A SOCCER BALL ROLLS THROUGH IT:
A HISTORY OF THE VICTORIA HIGH TYEES SOCCER TEAM

by Barrie Moen and Doug Puritch (VHS 1969)

The first mention of soccer in the Vic High Camosun occurred in 1904. During a city school board meeting concerning sports, it was determined the High School team was too strong and a school league would serve no purpose. The High School, determined to continue its program, decided to erect goal posts on its own grounds and begin a school inter-house league. And with that comment began 111 years of soccer reports.

The earliest Camosun coverage of a soccer match involving Vic High appeared in 1908 when “the High School” (it was the only one), captained by V. Wescott, won an exhibition game against the boys from Victoria College, 3-1 at Royal Athletic Park. The same Camosun describes a 1-0 City League loss to Beacon Hill. However, it points out that “fullbacks Brown and Scott performed some excellent kicking.”

Though association football (as soccer was called at that time) was played in the years leading up to World War I, rugby, basketball, and ladies field hockey remained more prominent in the school’s sports reports.

As the world went to war in 1914, Vic High boys continued playing soccer. This photo shows the bright and athletic faces of the 1914 team standing proudly on the school steps prior to graduation. How many of them, one may wonder, fought in the trenches of World War I? Did some of these boys make the ultimate sacrifice for King and Country? Look closely at the doors behind the team. There is a haunting quality to the young faces staring through the windows of the newly built Fernwood School.
Below is a photo from the post-war era, showing the 1927-28 team as they appeared in the Camosun. This was the first Vic High soccer team to win the Thomson Cup as BC Provincial Champions, marking the start of Vic High as a provincial soccer power.

Vic High won the Island championship in 1929/30 and 1930-31. Both teams featured Muzz Patrick of the celebrated Patrick family that became famous for their hockey exploits. Lester Patrick won six Stanley Cups as a player, coach and general manager, while his sons Lynn (VHS 1931) and Muzz (VHS 1933) followed their father into the NHL and won a Stanley Cup with the New York Rangers. The Patricks were one of Vic High’s - and Canada’s - greatest sports families.

In 1934, the Daily Colonist newspaper donated the Colonist Cup, which became emblematic of high soccer supremacy in Victoria. Vic High was the inaugural winner that year, and went on to win the 1934 Thomson Cup and attaining another provincial championship.
In 1939, as war in Europe loomed, Vic High secured a Colonist Cup victory by defeating their local rival Mt. View by a score of 2-1. The winner came from the foot of Lou McCorkell, who later made his name as a basketball referee and softball umpire. Doug Hudlin, who in the following decades gained great respect and fame as a baseball umpire, was praised for his skill: “Doug Hudlin was a tower of strength. No better fullback ever played soccer for the school”

During the war years school sports continued at Vic High. In 1943 Vic High captured the Colonist Cup and the Worthington Cup, as the City Commercial League Champions: however, due to the war no Island championship was played. In 1944 Vic High once again won the Colonist Cup and also the Seymour Biggs Trophy as the City League champions. In 1945 the Vic High Rep Team dominated all their soccer competition. Winning the Colonist Cup, Lower Island League Cup, Island Cup and the Con Jones Cup presented to the British Columbia champions. It was certainly Vic High’s greatest Soccer team up to that point.
SOCCER

This year, Soccer has enjoyed a very successful season. In the House League keen competition was seen with House Ikt coming out of the fray as winners.

Since Christmas the representative team has won the Colonist Cup and the Worthington Cup. In the Colonist Cup our team played against Mount View in the first round, drawing one game and winning the second, 4-1. The next game was against Mount Douglas, victors of the Esquimalt—Mount Douglas game. Although our opponents were much heavier, we won 2-0. In the Worthington play-offs we won both games—the first from Mount View, 4-2, the second from Mount Douglas in an exciting overtime game, 2-1. This year, due to the war, the Vancouver Island championship was not played.

Line-ups of the team are as follows: goal, Larry Booth; fullbacks, Jack Mar and Bill Thorburn; halfbacks, Jack McMillan, Henry Chang, Don Thomas; forwards, Ron Webster, Harry Irwin, Len Scott, Fred Donaghy (Captain), and Elmer Ngai; sub, Robin Thomas; and mascot, little red-headed Bill McCleave.

HOUSE CLONE RUGBY  REPRESENTATIVE SOCCER

1943 teams

HOUSE I CAPTURES SOCCER

Defeating each House in turn, House I placed first in the league. House III placed second after a close game with House I in the championship game. House IV came third with House II bringing up the rear.


VICTORIA HIGH IN CITY LEAGUE

The senior soccer team (under 18 years) have set a fine record this season, being coached and managed by Mr. N. Swainson. Playing against Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Mount Douglas, Mount View, Victoria High emerged champs in the first and second rounds, to be awarded the Seymour Biggs Trophy. The team had just started its play-offs for the Lower Island Championship at the time this was written, but up to then the boys had played 15 games altogether and had only lost one.
DIVISION II

Victoria High’s second team (under 16 years) had tough luck this season in their league play. They were beaten several times and drew a good number of draws. These boys deserve a great deal of credit. Although beaten from the start, which would discourage anyone, they stayed intact and played throughout the remainder of the season.

In the past two years Victoria High School has had excellent soccer teams. Last year the High School eleven won every cup in their division in the Province. These included the Con Jones Cup which represents the British Columbia championship, and every cup they played for on Vancouver Island. These trophies included the Colonist Cup (Inter-High School knockout), the Whittaker Trophy, the Annual Challenge Trophy and the Seymour Briggs Trophy, the Lower Island challenge cup. To top this the team also won the Lower Island League Cup.

It was stated by soccer officials that this team was one of the best Victoria has had to represent them in the Provincial play-offs.

This year the High School team entered the Colonist Cup series, and defeated Oak Bay 3-1 to retain possession of the trophy. Several of last year’s players are again with this year’s team. Norm Richards, the star goalie, is again between the uprights, Alan Thompson, the star left winger, and Harry Turner, a strong defenceman, are in their old positions. John McMillan, last year’s team captain again played half-back.

1944 team

1945 team
Vic High started the post-war years as the soccer team to beat. In 1948 the boys were once again Colonist Cup champions, as was the 1950 team lead by Ced Robb. The 1952 team was another juggernaut: led by Chummy Crabbe and brothers Bill and Bob Abbott, the Vic High boys won the Colonist Cup and narrowly lost the BC Championship to King Edward High from Vancouver. After the 1952 season Vic High’s soccer rep team became known as the Tyees.
The 1957 Tyees celebrate their victory in the 1957 Colonist Cup final.

1957 “Colonist Cup Champions”

The 1960s produced some terrific soccer teams, as Vic High was a perennial favourite to capture the League and Colonist Cup Championships. The 1962 team featured some well known local standouts, like brothers, Nirmal and Ranjit Dillon and future Vic High teacher Ash Valdal.

1962 Tyees
In 1964 an excellent Vic High team lead by Jaak Magi, Mike Graas and Oscar Valdal, won the League, Colonist Cup and Island Championship. Unfortunately, they lost to John Oliver in the Provincial Final 2-1, in extra time.

1964 Tyees

In 1965-66 season the Tyees led by Ollie Moilanen, Gerry Lister and future Canadian National Team and Vancouver Whitecaps star Brian Robinson brought provincial glory to Vic High with a dramatic win over the same John Oliver High School. Their Provincial Banner still hangs from the walls of the Andrews (New) Gym.
In 1966 Brian Robinson, Dave Graas, Ollie Moilanen, and Rick Couch returned to Vic High to once again challenge John Oliver for the provincial championship. Despite a distinct ball-possession advantage and having two goals disallowed, the Tyees lost 1-0.

1966-67
Under the guidance of student coach Brian Robinson, the 1967 Tyees seemed destined for another BC Championship appearance after completing an undefeated regular season. However, injuries to key players and some odd decisions by the league administration hampered their fortunes. In the post season, after two extra-time tied matches, the Tyees relinquished the Colonist Cup to Mt. View, following an experimental sudden death penalty-kick shootout. Heart-breaking! Nonetheless, the 1960s may be described as a glory decade for Vic High soccer.
TYEES

The Tyees had a fine season this year, without losing a game in regular play. In the Colonist Cup Final, however, after one tied game, they were extremely unfortunate to lose a close and hard-fought replay by the narrow margin of 3-2.

FLOOR, Left to Right: Steve Carroll, Jan Bentley, Sue Walls. SEATED: Graham Taylor, Ken Kukal, Bill Campbell, Doug Furstch, Glenn Robinson, Keith Humphrey. BACK ROW: Kjeld Brodiegaard, Dean Stokes, Ron Pietrzykowski, Bernie More, Ralph Anderson, Bill Lesch, Rick Baldwin, Brian Robinson.

The Strong 1970 Tyees
Prior to 1970, only the Colonist Cup winner could represent Greater Victoria to
challenge for Island supremacy and a berth in the provincial soccer final. In 1971 a 16-
team provincial tournament was adopted, which mirrored the high school basketball
championship, and Vic High acted as host. In 1971, the Tyees had a star-studded team
led by future national champions Bobbie Mackie, Gary McLaren, John McGuire, and
future NASL player Garnet Moen; going into the provincial tournament they were
unknown and considered heavy underdogs to the powerhouse team from Burnaby
North. But they rose to the challenge and won the first provincial tournament.

1971

The ‘70s brought a long overdue change to high school soccer. In 1975 the first Vic
High girls’ soccer team was formed and has since flourished. A 16-team provincial
championship takes place each spring. Vic High maintains a proud tradition of
supporting girls’ soccer.

1975 girls’ team the Tyettes

The 1977 version of the Vic High Tyees produced one of Canada’s premier centre
backs in Ian Bridge. After finishing his schooling at Vic High, Ian went on to play
professionally in Switzerland and the NASL, and was a member of Canada’s national
team that competed in the 1986 World Cup. He managed the University of Victoria team and was the assistant coach of the Canadian women’s national team for several years.

Tyees Work Hard

The Tyees had a very frustrating season with key players away due to All-Star commitments or injuries. They did however finish in Division 1, but missed the Colonist Cup Playoffs by one point. Congratulations to Dave McCaig for being named to the “Under 16” Provincial Team and to Ian Bridge for being named to the “Under 19” Canadian Team. Standing L-R: Mr. Vahdal (coach), Murray Jacobs, John James, Hannu Harju, Keith Ferguson, David Ashwell, Mike deGoede, Ian Bridge, Gord Stratling, Chris Dowe, Dave Williams. Kneeling L-R: Tom Dickie, Bob Godfrey, Dave McEach, Wayne Windsor, Clarence Duits, John Spadafora, Bill Scoble, Stan Chang, Phil Hout.

Ian Bridge and the 1977 team
The ’80s saw Vic High winning the Colonist Cup in 1981 and finishing 5th at the provincial tournament with Dallas Moen, Paul Askew and Dennis Johnson leading the way. Dallas Moen later played for Canada in the World University Games and professionally in the Canadian Soccer League and in Australia.

The Tyee’s had an excellent season. They won the League Championships with a record of 19 wins and 1 tie. Way to go guys! They played an excellent game which resulted in the winning of the Colonist Cup! Vic High was really on the ball, but aren’t we always?! Tyees placed 5th in the B.C. Tournament Finals. They lost one game to a Vancouver team which knocked them out of the B.C. Championships.

We would like to congratulate the Tyees for a spectacular performance during their soccer season.

They are as follows:

Back Row: (L-R) Mr. Unwin (coach), Paul Gaudet (manager), Ian McDougall, Bill Williams, Dallas Moen, Randy Bell, Paul Russell, Paul Askew, Dennis Johnson, Phillip Pereira, Tony Tucker, Steve Dietrich, Mr. Denby (coach).


1981 team
1998 Tyees

*The last Vic High Soccer Team to qualify for the provincial Championships to date*

Soccer has continued at Vic High but not with the overall success that the players of the previous generations may have enjoyed. Changes in demographics have seen Vic High lose some of its student population -- though not its spirit! Soccer has and will always be a major sport at Vic High and the words of “Come give a cheer” will reverberate down the halls, onto the fields, and into the minds of players and fans alike who support this great game.

Top Row: Coach Kendal Sinclair, Theresa Carpenter, Danielle Boutcher, Ally Osmond, Bella McKnight, Elise Lucas, Carly Hicke, Kailey Garrett, Anna Schuld, Chloe Ferguson, Coach Chris Lubinich

Bottom Row: Anna Lotter, Kyra Tom, Maggie Miller, Marli Lopez, Sarah Horst, Sophia Rauld Reiter, Mckenzie Marson, Milly Tsiatas

2014 girls’ team
2014 boys’ team

We hope you have enjoyed this look back at the history of football/soccer at Vic High. Please think of the dedication involved from of all these former students, future students and dedicated staff members when the Alumni Association begins it fund drive for the revitalization of Memorial Stadium. Let’s show the community that Vic High is still a grand old school and it is an honour to share in its history.

Writers:

Mr. Doug Puritch was captain of the Vic High Tyees and received the Tyee Trophy in 1969. He played on the UVic Vikings team that won the CIS national championship in 1975. Doug taught in the Campbell River area for 32 years and coached senior high school soccer for 25. In 2001 he coached the Timberline High School boys’ soccer team to the AAA BC championship.

The text and research for this article was done in collaboration with Barrie Moen of the Vic High Archives.

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Photos courtesy of the Vic High Archives.

(Barrie Moen and Doug Puritch showing off their first collaboration in 1960.)