

Canada- felicitous for Polish team ☺



106 medals ultimately, including 68 won by representatives of the State Fire Service- this impressive result brought Polish team after coming back from this year' s competition for uniformed services.



Our players came back from Canada with a shield. From right: Janusz Woźniak, Zdzisław Ustowski and Zdzisław Miciak

When Polish uniformed sport representatives- Fire, Police and Border Guard departments came back from X World Police and Fire Games in Barcelona it was obvious for everyone that Polish team achieved spectacular success. The team won 39 medals, including 20 golds, what proved distinctly that we were among the world leaders. Every player and activist dreamt if not about improving then about achieving the same results once more in Canadian Quebec in 2 years since then.

It was 5th, July when XI Fire and Police Games was officially closed. What was only our best wish become the fact. Polish players showed once again that they are able to compete with the best players from all over the world on equal terms and what is more, they are able to achieve the most important laurels.

The games took place between 25th and 5th July. There were 8120 players from 48 different countries. They competed in 62 events. Poland was represented by relatively small team of 59 competitors consisted of 46 fire fighters, 10 policemen and 3 border guard officer. Our team was not a homogeneous team. Every department had to organize their officers' starts on its own. And that is why Polish State Fire Service consisted of 65 players at the beginning but finally because of shortage of financial resources 30 players were supported to go to Canada, thanks to own outlays and sponsors: PKN Orlen, Polkomtel, Securities Manufacturer Company and the Education and Technique Foundation that was co-ordinator of financial and organizational parts of event.

The Main School of Fire Service covered costs of its swimmers and athletes starts and SFS Head Quater paid for its 24 players.

It is worth stressing that some of State Fire Service's players covered all costs on their own.

Polish team's achievement is amazing as for such small squad. Our team won 106 medals totally and there were 41 golds, 19 silvers and 46 bronzes. Poland was classified at 8th place in the general classification with its 41 golds, after such countries as USA-539 medals (over 2000 players squad), Canada- 435 medals (more or less 4000 representants), Spain- 174 medals, England- 124 medals, Russia- 117 medals, Germany- 47 medals and Malessia- 42 medals.

There were over 5000 medals won in the whole XI Fire and Police Games. 1942 were golds, 1658 were silvers and 1448 were bronzes.



**The winners of single table tennis games.
From left Paweł Korpus, Krzysztof Piński and Artur Baranowski.**

Polish table tennis players deserve sincere admiration. Mr. Krzysztof Piński from Łębork Fire and Rescue Station won 2 gold medals- one as an individual player and the other as a double player. Mr. Paweł Korpus from Wałbrzych Regional Head Quarter won gold medal as a double player and silver one as an individual player and Mr. Marek Janta- Lipiński from Ustka Fire and Rescue Station together with Mr. Artur Baranowski won bronze medals as double players. The last one mentioned won also bronze medal as individual player. The conclusion is that Polish table tennis players did give no chance to their opponents taking 3 best places in individual games.

Polish footballers deserve big applause. The team consisted of Jerzy Kierski, Andrzej Płoński, Ryszard Ostrowski (Regional HQ in Białystok), Adam Greś (District HQ in Sokółka), Damian Nowacki (SFS College in Poznań), Dariusz Koś (Regional HQ in Kędzierzyn Koźle), Dariusz Kowalski, Krzysztof Bukowski, Paweł Dylewski, Sławomir Król (PKN Orlen SA), Marcin Andersz (Regional HQ in Leszno), Marcin Jakubik (District HQ in Żagań), Marian Wiatrowski (District HQ in Strzelce Opolskie), Robert Chlewicki (District HQ in Pińczów), Sławomir Babuśka (Regional HQ in Wrocław) and Tomasz Starowicz (The Main School Of Fire Service). The team won bronze medal sensationally, losing only one match- the final match against England in penalty kicks.

It is impossible to put all names of Polish squad players, thanks to whom we had achieved such spectacular success. They all deserve a big hand for the effort they put to achieve it.

It is worth emphasizing that all these informations are a little bit different from these published in Fire Review no 7/05 in the article 'Canada sweet smelling of medals' (page no 3) and these put on organisers' web sites. They are sum of medals brought by our representatives.

The next one- XII World Police and Fire Games will be held in Adelaida in Australia in 2007. There is still plenty of time for preparation from sport training side and organizational as well. It would be advisable to determine the rules of Polish team participation in this kind of events and starting to search for resources to cover costs of participation. One more conclusion brings to mind as the time passes by. Maybe it would be wortful thinking that organising competition so important for uniform services would be coordinated by all interested in, State Fire Service, Police and Border Guards?

