



POLAND TEAM PROFILE - Women's



The Polish women's national team was founded in 1947. In their first official international appearance the White and Reds lost to Czechoslovakia 1-3, nevertheless Poland soon joined the group of the world's top teams and recorded significant achievements throughout the 1950s and 60s, including two Olympic bronze medals in Tokyo 1964 and Mexico 1968.

Since then, however, the last three decades were not so successful and the sudden but very enjoyable change came only in 2003.

New head coach Andrzej Niemczyk, who came back to the post after 26 years had passed since his first stint, brought new spirit and gave inspiration to the previously faithless players of the national team. He somehow induced them to show their best on the court and now they do. Poland's rising power was visible during the World Grand Prix continental tournament in August, when the home team finished runner's-up, claiming its spot for the 2004 Grand Prix.

Furthermore, the Poles pulled off a huge surprise during the last European Championship in Turkey, knocking over the hosts in straight sets in the final to claim gold.

Malgorzata Glinka was honored as the Best Scorer – and unofficially the MVP - of the tournament, while the team's captain, Magdalena Sliwa, received an award for the Best Setter.

The current team, which is about to make Poland's debut in the World Cup, is a combination of experience and youth. Veterans, like the above mentioned Sliwa or the head coach's daughter, Malgorzata Niemczyk-Wolska, both 34, have an occasion to share their experience with young talents like Agata Mroz, Katarzyna Skowronska or two of Poland's 2003 Junior World Championship bronze medallists, Anna Podolec and Izabela Zebrowska.

Most significant achievements

Olympic Games:

Bronze medals in 1964 & 1968

World Championship:

Silver medal in 1952

Bronze medals in 1956 & 1962

European Championship:

Gold medal in 2003

Silver medals in 1950, 1951, 1963 & 1967

Bronze medals in 1949, 1955, 1958, 1971



Team Roster

1 Skowronska Katarzyna, 2 Barbachowska Mariola, 4 Belcik Izabela, 5 Sliwa Magdalena, 6 Podolec Anna, 7 Glinka Malgorzata, 9 Mroz Agata, 10 Niemczyk-Wolska Malgorzata, 11 Fraczak Kamila, 14 Liktoras Maria, 16 Przybysz Aleksandra, 18 Zebrowska Izabela.