

## 1906-1916: The Second Decade

West's opened their second decade and the new year by winning the 1906 City Senior Basketball crown.

In the spring, their junior lacrosse team hosted the well-known, league winning, Vancouver Argonauts in an early season game at Oak Bay Park. They had a good lacrosse lesson from the mainlanders who handed them an 8-1 beating. Later, Vic West intermediates won the City Lacrosse Cup in an abbreviated series.

October, 1906, election of club officers resulted as follows:

- **A. Monteith** - President
- **Rev. A.E. Roberts** - Secretary
- **Rev. C.E. Cooper** - Treasurer
- **C. Fairall** - Financial Secretary

The 10th Anniversary of VWAA was celebrated on the 28th of November, 1906, when a very entertaining athletic evening was held at the club hall. The programme had included two closely contested basketball games against the junior and intermediate YMCA teams. Followed by an exhibition wrestling match between **T. Neill** and **C. Wriglesworth** and a tumbling demonstration by the YMCA team under the direction of Mr. Oliver. It was a well-appreciated function, with a full house in attendance.

Football was organized and a fine West's intermediate side opened the decade with a great season when they won the City, Island and Provincial honours by playing 14 games, winning 12 and losing only 2. Their roster included names such as **H. Campbell, F. Brown, R. Muir, W. Lawson, E. Morris** and **E. Todd**.

West's also had a good lacrosse team that summer, however, there was very little local competition. Therefore, games were arranged with mainland clubs and on May 24th they fought a hard battle with Vancouver before losing 3-2. Later, after picking up two or three new players, they returned to Vancouver and won 7-5.

Team players were; **H. Campbell, W. Crocker, S. Okell, P. Wilson, L. Sweeny, W. Battersby, A. Campbell, H. Sargison, C. Mason, D. Crawford, A. Know, F. Kroeger, J. Petticrew** and **A. Carss**. Some other game results were; Victoria 25 vs Nanaimo 16; Victoria 16 vs Bellingham 0; Victoria 3 vs New Westminster 0.

The 1907-08 executive was as follows;

- **L. Tait** - President
- **A. Monteith** and **G.A. Okell** - Vice President
- **Rev. A.E. Roberts** - Secretary
- **Rev. C.E. Cooper** - Treasurer
- **P. Wilson** - Financial Secretary

The mighty VWAA Intermediate Football team added five new faces and continued their winning ways with eight victories and a draw in retaining the City, Island and the provincial finals Mahoney Cup. Now their two seasons, 23 games record, stood at 20 wins, 2 losses, and 1 tie.



**VIC WEST INTERMEDIATES. 1907-08 CITY, ISLAND & B.C. CHAMPIONS**

Back Row, L-R: Fred Brown, Wilf Prevost, C. Hall, Ted Beaney, E. McQuade, Chuck Kinlock,  
Tom. Brigden.

Front Row, L-R: Cyril Sedger, Stan Okell, George Okell-V P., Leonard Tait-Pres., A. Monteith-VP.,  
Ernie Tait, Joe Bayley. Missing: Joe Dakers

Having had five championship seasons in the Intermediate (2nd) Division it was decided to place this team into the senior ranks in the fall of 1908.

An instructor for gymnastics work, **Mr. Nott**, had been hired by the club as there was plenty of physical activities and boxing going on at the hall. A Sports Tournament, held on February 26th, featured senior basketball with Vic West against James Bay and horizontal bar work by **H. Nott**, **C. Hill** and **H. Mellish**. In the wrestling ring, **T. Neill** took on **C. Wriglesworth** and in boxing it was **T. Saunders** facing **T. Murphy**.

Boxing was becoming a big part of the Vic West club activities and on April 2, 1908, they staged a big Fight Card at the gym. In the main event, Kid Foley and Duffy went at it for 15 rounds with the Kid winning. Preliminary four-round events saw Bayley vs Ricketts, then Johnson vs Murphy and in the main event it was Sanderson vs Warburton.

On May 23rd, another big boxing event was staged by the VWAA. This time it was held in the Victoria Theater and featured professionals with Lauder and Howell going for 20 rounds. In the prelims, local brothers **Collie** and **Billy Hall**, went at it for three rounds and then the Wests scrapper, **Joe Bayley**, knocked out George Bright from Vancouver. Unfortunately the May 24th Victoria Day celebrations included a free fireworks displays at Beacon Hill on the same night as the fight card. Only a few fight fans turned out at the theater and the event was a financial flop. A \$750 mortgage, a heavy burden for the club to carry, had to be placed on the gymnasium in order to cover the fight costs.

Summer lacrosse opened with three teams in an Intermediate League. After Vic West won the first two games over Centrals and JBAA, it was decided to combine the clubs and line-up games with the strong mainland teams. This plan provided good competition but it was short lived.

On the football pitch, the now senior Wests continued their winning ways by collecting the City title and possession of the 1908-09 Garrison Challenge Cup.

Basketball rebounded that winter with a good number of teams in each league. The Shamrocks won the Junior Division over VWAA, North Ward, JBAA and the Emmanuel Baptist Boys Club. In the Intermediate League, the High School team topped EBBC, YMCA, VWAA, and the 5th Regiment. James Bay edged Vic West followed by the 5th Regiment, YMCA and the Firemen in the Senior section. Wests didn't always win but became known for their tough spirited games.

The City football season had gone well but at the beginning of the Island fixtures the Amateur Athletic Union axe fell, first on Ladysmith and Nanaimo, then on Vic West and the Foresters. **Sammy Duffy**, a professional boxer had played football for Nanaimo before coming to Victoria and playing with Esquimalt in the City League as an amateur. There was no money for local football and when the Island League began, Duffy signed on with the Wests and was part of the pro-am controversy that prohibited any pro athlete from playing alongside amateurs. After things were ironed out the teams reorganized and continued play without pro players in their line-ups.

The City basketball leagues were also tainted and therefore had to be abandoned and reorganized. Later, many players from various sports were reinstated as amateur and the stormy sports scene calmed down.

Long-distance road-racing was a popular activity for clubs during the winter months with the annual five-mile New Years Day Run being one of the highlights. This year, Vic Wests **Charlie Brown** entered his first race and came second to the YMCA star Frank Baylis. In a second six mile race, he again finished in second place to Dickson, another YMCA runner. A walking race featured **E.S. Woodward**, a VWAA member and later a city councilor, against J. Stone of the Navy. Woodward, who led most of the way, was beaten in the final stretch.

Wests won their second City Senior Football crown by overcoming Esquimalt, JBAA, Garrison, 5th Regiment and Foresters in the 1909-10 season.

At a club meeting, a motion was passed to start raising funds in order to up-grade the club building as a large demand on the gym required more space. A good working committee was appointed and soon raised \$5000. There was some discussion about continuing the fund raising with an aim of acquiring new property and building a larger facility. This idea was discarded and the renovating plans were drawn up by Architect, Mr. Sedger. Work included additional changing rooms with lockers and shower facilities, a refurbished reading-meeting room and a new exterior paint job.

The 1910 City Senior Basketball League was won by Vic West with Y.M.I. claiming the Intermediate Division and YMCA the Junior Championship.

October 10, 1910, was the opening date of the senior football season. By now eight teams were entered with the Wests and North Ward finishing the league deadlocked in first place. The tie was played off on January 22, 1911, with Vic West winning that hard fought game by a 3-2 count. Wests had won the City League by scoring 45 goals and giving up only 10 in 14 games. Five members of that side, **Wilf Prevost, Ernie Tait, Cyril Sedger, Stan Okell** and **Joe Bayley** had been with the team through their championship winning years beginning in 1906.



**VICTORIA WEST A.A. SENIOR SOCCER 1908-1913**

**City Champions 1909-1910-1911-1913-----Vancouver Island Champions 1912-1913**

	R.Whyte	JW Duncan	L.Tait	GT Brown	S.Okell	
J.Okell	R.Sedger			Phil Hardy	J Bayley	
J.Sherratt	R.Stewart	DS Tait		A.Monteith	C.Kinlock	C.Baker
J.Robertson	J.Petticrew			W.Prevost	J.Peden	
B.McDiarmid	E.Tait	G.Okell	J.Youson	P.Wilson	W.Thompson	H.Cowper
C.Sedger	R.McKitrick				S.Thackray	J.Wright
	N.McDonald				L.McDonald	

That being their third Garrison Cup win in-a-row, the cup therefore became the permanent property of the VWAA. They in turn presented a new trophy, known as the Okell Cup, for the Senior City Championship.

The following is a brief history of the original Garrison Cup as recalled by **Stan Okell**.

**THE GARRISON CUP**

There was a silver cup in competition for the championship of the Victoria Association Football League prior to 1904. It was a challenge cup and any team that won it three years in succession could keep it permanently. The Garrison team, made up of players from the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers Regiments Imperial Troops had won the City League in 1901-02, 1902-03 and 1903-04 and therefore retained the original cup. There is no record of that cup's name or who presented it, but it was referred to as the City Cup. When the Garrison team captured it for keeps, they in turn presented another silver cup for similar competition.

The Garrison Cup is a beautiful trophy! It is a large, eight-sided, cup with a decorated handle, spout and lid. The cup is porcelain lined and rests on a round ebony stand or base. Engravings read "Victoria District Association Football League Challenge Cup"-- "Presented By The Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, Work Point Barracks - 1904."

The teams who won the cup are as follows:

Garrison	1904-05
Victoria	1905-06
United	
Wanderers	1906-07
JBAA	1907-08
Victoria West	1908-09
Victoria West	1909-10
Victoria West	1910-11

## THE ORIGINAL GARRISON CUP

As Victoria West won it from 1909 through 1911 it became our clubs permanent property. The West's players names engraved on the trophy are;

***S.H. Okell - Captain, 1908-09, 1909-10, Manager 1910-11,  
R. Whyte - Captain, 1910-11, J. Bayley, E.H. Beaney, H. Cowper,  
C. Kinlock, J. Sherratt, E.S. Tait, F. Youson, S. Thackeray,  
J. Petticrew, W. Prevost, C. Sedger, J. Wright, A. Thackeray.***

When I returned from overseas after World War I, we had a reunion of old Vic West players at Jack Youson's home on Esquimalt Road. There the boys unanimously presented me with the Cup to keep. It is one of my prized possessions. We won many other cups. **Jack Youson**, who was our team manager for so long, had a number of them but after his death I do not know what happened to them.

When we won a championship we not only won the cup but each individual player received a gold medal or locket. I don't know how many I received, but I do know that my wife proudly wears a bangle bracelet consisting of five or them.

**Stan Okell** passed away in the late 1980s after a very active life in sport, the military and civic service work.

West's continued their winning ways into 1910 by gaining the eight teams local title followed by a 2-1 defeat of Foresters in the Island final. Then, they took on Vancouver Athletic Club in the first ever McBride Shield B.C. Senior Amateur Championship. A 3-1 away victory coupled with a 0-0 draw at home gave them the BC crown.

At the end of the 1910-11 football season, North Ward issued a warning to the West's when their fine Intermediate eleven challenged the VWAA Senior champions. The West's may have taken them too lightly when they started their stalwart full-back, **Bob Whyte**, at centre-forward, but they were fairly beaten 3 goals to 2. In a rematch, the West's managed a 2-2 tie and the Wards had let it be known that they were stepping up to the senior ranks and intended to continue their winning ways.

On the basketball court, YMI won the City Intermediate Basketball title over Vic West and the YMCA club.

During the summer, Wards claimed the Claxton Cup by defeating Cloverdale and Vic West in lacrosse.

A boxing fight night, held at the club hall in August, featured eight fights. The main event, set for fifteen rounds, was between Vic West's own **Joe Bayley** and **J. O'Donnelly**. It lasted only five when Bayley won with a knockout.

The 1911 annual meeting of the association elected these officers.

- President - **Percy Wilson**
- Vice President - **D.S. Tait**
- Secretary - **George Brown**
- Treasurer - **Walt Duncan**

An attempt at pro football in Victoria disrupted the Wests line-up in 1911. With the loss of **Frank Youson** and **Joe Bayley**, they finished the senior league tied in second place 2 pts. behind Garrison. However, the 2nd Division and Junior squads composed of players like **C. Carroll, F. Simpson, J. Shakespeare, A. Robertson, L. McKenzie, E. Stokes, L. Smith, W. McArthur, C. Hardie, T. James** and **H. Plump** gathered both of their league titles.

When the first Willows Arena opened in January, pro hockey charged \$2.00 for a box seat and 50 cents for general admission. But for free, you could watch an amateur league with four teams of North Ward, JBAA, VWAA and the Prairie Club. The Wests, under the direction of **G. Brown**, won their first game over the Prairie team but wound up second to the Wards at the season's end.

Back together for the spring Island football matches, Vic West and the Soldiers ended deadlocked with the Wests taking the tie-breaker. That year saw the Green win 1-0 on the mainland but loose 2-0 at home and the BC title go to Coquitlam. At Easter, the club's football and basketball teams once again traveled by train to Nanaimo for a couple of season-ending exhibition games.

There wasn't a City Senior Lacrosse League in 1912, so many of the Wests players joined the Victoria Capitals team in a series against New Westminster and Vancouver. The results were;

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>PTS</u>
New	2	1	1	5
Westminster				
Vancouver	2	2	0	4
Victoria	1	2	1	3

At a West's meeting, the winter use of the gym was discussed and it was decided to run a program which included a four-team house basketball program, roller skating, handball, boxing and wrestling. On the football field, Wests won the 1st Division with a single point jump on the Thistles and finished second, well behind North Ward, in the 2nd Div. Vic West collected the Senior Island Championship, for the third year in-a-row, but a dispute with the BC body cancelled the 1913 McBride series. After two tie results a third match was not played when when the deadlocked teams couldn't decide on a satisfactory neutral location.

In the summer, Wests didn't enter the lacrosse league as some members were playing for the Capitals team while others played for the Lathers in a three-team city league. Some keen games were played against Sidney and Oak Bay with the Bays winning the title. They then challenged the Vancouver Athletic Club for the Minto Cup. After Oak Bay was beaten 13-0 in the first game, a second wasn't played.

The club election of officers for 1913-14 resulted as follows.

- President - **J.F. Tait**
- Vice President - **E.S. Tait**
- Secretary - **H. Dickson**
- Treasurer - **W. Duncan**

As expected North Ward picked up the 1913-14 City League's Okell Cup and the Island League Morley Cup, both by one point leads over the Wests. However, the seven-team 2nd Division finished with the Green and White on top.

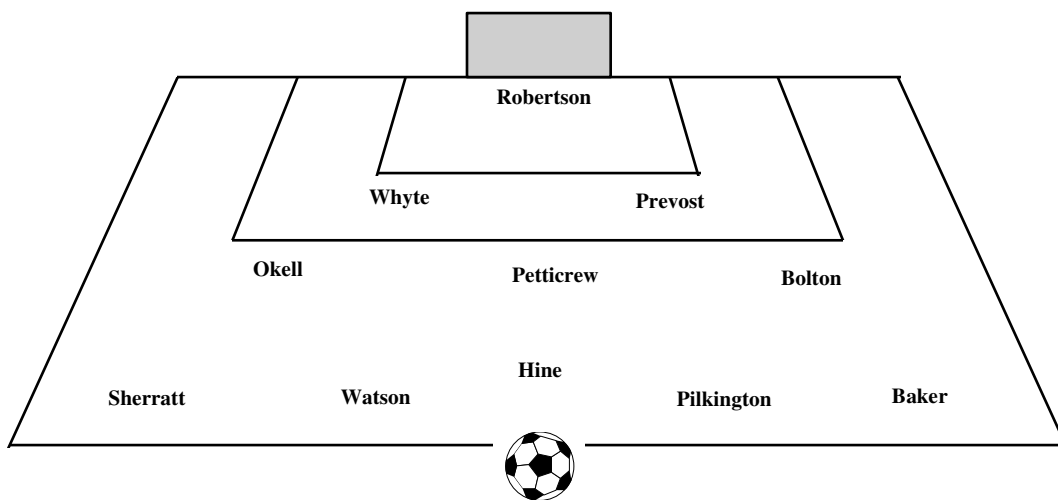
In basketball, the YMCA won the Senior Division over JBAA and VWAA while the Wests collected the Intermediate City Championship with **Kennedy, Stewart, Plump, Ricketts** and **Todd** in their line-up.

That summer the local lacrosse league was composed of teams from Sidney, Oak Bay and Victoria West with Oak Bay winning for a second year in-a-row. **Charlie Fairall** claimed the Wests could beat them and then the newspaper reported, "Wests gathered a team of old veterans and beat Oak Bay 8-3." Among the old-timers were **H. Campbell, C. Fairall, P. Wilson, G. Bolton, J. Hancock, W. Dunsmuir** and **T. Thomas**. It turned out to be the last lacrosse game for many of them!

The next club elections were held on September 11, 1914, with Vice President, **Dr. E.S. Tait** in the chair. Elected were;

- President - **S. Okell**
- Vice President - **H. Dickson**
- Secretary - **E.S. Tait**
- Treasurer - **W. Duncan**

Later in September, an enjoyable social evening of games, music and good eats helped to build club enthusiasm and provided good fellowship. Then, in an early season soccer game, the Wests must have set a record for fastest goals when the Colonist headline stated, "Two Goals in 90 Seconds." The league leading Jacksons were the victims when **Jimmy Petticrew**, the third player to touch the ball after the opening kickoff, fired from his side of centre, over the keepers head and into the net. A second goal came when the Wests broke up the Jackson's kickoff, ran the ball down the wing, centered and **Watson** headed it home. The final result was 3-0 with this line-up.



Another important 1914 soccer game, for the new Jackson Cup, had **Pat Mulcahy**, a 15 year old junior player, appearing in the Wests line-up as a replacement for a suspended senior. It must have been quite a day for the young man as the game against the Thistles

finished in a 1-1 tie. Thistles went on to win the rematch and became the first holders of the new Jackson Cup trophy after the Jacksons had won the league's Okell Cup. And Mulcahy went on to play with the Wests for near 20 years.

With the war threatening most sports were cut back or canceled completely. Many of the Wests were signing up for military service but the club survived when most others had to suspend their activities. Wests continued on with veteran players like **Bob Whyte, Jim Sherratt** and **Johnny Peden**, who were exempt from the service because of their jobs. They added some youths and other teams remnants such as **Archie Muir, Charlie Thomas, Jimmy Allen** and **Tommy Peden**.

A 1916 newspaper article indicates the Jacksons and Vic West played a final Jackson Cup match with the Wests coming out on top. However, there are no engravings on the cup for the that year or the following two seasons.

A summary of the second decade of the VWAA club activities shows a fine record of achievements, especially in football, but what must also be remembered is their involvement in basketball, lacrosse, boxing, gymnastics and the effort put forth to run the club business.

### **Football**

- ⌘ Intermediate City Champions - 1906-07 & 1907-08.
- ⌘ Intermediate Van. Island Champions - 1906-07 / 1907-08 & 1908-09
- ⌘ Intermediate Provincial Champions - 1906-07 / 1907-08 & 1908-09
- ⌘ Senior City Champions - 1908-09 / 1910-11 & 1912-13.
- ⌘ Senior Van. Island Champions - 1910-11 / 1911-12 & 1912-13
- ⌘ Second Division City Champions - 1913-14 & 1914-15
- ⌘ Jackson Cup Winner - 1916

### **Basketball**

- ⌘ Victoria City Senior Champions 1910
- ⌘ Victoria City Intermediate Champions 1910 & 1914

A sad blow came to the Wests when **Cyril Sedger** passed away suddenly on December 5, 1915, at the Garrison Hospital. He had been the Vic West centre-forward in 1906 when they began their great winning streak. His unfailing cheerfulness, good temperament and enjoyment of sports made him a most popular young man in local athletic circles. Cyril had joined the Western Scots and was Dr. Tait's orderly sergeant when he came down with a fever, developed pneumonia and passed away within a few days. His two younger brothers, **Ralph** and **Reg**, played for VWAA in later years and gave a good account of themselves. Ralph played centre-half when the Wests won the Senior Championship in 1911.

The influential Tait family, **Mr. Leonard Tait** and his four sons **Dave, Ernie, Edwin** and **Frank** had all taken an active part in the club with Mr. Tait being elected president in 1907.

**Dave** played good football and was a member of the 1911 Island Championship team. He was the club secretary in 1909 and president the following year. In his later years he was a prominent city lawyer.



**Ernie**, who played full-back in the school, intermediate and senior leagues, also became a Victoria lawyer. **Edwin** had played in all divisions for Vic West and as a senior, was playing well when a broken ankle ended his football days. He became a dentist and joined up with the army during the Great War. **Frank** played in the intermediate ranks and was later the club president until his job took him out of town and ended his association with Vic West.

**Fred** and **Russ Brown** were well-known Wests brothers. **Fred** played in goal until a move to Vancouver. **Russ** played both basketball and football before his work took him north to the Skeena River. On the return trip, their launch developed engine trouble and everyone on board died of exposure.

Three young **Youson** brothers, **Frank**, **Bert** and **Jack**, came from Derbyshire to Victoria with their parents around 1908. **Frank** had come via Fort William where he played outstanding football and was capped as a Canadian Team member. **Bert**, the only brother to have a family, played for VWAA before WW I. He, Frank, their father and a brother Arthur, who had remained in Britan, joined the forces and Burt died overseas. Years later, his son, **Harry**, was a club player during the Wests fourth decade. Then his son, **John**, played for them in the 1960s. **Jack Youson** played for for a couple of seasons before being appointed team manager. He stayed in that position from 1911 to 1925, probably longer than any other Vic West manager. Always a solid spokesman for the club as he attended countless league meetings and was often named manager of the City representative teams. His enthusiasm sometimes overflowed and on at least one occasion he was before the league's executive for conduct unnecessary conspicuous. Frank was warned, "He and the team would be suspended if he continued his sideline shouting out at players and officials!"

Another pair of good football brothers were **Stan** and **Arthur Thackeray**. Two Old Country boys and first-class players who helped the Wests win in 1910-11. Also **Alex** and **Doug McDougal** played basketball and lacrosse for the West juniors. Alex was also a crack rifle shot, with a very commendable record as the youngest member of the Bisley shooting team.

"**Scotty**" **McKay** was a well-known Vic West boxer and footballer. After boxing as a professional, he was reinstated in 1911 and then played with the club until signing up for war duty. Unfortunately he was an early casualty on the battlefield.