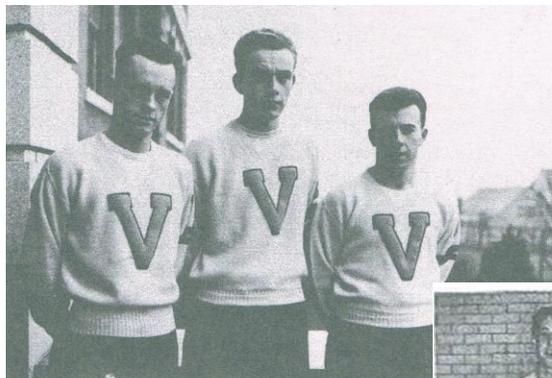


# The Block V



Vic High Archivist Linda Smith's display of Rick Couch's letterman's sweater at the 100-year anniversary of the present Vic High building spawned a number of inquiries to the Archive regarding the requirements and symbology of the Block V award program. What accomplishments were needed and what did the associated number designate?

The Block letter has been a part of the culture of most high schools and Vic High was certainly a proponent of their importance. In earlier years at Vic High, Block V's were awarded for a student's significant contribution to the school's esteem and success. Though athletics achievement was deemed a primary path to receiving a V, opportunities were also available through a variety of school activities. For a time Vic High supported, despite sounding a little pretentious by today's standards, a Block Letter.



## *Big Block Club*

President.....Gary Pynn  
 Vice-President.....Lorne Oakley  
 Secretary-Treasurer.....Jack Shields



## *Big Block Club*

One of the new clubs that appeared at the school this year was the Boys' Big Block Club. Its members were all the boys in Grades XI and XII who had earned big V's in athletics. The club insignia was a white sweater with a yellow V on the front. Its executive was composed of: Alan Blain, president; Don Henry, vice-president; Burt Hudson, secretary, and Bill Gornar, treasurer.

According to our archival records, between the school years 1961-62 and 1972-73 the Block V was associated directly with athletic success. To measure that success a system was created to delegate points to a students competing in intra- and extra- mural sports. The intra-mural aspect only lasted into the mid-60 after which only extra mural participation would earn student athletes points towards a Block letter. For example varsity team members were awarded 30 points; winning a provincial or island championship; or individual success in a track meet or qualifying sports activity could net additional points. If a student received 50 points they were awarded a Block V and for each additional 50 points they received a corresponding number to designate how many letters they had earned.

We did some research regarding the Block V winners during this period and decided to post some of those names and their Block V designations. Due to the number of students involved and space limitations the list includes only students who earned a minimum of 5 letters.

You will no doubt notice some names that are synonymous with local athletics during the 60's and 70's in the Capital region.

**V5:** Nirmal Dillon, Ranjit Dillon, Al Glover, Roger Halfhide, Susan Holland, Janette Hammer Glenda Joyce, Anne McKeachie, Mary Pearson, Cliff Ridley, Derek Reimer, Stan Thame, Ash Valdal, and Jim Vosburg.



Olympian Mary Pearson



Susan Holland

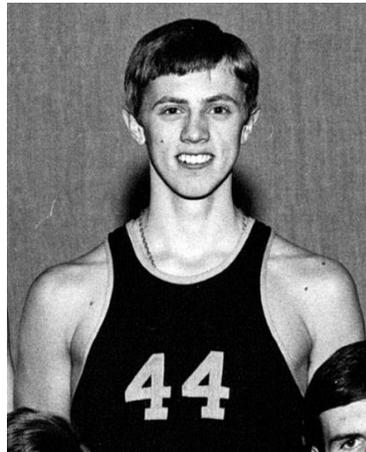


Derek Reimer

**V6:** Richard Couch, Vicki Hammond, Jack Magi, and Kathy Newell.



**V7:** Patricia Bourne and Barrie Moen



**V8:** Ron Stubbings, with 410 points.



Ron Stubbings was certainly one of the premier athletes of this period. No serious debate about the best athletes to attend Vic High or be involved in high-school sports in the region during the 60's and 70's could possibly exclude this multi-talented athlete's name.

At the beginning of the 1973-74 school year the system for awarding Block V's changed. Letters were designated as small, medium and large and the era of number designated Block letters ended.

Victoria High School Archives  
Tales from the Attic