

# Basketball Sponsorship

On 29 August 2008 the Management Board of PGE Polska Grupa Energetyczna S.A. signed an agreement to continue the company's sponsorship of the Turów Zgorzelec basketball team for the 2008-2009 season. Playing matches under the banner of PGE Turów Zgorzelec (formerly BOT Turów Zgorzelec), the basketball players from Zgorzelec will promote our Capital Group for the second season. Last season, after a spectacular and dramatic league final which went to seven games against Prokom Trefl Sopot, the PGE team again won the title of first runner-up in Poland, and again got a chance to play in the Eurocup European championship (successor to the ULEB Cup), where PGE Turów Zgorzelec succeeded in 2007-2008 in reaching the Final Eight in Italy.

This season the basketball players were challenged by the Managing Board of PGE S.A. to take part in the final matches of the Polish Basketball League, which means they should repeat their spring success and reach at least the second phase of Eurocup matches. The players' salaries are tied to the team's success.

The sponsorship agreement provides for bonuses if the team qualifies for the higher level of international matches and wins the title of first runner-up in Poland. Significant changes were made in the PGE Turów Zgorzelec team before the new season. Team members who played in the previous season took offers from new clubs. However, Zgorzelec succeeded in retaining Coach Sašo Filipovski, who decided to sign a contract with PGE Turów Zgorzelec despite a tempting offer from Cibona Zagreb.

Filipovski was considered the best coach in the Polish Basketball League for the past two seasons, and the authorities of the Polish Basketball Union wanted to name him the coach of the Polish National Basketball Team. This summer Coach Filipovski began to assemble a new team. He selected young people with potential to become really strong basketball players in the future. The team's composition seems to be more balanced now than in the previous season. It is practically a new team compared to the one that won second place in Poland. However, the strength of the new team will only be apparent when it has had a chance to play several games in the 2008-2009 season.

Because the European Championship will be held in Poland, this season will start a bit earlier, in September, and thus preseason preparations began as early as July. At the end of August the team began two weeks of training in Slovenia, where they played a number of exhibition games. Because Coach Filipovski is keeping mum on as many details as possible concerning the team's tactics, most of the exhibition matches are played abroad and are closed to the public. The PGE team is one of the favoured candidates for the gold medal, and the coach, his team and the 'sixth player' – the enthusiastic fans in Zgorzelec – will make every effort to achieve that aim.