

CRACOVIA

1906



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CRACOVIA

Cracovia are the oldest active sport club in Poland. Founded on the 13th of June 1906 in Cracow, the club have won many league championships in football and ice hockey. The club's iconic white and red stripes design known all over Poland is used both on football and hockey shirts. Our football and hockey first teams play in the top divisions in Poland.



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FOOTBALL



FOOTBALL



Cracovia are the oldest active sport club in Poland. People used to play football in Cracow since 1890s, at first in Jordan's Garden, and then in Błonia Park. However, the games were merely recreational in nature and the regulations could be interpreted freely.

The arrival of teams from Lviv on the 4th of June 1906 was essential to establishing organized football clubs in Cracow. It was back then that squads from the two towns faced one another in a series of matches. In the first game Czarni Lwów played against Przodownicy (Studenci) - a team of Cracovian high school students. In another match students from Lviv faced a line-up consisting of members from the public - Akademy. This event acted as a catalyst to the growth of football in Cracow.

On the 13th of June, after a classified in a newspaper „Nowa Reforma” had been posted to encourage people to join in, Akademy had their first training session. This is how the legendary club in Polish football was born - in September 1906 Akademy took a new name, Akademicki Klub Footballowy Cracovia. In the same time Przodownicy, also called Studenci, I Drużyna Studencka, I Klub Studencki and I Klub Footballowy received an official name - White-reds - because of their shirts in the two colours.

The two teams stood out in the „autumn tournament” and in winter decided to join their forces. The new group took up Akademy's name, while the club colours i.e. white and red striped shirts (hence the club's nickname Pasy - Polish for "stripes") were taken from Szeligowski's team. It was the final forming stage of the future Champion of Poland, Cracovia.





HISTORY

Before the outbreak of the First World War Cracovia would play mainly against teams from Austrian Galicia, which became a cradle of Polish football. Some of our other rivals were from Austro-Hungarian Empire. Cracovia lost the first game of this kind to Troppauer Sportverein 4-2 (1908). Three years later White-reds faced the Austro-Hungarian team which was considered to be the best in Europe. Even though our team lost 6-3, the way Cracovia presented itself allowed it to gain an elite title of the first class team in Austrian Football Association. In 1913 Cracovia won the Championship of Austrian Galicia finishing ahead of a local rival Wisła and Pogoń Lwów.

The brightest period in more than a 100 year-long history of the club began after the end of World War I. We started off with winning the championship organized by the Cracow department of the Polish Football Association. In the next year Cracovia became the first Champion of Poland.



NIEDZIELA DNIA 26 CZERWCA 1910 ROKU
MATCH FOOTBALLOWY
 K. S. »CRACOVIA I.« przeciw D. F. C. Z BERNA

Klub Sportowy »Cracovia I.«: biało-czerwoni.

	Calder <small>(kapitan)</small>	Lustgarten	Pollak	
	Owsionka <small>(rez.)</small>	Czarny	Synowiec <small>(rez.)</small>	
Poznański	Little	Singer	Miller	Just
Peblo	Drapel Grübner	Kienart Kammer	Rizzi Christof <small>kapitan</small>	Charles
	Kracher	Sobek	Zemba	
		Deutscher Fussballklub z Berna.		

FOOTBALL



As many as seven players from our club represented Poland in its first international game against Hungary. In the inter-war period Cracovia won three more championships – in 1930, 1932 and 1937.

The years just after the War did not foreshadow the "dark period" that was about to come. In 1948 Cracovia completed the season by winning the league title for the fifth time after having defeated Wisła in a play-off. A year later sport clubs were reorganized the Soviet way and Cracovia became Związkowy Klub Sportowy Ogniwo Cracovia. In June 1949 the Latin name of the town was erased from the club's name and the authorities made us give up the white and red striped shirts. The club went under the name of Terenowe Koło Sportowe Sparta, until in 1955 it finally regained its proper name. The sports reorganization was not only about interfering with clubs' traditional names. Sport clubs were placed under command of



unions. Our club was at first subordinate to MPK (the Municipal Association of Public Transport), and then a consumer cooperative. The poor position of our patrons in the hierarchy of the time took a toll on the club's results. With every year the football team was sliding down the league table and in 1954 it had to accept the fact of being demoted to the second division. After three years it was promoted to the top division, only to end up getting demoted again after two seasons.

It became a pattern. From the first to the second division, from the second to the third one (for the first time after the season 1970-71), from the third division to the second one...



HISTORY

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Cracovia returned to former glory at the start of the 21st century as they found a new sponsor – Comarch. The club played in the third division but thanks to the sponsor won promotion and in 2004 were an Ekstraklasa team. Since then Cracovia came in 4th three times, the last time in the 2015-16 season which ensured them a place in the Europa League qualifying round for the first time in the club's history.



H O N O U R S

Championship of Galicia
(1913)

Championship of Poland (5)
(1921, 1930, 1932, 1937, 1948)

Vice-championship of Poland (2)
(1934, 1949)

All-time table of Ekstraklasa
12th pos.



FOOTBALL



Our first football team play in Ekstraklasa, which is the top division in Poland.



The biggest Pasy star is definitely Miroslav Ćovilo. The Bosnian Serb midfielder signed for Cracovia in 2014 and very quickly captured the hearts of the club's faithful with many excellent performances marked by great commitment and dedication. Soon after joining Pasy he became a hero in Cracow Grand Derby as he scored the winning goal in the dying seconds of the game. There is no one like him when it comes to winning aerial duels!



HISTORY

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Cracovia players are regularly called up to their national teams. Recently we had players who win international caps for Slovakia, Latvia, Burundi, Slovenia and, of course, Poland.

We understand the importance of youth football training. Almost every year our junior teams rank high in Polish youth competitions. What is more, we run a football academy for the youngest children – Akademia Mistrzów Cracovia. Our junior teams hold more than 300 players from all over Poland. What is more, in 2016 we celebrated Cracovia's 110th anniversary by launching a football kindergarten program for children between 3 and 7 years old, who now get a chance to take their first steps in football at our club!

ICE

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ICE HOCKEY



ICE HOCKEY



The chronicles of 1912 contain the first pieces of information on hockey in Cracow. On the 4th of February 1912 at an ice rink in Jordan's Garden, Cracovia lost 7-5 to Amatorski Klub Hockeyowy from Cracow. But it was a dozen or so years later when the hockey team really emerged. Starting with 1923 it was coached by Józef Lustgarten and consisted of Jan III

Sobieski High School students. The first official game was played on the 17th of February 1924 when Cracovia won 1-0 to AZS.

Pasy had their first major success in 1926 when they won an unofficial Cracow championship, beating Jutrzenka 4-1 and Makkabi 3-0.





HISTORY

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On the 23rd of November our hockey team became a member of the Polish Ice Hockey Federation (PZHL). Cracovia's dominance in their district before the war is indisputable. Pasy won the competition nine times. They came first in the region which gave them the possibility of fighting for the Championship of Poland. The first competition of this kind was played in the 1926-27 season. Cracovia lost 3-0 to Pogoń Lwów and 6-0 to Klub Łyżwiarski Poznań and finished fifth.

Two Pasy players – Czesław Marchewczyk and Adam "Roch" Kowalski were a part of Poland's national team during Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid in 1932. The same year Pasy got their first rink and two years later they won an international tournament in Krynica, competing against many high-ranked clubs.

Then came the 1936-27 season. Cracovia won the regional championship defeating Sokół 8-1, Wawel 16-0 and Makabbi 18-0, and not losing even one point. They were also triumphant in a two-legged qualifier game against Pogoń Lwów (3-1, 6-2) and in the national finals as after losing against AZS Warszawa 1-0, drawing with Czarni Lwów 2-2 and winning against KTH Krynica 2-0, Warszawianka 1-0 and AZS Poznań 5-0, Cracovia won its first ever championship title!



ICE HOCKEY



The first post-war league competition was played in 1946. Cracovia earned qualification to the final round coming first in the region (defeating Wisła 7-1 and Legia 25-0). After having won all of the matches in the finals (5-1 with ŁKS, 3-0 with Siła Giszowiec and 4-0 with Lechia Poznań) they were the Champions of Poland. The club confirmed their dominance in the following years, winning the league title in 1947, 1948 and 1949.

Unfortunately, after years of success our hockey team suffered the same fate as our footballers. Cracovia struggled with many problems and it seemed that our hockey team belongs to the past. It was after a few decades that thanks to a sponsor Comarch the team was brought back to life. In 2003 Pasy returned to the first division and in 2005 won a bronze medal. And that was only the beginning!

We had a strong team that was built consistently which produced great results in the 2005-06 season. Comarch Cracovia was undeniably the best and for the sixth time won the title, defeating GKS Tychy in exhilarating finals. This grand success was a great way of celebrating Cracovia's 100 year anniversary. In 2008 Pasy came first again and the next season ended in glory for Cracovia as well. In the two finals Cracovia competed against GKS Tychy.

Pasy were league champions again in 2011 and 2013. They masterminded the triumph in the 2012-13 season. Not being considered a favourite to win the league title after finishing fourth in the regular season, they rose to the occasion in the play-offs, qualifying for European competition.





Ahead of the 2015-16 campaign Cracovia strengthened their squad with many great players, including Poland internationals. Pasy had one goal and that was to win the league championship. The „Return of the Champions” mission turned out to be a success. During his eleventh year at Comarch Cracovia Rudolf Roháček guided the team to win the Polish Cup in December 2015 and in March 2016 after a three-year break we welcomed the league championship back to Cracow. Together with the championship Comarch Cracovia won entry ticket to the Champions Hockey League. Pasy will be the first Polish team to play in the elite competition. In 2016 they made their debut taking on Sparta Prague and Färjestad BK. Even though they have not made it through to the next stage of the competition, they made an impression keeping in step with the future finalist Sparta. That was a great opening to the 2016-17 season which later saw Comarch Cracovia defend the league title. That means there are some more Champions Hockey League games ahead of us!



H O N O U R S

Championship of Poland (12)

(1937, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2017)

Vice-championship of Poland (2)

(2010, 2012)

Polish Cup (2)

(2013, 2015)

Polish Super Cup (2)

(2014, 2016)



— A A N S S





FANS

FANS



FANS



FANS

Cracovia is not only about the history of the oldest Polish club, but also about people who have supported their beloved club for decades – sometimes in difficult times, but always with bravery and utter devotion. Cracovia certainly have among the best and most committed fans in Poland, and once you attend a hockey or football home game, you will never forget this truly wonderful atmosphere. There are many notable Cracovia fans, who are famous worldwide. Probably the most prominent of all Cracovia supporters was John Paul II.





JOHN PAUL II

John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyła on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice. Later he moved to Cracow. He was 58 when elected Pope on the 16th of October 1978. He was the first non-Italian Pope in more than 400 years.

Karol Wojtyła was an avid sportsman. He was keen on football – played mainly as a goalkeeper. Apart from playing football, he used to ski, canoe and hike in the mountains. He was fond of sport in general, appreciated athletes' work, and many sportsmen would hand over to him their shirts or trophies.

He was a big Cracovia fan from a young age. He used to attend the team's games as a priest and even after he was elected Pope he still cared about his dearest club.

In January 2005 he met with Cracovia players and officials during a general and a private audience in the Vatican. It was then that he addressed Cracovia's Chairman of the Board, prof. Janusz Filipiak, with these memorable words: Cracovia Pany! (Cracovia the Masters!)

The gifts given to John Paul II by Pasy are to this day in the Vatican – a diamond club badge, a number 1 shirt with Karol Wojtyła's name on it (Cracovia retired number 1 in his honour), a Kraków szopka, and the team's photo taken with the fans during the New Year's Training.



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STADIUM

The Cracovia stadium is located at 1 Kałuży Street in the centre of Cracow. It is both quite intimate thanks to its size, and spectacular in its design, which makes it yet another jewel in the crown of Cracow.

It has always been located in the same spot, which makes 1 Kałuży St. the oldest sports venue in Poland. The stadium underwent changes in its more than one hundred year long history. The most recent thorough rebuilding started in 2009 and was finished in 2010.

The stadium can accommodate more than 15 000 spectators and consists of four stands: West Stand (by Kraszewskiego St.), North Stand (Focha St.), East Stand (Kałuży St.) and South Stand (road to the back-up facilities). The latter is the main stand. They are respectively 14, 10, 12 and 19 metres (about 46, 33, 39, 62 ft) high. The stadium is compact in structure and so it is not possible to see the division into particular stands from the outside.

The stadium is a fully roofed all-seater. The stands are steep and the aisles narrow, which allows for almost 100% of the seats to be no farther from the centre spot than 90 metres (about 295 ft) – borderline distance considered to be optimal for watching football games. It gives all of the fans uninterrupted view and great visibility, something that is not possible to achieve with bigger stadiums.

Cracovia play their matches at 1 Kałuży St. What is more, the stadium is also the home of the Poland national youth football team and the Poland national team played here one game, too. Interestingly enough, during Euro 2012 the Italy national team – the future vice-champions of Europe – had their training sessions at the Cracovia stadium.





ARENAS

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ARENAS

CRACOVIA

the oldest active sport club in Poland





ARENAS

27



ARENAS



ICE RINK ARENA

The arena is located at 7 Siedleckiego Street and holds more than 2 500 spectators, being one of the biggest Cracovia buildings of this type.

Construction of the arena was completed in 1961. Since then it was modernized a couple of times, most recently in 2009. The arena is named after Adam "Roch" Kowalski, a man of many talents, triple Olympian in ice hockey (1932, 1936, 1948).

There is a plan to build a full size rink designed exclusively for training purposes in the near future. It is at 7 Siedleckiego St. that Comarch Cracovia play their matches.





TRAINING FACILITY

Cracovia have their own training facility at 101 Wielicka Street in Cracow (together with club's main office).

The training ground consists of two full-size pitches (one with artificial turf) and four training pitches (three of them with artificial turf). The main field is home to the reserves team.

Very soon the club will have two training grounds. A new state-of-the-art complex will be built in Rączna in the suburbs of Cracow and among others will house Cracovia's training activities. Its facilities will include six full-sized football pitches (including one with artificial turf) and a pitch covered for the winter season. The building in the complex will include 11 dressing rooms, a gym, remedial therapy rooms, pools, a hotel with 25 rooms, a restaurant and a research centre.



ARENAS



TAURON ARENA KRAKÓW

It is the largest multi-purpose sports and entertainment arena in Poland. It can accommodate – depending on the event – from 11 540 to 18 000 spectators.

It was completed in 2014 and has already hosted major music and sporting events e.g. Volleyball Men's World Championship and Ice Hockey World Championship Division I.

The arena hosts Comarch Cracovia games in the Champions Hockey League (e.g. against IFK Helsinki on the 3rd of October 2017). In August 2016 it saw Comarch Cracovia take their first steps in the competition facing a Czech side Sparta Prague and Färjestad BK from Sweden. The attendance made an impression in the hockey world being one of the highest in the history of the Champions Hockey League.





ARENAS



SOURCES

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SPONSORS



SPONSORS



COMARCH

In 2002 Cracovia gained a strategic sponsor – Comarch, which is headed by the club's Chairman of the Board, Janusz Filipiak.

Janusz Filipiak holds a post-doctoral degree in technical sciences. In the 1990s he was a full professor at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow. From 1991 to 1998 he was the head of the Department of Telecommunications at the AGH University. He is the author of over one hundred publications in the field of telecommunications and ICT. He also wrote six books on ICT (three of them having been published in the United States and Western Europe), contributes to many journals and acts as a scientific consultant both at home and abroad. He completed management training programme in Japan. In 2012 he was honoured by the President of the Republic of Poland with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta for his contribution to national economic development and achievements in charity and social activity. In 2013 he was awarded with the IEEE Communications Society Distinguished Industry Leader Award for 2012 in recognition of his contribution to the development and growth of the communication industry and information technologies.

Comarch is one of Poland's biggest IT companies, being a software producer and IT systems integrator. Since 1993 it helps the clients achieve higher rates of return and profit from innovative products and solutions, with the use of a wide spectrum of tools, which are accompanied by services of the highest quality. Comarch has worked on projects for the biggest Polish and international brands, which allowed the company to gain experience in the most important sectors (telecommunications, finance, banking and insurance, trade and services, IT infrastructure, public administration, industry, health service, as well as small and medium-sized companies sector).





SPONSORS

Some of the club's key sponsors in recent years:

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