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compiled by Karen Diamond, Editor

1997 AWAC Champion Dies In Crash Near Warsaw



Janusz Kasperek of Swidnick, Poland, died October 17 along with fellow pilot Grzegorz Moskalenko when their light plane crashed near Warsaw. Their German-built two-seater went down in the woods about 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of Warsaw just minutes after taking off from a military airport.

The 37-year-old Kasperek became the 1997 Advanced World Aerobatic Champion during the 1997 Advanced World Aerobatic Championships in Lawrence, Kansas last year. He flew the competition in an Extra 230 owned by U.S. Team member Damon Wack. Kasperek won all three flights after flying only five practice flights in the borrowed airplane. Kasperek began flying competition aerobatics at age 16 and had won the Polish championship in the Unlimited category 14 times.

Kasperek and Moskalenko were both pilots for the Polish national airline LOT.