol, ŻKS JehudaTarnopol, Sports Club KS Złoczowski Złoczów, PKS Janina Złoczów, ŻKS Scholder Izrael Złoczów[9]. From 1930 the Lviv OZPN united the following clubs and associations from the area of the Ternopil province ŻKS Brzeżany, ŻKS JechudaTarnopol, Wojskowo-CywilnyKlubSportowy (WCKS) KresyTarnopol, UkraińskieSportoweTowarzystwo (UST) PodillaTarnopol, ŻKS Gordon Tarnopol, Żydowski Robotniczy Klub Sportowy (ŻRKS) Tarnopol, PKS Janina Złoczów, ŻTGS Złoczów, PDS Strzelec Złoczów [4, 12].

As for the teams from the Ternopil province that played in the B division of the Lviv OZPN, in 1923 it was PKS Kresy Tarnopol; PKS Jehuda Tarnopol, SKS Złoczovia Złoczów, ŻKS Złoczów, KS Sieniawa Brzeżany, KS Lubicz Brody, PKS Hakoach Brody in the C division, PKS Zarudzianka Tarnopol (from 1924 it was called Podolski Klub Sportowy Legion Tarnopol), Złoczowski Klub Sportowy (ZKS) Aurora Złoczów, PKS Janina Złoczów, ŻKS Brzeżany [14].

The best football team in the Ternopil province in the decade of the 20s of the 20th century was Janina Złoczów and its footballers. In 1923 they played in the C class, and in 1925 in the B class. From the 1927 season they played in the A division of the Lviv OZPN. They finished the 1927 season in third place, behind only two Lviv clubs, WKS and Lechia. It was the best result of the Ternopil team in the league in the inter-war period. It should be noted that the A league was the highest level of play for the Lviv OZPN [14]. In the following seasons, Janina won the fifth place in 1928 and the fourth place in 1929 (Table 1). In the sports season of 1930 it occupied the last, ninth place in the class A matches of the Lviv OZPN, winning two matches, drawing one and losing 13 of them. It was relegated to the B division of the Lviv OZPN [15].

In 1928, the team of ŻKS Złoczów won the matches of the B league (Ternopil group), beating Kresy Tarnopol and Jehuda Tarnopol. The team from Złoczów took part in the competition (final group) for promotion to the A division of the Lviv OZPN and finished fourth. The first two places went to Resovia Rzeszów, who beat KS Hakoach Stanisławów and Biały Orzeł Lwów. In the following years (1929-1930), the Class B competitions (Ternopil Group) were won by the teams of Jehuda Tarnopol and Żydowskie Towarzystwo Gimnastyczno-Sportowe (ŻTGS) Złoczów. The aforementioned teams finished bottom of the Lviv OZPN standings in the final qualifying round for the A Division [15]. These results might indicate a lower level of football in Ternopil in comparison to the teams from Lviv and Stanislawowo.

Table 1. The table of final class A matches (group I) of the Lviv OZPN in the season of 1929

Place	Team's name	Number of matches	Number of points	Goal ratio
1	Polonia Przemyśl	10	18	29:10
2	Pogoń II Lwów	10	14	24:12
3	Janina Złoczów	10	10	19:21
4	Resovia Rzeszów	10	7	19:23
5	Hasmonea Lwów	10	7	13:24
6	AZS Lwów	10	4	9:23

Source: The Lviv Regional Football Association, the Board's Announcement no 37 of 10 January 1930 r.

On 21 July 1921, a meeting was held in the State Middle School No. 2 in Ternopil, at which the Kresy Tarnopol (Borderland Ternopil) Football Club was reactivated [9] and Włodzimierz Lenkiewicz was appointed its leader. The team of Kresy Tarnopol played in the league of the Lviv OZPN from the season of 1921, participating in the matches of the C class, and from 1923 in the matches of the B class. In 1922 the team consisted of the following players, among others Dionizy Balicki (goalkeeper), Stefan Domaradzki, Tkaczuk (defenders), Chamala, Kubasiewicz, Soroka (midfielders), Mikołaj Bigda, Stanisław Bigda, Adam Frey, Wohner, Władysław Zelenay (strikers)[9]. The 1928 Kresy Tarnopol team consisted of the following players Władysław Bałaj, Stanisław Bigda, Stefan Domaradzki, Adam Frey, Marian Iwanicki, Kurc, Kielbusiewicz, Władysław Kruczkowski, Pączek, Romański, Tadeusz Sochacki, Szymański, Ślepicki, Wohner and Witkowski [9]. On 11 May 1931 the two clubs, the Military Sports Club (Wojskowy Klub Sportowy - WKS) 54 pp. (54th Infantry Regiment) Tarnopol and Kresy Tarnopol, merged into one and adopted the name WCKS Kresy Tarnopol.

In 1929 the following teams from the Ternopil province took part in the sports competitions of the Lviv OZPN: in class A - Janina Złoczów; in class B - KS Aurora Złoczów, KS Jehuda Tarnopol, KS Kresy Tarnopol, KS Złoczów; in class C - KS Czortkowie Czortków, ŻKS Gordon Tarnopol, KS Strzelec Tarnopol, SKS Sieniawa Brzeżany, ŻTG Brody, ŻKS Brzeżany, Żydowski RKS Tarnopol [16]. Due to transport problems, the Czortkowie Czortków team was assigned to the Stanislawowo sub-region in the competition system. In April 1929 the club's name was changed from PKS Janina Złoczów to WCKS Janina Złoczów, and in May 1929 the club's name was changed from ŻKS Brzeżany to ŻKS Trumpeldor Brzeżany.

In April 1928, within the framework of the Lviv OZPN, the Ternopil football sub-region was established for the B and C divisions [9]. The first head of the sub-region was Colonel Władysław Langer, while Kołodziej became its secretary. From 1928 there was a delegation of the Regional College of Football Referees (OKS) on the territory of Ternopil province. The delegation of the OKS had its seat in the WKS 54 building in Ternopil. Captain Władysław Kruczkowski [17] was in charge of the delegation in 1929. The OKS delegation in Ternopil included the following members - referees (as temporary referees) Mikołaj Bigda, Stanisław Bigda, Cpt. Władysław Kruczkowski, Cpt. Tadeusz Lacheta.

An important factor in the development of football in the south-eastern borderlands of the Second Polish Republic was the participation of Ukrainian community sports clubs in football competitions [8]. For political reasons, Ukrainian clubs did not participate in the league between 1921 and 1927. Only in 1928 did they take part in official sports competitions (Ukraine Lwów competed in Class A of the Lviv region). UST Podilla Tarnopol did not take part in Class C matches in the Ternopil sub-region until the 1930 season. The participation of Ukrainian community teams helped to raise the level of football competitions in the Lviv region, including the Ternopil sub-region.

"Rocznik Sportowy" of 1934 wrote about the following sports clubs and associations from the area of Ternopil province that belonged to the Lviv OZPN: ŻKS Gordon Tarnopol, WCKS Janina Złoczów, ŻKS Jehuda Tarnopol, Police Sports Club (Policyjny Klub Sportowy- PKS) Kresowiaczy Zbaraż, WCKS Kresy 54 pp. Tarnopol, Podolski KS Legion Tarnopol, UST Podilla Tarnopol, PDS Strzelec Złoczów, KS Strzelec Czortków, KS Trembowelski Trembowla, ŻKS Trumpeldor Kopyczyńce, Robotniczy Klub Sportowy-RKS) Żydowski Tarnopol [18]. It should be noted that the Lviv OZPN was the second in Poland, after the Silesian OZPN, in terms of the number of clubs and associations with football departments. It gathered 126 football sections in sports clubs and associations. On 21 March 1934, the PZPN Board made a very important decision for the operation of the regional associations by establishing the Stanislawowo OZPN [13]. The newly established region had to deal with organisational issues, i.e. applications to be considered at the PZPN General Assembly on 16-17 February 1935, from new prospective clubs and associations with football sections from Chodorov, Stryj and Zhydachiv that wanted to join the Stanislawowo OZPN [19]. The applications of the clubs and associations from Stryj and

Zhydachiv to join the OZPN were justified, as these towns were located in the province of Stanislawow. There were doubts about Chodorov, as it was in the Bobrka district. The lack of written sources does not allow to specify the end of the discrepancy between the Lviv and Stanislawow OZPN.

In 1934 the Lviv OZPN covered the area of the Lviv and Ternopil provinces. Beginning with the 1934 sports season, the highest division of the Lviv OZPN was established - the regional league [20]. The first competition of the regional league was won by the footballers of Czarni Lvov. Lviv OZPN was the first to introduce a regional league in the structure of the PZPN.

The provinces of Ternopil and Novograd were the only ones not to have independent regional football structures in Poland during the inter-war period. The establishment of the Stanislawow OZPN helped the teams from Ternopil province to some extent in their struggle for promotion to the top division of the Lviv OZPN, as the football teams from Stanislawow province participated in the football matches of the newly established region. On 30 April 1933 a new board of the Ternopil Football Sub-region was elected, consisting of the following members Waclaw Żyborski (chairman), Karol Sternschuss (vice-chairman), Lucjan Giziński (secretary), Stefan Bakalczuk (treasurer), Wojciech Pelczarski, Nyczka and Karol Wajrauch (members)[9]. The seat of the Subregion was located at 47 Mickiewicza Street in Ternopil.

In the years 1931-1934, the best team in the Lviv OZPN B division (in the Ternopil group) were the footballers from Janina Złoczów (Table 2). As the champions of the B league, they often played in the finals for promotion to the A league of the Lviv OZPN (the regional league from the 1934 season). Janina footballers achieved their best results in 1931-1932 and 1934, when they finished third (photo 1) [15]. In 1934, seven teams took part in the promotion matches of the regional league of the Lviv OZPN. Pogoń Stryj's team won the championship, beating Czuwaj Przemyśl and Janina Złoczów. Other places went to Biały Orzeł Lwów, Towarzystwo Szkoły Ludowej (TSL) Lwów and Korona Sambor.

Apart from Janina Złoczów's team, the following teams belonged to the top football teams of the Tarnopil province in 1931-1934: Jehuda Tarnopol, Kresy Tarnopol, Podilla Tarnopol, RKS Żydowski Tarnopol, KS Strzelec Czortków, Towarzystwo Gimnastyczne (TG) Sokół Czortków, WKS 54 pp. Tarnopol, ŻKS Złoczów [15].

Class A matches of the Ternopil sub-region (belonging to the Lviv OZPN) were organised for the first time in the 1935 season. The teams of WCKS Janina Złoczów, ŻKS Jehuda Tarnopol, UST Podilla Tarnopol (photo 2) and WCKS Kresy Tarnopol took part in the tournament. The footballers of ŻKS Jehuda Tarnopol became the champions of the Ternopil sub-region. The team of ŻKS Jehuda Tarnopol consisted of Safia, Denker, Hornung, Katz I, Katz II, Barban, Kuj, Wagszal, Epstein, Likenfeld, Finkelstein, Kelber, Friedman. Gruberg was the team captain. The best teams of the Ternopil sub-region in the following seasons were WCKS Kresy Tarnopol in the 1936/1937 season, ŻKS Jehuda Tarnopol in the 1937/1938 season, ŻKS Janina Złoczów in the 1938/1939 season [8].

Table 2. The table of final class B matches (Ternopil group) in the season of 1933

Place	Team's name	Number of matches	Number of points	Goal ratio
1	Janina Złoczów	10	17	37:6
2	Jehuda Tarnopol	10	14	19:11
3	Kresy Tarnopol	10	11	14:12
4	Podilla Tarnopol	10	11	14:15
5	RKS Żydowski Tarnopol	10	7	14:27
6	Strzelec Czortków	10	0	2:29

Source: Мандзюк Д., Копанийм'яч. Коротка історія українського футболу в Галичині 1909-1944 (Football. A Short History of Ukrainian Football in Galicia, 1909-1944 - in English), Львів: Видавництво Старово Лева; 2016 [in Ukrainian]



Photo 1. Football team of the WCKS "Janina" Złoczów – 1934. Source: Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe [in Polish] (National Digital Archives), sign. 1-S-2023.



Photo 2. Football team of Podilla Sports Club Legion Tarnopol – 1935. Source: Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe [in Polish] National Digital Archives, sign. 1-S-2041.

In the Ternopil sub-region of the Lviv OZPN, the A, B and C divisions were played from 1935. In the A league the number of participating teams increased: in the 1935 season there were four teams, in the 1936-1937 season - five teams, in the 1937-1938 season - six teams, in the 1938-1939 season - seven teams [8]. In the 1938-1939 season, in addition to Janina Złoczów, the following teams played in the first division: Jehuda Tarnopol, Legion Tarnopol, Kresy Tarnopol, Podilla Tarnopol, Sparta Trembowla, WCKS Brody. After the autumn round of the 1938-1939 season, Jehuda led the Ternopil First Division (11 points), followed by Janina (10 points), Legion (9 points), Kresy (6 points), Sparta Trembowla (3 points), WCKS Brody (2 points), Podilla (1 point) [9].

The Class A champions of the Ternopil sub-region competed in bar play-offs for a place in the Lviv OZPN regional league. The regional competition structure consisted of four Class A groups. The best results were achieved by teams from Ternopil in 1935, 1936 and 1937. In 1935, ŻKS Jehuda Tarnopol won the third place in the play-offs, beating Robotniczy Klub Sportowy (RKS) Lwów and Korona Sambor. In the 1936-1937 season, the footballers of WCKS Kresy Tarnopol finished second in the Bar Playoffs, with WCKS Junak Drohobycz winning the championship [15]. In this competition, the footballers from Kresy beat the team from Biały Orzeł Lwów twice in the semi-finals (4:3, 4:1). The success of the Kresy footballers was due to the excellent work of the head of the football department, Colonel Stefan Domaradzki, who was appointed in 1934. In 1936, the football department of WCKS Kresy Tarnopol counted 106 footballers in three senior teams and one junior team [9]. It is worth mentioning that in the 1937-1938 season the Junak-Drohobycz team finished seventh out of 14 teams competing in the regional league of the Lviv OZPN, while the following year it became the champion of the regional league of the Lviv OZPN. In the play-offs held in 1936, 1937-1938 and 1938-1939, the champions of the Ternopil sub-region took the fourth and final place.

In 1938, the young footballers of UST Podilla Tarnopol proved to be the best in the Ternopil sub-region and were promoted to the final tournament of the Lviv OZPN, which was held in July 1938 and in which, apart from Podilla Tarnopol, the teams of Resovia Rzeszów, Junak Drohobycz and Lechia Lwów also took part. The footballers of Resovia Rzeszów became the junior champions of the Lviv OZPN, beating Junak Drohobycz, while the young footballers of Podilla Tarnopol came third [8].

In the years 1921-1939, the league matches of the Lviv OZPN in the Ternopil province area were played with the participation of the football sections of the following clubs and associations WCKS Kresy Tarnopol, WCKS Janina Złoczów (the club was founded under the name Złoczovia Złoczów), Gwiazda Brody, ŻKS Jehuda Tarnopol, PKS Kresowiaczy Zbaraż, SKS Sieniawa Brzeżany, Legion Tarnopol, Lubicz Brody, Ukrainian Workers' Sport Association (USRT) Meta Tarnopol, KS Strzelec Czortków, UST Rusałka Złoczów, "Sokół" Gymnastics Club (TG) Czortków, TG "Sokół" Brody, Sparta Trembowla, UST Podilla Tarnopol, WKS 54 pp. Tarnopol, WCKS Brody, RKS Żydowski Tarnopol, ŻKS Złoczów, ŻTGS Złoczów, ŻKS Trumpeldor Kopyczyńce [8, 15]. Among the sports clubs and associations of Ukrainian citizens, which had football sections in the Ternopil province, we should mention UST Podilla Tarnopol, USRT Meta Tarnopol and UST Rusałka Złoczów [6, 8].

Apart from participating in league matches, footballers from the Ternopil province also took part in football tournaments and friendly matches against Polish and foreign teams. Two matches are a good example of this: Kresy Tarnopol - Pogoń Lwów on 22 July 1934 and Kresy Tarnopol - representatives of the Romanian Eastern League in August 1934 (photo 3). The football teams competed for the "Ternopil Voivode's Silver Cup". In 1932, the winner was Podilla Sports Club Legion Tarnopol [9].



Photo 3. A football match between Kresy Tarnopol and the representatives of the Romanian Eastern League. A group photo of players from both teams; August 1934. Source: Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe [in Polish] National Digital Archives, sign. 1-S-2280.

The level of football in the province of Ternopil differed somewhat from that in other regions of Poland. However, it is worth noting that in the 1920s and especially in the 1930s, football experienced a remarkable growth. This was mainly due to the development of organisational structures and the increasing number of teams taking part in sporting competitions. The rivalry between Polish, Ukrainian and Jewish teams also contributed to the development of football.

SUMMARY

In the inter-war period, the level of football in the Ternopil province increased. From an organisational point of view, sports clubs and associations with football departments belonged to the Lviv OZPN. In 1928, the Ternopil sub-region was established within the structure of the Lviv OZPN. The establishment of the Ternopil sub-region had a positive impact on the development of the sport in the Ternopil province. For example, from 1928 the Ternopil sub-region organised matches of classes B and C, while from 1935 it organised matches of classes A, B and C. The matches in the Ternopil sub-region were used to determine the best football team in the Ternopil province. From 1929, the Ternopil region hosted the delegation of the Regional College of Football Referees. It should be noted that all attempts to establish a branch of the Regional Football Association in Ternopil failed. If they had succeeded, the conditions for the development of this sport discipline would have been even better. Football was popular among the Polish, Ukrainian and Jewish inhabitants of Ternopil. In the 20s and 30s of the 20th century the number of clubs and associations with football departments increased. Football teams developed not only in the two main cities of the province, Ternopil and Żłoczów, but also in district towns such as Brody, Berezhany, Chortkiv, Kopychintsy, Terebovlya, Zbarazh.

In the 20s of the 20th century, the best football team in the Ternopil province was Janina Żłoczów, which played in the highest league of the Lviv OZPN - class A. In the 30s of the 20th century, the best football teams in the Ternopil province among Polish citizens

were WCKS KresyTarnopol, Janina Złoczów, among Jewish citizens they were Jehuda Tarnopol, ŻKS Złoczów, while among Ukrainian citizens it was UST Podilla Tarnopol. None of the teams from Ternopil province managed to reach the top league, i.e. Class A, in the matches organised by the Lviv OZPN, and from the 1934 season the regional league was out of reach. The level of football in the Lviv OZPN was one of the highest in the regional football structures of the Second Polish Republic.

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