

ranging countries from Eastern Europe to South America whose teams use different styles and systems.

Later this year, Canada will be taking part in the Pan American Games to be held in Brazil, which Krautzun sees as a good build-up for the Olympics. But no one must escape the importance of the Montreal Olympics for Canadian soccer. "It is the springboard for the future development of the game in this country," says Krautzun.

Canada's quarter final rating in last summer's CONCACAF youth tournament (for players under 19 from the Confederation of North and Central American and Caribbean Soccer Association) shows that it will still be some time before the country can field a team of indigenous players.

Twelve of the 22 squad players were Canadian-born (including eight from Vancouver). Of the rest, four came from Scotland and one each from England, Italy, Cyprus, Greece, Germany and Yugoslavia.

With such strong soccer representation it's not surprising that Vancouver with a largely Canadian-born side, is home to one of the country's two professional soccer sides in the North American Soccer League. Despite their lowly position an average crowd of nearly 10,000 turns up to cheer on the Vancouver Whitecaps.

Vancouver came into the League to replace Montreal Olympiques who folded because of poor attendances and inadequate playing facilities. Crowds numbering between 300 - 1,500 were lost in the 30,000 capacity Autostade where the team played out its last NASL campaign.

Although results have been disappointing, the substitution of Vancouver looks to have been a wise choice. Soccer officials in the province are aiming for a British soccer set-up with five divisions each with ten teams and automatic promotion and relegation.

It is also logical that Canada's other professional team, The Metros, should come from Toronto, another city with healthy soccer support.

New President, Bruce Thomas, is intent to establish soccer as a major Canadian sport. He has listed three major objectives:-

- To make the Metros a financially viable soccer operation.
- To assist the development of a strong Canadian team for the Olympic games.
- To build the Metros into a world class side.

With Canada embracing such a huge land mass, obviously a national league competition on the lines of European countries, is out of the question. Even in England, soccer officials are toying with a return to regionalised soccer for the two lower divisions to cut down on travelling costs.

Instead, each province has its own soccer set-up while the top team each year

qualifies for a national Challenge Trophy competition — something akin to the English F.A. Cup although the final switches venue from year to year.

Further evidence of the upsurge in Canadian soccer comes from the sports goods industry. There have already been reports of retailers running out of soccer equipment. The economics of the situation is again important.

"Look, you can equip 11 soccer teams for the same money it takes to equip one football team," explained one footwear manufacturer.

Surprisingly it is Canada's old ice hockey rival the Soviet Union, which has helped television boost soccer's popularity. When the Russian ice hockey coach revealed that his players stay in shape by playing soccer it gave a whole new dimension to Canadians.

A 'conditioning sport'

In schools, soccer still takes second place to either baseball or American football. But in home communities soccer is the ideal sport. Usually a field is readily available. Additional expenses to run a game are minimal. The basic essential is a ball. Then, if you've got a ball, anyone — girls as well! — can play soccer.

Having realised in recent years that soccer is also an excellent conditioning sport, soccer programmes throughout the country have become over-subscribed.

One Ontario community, for instance, reports that more than 2,200 boys turned out to register for the soccer programme yet only four were interested in lacrosse and so few turned out for baseball that the programme had to be cut back.

Alex Hylan, president of the Canadian Minor Soccer Association, claims that within ten years soccer will be Canada's number two sport to ice hockey.

"I think it's there now at participation level," he has said. "Only the crowds at the professional level are hurting us. It tarnishes the image. There's no doubt that below the professional level we've arrived.

In Ontario, for example, there's been such a dramatic increase that they are seeking a steadier rate of growth. It's been moving at such a pace that it's been racing away from them."

Although this year's Pan American Games, next year's Olympics and the 1978 World Cup will give a clear indication of how far and how well Canadian soccer has progressed, perhaps the future is best summed up by sports writer Keith Woolhouse writing in 'Montreal Scene.'

He commented: "When all is said and done, the future lies with the youngster with grazed knees and tousled hair, running through the night mist with a ball at his toe. It matters not that a jacket or two must improvise for goalposts, that there are no touchlines or a referee. He can run and tackle and head and kick with the best of them. He can participate and at his age that's what matters."

Bilingual produces students

By Ann Morrow

Bilingual schooling probably gives children some learning advantages over children taught in a single language. This is a probability to be seen in evidence accumulating from Canadian experiments with new approaches to language education, including the introduction of bilingual training from the start of a child's school experience.

The challenging possibility that a child with a bilingual education has decided advantages over a child with unilingual schooling appeared first in experiments started in Ottawa schools in 1969. It has been strengthened into a probability by further evidence from those continuing experiments and newer evidence from Edmonton, Alberta.

While the conclusions to be drawn from the Ottawa studies offer cautious support for the superiority of bilingual over unilingual education, the general conclusion of the Edmonton studies reported in 1974 is unhesitatingly in favour. The findings of the two Edmonton studies, says a report on them, support the idea that "the bilingual child has a greater cognitive (learning) plasticity than his unilingual counterpart. These findings tentatively lead to the premise that the unilingual may be suffering from a cognitive deficit." The report does not suggest the findings are conclusive but puts forward for future inquiry this general hypothesis: "The child who has a continuous bilingual experience during the course of development will experience cognitive advantage."

The findings seem to promise new factual arguments to support the Canadian Government's official policy of encouraging bilingualism across Canada. Initiated as a means of achieving national unity between the English-speaking and French-speaking communities in the country, the policy now seems to hold out tangible intellectual benefits as well, as bilingualism expands.

If further experience supports the general hypothesis of the Edmonton studies, then the spread of bilingualism in Canada will mean an improvement in the learning opportunities for Canadian students accordingly.

The experiments began in 1969 when the kindergarten programme of English-speaking children in Ottawa's Roman