McGILL SPORTS

Basketball founder Neismith, two Olympians and one Stanley Cup winner inducted this year

Dr. James Neismith (Nov. 16, 1861-Nov. 28, 1939) of Ramsey Township near Almonte, Ont., competed in football, soccer, and gymnastics at McGill. In 1885-86 he won the Wickersham Silver Medal. In his graduating year, 1887, he won the Wickersham Gold Medal. He was active in student government and undergraduate clubs, taught physical education, and was McGill's first director of athletics. He taught at the YMCA College in Springfield, Mass., and there developed the rules for basketball in 1891. He tested the first basketball helmets, played in the first indoor football game, and was not only a Presbyterian minister and a medical doctor, but also attained eleven academic degrees, including an honorary doctor of divinity from McGill in 1939.

George Ritchie Hodgson (Oct. 12, 1893 - May 1, 1983) of Montreal, swam and played water polo at McGill from 1912-1916 while studying engineering. In 1911 he won the mile race at the Coronation (now Commonwealth) Games. With an innovative stroke, the stroke, he was the first Canadian to win two Olympic gold medals (Stockholm, 1912). He broke three world records in the Olympic mile-a-mile swim, set a world record in the 400m freestyle, and won a gold medal in the 1500m freestyle. After serving in the war he competed in the 1920 Olympics at Antwerp. He was considered the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association's greatest one-sport athlete and was inducted into the Canadian Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in 1949.

Dr. E. Monroe Bourne (June 26, 1910 - July 11, 1982) of Rochester, N.Y., studied at McGill from 1927-31, and graduated with an honour degree in English and Political Science. He won a Rhodes Scholarship, and later returned to McGill to graduate from Medicine in 1937. As captain of McGill's swimming, track, and waterpolo teams, he led his teammates to eight championship matches. He was named intercollegiate champion in four swim and four track events. He held five intercollegiate swim records and two Canadian records and swim for Canada at the 1928, 1932, and 1956 Olympics, winning a bronze medal in 1932. Bourne served on McGill's Athletics Board and was inducted into the Canadian Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in 1972.

Capt. Percival Makoan (Aug. 14, 1880 - July 5, 1917) played with the Stanley Cup Championship Montreal Victorias at the age of 16, and graduated at McGill from 1897-1901, graduating with a B.A. He was captain of the hockey team, starred in track and football, and won the Individual Trophy for the school's "best all-round athlete" three times. He set a world record in the long jump in 1900, and was the youngest member on the McGill Board of Governors, chairing its finance and stadium committee. A captain in the war, he received the Military Cross for gallantry and distinguished conduct in action. He was killed at Vimy Ridge, leaving in his will $75,000 towards the construction of a football stadium at McGill. This was dedicated in 1919 at the Percival Makoan Memorial Stadium. He was inducted posthumously into the Canadian Football Hall of Fame in 1963.

Dr. R. Tait McKenzie (May 26, 1867 - April 28, 1938) of Almonte, Ont., graduated from McGill with a B.A. in 1890, an MD in 1892, and was granted an honorary law degree in 1921. He won the Wickersham Silver Medal and in 1899 the Wickersham Gold Medal. He succeeded James Neismith as the gymnastics instructor and became McGill's first medical director of physical training. He was instrumental in the formation of McGill's first basketball team in 1901 and, in 1904, accepted the position of Dean of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. His sculptures of athletic figures have been displayed at the Louvre and at the National Gallery in Ottawa. As a sports enthusiast he attended every Olympic Summer Games from 1896 to 1932 and produced 126 works on sports subjects.

MARTLETS

HALL OF FAME

Hall of Henry McConnell (Jan. 7, 1915 - Sept. 4, 1942) of Montreal, was one of McGill's most prolific hockey players, scoring 116 goals with 95 assists for 211 points in 94 games. He studied commerce from 1933-39, was a member of four McGill hockey championship teams, and played two seasons of senior football. He was the Intercollegiate Hockey League scoring leader and in 1938-39 received the Ken Stewart Cup as MVP of the Quebec Senior Hockey League. Captain in his senior year, he established McConnell career records for goals, assists, and points which stood for four decades. He served in World War II and was killed in action in September 1942 when his ship was torpedoed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Hall of Mary Cartwright (1895-1955) of Saskatchewan, was an instructor at McGill's Royal Victoria College from 1906-1927. As official advisor for the RVCA Athletics Club, she established intramural competitions in basketball, hockey, gymnastics, swimming, fencing, and tennis. She changed the military style of physical education to specialized training through school and was instrumental in increasing the McGill School of Physical Education in 1919. She initiated an undergraduate requirement in physical education, devised eighth-grade and playing rules for women's basketball; organized a women's intercollegiate league, coached the RVCA team, and instituted the "Bronze Baby Trophy," still awarded to CIAU women.

T E A M A W A R D

The 1938 Football Redmen won the Varsity Cup, intercollegiate Football League championships for the first time in a decade. It was to be McGill only football championship for the next 22 years. They had an 8-1-2 record over-all, outscoring their opponents 128-42. In 1991 the surviving members of this team established the "1938 McGill Champions Memorial Award" for academic achievement and leadership in athletics, presented annually in memory of the seven of their McGill football and hockey teammates who lost their lives in World War II. ©