

HISTORY OF LACROSSE

Although lacrosse is one of the oldest played sports in sports history, just how old has yet to be determined.

White settlers arriving on the North American scene were introduced to a game which was known to the Indians then as baggataway. The game was most popular among the Iroquois of upper New York and lower Ontario but as many as 48 tribes spread across approximately 3,000 miles were also known to have an interest in the game.

Rules and regulations were not a part of the game then but differed from tribe to tribe. The one and only outstanding agreement between the tribes was that picking up or catching the ball with the hand was not acceptable. This common agreement has become one of the regular rules used in the game of lacrosse today.

To the native people the game was more of an endurance match and could last for as long as two or three days with as many as 1,000 braves participating in one match. The playing field itself could cover any where from a few hundred feet to a mile in distance.

Serious injuries were not uncommon in the beginning version of the game and such injuries in todays type of game can also be seen. Any bitterness and resentments between teams is forgotten once the game is over and players join together in friendly relaxation and refreshments.

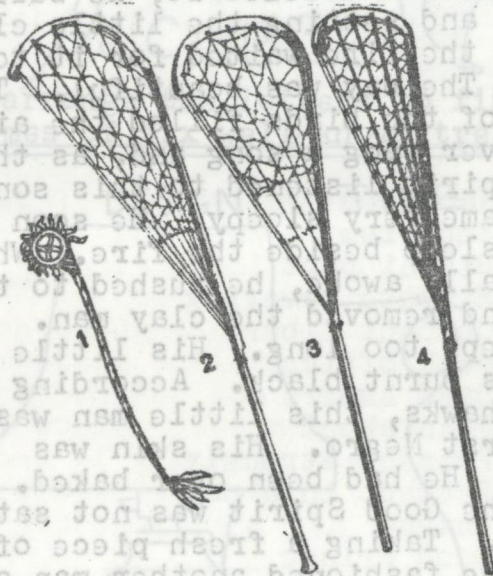
The name lacrosse was chosen by the French settlers who said the sticks resembled the bishop's crozier or staff. The French translation for crozier is 'croisse' and they started calling the game 'la croisse' which was just a short jump away from the current name of lacrosse.

As early as 1867 lacrosse was introduced to the Europeans by a team of Caughnawaga Indians sent

to England and France for several exhibition matches. Lacrosse is still played at many of the universities in England where a great interest in the game was taken.

Field lacrosse is the favourite in the United States with as many as 122 colleges and universities competing in this action packed game. In Canada the majority of competition games are played in a box built for just that purpose. Today Lacrosse is one of Canada's national sports.

EVOLUTION OF LACROSSE



1. Old form of Indian 'crosse' as seen by early explorers and settlers.
2. The stick used around 1876 when introduced to the Europeans
3. The next stage showed an improvement in framework.
4. This stick was in general use in 1890
5. The handmade stick of to-day.
