



## The Games Canadians Play

Canadians are playful people. They have given the sporting world hockey, basketball, football and lacrosse, the snowshoe and the snowmobile. They are proud of their international stars, from hockey's Gordie Howe to the American League's newest baseball team, the Toronto Blue Jays.

They are sensitive about the fact that most of their best hockey players play in the United States and most of their best football players were born there. But they carry on in their British and French, Indian, Inuit, Celtic and other traditions.

They recently hosted the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Alberta, (August 3-12) and held Highland Games in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. They are also getting ready for the Trappers Festival and the Quebec Winter Carnival.

In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we report on Canada's sporting life, spectators and participants, street games and cups.



*Cover: Graham Smith, first ever to win six gold medals at a single Commonwealth meet.*

## Puck's Bad Boys

Most professional hockey players in North America are Canadians. (In the US, the figures are 85 per cent for the major and 87 per cent for the minor leagues.) Most began playing in pee-wee leagues when they were ten or eleven years old. When Gordie Howe was twelve, he was the star of five different teams in Saskatchewan. At seventeen he played his first National Hockey League game, scored a goal and lost two teeth. In 1960, when Bobby Orr, of Parry Sound, Ontario, was a five-foot-two, one-hundred-and-ten-pound twelve-year-old, the Boston Bruins signed him up

for life (though he is now with the Chicago Black Hawks).

Guy Charron, of Verdun, Quebec, made the great leap in 1968, at age nineteen, when he graduated from the Ontario junior league Canadians to the Canadiens of Montreal.

Hockey is as organized as a military parade. At ten Guy signed up with the Verdun pee-wees, persuaded by the sweater that identified him as a member of the league. It was, he recalls, "a very big thing." Pee-wee teams are sponsored by public recreation departments, private organiza-