

SPORTS

Before the arrival of the settlers, North American Indians played baggataway, which was adopted by French settlers and renamed Lacrosse. To many, this is Canada's national game (although it is played by only a few); to others, Canada's national sport is ice hockey, which was probably first played in Canada in 1885. Today thousands of Canadians play hockey, whose greatest prize is the Stanley Cup, awarded to the top professional team, although the Cup was originally intended as the prize for amateur play.

Football (North American style), basketball, baseball and soccer are also played extensively. The first football game in North America was played between Harvard University and Montreal's McGill University in 1875. Today, Canadian football (and many of the rules are different from American football) is played in almost every school and university in the country, and there are nine professional teams who compete for the Grey Cup every year. The Grey Cup Game is Canada's greatest single sports event, and has assumed some of the characteristics of a national festival.

The game of basketball was invented in 1892 by Dr. James Naismith of Almonte, Ontario, and has been recognized since 1936 as an Olympic sport.

Baseball is also a popular summer sport. Canada has one team in the major professional leagues, the Montreal Expos, which plays in the National League.

Amateur Sports

CANADA GAMES

To stimulate enthusiasm for amateur sports throughout the country, the Canada Games were