

Piotr Nazaruk

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Goal of Goals: The History and Politics Behind Jewish Sports in Pre-War Lublin

Jewish sports clubs existed in Lublin throughout the entire interwar period. They were an integral part of Jewish life, and had a tremendous impact on the cultural and political landscape of the city. It is impossible to talk about sports without mentioning important games; achievements of individual players; team rivalries; and their wins and losses. In terms of the latter, there were many more losses than wins in the history of Lublin Jewish sports—provincial clubs affiliated with various political parties competed with each other on the provincial level, but it was not a super league. Though most of the athletes were undoubtedly driven by true passion, the games had much higher stakes—ideological disputes over the definition and interpretation of Jewishness.

Piotr Nazaruk works at The Grodzka Gate–NN Theatre Centre in Lublin as an educator, researcher and curator of temporary exhibits. In 2017 and 2018 he participated in YIVO's Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture.