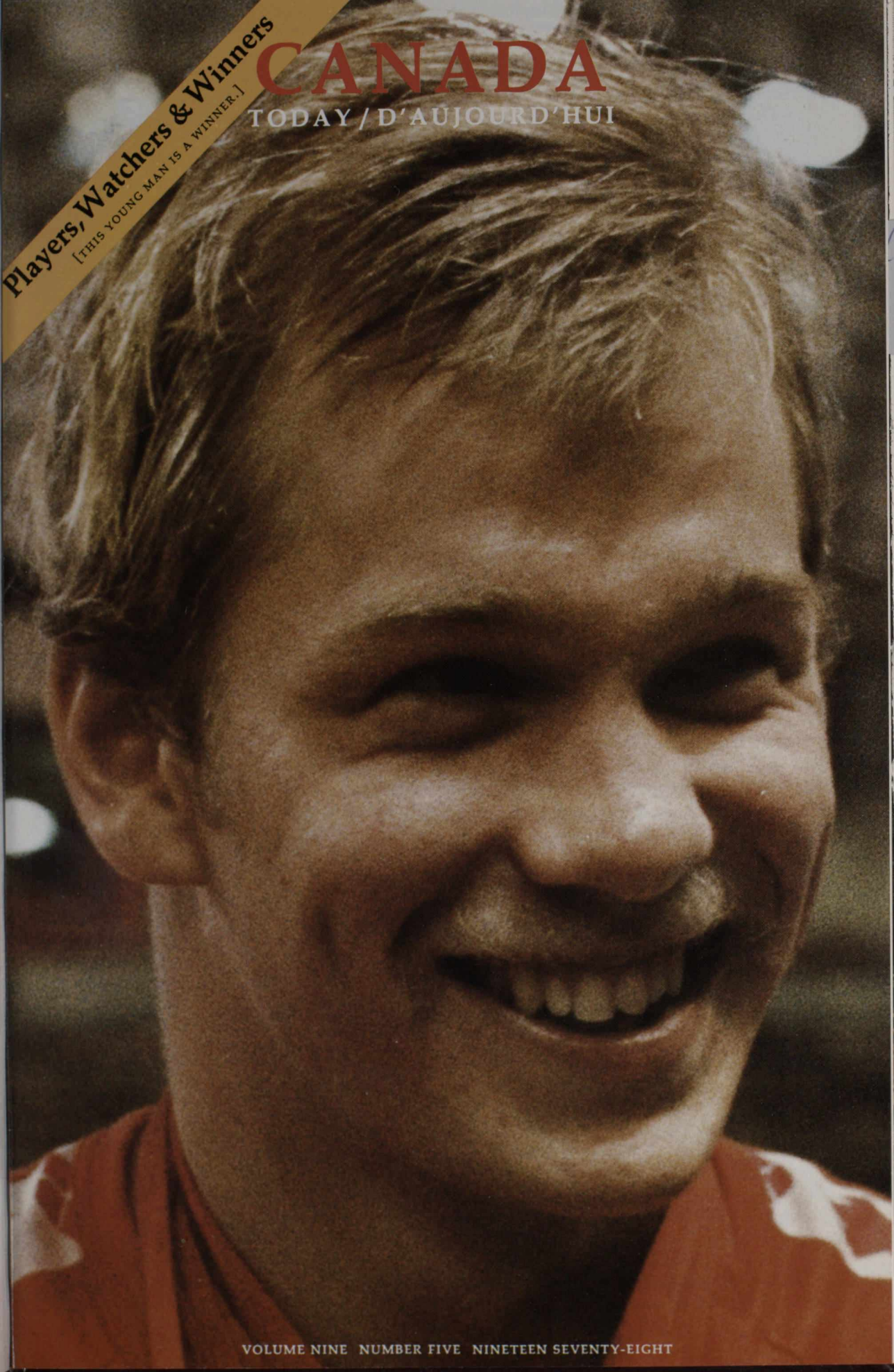


Players, Watchers & Winners
[THIS YOUNG MAN IS A WINNER.]

CANADA

TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI





The Games Canadians Play

Canadians are playful people. They have given the sporting world hockey, basketball, football and lacrosse, the snowshoe and the snowmobile. They are proud of their international stars, from hockey's Gordie Howe to the American League's newest baseball team, the Toronto Blue Jays.

They are sensitive about the fact that most of their best hockey players play in the United States and most of their best football players were born there. But they carry on in their British and French, Indian, Inuit, Celtic and other traditions.

They recently hosted the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Alberta, (August 3-12) and held Highland Games in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. They are also getting ready for the Trappers Festival and the Quebec Winter Carnival.

In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we report on Canada's sporting life, spectators and participants, street games and cups.



Cover: Graham Smith, first ever to win six gold medals at a single Commonwealth meet.

Puck's Bad Boys

Most professional hockey players in North America are Canadians. (In the US, the figures are 85 per cent for the major and 87 per cent for the minor leagues.) Most began playing in pee-wee leagues when they were ten or eleven years old. When Gordie Howe was twelve, he was the star of five different teams in Saskatchewan. At seventeen he played his first National Hockey League game, scored a goal and lost two teeth. In 1960, when Bobby Orr, of Parry Sound, Ontario, was a five-foot-two, one-hundred-and-ten-pound twelve-year-old, the Boston Bruins signed him up

for life (though he is now with the Chicago Black Hawks).

Guy Charron, of Verdun, Quebec, made the great leap in 1968, at age nineteen, when he graduated from the Ontario junior league Canadians to the Canadiens of Montreal.

Hockey is as organized as a military parade. At ten Guy signed up with the Verdun pee-wees, persuaded by the sweater that identified him as a member of the league. It was, he recalls, "a very big thing." Pee-wee teams are sponsored by public recreation departments, private organiza-

tions or enterprises, such as sports stores. Guy, who was husky and fast, was soon on the Pee-Wee All Stars, the pick of Verdun. At twelve he was a bantam, and at fourteen, a midget.

The move after the midgets is the major one. Guy Charron jumped to the junior league, passing by the juveniles. Most future pros do. "If a boy goes to the juveniles, he will have to improve a great deal in the next year. If he goes to the juniors after a year, he will be competing with players his own age who already have a year's experience in the league."

The professional clubs watch the midgets and the juniors (never glancing at the juveniles), and they earmark the most promising youngsters. The Canadiens "protected" Guy when he was a midget, which means they claimed him as theirs (if they ever should want him), though he didn't know it at the time. In Ontario and Quebec, juniors are now drafted, and the "protection" days are past; but the pro teams can still spot a promising western junior league fourteen-year-old and put him on the "protected" list the day he is fifteen.

Junior players are paid according to a fixed scale. None get rich, though fortunate ones may get occasional bonuses from the team's management. Some players earn extra pay from lenient part-time employers. Many of the Flin Flon Bombers in Manitoba, for example, work four hours a morning at surface jobs in the copper or zinc mines and draw a full day's pay.

Life in the junior Western Canada Hockey League is demanding: a nonstop bus ride across the Rockies from New Westminster, British Columbia, to Lethbridge, Alberta, can take twenty

hours in bad weather. Most western juniors drop out of school. In the east it is easier: the Ottawa 67s play in the Ottawa Civic Centre, which has, among other attributes, carpeted dressing rooms with stereophonic music. Ontario and Quebec players compete in their home provinces. Those who drop out of school do so by choice.

Guy Charron played with Verdun in the Quebec junior league and, then, with the Canadiens in the prestigious Ontario junior league. He finished the twelfth grade and dated a pretty girl named Denise who took hockey seriously. "On Saturday nights she'd come over to my place or I'd go over to hers and we'd watch the hockey game. Most of the time, after the hockey game her dad would take me home because I had an eleven o'clock curfew. That was the way we dated in the winter." They married when they were both twenty, after Guy turned pro.

The Canadiens placed him on their farm team, the Voyageurs, and brought him up for a half-dozen games at the end of the season. He started the next season with the Canadiens, played some twenty games and was traded to the Detroit Red Wings. His first game in Detroit was a triumph: he made a spectacular goal and was given a standing ovation. From Detroit he went to Kansas City, and when that franchise was moved to Colorado, he became a free agent and signed with the Washington Capitals.

In Washington he is the star. "All my career, since I left Montreal, what I was looking forward to was becoming the hockey player that I thought I could become. And I think that's what has happened in Washington in the last three years."



Islands

Every French Canadian lives on an island, surrounded by people who speak English. It can be a very small island — as when a single, French-speaking family lives outside Ontario, Quebec or New Brunswick — or it can be as big as a village or a province. The English speakers include not only fellow Canadians but also most of the people from the Mexican border to the Arctic islands.



‘What’s the situation?’ He tells me everything is fine. There are problems in Quebec, but I feel very optimistic. . . .

‘It’s still a problem [the isolation of the French-speaking hockey player in an English-speaking continent]. Maybe less now than it used to be. Every team now has French-speaking players. I think it is still a slight problem, because as much as I’ve

Guy Charron is not quite an island unto himself. For one thing his wife, their small daughter and he are all bilingual. Still he is a French-speaking hockey player in Washington, DC. All but one of the other players on the Capitals are Canadians, but only three of them are French speaking. Below we print some excerpts from an interview in which M. Charron talks about being French speaking and being Canadian.

‘I’m Canadian. I’m very proud of my country. As a matter of fact I’ve had the opportunity to represent my country two years in a row with Team Canada. There’s not a thing that has made me prouder than that. . . .

‘I’ve never been interested in political problems; and being away playing hockey I’ve given them less time. I talk about Quebec with my family — my brother-in-law in particular. I say

played — eight or nine years — it’s still tough if you can’t speak English. Throughout the league the other players don’t like to hear three or four French-speaking players talk in French in the dressing room or some place. English is still the language you have to speak. In Washington there are four guys who speak French. All of them are of a certain importance to the hockey club. If we do talk in French, they can’t really tell us to shut up; it’s not as if we were rookies. In Detroit we had five French speakers. The other players always thought we were talking about them, which wasn’t the case. We were just enjoying a conversation in our own language. Washington is the first team I’ve seen where we speak as much French as we like without anyone asking us to shut up.”





The XI Commonwealth Games began in Edmonton, Alberta, August 3 and ended August 12. The first Commonwealth Games were held in 1930 in Hamilton, Ontario. They were intended to focus on the performance of individuals and "be merrier and less stern" than other international games.

This year the host was asked to pick a tenth sport, and Canada added gymnastics to the traditional nine—athletics (track and field), badminton, boxing, cycling, lawn bowling, shooting, swimming and diving, weightlifting and wrestling. An eleventh sport, lacrosse, was demonstrated by the natives. Athletes from forty-seven countries provided some spectacular finishes, many records and two folk heroes.



Canadian Graham Smith became the first athlete ever to win six gold medals at a single Commonwealth meet. Mr. Smith, of Edmonton, overtook England's Duncan Goodhew in the final 20 metres of the 100-metre breast stroke to set a Games record of 1:03.81 and gain his fourth gold. He also won

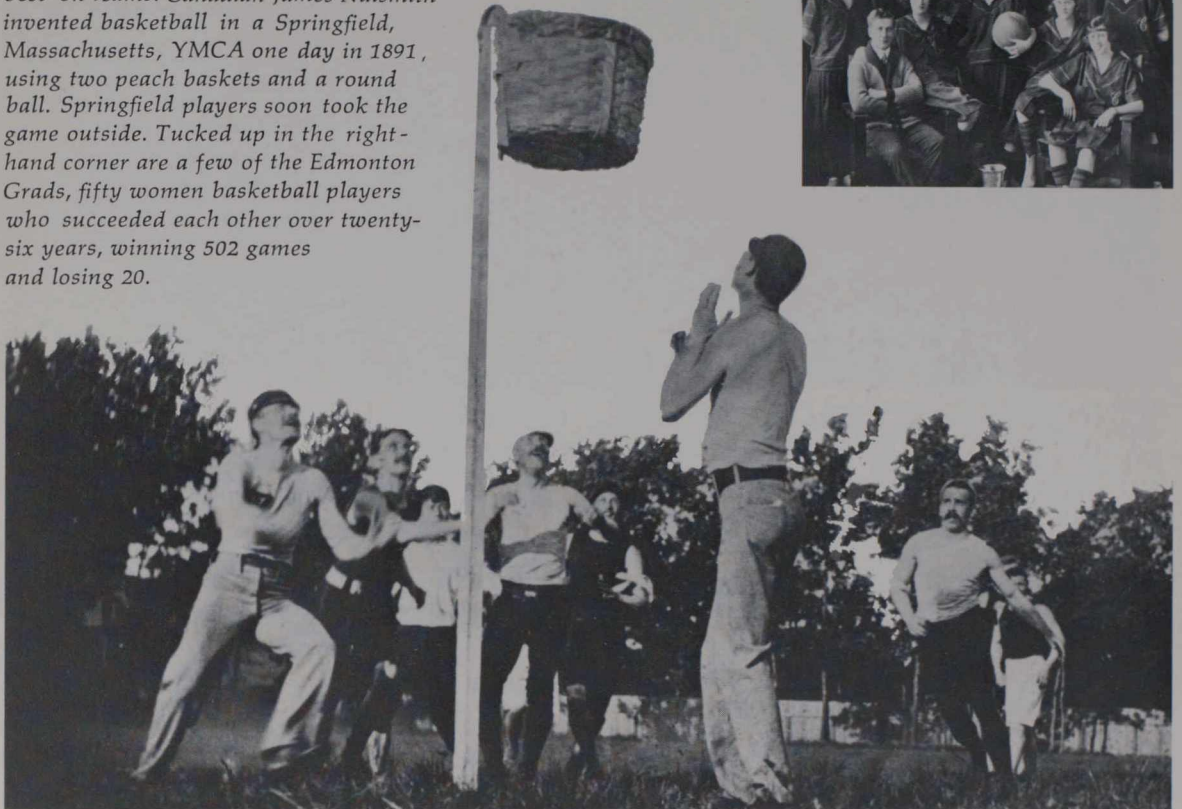
the 200-metre breast stroke, the 200 and 400 individual medleys and, as a team member, the 400 freestyle and 400 medley relays.

The second man of the Games was Precious P. McKenzie, who received his fourth weight-lifting gold medal, having won previous ones in 1966, 1970 and 1974. McKenzie is forty-two years old and just under five feet tall. He was born in South Africa of Scottish and African descent and moved to England twenty-one years ago because apartheid laws barred him from international competition. After the 1974 Games, he adopted a third country, New Zealand. Along the way he was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire. He lifts sometimes as a 52-kilogram (115-pound) featherweight and sometimes as a 56-kilogram (123-pound) bantam. In Edmonton this summer, in his own opinion, he peaked. "This is simply the greatest achievement of my life. The only thing comparable is being back in Buckingham Palace receiving my investiture as a MBE. I will retire now to a new endeavour. Lawn bowling. I think I'm a natural at it."

Graham Smith, left, our cover man, won six gold medals. Below left, he dives into a 400-metre relay. Diane Jones Konihowski, right, won four of the pentathlon events for her gold.



The cold winds of winter taught Canadians the value of cooperation, and they seem to play best on teams. Canadian James Naismith invented basketball in a Springfield, Massachusetts, YMCA one day in 1891, using two peach baskets and a round ball. Springfield players soon took the game outside. Tucked up in the right-hand corner are a few of the Edmonton Grads, fifty women basketball players who succeeded each other over twenty-six years, winning 502 games and losing 20.



Baseball, which was not invented by a Canadian, is however a major Canadian hit. Toronto Blue Jay Doug Ault is the slugger on the left; Gary Carter of the Montreal Expos blocks the plate on the right. The distance to the wall is measured in metres.

Lacrosse, which was invented by Indians long ago, became Canada's official sport in 1975. The players on the right demonstrated the sport at the Commonwealth Games in August. Last July, Team Canada won the World Cup Championship in Stockport, England, by defeating the US team in overtime by a score of 17-16. (Earlier, during the playoffs, the US team had defeated Canada, 28-4.)



Children Play for Keeps

All games, except perhaps kissing, are competitive. Grown-ups try for an edge: they buy expensive, light, strong, perfectly balanced tennis rackets or golf clubs and take lessons from pros. Children jump right in with their individual advantages and disadvantages on display. They use whatever is at hand, including vacant lots and hand-me-down equipment.

Some games, such as kick-the-can, require no expenditure of any kind. It is played in endless variations all over the world: the keeper of the can tries to capture the others, one by one, until he has captured them all or until someone kicks the can and sets them free. In northern Quebec kids play a version called British bulldog. One player (possibly the bulldog) is at one end of a lawn, and everyone else is at the other. The first player must drag the others across a mid-field line. Each one dragged over becomes a member of his team. Finally only one opposing stalwart is left. That player (maybe he is the bulldog) is finally hauled across by everybody.

Quebec youngsters also play fox and hare in the snow. Americans call it fox and geese. A network



of trails is tramped out. The fox is in the centre in a safe circle. The hares are on the edge. The fox chases the hares who must stay on the trails. Those who make it to the centre circle are safe; those who are caught become foxes. Excitement grows as the hares try to remember who is now a fox.

In the simplest games the equipment is provided by nature. Horse chestnuts, for example, fall from trees. In *The Swing in the Garden*, Hugh Hood, remembered conkers as played in Ontario forty years ago: ". . . the large horse-chestnut tree standing on the front lawn, source for the boys along the street of strange, green, spiny balls that yielded pale lumps when split open, yellow-white nuts which darkened upon exposure to air, forming the fibrous casing we used to test in formal battles. We would attach these chestnuts to strong cords to play a game . . . [called] 'conkers,' a word that probably means just what it sounds like. The object of the game was to conquer your opponent's chestnut by splitting it with a blow from your own, swung sharply overhand with a snap of the wrist."

Jump Rope and Other Rhymes

My mother and your mother
were hanging up the clothes.

My mother gave your mother
a punch in the nose.

What colour was the blood?
G.R.E.E.N.

[As you spell it letter by letter
you go around a circle of kids.]
Out goes you.

I'm a little Girl Guide dressed in blue.
These are the actions I must do:
Stand at attention,
Stand at ease,
Hands on hips, bend your knees,
Salute to the Captain, bow to the Queen,
Turn your back on the washing machine.
How many turns? 1, 2, 3, 4 etc.

Fudge, fudge, tell the judge
Mary has a new baby.

Wrap it up in tissue paper,
Put it on the elevator.

See how much the baby weighs — 1, 2, 3, 4 etc.

The wind, the wind, the wind blows high,
Blowing [name the child jumping]
through the sky.

She is handsome, she is pretty,
She is a girl from Montreal City.
She goes courting, one two three.
May I ask who he will be? A, B, C, D, E etc.
[She will marry the boy on whose
initial she misses.]

Table Games

Board games, such as those manufactured by Gamma Two Games (P.O. Box 46347, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6R 4G6), reflect Canadian preoccupations. The game at the right, *The Last Spike*, is all about building a railway west; and the title, at least, was inspired by Pierre Berton's celebrated history of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The origin of card games, such as the two described below, are more obscure, but they are played by one generation after another.



[99]

The players are each dealt four cards, and each time one is laid down another is drawn from a central pile. Each card has the numerical value indicated. Face cards other than kings are worth 10, and aces can count as 1 or 11. If the first player lays down a 5 of clubs, for example, and the next lays down a 7 of diamonds, the total is 12. The player who hits 99 exactly wins. The player whose card puts the total over 99 loses. Some cards are special: a king brings the total to 99 automatically, no matter when it is played. A 10 can be added or subtracted. A player with a 9 may pass his turn. A 4 reverses the order of playing and permits the holder to skip a turn. Players hold cards back for future advantage. A player accumulating four cards of the same face automatically wins. The players keep track of who wins each round, and if any player ever goes over 99, the excess number is subtracted from his number of wins. It is then almost impossible for him to

catch up. In some games the players simply count wins, and the one who reaches a specified number first is the champion of the day.

[PAQUET VOLEUR]

Each player is dealt four cards, and four cards are laid face up in the centre of the table. A player may take any table card that matches a card in his hand (a seven with a seven, a jack with a jack). The card from the table and the one from the hand are stacked in front of the player, face up. This is called a "steal." Further pairs are placed on top so only one card is showing.

If a player has no matching cards in his hand, he must lay down one of his other cards. Another round is then dealt, continuing until all the cards are dealt out. At any point in the game, a player with a card matching the top card on another player's "steal" pile may place it over that top card and steal the whole pile. The player who wins is the one who winds up with the most cards.

The name of this game is one foot high-kick. It is a feature of the Northern Games held in Coppermine, Northwest Territories, since 1970. Each year over thirty Indian and Inuit communities compete in games rooted in their pastimes and domestic skills.





Canadian Amateurs over Fourteen

[AND THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE WHO PLAY]

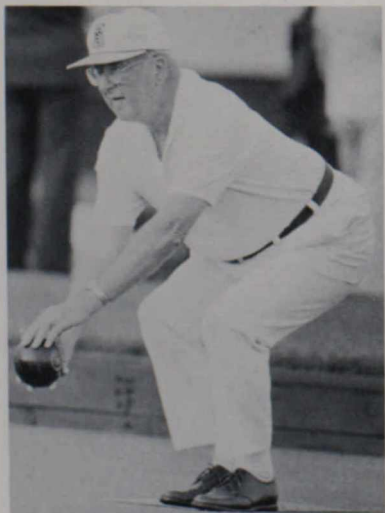
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Swimming (32%) | 6 Cross-country Skiing (8%) |
| 2 Ice Skating (17%) | 7 Downhill Skiing (8%) |
| 3 Tennis (13%) | 8 Curling (5%) |
| 4 Golf (11%) | 9 Alley Bowling (4%) |
| 5 Ice Hockey (8%) | 10 Softball/Baseball (2%) |

These preferences are notably different from those of adult Americans. Bowling ranked first with Americans, and swimming second. Curling and ice hockey were not included, but volleyball, water skiing and basketball were.

In 1972 approximately 732,000 Canadians played tennis. By 1976 the number had almost tripled, rising to 2,175,000. Participation in other sports rose almost as spectacularly. The number of Canadians skiing (both down hills and cross country) went from 1,001,000 to 2,534,000, an increase of 153 per cent. Joggers increased from 1,039,000 to 2,575,000, up 148 per cent. Swimming showed a less phenomenal rise, from 4,191,000 to 7,117,000, up 70 per cent.

Some Canadians bowl in alleys, some on greens. Lawn bowling, in which players roll balls toward a stationary ball called a jack, is probably a British modification of Italian bocce. It was played in Nova Scotia as early as 1732 and has been most popular wherever there are folks with close British ties.

Canadian curlers are not simply plastic cylinders that housewives wear to supermarkets. They are also players of an ancient Scottish sport. There are four on a team — the lead delivers the first stones; the second and third, or mate, deliver the following pairs; and the skip directs them all. The stone, a granite rock weighing about forty pounds and shaped like a plum pudding, slides along a 105-foot expanse of ice toward a bull's eye target. Players with brooms may, or may not, sweep the ice to help it on its way. Right, the bad boy of curling, Paul Growsell of Calgary, former world junior champion, eyes the stone as Doug McFarlane and Kelly Stearne man the brooms.





Harvard vs McGill.

Feet First

The first intercollegiate football game ever played in the United States was between McGill and Harvard in 1874. So was the second.

McGill had invented football as an offshoot of rugby. It played it with an elliptical ball and eleven men. Harvard had its own version, with a round ball and as many as fifteen players.

The first game was played under the "Boston Rules," but with eleven men. Harvard won 3 to 0. The second was played by Canadian rules, though with a round ball, and ended in a scoreless tie. After the games, Harvard adopted the McGill ball as well as the drop kick and the free kick. The following year Harvard played Yale and used the McGill rules *in toto*.

In the next two decades the Canadian and American games evolved separately. In the US the game opened up: the ball was snapped from centre, and each team had three downs in which to move it five yards forward. Americans were running, blocking and tackling. Canada began using a three-man scrimmage instead of the rugby scrum, but the ball still might remain stalled at mid-field more or less indefinitely. The kick was still the essential feature. Players developed the ability to pick up the ball between their ankles and work it backward out of the scrimmage. Once out in the open, a player could kick it toward the goal. If a member of the opposing team caught it on the fly, he was entitled to send it back with a free kick. It was a game for *prima donnas*, and a player would often seem to be playing for himself rather than his team.

In 1902 the Ontario Rugby Football Union adopted new rules designed to bring coherence to the game. Teams, which had expanded to fifteen players, were reduced to twelve. The end-

less scrimmage was eliminated, and the ball was snapped back to put it in play. A team had three downs in which to make ten yards. All goals — made by drop, free or penalty kick — were worth two points. The teams had six men on the scrimmage line and six backs.

In 1912 the McGill team got an American coach, Frank "Shag" Shaughnessy, a former Notre Dame quarterback. It was a move of permanent significance. Shaughnessy made McGill almost unbeatable by introducing exciting American tactics, such as the flying wedge. In 1919, in reaction to Shaughnessy, the rules were altered again: only linemen could block, and no back could run ahead of the ball carrier as he passed the scrimmage line.

The American influence continued nevertheless. In 1935, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers, using a kitty of \$7,500 put up by well-heeled fans, imported seven US players. They beat the Hamilton Tigers for the Grey Cup, the first time a western team had won.

At that time the western teams were coordinated by the Western Inter-Provincial Football Union, and the eastern ones, by the Canadian Rugby Union. After the Winnipeg triumph, the CRU ruled that no man could play in the Grey Cup competition unless he had been resident in Canada for a year and that no club could have more than five imports. The Calgary Bronks and the Regina Roughriders built up their squads with American players, and at Grey Cup time the Roughriders, the western winners, refused to bench their five imports and play.

The next year the WIFU showed further defiance of the east by adopting new rules that permitted backs as well as linemen to block and

allowed the "pro" forward pass, legalizing passes thrown from behind the line of scrimmage.

World War II slowed things down, but the impetus came back with a rush in the post-war years. By 1949 the US influence was overwhelming. Players' salaries boomed, and only one big-league Canadian team was still coached by a Canadian. In 1968 the high professionalism was recognized by the formation of the Canadian Football League.

To a casual spectator today, the Canadian and American games might seem the same. They're not, quite. The Canadians still use twelve instead of eleven men. The Canadian field is wider and longer—65 yards by 110, with 25-yard end zones. The big end zones are important: they make deep pass patterns possible from near the goal line. A Canadian player may score a single point (a rouge) by kicking the ball into the end zone. The other team may, however, nullify the gain by kicking it out, though the first team may, at that point, kick it in again. Beginning this season, Canadian pro teams may also pass or run the ball into the end zone for two points after a touchdown. Canadian teams have only three downs in which to gain ten yards, and there is no such thing as a fair catch north of the 49th parallel.

The Montreal Caledonian Society began the Caledonian games in 1856. They included tossing the caber, putting the stone and varieties of sprints, hurdling and high jumps. The Canadian Scots still have their moments at highland games such as the Ottawa ones below.

Diane Hansen is the Queen Trapper of Northern Manitoba. Irving Constant is the King. They won their titles last February (and must defend them next year) at the Northern Manitoba Trappers Festival, right, at The Pas, five hundred miles north of Winnipeg. The participants, men and women, toss spruce logs (men twelve-foot ones, women eight-footers), run snowshoe races, skin muskrats, and carry backpacks that weigh as much or more than themselves.



Montreal vs Edmonton, 1977 Grey Cup.

It is possible for a Canadian team and an American team to play in the same game. Last January a Can-Am game was played at Tampa, Florida, by two collections of collegiate all-stars. The game was played, in the rain, with Canadian rules. It began with the more bulbous Canadian ball in use, but in the last quarter the Canadian quarterback switched to the easier-to-handle American ball. The Yanks won 22 to 7. The game, though not, perhaps, the score, will be repeated next year.





Le Carnaval de Québec, which occurs each February in Quebec City, is full of dancing, eating, drinking Caribou (a "reinforced" red wine) and snow sculptures. It is also full of competitive sports. These include a variety of hockey competitions from pee-wee playoffs to the North American Olympic Carnival Hockey Tournament. They also include a motorcycle derby on ice, international dog-sled races, a soapbox derby, roller skating, a raquet-thlon (snowshoe race), cross-country skiing races, a curling bonspiel, a tug o'war, speed skating, broom ball, four-wheel-drive competitions on ice, a lumberjack competition and a canoe race across the icy Saint Lawrence River. Next year's carnival will run from February 1 to 11.

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