

Strybel - Palant from 9

return to heaven (home plate); to count, the ball must clear the 45-50 foot hell line.

Once he hits the ball beyond the hell-line, he must run to the pennant, touch it with his hand or foot and return to heaven; if he succeeds, he continues up at bat.

If one of the hell-dwellers (outfielders) catches a fly ball, the batter is out and someone from the outfield (according to pre-agreed order) comes up to bat.

If the ball is caught off the ground or passed from player to player, the outfielder can strike the batter out by doing one of the following:

– Touching him with the caught ball if he's close enough,

– Hitting him with the thrown ball as he tries to make it back to Heaven (home plate),

– Throwing the ball so it reaches the Heaven line before the running batter can.

A batter who successfully makes it back to the kingdom, continues to bat until finally getting eliminated. Then the next player in line takes his turn at bat.

A referee (umpire) decides whether the struck ball has cleared the hell line, whether a running batter has got tagged and whether the batter has made it back across the heaven line ahead of the thrown ball or vice-versa.

The game lasts for an agreed period of time (1, 1.5 or 2 hrs) – the winner is the player who has spent the most time in heaven (at bat). If two or more players have been up to bat the same number of times, a play-off determines the winner.

Note: The above game as well as three different team versions of palant have been clearly explained and illustrated in a book entitled "Stare i nowe gry drużynowe" ("Team Games Old and New"), currently out of print but found in libraries and used-book shops in Poland). □

Jamestown from 1

On July 30, 1619, the Polish settlers accomplished another noteworthy achievement in the Jamestown colony by staging the first labor strike in America. As the colonists were preparing to elect members of the Virginia Assembly, the new Governor announced that only men and women of English origin would be allowed to vote.

After being denied participation in the first Virginia Assembly, the Poles felt they had already repaid their debt of indenture and responded to this announcement by laying down their tools for their democratic rights. The Poles said, if they could not vote, they would not work. Their startling demand was quickly met and a democratic precedent was set. The newly formed House of Burgesses quickly acknowledged the vital role of the Poles in the settlement's well being and granted them the same voting privileges as those enjoyed by the English.

The court record of the Virginia company for July 21, 1619 puts it best: "Upon some dispute of the Polonians in Virginia, it was now agreed... they shall be enfranchised and made as free as any inhabitant there whatsoever." This refusal to work was the first such action in the English colonies and a bona fide American milestone.

The arrival of the first Polish settlers in America marked a humble, yet significant event into American history. Over the years, people from Poland continued to immigrate to America. Today Poles are the sixth largest ethnic group in America, residing in all fifty states and participating in every aspect of American life. Poles comprise a significant portion of the tens of millions of immigrants who have come to America from all over the world and now proudly call this nation their home. The 400th anniversary of the first Poles in America provides an excellent opportunity for persons of all national origins to reflect on the journey of their immigrant ancestors who continue to add shape and color to the American mosaic. □

Les Kuczynski from 5

Appointed by Polish National Alliance President Al Mażewski in 1985 as General Counsel, he continued to serve in that function for PNA Presidents Edward Moskal and Frank Spula.

In 1991, Les was appointed as National Executive Director of the Polish American Congress. During his time with the organization, he played numerous crucial roles, including close cooperation with Myra and Cas Lenard of the Washington DC Office on coordination of PAC's effort for enlisting US Senate support of NATO membership for Poland. Starting in 1999 Les led the German Forced Labor Compensation Program on behalf of the Polish American Congress and the Polish American community in general. First, he represented Polonia during plenary meetings with the US State Department and then, as an advisor for the International Organization on Migration (IOM, the Geneva-based partner administering the program), and since 2002 acted as a member of the Appeals Panel reviewing denied claims of forced labor and personal injury.

For a period of time when he also directed the efforts of the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation, the Foundation sent more than \$150 million in assistance to Poland in the form of donations, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and medical texts to Polish hospitals, orphanages and homes for seniors.

In 2002 he was elected Chairman of the Council of World Polonia (Rada Polonia Świata) for a four-year term comprised of leaders representing Polonia organizations from around the world, and from 2002 to 2005 he was a

member of the Consultative Committee established by the Marshal of the Polish Senate. In 2002 he was also appointed (and re-appointed in 2005) to the Advisory Board of the American Red Cross Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center.

"I think the fact that he himself came to this country as a Displaced Person through Ellis Island and watched his family start a new life, made him truly appreciate his new homeland and all it has to offer. At the same time, he did not forget about those less fortunate, and his life was the best example of how he always tried to help. Les was a very good man. The Polish American Congress, and me personally, will miss him very much," said Spula.

Les Kuczynski is survived by his wife Alice, an attorney in Chicago in private practice and a member of the Park Ridge Zoning Board of Appeals, and their son Andrew.

The visiting will take place on Thursday, August 28 from 2:00pm until 9:00pm at the Colonial Wojciechowski Funeral Home located at 8025 West Golf Rd., Niles, IL www.colonialfuneral.com

On Friday, August 29, 2008, visitors will be assembling at 9:00am with a short service at the chapel. A Mass will be held at 10:00am at St. Paul of the Cross Church located at 325 South Washington Avenue, Park Ridge, IL. The interment will take place at Mary Hill Cemetery, Niles, IL. □

**Joseph L. Drociak,
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Los Angeles**Brit - Polonia from 9**

produced several Polish-language issues in June during the European Soccer Championships held in Austria and neighboring Switzerland. Billed as "Polski Sun", the Polish issue was available all over the British Isles, including Ireland and Scotland. The 48-page paper included extensive soccer coverage in a bid to popularize the tabloid among the British Isles' large Polish population. It was also meant to enable Polish advertisers to reach a country-wide audience and not only advertise in the local press. (See next item.)

Brits rooted for Poland at this year's European Soccer championships, since none of the British Isles' four national teams had qualified for finals, held in Austria and Switzerland in June. A soccer ditty "The Polska Song" became a hit across the isles, pubs stocked up on Polish beer and sporting-goods shops offered white and red caps, scarves and other gadgets. The Polish national team's star goalkeeper Artur Boruc, who plays for Scotland's Glasgow Celtic team, is nearly a household term across the British Isles, and it was a Scottish fan group that launched the pro-Polish campaign. Unfortunately Poland, which had qualified for the tournament for the first time in history, failed to make it past stage one.

"Chase away the Poles" is the gist of a message being peddled by a Welsh group, fed up with the number of Polish migrants in their community. The some 200-strong group from the town of Llaneli has posted the message on the Internet. They complain that the nearly 10,000 Poles in that city of 60,000 "do not respect our town and are taking our jobs." Some visitors to the Web site, part of Britain's popular community portal Facebook, have found the message to be racist, but the Facebook operator has refused to shut it down citing "freedom of expression."

A formal warning has been issued to the governors (board of directors) of St. John Fisher RC School in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (England) following a series of complaints from Polish parents. Polish children at the 730-pupil school claim they are the victims of physical and verbal assaults and intimidation. The school has been asked to allow police officers in to help sort out the problems. If the school, which has 40 Polish pupils, fails to undertake these measures, the Peterborough City Council could remove funding, federate it with a successful school, sack the governors or appoint new ones. Allison Sunley, head of secondary-school standards at Peterborough City Council, said: "Safety is paramount. We want to be confident of the safety of the students, particularly the Polish students who have been subjected to a range of bullying – physical and verbal."

Are Polish-language ads racist? Colin Henry, who owns a beauty salon in Eastbourne, England, was shocked when an Englishman accused him of racism for placing an ad in a Polish-language newspaper which is incomprehensible to speakers of English. "I was only trying to reach a different market and the advert has attracted 15-16 new customers in a month's time," explained the hairdresser who plans to continue advertising in Polish. He was backed up by the Eastbourne Cultural Communities Network, whose spokesperson Sally Taylor said: "This was absolutely not racist. We have to accept, understand and cater for the needs of people from different places. Many banks and mobile-phone companies have begun Eastern-European-tailored campaigns in different languages and I think it is a fantastic thing to do." □

Greetings from page 9

serve as the primary mechanism for furthering the U.S.-Poland strategic relationship.

An important new area in our expanded cooperation involves the deployment of a U.S. Army Patriot air and missile defense battery in Poland. The United States intends to begin this deployment in 2009 with the aim of establishing a garrison to support the U.S. Army Patriot battery by 2012. The Government of Poland intends to provide an appropriate site, infrastructure, and facilities for this garrison acceptable to both countries.

Finally, the United States remains committed to assist Poland with the modernization of its Armed Forces, and recognizes that this assistance will strengthen Poland's contributions to NATO and facilitate strategic cooperation between our two countries.

August 20 marked a great day in reaffirming the strong strategic relationship and cooperation between the U.S. and Poland. It was the culmination of lengthy and worthwhile discussions aimed at guaranteeing Poland's security, as well as the security of our NATO allies. This agreement is a significant step forward for the United States, Poland and all of our NATO alliance partners.

The day after Secretary Rice signed the Missile Defense Agreement, Senators Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) stopped in Warsaw on their way back from a trip to Tbilisi, Georgia. They spoke movingly of the misery they had observed in Georgia – the plight of refugees, homeless, displaced families, and the tragic loss of life and loved ones. They praised the missile defense agreement signed by Secretary Rice and Foreign Minister Sikorski the day before, and promised their efforts to work both sides of the aisle in Congress to expand bipartisan support for missile defense and, in Senator Graham's words, "ensure the security of our nation for decades to come."

As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback on this and other issues. You can reach me directly at this email address: ashev@state.gov

Sincerely,
Victor Ashe
Ambassador □

Martin Krawiec, Attorney**Ethical / Experienced**

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Estate Planning - Personal Injury
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Real Estate - Trusts - Wills**1457 East Chapman Fullerton****(714) 871-7331****Mówimy po Polsku****Dreamland USA from 11**

where we can make more money than at home. Very soon, even that's happening now, we'll be making more money at home, without going abroad, so this special aspect of the US as a place where you can really make money is disappearing fast and we are becoming a normal country interacting with another normal country like the United States.'

Poles have long been the greatest fans of the United States. This has changed these days but they still remain friendlier towards America than the West European countries. □