

1867 | 1967

# Field Lacrosse Is Back

Field lacrosse is back in New Westminster, the city that is remembered most for fostering the game when it was big.

The Australian National field lacrosse team, partially at its own expense, is making a North American tour and what better place to stop over than New Westminster, where the game of field lacrosse once dominated the interest of the town.

Many of the game's stars at the turn of the century are still alive and will be at the game tonight. Many more who were too young to play but looked on as youngsters will be along for a trip down memory lane.

Field lacrosse first started before the gay nineties were even thought of. By 1900 a full fledged rivalry between Vancouver and New Westminster had fans flocking to Queens Park Oval for the games.

The games were of such importance that many of the local businessmen closed their doors and hopped the street car that dropped them off at the park. It was the biggest thing in sports in the Royal City and continued through the '20s and into the depression.

New Westminster was represented in the Olympics in 1928 (Amsterdam) and 1932 (Los Angeles) by field lacrosse. Mayor Stuart Gifford saw Olympic action and has a great deal of respect for the game.

Many doubt that field lacrosse will ever regain its former stature, but the game is still played locally. The New Westminster Senior High School has a team that annually wins the Vancouver and District Field Lacrosse league.

The game is big in the school with more and more effort being put into the game every year. Sponsor of the school outfit is Alderman Doug Stout, a local teacher and descendant of former field players.

Box lacrosse has taken over as "the game" in the lower mainland but chances are "boxla" will never make it to the Olympics because it is strictly a game played in Canada.

Field lacrosse enjoys popularity at many of the Ivy league colleges in the United States and is also catching on in the Great Lakes states.

Now with Australia making a big effort to get the game going, who knows what the future will hold. Tonight history is being made in New Westminster and you were there.



Coach Gordie Gimple, manager Al Browning and players Paul Parnell, Bill Robinson, Stan Brown and Marty Jordan workout prior to the field lacrosse battle between the Inter-city Allstars and the Australian National team.

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Manager — AL BROWNING

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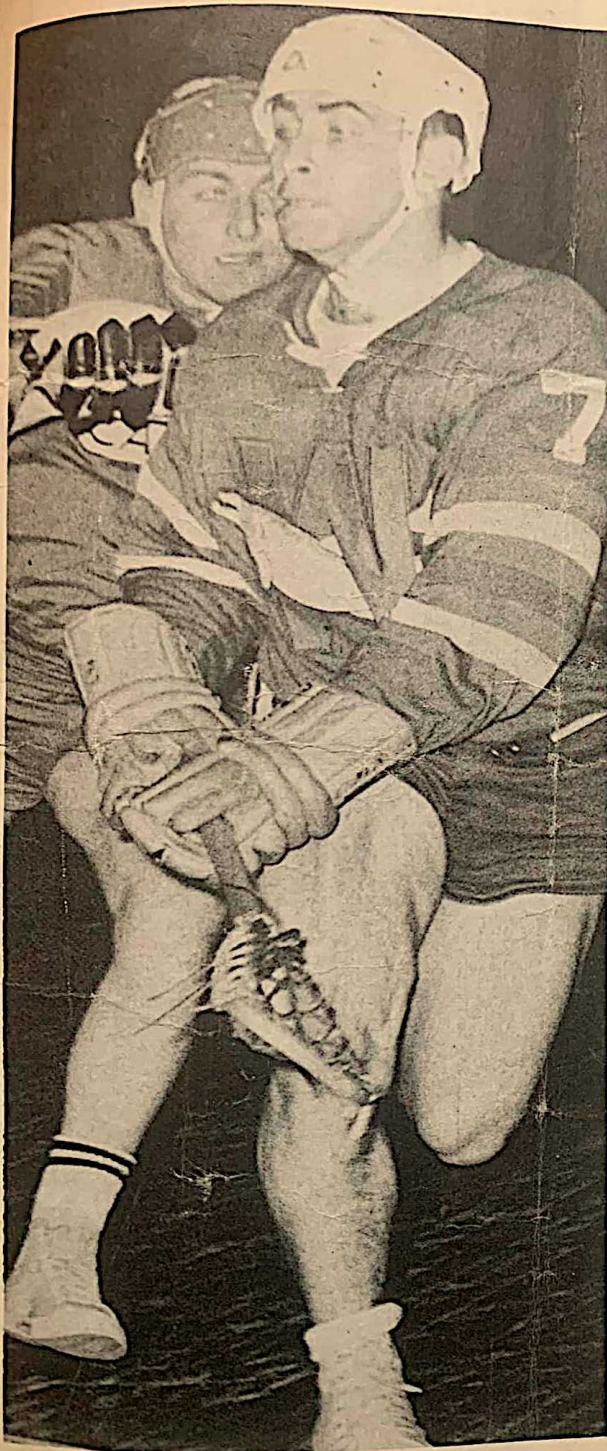
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Two veterans of field lacrosse days, Clifford "Doughy" Spring and Jimmy Gifford check pictures of "the good old days" as they view reminders of the days when field lacrosse was king in New Westminster. You can bet they'll be in the crowd tonight.



▲ A vote of thanks should go to B.C.L.A. promotion men Jake Trotzuk and Don Benson who worked hard to bring the Australian team to New Westminster for tonight's activities.

◀ Two players who will be seeing a great deal of action tonight for the Inter-City league Allstars are Paul Parnell (7) of New Westminster and Bill Robinson of Vancouver.

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