

INLAND SPORTS

SERVICE TEAMS ADD IMPETUS TO LOCAL SPORT DURING 1944

Another year along the sports trail has passed and with its passing we endeavor to give you a brief summary of the happenings in island sports circles during the past twelve months. During the entire year a much brighter outlook on the horizon was evidenced in all branches. Presence of the Army, Navy and Air Force together with the two Colleges, Prince of Wales and St. Dunstan's and civilian teams helped not end to give sports followers plenty of action along all fronts with increasing interest being evidenced in all of sports branches.

Leagues were in operation all season long with competition provided being of the keenest. Sports Co-ordinator Sam Doyle who together with Professor Gordon Bennett and the various sports officials of the services, worked unceasingly all year long and saw their efforts crowned with success in giving the sport loving public of the Province one of the best years of athletics since the outbreak of war in 1939.

Embarking upon another season officials are in high hopes that it will even be better than the already ready hockey and basketball leagues are beginning and with the turn of the year being tournament season the services are expected to come into its own and prove just as enjoyable as they did in the past.

War has taken its toll of Island athletes who had away their athletic equipment to take up the arms and the United Nations are waiting on the sea, on the land and in the air and to the greatest relative sympathy is extended.

Still scores of other athletes are proving their courage on the far-flung battlefronts and to them we extend greetings for the New Year with the fervent hope that in 1945 will come the victorious culmination of the valiant struggle they have been waging.

To sports followers all over the Province we express the wish for A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

HOCKEY

Not since the days of the Big Four was so much interest evidenced in local hockey as in the City Hockey League was in operation with Prince of Wales, St. Dunstan's, Navy, and Army teams bringing into action shortly after the opening of the New Year.

From the opening game right down to the final playoff game attendance figures kept on mounting with the clubs displaying a fast, rugged game that was pleasing all the way.

Saints, led by the Lamontagne brothers wound up the regular season in first place to draw a bye into the finals, with Army and Navy meeting in the semi-finals. In the first game of the best-of-three series, who had just squeezed into a playoff spot ahead of Prince of Wales, threw a big surprise by whipping the Army team 6-5. But in the next two games Army led by the high-scoring Larky Whitlock and aided by Jackson and Cumore came through with 10-0 and 3-2 wins to go into the finals, and the same duo of Whitlock, Jackson and Cumore proved to be the key in the finals as the Beach Grove team took the title with two straight victories over the St. Dunstan's crew by scores of 14-10, the highest scoring game in a number of seasons, and 10-5.

Also during open dates and after the league had finished, exhibition games took place that also proved very interesting. The Air Force team from H. 2 A.N.S., led by Eddy Kelly, former Aberdeen, was witnessed in action against Local All Stars several times and the Air Force team were also seen in action against the local All Stars and civilian All Stars. All these exhibition encounters added greatly to the successful hockey season and this year with another four-team league already in operation, promises to add another bright page to Island hockey history with one of the best leagues in years promised the fans.

JUVENILE HOCKEY

Outstanding feature of the hockey season from a local point of view was the capturing of the Maritime juvenile title by the McCour's Canadians. And to give the three-province crown to the hands of youngsters coached by Fred Bradley with Frank Cox and Bill Bevan as managers, had to do it the hard way.

Unable to make arrangements for ice space here, the Canadians first travelled to Saint John where in a sudden death encounter they beat the New Brunswick champions. Then in the finals, after a lot of dickering the champions journeyed to Sydney where they met the Nova Scotia champions in a two-game total-goals series. How they acquitted themselves is now well known; they earned a draw in the opening game and then came through to take the second encounter and with it the title.

In addition to the above activities, leagues were being swung throughout different centres in the Province, with it being followed keenly by the fans and attendance showing a marked increase over other years.

SOFTBALL

Softball had one of its greatest seasons since the inauguration of the game here. Four different squads from No. 2 A.N.S., one from the Navy, one from the Army, and the civilian All Stars hammered away at each other all season long before R.C.A.F. Aircraftmen copied the title in the finals against the Navy team.

Officers of the R.C.A.F. led the league most of the season but then the biggest upset of the season fell before the Navy team in a semi-final series after the Tars had

CURLING

Once again the Charlottetown Curling Club together with clubs from Summerside, Montague and Alberton enjoyed banner seasons. In all four districts various trophy competitions produced the keenest of competition all season long and when all four met at Charlottetown for the British Consols trophy, curling of the highest order was witnessed by crowds of fans that swarmed to the utmost of the Curling Club to the utmost. This competition is always the highlight of the curling season and last season's triumph was no exception. Dominion competition of the island winners to attend, nevertheless the matches were just as keenly contested as ever, with a rink skipped by W. R. Cruikshank of Charlottetown, regarded as one of the best in the world, competing on the island coming through with the title and trophies that went with the victory.

The various trophy matches at the local rink were once again keenly contested for and as was the case with the previous year, winners were always in doubt right to the final game.

Several rinks of curlers also made various trips to the mainland for friendly matches and as usual acquitted themselves well. The rinks present at the Quebec International tournament, although failing to win any trophies, were right in the thick of the fight for honors and in the final rounds of the competitions, they were engaging in.

ICE RACING

Rapidly becoming one of the most popular of winter sports, the Victoria Driving Club again had a banner season with their race on the ice at the Speedway at Victoria Park. Members of the Strackley Driving Club, working hand in hand with the local horsemen, did a most commendable season the success it was and the meets, usually held on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons were witnessed by large crowds of spectators. Past times were challenged several times by a cold, wintry weather to watch the tests of speed. The winter season was all during the long list of meetings and this year it is likely that an even more extensive program will be staged.

But the highlight of it all was the visit here of the Nova Scotia team held off the local team at the Maritime meet. Although the meeting ran foul of the weatherman, nevertheless despite postponements and cancellations, the Nova Scotia horses winning the pacing and trotting championships, Peter Budington, a former member of the Victoria Park, and a former member of the very start of the season, defeating Nova Scotia's best among the trotters.

The meeting was climaxed with a very enjoyable banquet at the Charlottetown Hotel at which a large number of local and out-of-town guests, sat down and needless to say the affair was a very enjoyable one. The winter season was all during the long list of meetings and this year it is likely that an even more extensive program will be staged.

FOOTBALL

Although no championships were played for during the short season, in the majority of the games, fans never tired of the exciting contests between the Air Force teams from No. 2 A.N.S. at the Charlotteville and Queen's College School.

A New Zealand team played two matches with Prince of Wales, winning two of them largely by their superior dribbling tactics while the St. Dunstan's and Air Force teams also took part in a couple of encounters. Pressure of work at the senior title impossible, with Saints lacking manpower due to graduation in the previous spring, being unable to field a team against Prince of Wales for the annual interschool title. This series was missed little could be done about it.

Highlight of the season probably was the battle between Prince of Wales and the McAllison Academy team. Previously the two squads had met in Sackville, the game being a three-all draw, but Prince of Wales, with the strength of Sherry McKinnon's second half touchdown in the game played at Charlottetown, won with a 3-0 victory. It was the only win of the season after a good many games, with the local and New Brunswick squads.

Queen's Square young and inexperienced met a much heavier Prince of Wales team in a two exhibition encounters towards the latter part of the season and although the odds were against them, they put up great struggles, considering the odds that were against them when they took on the College team.

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

For the second successive year an indoor track and field meet was held at the Forum and again proved to be a great success. Even from the first to the last kept a big crowd of fans in a state of excitement, with fast times and good distances being hung up in each one.

Battle for the team trophy continued right to the final event with the squad from No. 2 A.N.S. by virtue of points gained in the relay coming through to take the laurels. The relay was perhaps the most hotly contested event of the program with the runners on each team showing stamina and speed that was remarkable.

Due to the success attending this event it will likely become an annual affair from now on. Service athletes have done much by their presence at such gatherings and in addition much local talent at present attending the two colleges has also been uncovered.

There were several school events also staged, with Wallie Shepherd of Queen's Square School and Jackie Cairns of West Kent showing great athletic promise as they battled it out right to the tape in the three events in which they were pitted against each other. Shepherd took the 100 yards dash with Cairns copping the 220. Both ran in anchor position on the relay and Cairns showed a slight lead holding his slim advantage right to the tape.

GOLF

Golf, although limited in scope since hostilities broke out in Europe and the Pacific, nevertheless had another good season with tournaments both here and in

Canadians Keep Hockey Alive In Great Britain

WITH THE CANADIAN ARMY OVERSEAS, Dec. 29 (CP)—Three Canadian army hockey circuits, grouping a total of 25 teams, are keeping the Dominion's national sport alive in the hearts of Canadian as well as British hockey fans this winter.

The Canadian Military Headquarters League includes two groups, both playing at Purley with limited spectator accommodation. The Saturday circuit is composed of three teams and the Sunday one of four, which play morning double-headers.

Among the contestants are many veterans of Italy, France, Belgium and Holland because they have lowered medical categories now at headquarters.

At Brighton a 12-team circuit operates four mornings a week and at Purley another six team league is in operation. Winners of all schedules will meet for the Canadian army hockey title in England. Present plans call for a little world series next spring between Army and Air Force champions.

C. N. R. Bowling

REBOS:

S. Duncan	185	217	222
G. Nelson	196	146	151
H. MacDonald	192	212	215
C. Gaudet	71	108	151
M. Richards	180	174	274
Total	725	757	856

B & B:

J. Martin	201	215	196
J. Brice	128	196	145
S. Hennessey	161	186	221
J. Doyle	207	178	199
C. Small	167	143	160
Total	864	817	710

High Single, M. Richard—274
High Three, M. Richard—528
Points, 28-1.

Remember When

By The Canadian Press
Big Bill Alden, who cleaned up evening events in the week ending his great career, announced his retirement as an amateur ice hockey player in a club that was at New York in February, 1931 after he had headed the U.S. ranking amateur list for 10 years.

TRACK AND FIELD

With the exception of the track and field meets staged at the end of the season, the annual University meet, held in September in this branch were quiet. The two meets that were held since the end of the season were one exhibited by well-known ice hockey athletes, now past their prime, and the other by a group of the generation now just coming up. Times made and distances attained in the track events held in the past were not under the best of track conditions either, were considered retarded by weathering, ice and field sports, and a little more interest were forthcoming both from the youngsters and the veterans in this branch of athletics, it would not take long for track and field to once again blossom forth.

Baseball is still in the doldrums of this once popular summer sport. A group of boys interested in getting a league going but met with little success in their efforts to take on the Navy team in a couple of exhibition encounters that did produce a fair brand of ball, but after that the efforts seemed to fizzle out. And unless there is little likelihood of things being very much better during the season of 1945.

With the above we conclude our necessary short review for the season now ended. Time and space has not permitted us to go over it as fully as we would like, but taking everything into consideration the cycle of sports has been kept going with a varying measure of success and the hope is still present that when victory will again rise to its former condition it enjoyed back in 1938 or the year before Hitler started his ill-fated attempt at world conquest.

SPORT SHORTS

By ALLAN NICKLESON

NATHAN CORNER

Canadian Press Staff Writer
LONDON, Dec. 29—More than 80 of the hundreds of English professional football players have lost their lives during the war and the likely rise when Arnhem casualties are published. Several footballers, serving as physical training instructors, were on that airborne operation. One of the latest professional to be announced as killed was Fred Fisher, an outside right with Millwall of the League South who was an air gunner in the Royal Air Force. And the list includes also scores of professionals either wounded or prisoners of war.

Soccer's most notable casualties have been Maj. Jimmy Tompkins, Fulham's halfback; Capt. Eric Stephenson, England International and Leeds United inside forward; and Lieut. Harry Goslin, England and Bolton Wanderers wing half. Stephenson was killed in Burma and Tompkins, who landed on the Normandy beaches on D-Day, died of a psychological lesion. He announced the west had a definite advantage in experience, pointing to the number of service men from the 4th Air Force of March Field and the Alameda Coast Guard that had been called in to help the

Eastern Team Favored To Defeat West In New Year's Day Football Game

(By The Associated Press)
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29—While rival coaches engaged in psychological fencing today, the eastern team remained the firm favorite to defeat the west in the 20th annual all star charity football game here New Year's Day.

Headed by all-American halfback Les Horvath of Ohio State and otherwise crammed with the finest college talent available, the eastern squad became the established choice as soon as it was assembled.

Sensing complacency on the part of the west, several possible psychological lewdown, Andy Kerr, oldest eastern coach in the matter of game service, were finally resorted to psychological tactics. He announced the west had a definite advantage in experience, pointing to the number of service men from the 4th Air Force of March Field and the Alameda Coast Guard that had been called in to help the

Memorial Cup Finals To Open In Toronto April 14

(By The Canadian Press)
TORONTO, Dec. 29—The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association at its annual mid-winter meeting here today announced that the Memorial Cup finals for the Dominion junior hockey championship would be played in Toronto starting on April 14. Venue and dates of the Allan Cup finals for the Dominion senior title were not decided upon, Frank Sargeant, president of the C.A.H.A., said. Sargeant said that a decision would be reached on the place and date of the Allan Cup series before the end of February.

Home-grown oats and near the expected cold which will "train" itself some day. But mainly, Arthur has a great respect and feeling for horses. He didn't want Abbotts Toll to wind up in a glue factory.

Maroons Win Exhibition Tilt From P.W.C. 6-3

A school team, the Maroons, last night defeated a team from Prince of Wales College 6-3 in an exhibition hockey game at the Upper Queen Street rink.

Following were the lineups:

Maroons—Goal, R. Josic; defence, D. Larter, M. Williams, R. Monaghan; forwards, S. Diamond, J. Bradley, W. Shepherd, R. Moltrout, T. Bradley, R. Cumore.

P.W.C.—Goal, J. Proude; defence, A. MacDonald, D. Stacey, B. Elmer, G. Compton; forwards, E. Blanchard, R. Bazan, D. Bennett, D. Irvin, M. Blake, D. Palmer, T. Quilley.

S. Diamond coached the Maroons and J. Campbell the P.W.C. team.

SMELTS

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YES SIR, WE'LL SKATE IT IN

NEW YEAR'S PROGRAM
PLEASE NOTE
1. AT 12 MIDNIGHT—OPEN NEW YEAR—SKATE 12 to 2 A.M.
2. NEW YEAR'S NIGHT—8-10 P.M. NO AFTERNOON SKATE.
SATURDAY 3-5 8-10 THE FORUM

Happy New Year

To our many customers for a most generous share of valued patronage we say "THANK YOU"

And to everybody may the Dove of Peace set foot on a war torn world during 1945 and may Health and Happiness be yours in abundance.

Harry A. McDougall

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