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William Hodgson Stuart

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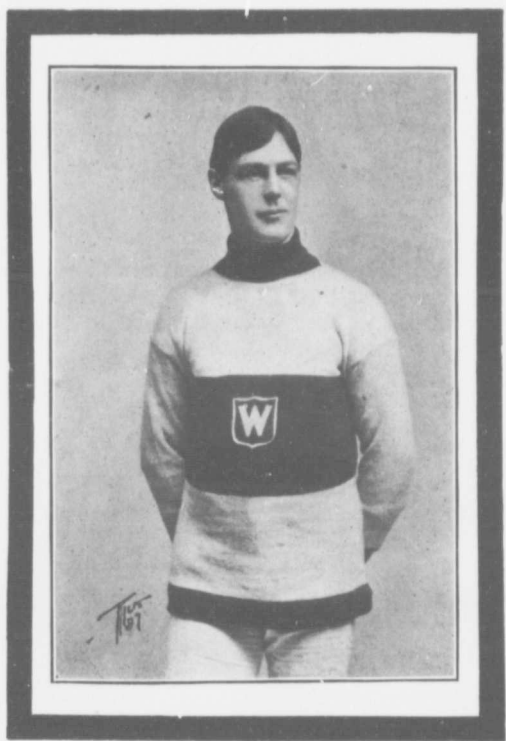
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AN APPRECIATION
OF
A GREAT ATHLETE

"HE WAS A MAN; TAKE HIM FOR ALL IN ALL,
WE SHALL NOT LOOK UPON HIS LIKE AGAIN."



Hod Stuart

"Hod" Stuart

DURING the memorable and now historic hockey match played in the Montreal Arena last winter, between the Ottawa and Wanderer teams, the stalwart cover-point of the latter team was seriously injured, and for a time lay like one dead in the dressing room.

When, after considerable effort on the part of the attendants, he finally revived, he said to those who were trying to prevent him from going on the ice again:

"I'm all right! Let me go; it is all in the game." That, in a sentence, sums up "Hod" Stuart.

During the many years that hockey has been played, Montreal has seen many great players. But it is doubtful if all those qualities that go to make up a great hockey player have ever been so perfectly blended in any other single individual, as in him who is the subject of this sketch.



"Hod" Stuart's hockey career extends over several years; he played on some of the strongest teams, and took part in many of the most strenuous matches that have ever been played; he won fame and popularity such as have been the lot of no other hockey player; and throughout the whole of this notable career he retained that cardinal virtue—none too prevalent in these days—modesty.



With him there was no boasting of the wonderful things he had done or the difficult games he had helped to win. He was always ready to go in and do his duty, not for the sake of the applause and popularity it would bring him, but because he loved the sport for its own sake. Herein lies the secret of his greatness as a hockey player.

"Hod" Stuart came of sporting stock. His father, William Stuart, was for years captain of the Ottawa "Capitals," and an excellent captain he was, in the days when field captains were people to be reckoned with.

It has often been stated that the familiar name by which "Hod" was known to all his friends was given to him on ac-

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count of the fact that, when working with his father, who is a contractor, he sometimes took a hand at carrying bricks. The pleasant fiction of this is, of course, apparent to those who know that his full name was William Hodgson Stuart.

"Hod's" boyhood days were spent in Ottawa, and while there he was prominent as a hockey player, and also in Rugby football circles. Accompanying his father to Quebec in 1902, he joined the Quebec hockey team, of which he was the star player that season.

The following season, "Hod", like several other leading Canadian players, was induced to go to the United States to take a hand in the professional hockey of the International League. For the greater part of four seasons, he played with the Pittsburg, Pa., team, changing once, for a short time, to Houghton, Mich. During these years he became the foremost figure in the stirring times that marked this period of International League hockey.

Though he acquitted himself with the highest credit and made a great name for



himself there, he was always anxious to get back to Canada, and play with and amongst his own people.

Accordingly, when he was approached by the Executive of the Wanderer Club, last season, the idea of returning to his native ice presented itself to him in a favorable light.

There were many who did not believe that "Hod" would break with the International League and join the Wanderers. But when, after lengthy negotiations with the Pittsburg Club who wanted to keep him there at all hazards, he finally appeared in Montreal, the doubters were convinced.

There were many Canadians, last season, who entertained no very good opinion of the quality of hockey played in the International League. Accordingly there were some who held that "Hod" Stuart might be expected to give an exhibition of some of the rough tactics which characterized the International League.

Never were expectations more completely disappointed. From his first appearance on Montreal ice, it became



evident that, whatever had' been the style of play to which he had been accustomed across the border, there was no cleaner or more gentlemanly player on the ice than "Hod" Stuart.

Of his great value to his team there was never the slightest question. From his first appearance in Montreal, he became the idol of the hockey loving public. His style of play made him a pillar of strength to the defence and a great assistance to the forward line. His appearance on the ice was striking, and this, combined with his qualities as a player, won for him the hearts as well as the applause of all who saw him play. In Montreal, last winter, he made a large addition to the hosts of friends he had made in other places.



"Hod" Stuart's effectiveness as a hockey player was due to an almost perfect combination of all those qualities most essential to this kind of sport. His height, weight, and great strength, combined with his speed, made him the most effective man for breaking up combinations and stopping dangerous rushes, that has ever been seen on local ice. His

quickness of eye, speed and clever head work enabled him to give assistance to the forward line that was responsible for many of the victories won by his team last season.

Of the hard knocks inseparable from the game, he seemed to get more than his share; but rarely, if ever, was he seen to retaliate. He carried his pleasant smile through it all, and at no time did he seem to bear malice.



At the end of the season, "Hod" bade farewell to his old and newly made friends in Montreal, with the full expectation of returning at the opening of the present season. He was going to work with his father during the summer at Belleville, where he was engaged in the construction of a new Drill Hall. The last reports from him were that he was well and happy, and was looking forward with pleasure to the re-opening of the hockey season.

Then came the fateful day in June, and all Montreal was grief stricken by the news that their hockey idol was no more. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that if a great statesman had died then, instead of "Hod" Stuart, there

would scarcely have been more general regret. Young Canada, especially, was struck dumb by the horror of the tragedy. The heart-felt sympathy of the whole country went out to the young wife left widowed and to the baby girls left fatherless.

"Hod" Stuart died young, too young to have made sufficient provision for those dependent upon him. He was only twenty-eight, but in his short life he had set an example of true sportsmanship that is worthy of emulation by the young men of this country.

To be a great hockey player is perhaps not the highest thing that a man may aim at in this world. But to be a good and true sportsman, an upright man, a faithful friend, a loving husband and father, is an ambition worthy of anyone.

"Hod" Stuart was all of that.



"Hod" Stuart,

Member of Quebec Senior Hockey Team, 1902, Member of Pittsburgh
Hockey Team, 1903-06, Member of Wanderer Hockey
Team (World's Hockey Champions) 1906-07.

Died June Twenty-Third
Nineteen Hundred and Seven,
Aged Twenty-Eight Years.

SOUVENIR

OF A

MEMORIAL BENEFIT HOCKEY MATCH

PLAYED AT

THE MONTREAL ARENA,

JANUARY SECOND,

1908.