

Cricket Week in Victoria



VICTORIA ELEVEN - 1908 CHAMPIONS



VANCOUVER ELEVEN
1907 CHAMPIONS
DEFEATED FRIDAY



SINCE the organization of the Northwest Cricket Association three tournaments have been held, the most successful of which, without a doubt, was that brought off in Victoria, under the management of a local committee, during the past week. No less than eight teams competed, coming from Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, Vernon and this city, and at all these points the progress of the series was followed with keen interest. The fact that the Victoria club's team won the championship, taking the handsome cup presented by Mr. Con Jones, of Vancouver, from the eleven of the latter city makes the event a notable one in the annals of the home organization, and a happy memory to all local enthusiasts. The joy of Victorians deepens when they remember that, not only their team carries off the coveted championship honors, but one of its members, H. Gillespie, occupies the premier position among all the batters who participated in the series—no mean achievement when it is borne in mind that the gathering of cricketers who have been making Victoria their headquarters during the last seven days include the best of the Pacific Northwest, and they hail, some of them, from the most famous schools of cricket in the Empire.

Reviewing the tournament, it is apparent, from its progress from the outset, that its outcome, a final match between Victoria and Vancouver, was inevitable. And the fact that they were placed in different schedules indicates that those in charge fancied that the championship would have to be fought out between these teams and were anxious that the great struggle should not be brought on prematurely. As it happened, the arrangement was wise, because Victoria and Vancouver each went through the preliminary games without a loss, and, moreover, in each contest neither went to bat more than once. So that the superiority of the two acknowledged centres of cricket over those from other points was clearly established, but it was encouraging to note that both the Portland and Seattle teams, since last year, had increased in strength. Also it was remarked by many that, in this game as well as in other pastimes, Vancouver and Victoria were keeping pace with each other. While at the Terminal City another club, the Burrards, had sprung into existence, in Victoria a second organization, the Albions, was flourishing. The opinion was expressed that as long as the same spirit was displayed it would be a constant fight from year to year as to which of the two was entitled to hold the cup.

While the teams of Victoria and Vancouver, naturally, were the cynosure of all eyes, there was an eleven competing from Vernon, or, more properly speaking, the Okanagan valley, which is worthy of a few words. These ranchers—for that is the occupation of the majority—learning of the approaching tournament, gathered together, without practice, and came to the Capital to enter into the sport. They played Portland the first day, and were badly beaten, but later they defeated the Albions, generally considered one of the best teams in the series. They had got in their "batting" eyes, and when Victoria met them they gave the locals a first-class match, to say the least. These Englishmen from the Interior did exceedingly well. They were the recipients of general congratulation and, in the popular estimation, ranked third among the organizations which took part in the competition.

The next annual tournament will be held in Seattle. The officials of the organization are anxious to encourage the game as much as possible on the other side. It was proposed that last week's tournament should conclude with an international match, but it was decided, after considering the proposal, that the American team had not advanced sufficiently to ensure a first-class match. So the carrying out of such a project was deferred to another year.

Appended is the personnel of the Victoria and Vancouver teams:

Victoria—A. F. R. Martin, H. Gillespie, T. B. Tye, D. Gillespie, L. S. V. York, J. C. Barnacle, J. F. Meredith, W. Shelton, J. W. D. York, W. P. Gooch, — Copping.

Vancouver—J. M. Armitage, C. E. Lambert, F. J. Peers, G. Walton, L. R. Thomas, J. K. Rigby, J. H. Young, C. Sweeney, W. E. Hodges, W. H. Crossfield, J. H. Senkler.

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