

English rugby has its scattered groups of zealots, but finds most patrons and players either in the Atlantic Provinces or in British Columbia.

Games of individual skill, such as rifle shooting, archery, track and field sports and marathon running, have their hard core of eager competitors who engage in city and provincial meets, pointing to the Canadian championships, held late each summer. And these sports are usually found to gain more attention from the general public when the Olympic Games come around every four years. Canada usually sends a full quota to the Games, wherever they are held.

In summertime, baseball is the greatest spectator sport. Montreal and Toronto are represented in the International League, which also includes a club in Havana, Cuba, besides five in the United States. Vancouver has a team in the Pacific Coast League, which embraces seven cities in the U.S.A. Baseball was imported from the United States in the 1880's and is today played throughout Canada at all levels of competition. In most centres, it has displaced lacrosse, which was one Canada's national game by repute, and so spoken of more than once in the House of Commons at Ottawa.

Golf has spread at an amazing rate in Canada, and the game is now played by the masses to such an extent that it can claim to be one of the most popular participant sports. More than 600 golf clubs now dot the provinces, ranging in size from modest 9-hole layouts to clubs which have two complete courses. Founded in 1872, Royal Montreal lays claim to being the oldest club in continuous operation in North America. Its present property 11 miles west of the heart of Montreal has now been practically surrounded by suburban housing developments. So Royal Montreal has acquired new property on Ile Bizard, to the northwest of the city, where a five-million dollar project is planned, including 45 holes and a specious clubhouse.

Lawn tennis vies with golf for summer popularity. It is estimated by the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association that 500 affiliated clubs have from 15,000 to 20,000 members playing on 2,500 courts across the country, and that there are more than 1,000 privately-owned courts on which families and guests or small groups also enjoy the game. Canada has been represented in Davis Cup competition since 1903.

Boating of all kinds is given full scope in the lakes and streams with which Canada is so richly endowed. At St. Catharines, Ontario, on a nearby river, the Canadian Henley regatta is held each year. It could reasonably be styled a copy of the famed regatta at the older Henley, in England. As the name implies, Canada's Henley is chiefly devoted to rowing, through there is no counter-part to the Oxford-Cambridge race. Still, Canada's high level of competition by intercollegiate crews is pointed up in the fact that the University of British Columbia's four-oared crew won an Olympic Gold Medal at the 1956 Games in Australia.

Paddling is another popular sport. Regattas are held in most large communities each Saturday, and on all national holidays during the summer months. Craft range from single canoes to war-canoes manned by fifteen paddlers.