



## Sobiesław Zasada

Born on 27 January 1930, Sobiesław Zasada was the European Rally Champion in 1966, 1967, 1971 and was vice-champion in 1968, 1969, and 1972. This was at a point of time when the World Rally Championship for drivers had yet to begin (1979 was the first year when a competitor – the Swedish Björn Waldegård – won the World Rally Championship for Drivers), and the European championship was as good as the world championship.

Sobiesław Zasada went on to win 148 rallies in his lifetime. Zasada's first wins were in a tiny Austrian Steyr-Puch 650, with which he won his first European championship in 1966. The Steyr-Puch 650 remains the smallest engine car to win the European championship ever. Seeing his talent, Zasada got drives from Porsche and, later, BMW. At the end of his career, he switched to Mercedes-Benz.

Zasada also took part in the 1968 London-Sydney Marathon, covering 16,694kms, in a Porsche 911. 98 cars took the start in London. Zasada finished fourth, missing the podium by a minute. Nine years later, for the 1977 London-Sydney, Zasada led the rally all the way to Australia. But an accident in Australia, right near the end, ruined his chance to win the 30,000km long event.

In 2001 Mr Zasada's name was placed on Poland's Sporting Walk of Fame in Cetniewo. In 2009 he received the Magellan Prize from the Kraków University of Economics, for lifetime achievements.