

Hockey Heroes Of Former Days Made Game Famous In Kingston

First Game of Hockey Was Played in Kingston And Since Then Many Stars Have Been Produced Here--Men Now Famous Played on Kingston Hockey Team.

Written exclusively for the Whig by Capt. Jas. T. Sutherland
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Writing about hockey in July is a different proposition altogether from tackling the same subject "in the good old winter time" when the thermometer is around the zero mark and one is in that enthusiastic state of mind concerning Canada's great winter sport, that inspires one to do justice to such an important subject. Imagine if you can the feelings of the writer, who had just returned from a fairly successful summer day's chase after the elusive black bass, only to receive a polite invitation from the "Whig" to contribute an article on hockey that might in some measure recall pleasant memories of that great sport, to the minds of the old boys and old girls whom Kingston honors during the home-coming celebration in the Limestone City during the first week in August.

It is hardly necessary to remind the visitors of the enviable position that this city occupies in relation to the great game of hockey, for it was in the City of Kingston that organized hockey had its birthplace, the first league that we have any record of being the Kingston Hockey League, composed of clubs representing Queen's University, Royal Military College, The Kingstons, and The Athletics, Col. Arthur Cunningham, K.C., Hon. Wm. Nickle, Sanford Fleming and Billy Waldron were amongst those who represented the Queen's University seven. Charles Gay Shannon, Francis MacNee, Courtney Strange and Billy Kent were connected with "The Kingstons." The Athletics had the following personnel: Jack Elliott, goal; Frank Roney and the writer, defense; Wickey Wilson, Freddie Rockwell, Tommy Parkins, Jack Renton, "Chick" and Dave McKee, forwards. I will remember what an unfortunate habit Jack Elliott's spring skates had of falling off his boots whenever a particularly hard shot was stopped by the eagle-eyed John...

Queen's won the championships in the final with the Athletics, the score being 3 to 0 in their favor. Principal Grant was an interested spectator. The final was played in the old Dix rink which was situated directly in front of the present Hotel Dieu Hospital, at that time this was a large vacant field which was used in the summer time for baseball, etc., and in the winter for skating. Hockey had been played between teams representing Queen's and R.M.C., for one or two seasons previous to the organization of the League mentioned. Queen's players at that time were long with them from playing with the same spirit and dash that has ever been the habit of Queen's athletic teams, in all lines of sport.

Many of the old boys and girls will recall the truly wonderful games that were played in the old covered rink, which was erected by the Richardson interests, and which some few years ago made way for the magnificent Jock Hartly Arena. This, unfortunately becoming a prey to the flames, was replaced in 1924 by the present fine arena, and very fittingly again bears the name of one who as an athlete and citizen had endeared himself to all Kingstonsians. The artificial plant in connection with the present arena, is a most welcome invitation and establishes the old Limestone City in the front ranks of high class winter-sport centres.

Kingston's Fine Record.

Kingston has turned out many famous hockey players who have stood out prominently in this line of sport in competition with teams from all points in Canada. Even as the proud boast of the citizens of the great Roman Empire, in the early ages, was wont to be "I am a Roman Citizen," in like manner the hockeyists that have gone forward from Kingston to other parts to play the game, have been proud to state that they were "Kingston hockeyists," and judging by the records they established, this was no idle boast.

Growth of Hockey

Although hockey had its birth in Canada less than 40 years ago its growth has been nothing short of marvelous. In that space of time the game has gained such headway that it is now played in even the most remote points in Canada and has even crossed the line into the United States, being now played in many of the larger cities and Universities in the home of "Old Glory."

In the early days the names of such brilliant local players as the following were wont to create great enthusiasm when matters pertaining to hockey were mentioned. Guy Curtis, Ward Merrill, Bob Hiscock, Arthur Cunningham, "Jock" Hartly, Bunty Dalton, Fen Taylor, "Skelly" Walkem, Cyril Knight, Fossie Weatherhead, George McKay, "Larry" Newlands, Carmichael, and many others whose names the writer regrets he cannot recall at this moment: There were "Queen's men" and they left behind them memories of wonderful battles and memorable victories, won for the old Tricolor. Later on Queen's was represented by such great players as George Richardson, Marty Walsh, Billy Dobson, Curly Campbell, Mike Rodden, Jerry Curtin and Chaucer Elliott, the latter becoming later on one of the greatest hockey referees Canada has ever known. These and other left a great heritage of clean sportsmanship that the youth of today might well follow. Hockey was played for the zest and love of the game in those days.

Great Difference In Baseball Of To-Day And That Of Years Ago

Interesting History of Baseball In Kingston Reviewed--Old Timers Declare Their Teams Were Wonders--Great Advances Made in the Game.

To make things pleasant for the old boys who will be here next week, the committee in connection with baseball for the week has arranged a splendid programme which will no doubt draw many of the old boys to see the games but more than this it will recall old times when the game in Kingston was played much on a different scale than it is today. There were no such lavish equipments for teams in the early days of the game as there are today, no "pillow" mits, as some of the old timers are wont to call the catcher's glove, no fancy priced bats, pads, uniforms or anything of the sort. These came with the advancement of time and of the game until today we see baseball teams decked out with the best that there is.

Recalling early history of baseball in Kingston, takes us back about the time of 1868 or 1869. Up to that time, cricket was the popular game in vogue in the city then but baseball did not have a hard time being introduced. The game was taken up eagerly by Kingston folk and it proved to be, later on, that Kingston turned out some of the finest baseball players of the day. Kingston can point back to some great players with the old St. Lawrence's, the Earls, the Park Nines and other teams. Some of these veterans, Jeff Lovett, Michael Dolan and others are still able to tell about those games with pride and are of the opinion still, that the ball played in those times was far more exciting and interesting than the games played here in the present day. As there are few left here to dispute them, their words must go. However, these old timers must have played great ball and had many an exciting game for today former players of days gone by look back with pride on the teams of years ago and declare that this man or that man, was a wonder. What they would do in a present-day team would be interesting to see indeed.

Cricket was going at a strong gait when baseball first made its entry into the sport-calendar and the fact that the game of cricket was threatened, did not please the cricketers themselves any too well. There was some squabbling at first but the cricketers were drowned out in the popular demand for baseball but the name always stuck to the cricket field.

The First Diamond.

The first baseball diamond in Kingston was laid out along the corner of Park Avenue and Barrie street. The diamond was green in those days and skinned diamonds were unknown. A small grandstand, about the size of the store-house on Park Avenue was erected and here the enthusiastic crowds enjoyed the games to their hearts' content. Kingston was not long in taking to the game of baseball and some of the old-time games played were "red hot affairs."

Kingston had a team known as the St. Lawrence team for which Rafferty and Dygred, two imports were used as the battery, Rafferty being the pitcher and Dygred the catcher. They were here for about two years and played for the local club. The cricketers became quite incensed at the way their grounds were being taken over by the baseballers and entered such protests that the baseball outfit were moved down to the far end of the field near West street where a new diamond was laid out and a much better grand-stand erected.

Here the St. Lawrence team played their games and one of the greatest games in the history of baseball in Kingston was the one which took place between the locals and the Guelph Maple Leafs about 1876 or 1877. The Guelph team were composed of amateurs and pros. Two of the local members of the team were Jim Hermonist and Jack McCammon. That game stood out for a long time afterwards and was talked of for months and months. The game went to twelve innings. The score was tied 2-2 at the end of the ninth, tenth and eleventh innings but in their half of the twelfth frame, Kingston pushed over the winning run ending with a score of 3-2.

"Paddy" Nolan Umpire.

The system of umpiring then was much different than it is to-day. In the early times of baseball here, "Paddy" Nolan was the official umpire. He was

a cripple and used to sit on a chair behind the pitcher and give his judicial decisions from there. He always sat on the off side of the batter and was in less danger of being struck by a batted ball. He made a thorough study of the game and was well versed in the rules as they were then and was considered an authority on the subject. It is doubtful if he was a paid official at any time but it is certain that he was not when he started in. An amusing feature of "Paddy" Nolan's umpiring lay in the fact that he always kept an umbrella over him to keep off the hot rays of the sun. When he officiated at a game he appeared all dressed up, wearing a black long-tail coat.

Style of Play.

The St. Lawrence uniform was white shirt and pants and blue stockings with a blue and white cap. The people backed up to the St. Lawrence team to the limit and there was great excitement in baseball circles at that time. There was more sport to the game then than there is to-day and the players went into the game for the sport that was in it and they played the game without the idea of winning at any costs. The games played in those times were all challenge games as no organized league had been formed then.

The style of pitching then was much different than it is to-day and for a long time a pitcher was required to throw the ball underhand. Tom Parkin was one of the great under-arm pitchers at one time here. The next change was that pitchers were allowed to throw from below the knee and then they were allowed to extend this to below the shoulder. Later on, however, they were allowed to throw any style they chose. It was the custom in the earlier days of the game, to have baseball tournaments and much interest was shown in these games and excitement often ran very high.

The Young Earls.

The Young Earls club was of the best in the city at one time. This team operated in the '70's. It was composed of young men living in the vicinity of St. Vincent's Academy. They were often opposed by another club known as the Beavers. The rivalry between the two teams, representing opposite factions, was very high and when the two met, there was enough excitement to last for some days. The Earls often met the St. Lawrence team in practice games and though they never defeated them, they gave them some pretty stiff arguments. "Paddy" Moran, Gallivan, Conway and many others were connected with the Earls Club.

The Park Nine Club.

The Park Nine Club operated about the '80's. They were the successors of the Earls and they hung up a record that was one to be proud of. One of the best known players on that club was T. J. (Jeff) Lovett, who was one of the best catchers ever turned out here. R. J. Eilveck was trainer for the team, and acted as sort of manager also, having had experience in earlier times with the St. Lawrence team. This team played most of its games on a field up where Aberdeen street now is. One of the most amusing games played was that between the lawyers and the doctors in 1889. The doctors unmercifully whipped the lawyers to the score of 68-27. Dr. Anglin was one of the prime movers in arranging that game and the late Charles Smith, Donald McIntyre, William Mundell and others took part in that contest.

Remarkable progress has been made in the game of baseball from its first play in Kingston in regard to the playing. It is much speedier and more scientific now but it is doubtful if there is the same spirit of sport in the game today as there was in those times. In those times a player went in the game for the love of it and put his heart and soul into it but he played with the idea of doing his best win or lose but one is inclined to think that players today are, for the most part, inclined to win at any cost although there are exceptions to every rule.

Natives of New Guinea use nets spun by large spiders to catch fish weighing as much as one pound.

Twelve states still allow children under 16 to work more than eight hours a day.



OLD CHUM

The Tobacco of Quality



The Thames—where good roads meet beautiful river scenery. A familiar spot in western Ontario. Sketched by the well known Canadian artist, C.W. Jefferys, O.S.A., A.R.C.A.

Just around the bend

See the great picture gallery of Ontario's natural beauty

Just around the bend of the road, a land of rolling hills, sapphire lakes and silver streams awaits you: a land of orchards and grain fields—of trim villages and beautiful cities and towns.

It's a great picture gallery—and it's yours, because it's in your own Province. There's a masterpiece at every turn. See this gallery from the highways of Ontario. Take the family with you. Drive moderately, and you will enjoy all the more the constant panorama which breaks on your view.

The law of Ontario sets a maximum speed of 25 miles an hour to preserve you and other users of the road from accident and to prevent needless damage to road surfaces by reckless driving.

Let the "speed hound" pass, if he insists. Don't be one yourself. Remember, the road is yours to use, not to abuse—yours to enjoy, not to destroy.

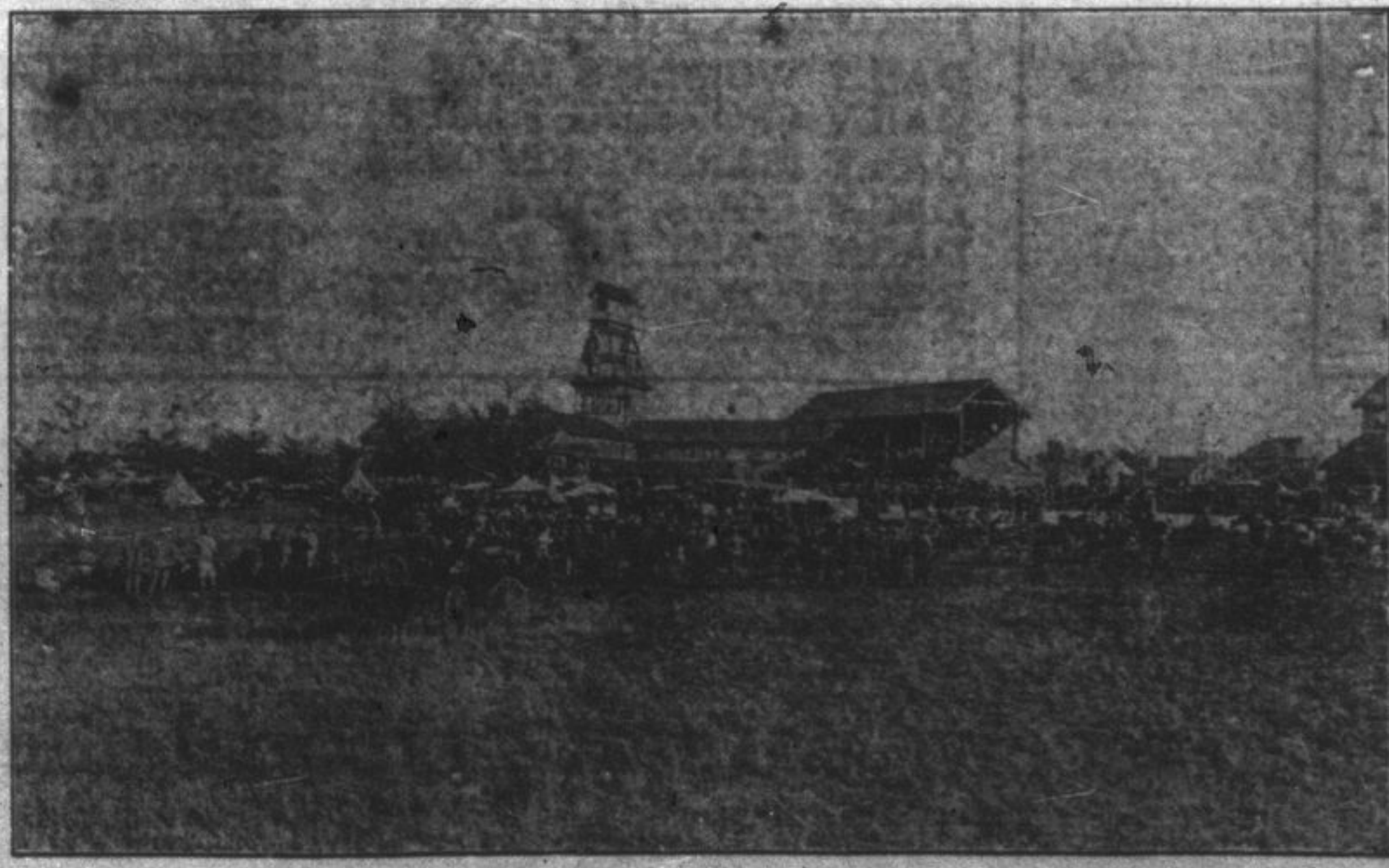
The Government and the Counties are building a splendid and extensive system of highways. They are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in maintaining it. If these roads get in poor repair, who's to blame—those who build and maintain them, or those who misuse them?

To you and all other intelligent motorists, the Government makes this appeal to conserve the highways by sane driving. To the "speed hound" who will not heed, it gives notice that the enforcement of the law regarding fast driving will be more rigorous than before.

An advertisement issued by the Ontario Department of Highways to secure the co-operation of motorists and truck drivers, Automobile Clubs, Good Roads Associations and all other public spirited bodies, in abating the abuse of the roads of the Province.

The Hon. Geo. S. Henry, Minister

S. L. Squire, Deputy Minister



A Scene at the Kingston Fair Grounds.

Birmingham, England, is one of the greatest industrial cities because each week there is made there 14,000,000 pens, ten tons of pins, 6,000 metal beds, 7,000 tons of rifles and other articles.

An inn sign painted on the blade-bone of a whale is one of the curiosities of Houghton, Suffolk. The Aquitania burns 32,000 barrels of oil a day on her trans-Atlantic voyages.

Rat poisons and traps cause an expenditure of two million dollars annually in the United States. New York iceman is accused by his wife of having married another four days after he married her.