

1986-1996: A Century of Soccer

Nothing could match the achievements of the ninth decade but the 1986-87 Wests set their sights on a fifth Canadian title. Two young players, **Alex MacKay** and **Ken Andrews** added speed and talent to the aging first side. When the schedule wound-up, U.Vic and Vic West finished unbeaten and tied at the top of the South section but the Vikes gained the nod with a higher goal average.

The same two teams reached the Jackson final and 1300 fans were on hand to see who was tops after the two clubs had drawn 0-0 in both of their league meetings. U. Vic held a 1-0 lead until **Dallas Moen** tied matters with 14 minutes to play. Four minutes into extra time, **Glenn Johnston's** goal locked-up the West's fifth Jackson title, in seven years, and wiped out the Vikings unbeaten season. Centre-back, **Doug Adlem**, shared the series MVP while West's keeper, **Clarence Duits**, received raves from the media.

The Viking's rebounded to take the provincial show-down match, but didn't go far on the mainland.

Wests 2nd side, who finished in a second place tie with Port Alberni, downed them in a play-off but declined promotion to the top circuit. Meanwhile, the Div 5's ended up in seventh place. **Bob Duncan's** old-timers were unofficial winners of the Over-30s circuit while **Peter Day** and **Jimmy Stewart** directed the Ladies team through a successful season in Division 1.

The trying times of the 1987-88 season, a clean sweep for Victoria Athletics, had been aided by the retirement of the West's remaining old guards, including coach, **Butch Foster**, and the loss of some good young talent. Butch was honored for his 14 seasons of Vic West leadership as recipient of the 1987 Sadler Award.



1987-88-NOT QUITE OVER THE HILL GANG

Back Row, L-R: Gary McLaren, Rudi Kubler, Dan Henry, Don Rainer, Rob Williams, Al Leard, Bob Mackie, Butch Foster, Garnet Moen, Ralph Anderson,
Front Row, L-R: Bob English, Steve Moss, Bob Duncan, Jerry Spencer, Bob Bolitho, Thor Gatey, Russ Holmes, Bill Stewart.
Missing: Jim De Goede, John Roodbol.

The Over-30s saved the Wests disastrous season by winning the Pearkes Challenge Cup knockout competition as well as a number of tournament awards. A great line-up that could put on a class demonstration of ball-control and skill, although it was sometimes in slow-motion, included eight ex-Canadian Championship players and outstanding additions like **Bob Bolitho** and ex-Royals' goal-getter, **Rudi Kubler**. Otherwise, it turned out as a tough season for all three men's units. In the Womens League, **Geri Dickson's** distaff side wound up in second place, two points behind the JBAA leaders.

Co-coaches, **Alan Turner** and **Steve Moss**, turned things around in 1988-89 during their first full season of directing the Green. They put together a top notch line-up that included **Carlos Almedia**, **Iain Baird**, **Tim Atchzner**, **Kevin Wasden**, **Frank Woods**, **Dallas Moen**, **Rick Jasken**, **Nat Massa**, **Drew Porter** plus veterans **Forslund** and **McGuire**. Then they achieved Vic West's first ever recent sweep of the local awards but they lost out in the BC semi-finals at Vancouver

Early in the season, a 2-1 McGavin shoot-out triumph had featured four penalty shots saves by **Carlos Almedia**. Then a 16 wins, 1 loss runaway gave them the Garrison, without having to play their remaining three games. The 2nd's also took the shoot-out route past Vic Athletics I during Jackson Cup quarter-finals before loosing to Powell River in the semis. In turn, the Wests top eleven with their leading scorers, **Colin Smith** and **Tiberio de Frias** counting, downed the Villa 4-1 in that final. Wests won their first two games of the 16-team Provincial playoffs but went down to Vancouver Westsides in the semis.

The Div 2 side had a season-long battle for supremacy which ended with them and Chez Pierre deadlocked. A better goal average gave Wests the title with Athletics, Croatia and U.Vic Norsemen right on the two leader's heels. Vic West Over 30s also finished on top, but equal with the A's. After collecting the Gumby Tournament crown, they gave up the Challenge Cup in a shoot-out final against Gordon Head of Div 3.

The good life was short lived for the Wests top eleven when they finished the 89-90 season in sixth place and both the 1st and 2nd squads were out of the Jackson series early.

Four Over-30s teams, including Vic West, ended up in the Challenge Cup semi-finals with the award eventually being collected by the Athletics Old Stars.

Vic West women came as close as they could without winning the Terry Price Cup when they knocked Nanaimo Tigers out in the semis and then lost in a 2-1 overtime final. A second ladies' side was added to the VW family with players like **Marianna Buckley**, **Sharon Bolton**, **Kathy Patterson**, **Chris McInnes** and **Vera Chew** entering a team in Division 3.

Henry Paul and **Mark Olcen** cracked the wash-out season for Vic West. Henry being rewarded for his executive efforts and honoured with the Vancouver Island League's McDonald Award while Mark gained the Top Rookie selection.

Vic West had grown to six teams by 1990-91 The 1st side opened the season by winning the McGavin Cup before Powell River gathered all the remaining honours. Men's teams in the 2nd and 5th Divisions had 50-50 seasons with both ending in the centre of the tables as well as the Over-30s being shut out. **Glenn Jay** and **Lisa Hayton** took on the coaching and managing of the ladies top eleven and came away with the honours at the Burnaby Tournament. **Geri Dickson** over-saw the 3rd Div side when they won a promotion to the 2nd circuit but that was it for the Green.

That year, the **Ab Travis** family presented an award in his honour. It was to be given annually to the West's club member who had gone the extra mile on the club's behalf. **Steve Forslund**, to whom the team was a second family, had sniped plenty of goals for the first side between 1974 and 1990. But his quiet leadership, team spirit and helping hands, over 16

seasons, made him a worthy initial recipient. Since that time the appreciation award has gone to **Lisa Hayton, Ted Baxter, Sean Novak, Frank Woods** and **Geri Dickson**.

Manual Perria and **Lew Williams** continued rebuilding the first side in 1991-92 by using a number of young players from the Vistas Reserves that included **John Soares, Paul Harrison, Alan Gee, Randy** and **Grant Bell, Jessie Young, Zeb Pereria** and **Sylvain Templeman**. In one of the best balanced, most competitive seasons ever, they finished the year in a pack behind Powell River, Athletics and Croatia but four points behind first place Nanaimo although they never lost by more than one goal. In that middle-of-the-pack year for the men, **Al Lacharity's** 2nd's and **Ted Baxter's** boys also finished in fourth or fifth place. The women's top unit finished as runner-ups behind Oak Bay while the new women's side won a step up to the 2nd Div that year.

Over-30s saved face for the Wests by winning the Challenge Cup, for the second time, with a 1-0 victory over Gorge Old-timers. **Mark Crisp** and **Jamie Lowery** being singled out for their fine work in the final.

The McGavin was back in the clubhouse trophy case in 1992 as the Wests extended their alternating years of possessions to three. **Dave Templeman** was the 1st team's manager while **Sean Novak** and **Al Cordocedo** handled the seconds.

In his 18th season, of 1st Div soccer, **Frank Woods** was back with the Wests as their coach. He had started his senior career in 1974, at the age of 16, with the London Boxing Club when they won the Canadian title. Also gaining a second Canadian Championship with Vic West in 1979, after which, he had played five seasons at U.Vic. Then he spent time with Athletics, Vistas, and as player-coach of the previous year's league winning Croatia. Frank took on the coaching duties of a Wests team with no individual stars but a good mix of youth and experience. He concentrated on teamwork and with new players like **Billy Cook, Chad McPherson, Paul Harrison, James Redfern, Stephan Olcen, Tim Elwell, Rick Penn** and **Herman Henry**, they finished second to the power-laden Croatians.

For a second year in-a-row, the Ladies top team finished in second place behind Gorge. The men's 5th Division side won promotion to the 4th Div and the Over-30s topped their circuit once again.

The men's leagues expanded to 12 teams in each division for the 1993-94 season and Frank made a major addition by signing **Dave Ravenhill**. Now, he had a veteran performer working with his young squad, but the competition was tough and very close among six of the sides. In the end, the two Up-island clubs finished one-two followed by Wests, Athletics and Vantreights tied in third place. During cup play, Athletics took the McGavin and Gorge grabbed the Jackson.

Once again, it was the Over-30s who had maintained the West's prestige by gaining their third Challenge trophy in seven seasons. **Rex Craig** and **Gary Edge** did most of the work after "**Manny**" **Pereria** had come off the bench for ten minutes and scored the only goal!

For a second time, the 4th Div side won promotion in their first year and once again the Wests would have the bases loaded with squads in Divisions 1, 2 and 3.

After a dozen years of competition in the women's divisions, most of the more seasoned players formed an Over-30s team. This made way for some younger ones such as **Sandra Seaweed, Leigh McGovern, Dona Capobianco, Sheri Onushko** and **Sue Haras**, to join the Wests Premier Division unit.

In a lopsided 1994-95 season, All Sports went undefeated to win the 12-team league in which only Villa, Nanaimo, Vantreights, Gorge and Wests were close. Powell River, who went on to claim the Jackson prize, had bumped the Wests out early.

Baxter's 3rd Div boys had another good season and, with the realignment of the leagues, they gained a spot in the 2nd Division which the club declined.



VIC WEST 1995-96 DIVISION 3 WINNERS

Back Row, L-R: Rob Schoffner, Mark McGuire, Blair King, Tom Jones, Todd Strickland,
Malcolm Gudgeon, Sean Novak.

Front Row, L-R: Ted Baxter, John Watson, Peter Brix, Sal Johal, Raj Sharda, Jude Gade, Drew
Campbell.

That year **Ralph Anderson's** Oldies retained the Pearkes Challenge Award for their fourth possession and the third in the last four seasons. Some of the extra oldies had a go in the new Masters Over-40's Association with "**Manny**" **Pereria** as their playing-manager.



OVER 30s 1994-95 CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

Back Row, L-R: Bob Fleming, Sandy Crisp, Dave Niddrie, Barry Turner, Tim Ahtzner, Ralph Anderson,
Don Rainer, Gary Allan, Steve Fisher, Butch Foster, Gary Edge, Paul Vanderkuyl, Neil Johnston.

Front Row, L-R: Frank Woods, Steve Forslund, Mark Robb, Steve Moir, Glenn Jay, Mike Murray, Rex Craig,
Ken MacFarlane, Henry Paul.

Wests opened their Centennial season with another McGavin Cup victory when **Dave Ravenhill** set up **Ryan Laughey** and **James Redfern** in the 2-0 cup final win over Cowichan.



VIC WEST 1995-96 DIV 1 McGAVIN CUP WINNERS

Back Row, L-R: Henry Paul, Jesse Young, Dave Ravenhill, Paul Harrison, Russ Cripps, Tim Elwell, Brett Brackenbury, Doug Samuelson, Jason Owen, Jeevan Manhas, James Redfern, Dennis Johnson, Steve Laughey.

Front Row, L-R: Yvonne Cherrneski, Frank Woods, Grant Olson, Ryan Laughey, Craig Slennie, Rick Jasken, Marc Olcen, Dan Laughey.

They finished the league tied for third when Nanaimo, the town where Island Soccer had its beginning, came up with their finest season, since the coal-mining teams of the 30s, to sweep the Garrison and Jackson Cups.

During this tenth decade many fine players have toiled for the Green and **Josu Irureatogina, Iain Baird, Marc Olcen, Randy Bell, Clarence Duits, Tom Elwell, Dave Ravenhill, Herman Henry Jr. and Doug Samuelson** have had their names added to the first team's MVP award.

Discontent caused a break up of the 2nd and 3rd sides with many players shifting teams. That resulted in poor seasons for both units and they were lucky to hold onto their spots in each league.

The Ladies Over 30s celebrated the club's hundredth jubilee with a first ever victory over their long-time adversary, Gorge, in their last game of the season!



VIC WEST 1994-95 OVER 30s WOMEN

Back Row, L-R: Marg Busby, Della Smith, Carla Pynn, Halana Frost, Laura Stratford.

Centre Row, L-R: Lisa Hayton, Donna Adair, Gail MacDonald, Colleen Shields, Geri Dickson.

Front Row, L-R: Sherry Auger, Clair Rowley, Mavis Hendry, Judy Carroll, Val Robinson.

Missing: Hillary Cross, Nancy Game, Barb Bracewell, Gina Horne, Debbi Buckle, Sam Sinclair, Lisa Lasagna.

Through these last few years the executives have worked on a Vic Wests Club centennial project arrangement with the City of Victoria. With Topaz Park being in the vicinity of their clubhouse, they have taken the initiative, raised funds and overseen the installation of lights on the Finlayson field. Once again, **Lew Williams** provided the leadership to see the \$80,000 project through and the players will benefit with a 20-year practice time rental agreement and a home field for some of the Wests teams.

Sal Johal's youthful Premier Division Women's side continue their quest for a grasp of the Terry Price Cup or a first league title in the competitive league headed by Gorge and Nanaimo.



VIC WEST 1995-96 PREMIER WOMEN

Back Row, L-R: Sal Johal, Carina Heyes, Sue Haras, JJ Jarret, Kim Ranger, Sheri Onushko, Pam Parton, Julie Mizuno, Cheryl Chereski.

Front Row, L-R: Helena Guiomar, Jenn Bennett, Leigh McGovern, Dona Capobianco, Sandra Seaweed, Clair Harrison, Mary-Anne Daniels.

One hundred years is not a long time if you're talking about trees, but if you're talking soccer in a city that is only 125 years old, you're talking Vic West. 1996 marks the 100th anniversary since that neighborhood's gang started booting a ball around as a good excuse to avoid their chores and homework. They formed the club which began playing various sports before the turn of the century, and, if it hasn't always been with classic style, at least it's with pride and distinction.

The game of soccer has improved immensely since those early members left their cleat marks and their names in Vic West's history. Those past social events, such as the Smokers and Athletic Activity Nights at the hall, are long gone but their purpose of building enthusiasm, fellowship and the "family" spirit remain.

While fan support has waned during the last couple of decades, one of the games' constants has been the success and growth of the Wests. Part of that prosperity can be attributed to the club's sense of tradition and unity. There have always been some members willing to take on the task of keeping the West's "family" together. Although today, it is more of a challenge and all but a business. It goes without saying that the Vic West Athletic Association is the oldest registered soccer club in Canada and most probably in North America.

We've kicked around for a hundred years, let's go for another century!