



**UVIC ATHLETICS
A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE
THE MCKINNON YEARS**

WRITTEN BY TOM HAWTHORN





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[University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

A MESSAGE FROM

JONATHAN BENGTON

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA LIBRARIES

ONE OF THE HIGHEST AND MOST ENDURING VALUES of a university education is to learn how to live well, in body and in mind. The connection between academics and sport has long been recognized and there are many examples of this tradition of excellence at the University of Victoria. This joint publication by the University of Victoria Libraries and Vikes Athletics & Recreation celebrates the vital importance of sporting accomplishments within the life of the university — from its earliest beginnings at Victoria College, to the forty years of the McKinnon era, and with the advent of the “CARSA era.” Special thanks are due to Clint Hamilton, Director of Vikes Athletics & Recreation, for making this collaborative publication possible.

The University of Victoria Libraries collect, preserve, and provide access not only to the records of the intellectual pursuits of our faculty, staff, and students, but we also hold many of the historical documents and artifacts of the university itself, preserving the history and achievements of faculties, departments, and people. Our special collections contain historical materials related to UVic Athletics, including extensive photographic archives that have been drawn upon to illustrate this volume.

Throughout the following pages you will find the faces and stories of our student athletes and coaches. The partnership between the Libraries and the Vikes is a wonderful example of how UVic Libraries continues to

redefine learning, research, and community engagement to highlight the strength of our university programs and create awareness of our rich resources.

Go Vikes!

▼ **Victoria College Rugby Team, 1925-1926.** The Canadian artist Jack Shadbolt (1909-1998) sits at the far left in the middle row. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]



CLINT HAMILTON

DIRECTOR

VIKES ATHLETICS AND RECREATION

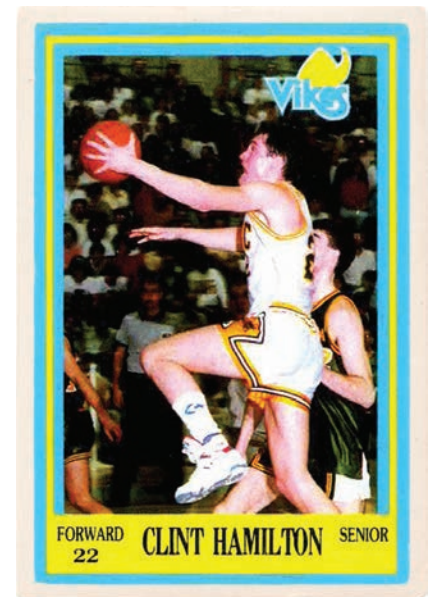
AS A STUDENT ATHLETE, it was during my first visit to UVic in 1983 — witnessing a basketball game in the McKinnon gym; seeing and meeting many of the accomplished coaches and athletes I had heard so much about — that I knew the University of Victoria was the athletic program and university I wanted to be a part of. Years later, as both an alumnus and in my role as the current Director of Athletics and Recreation — and with the addition of the exciting new Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA) — I have the tremendous opportunity to reflect upon, and honour, the incredible legacy of athletic excellence associated with the McKinnon Building and UVic Athletics.

From the outset, an important component of CARSA was to recognize and salute the tradition of excellence of our athletic program through the establishment of the Walk of Excellence. Now, through the work of Tom Hawthorn, and produced in partnership with our colleagues from the University of Victoria Libraries, this unique publication will further capture our rich sport history.

As reflected in these pages, the individuals and teams who so passionately worked, dreamed and represented The University of Victoria in creating such a remarkable record of athletic achievement is impressive. Without question, then as now, their combined efforts contribute to our growing world class reputation. The significant

work done to launch this publication and and unveil the Walk of Excellence reflect our commitment to continue the tradition of excellence built by so many, and by honoring their contributions and achievements.

Thanks to Jonathan Bengtson, University Librarian; journalist Tom Hawthorn; Grants and Awards Librarian Christine Walde; Vikes Communications Officer Ali Lee for support in the production of this publication; Ken and Kathy Shields for their gracious foreword; as well as the Division of Student Affairs for their important support in this book project. We are also grateful for the generous spirit of Lynda and Murray Farmer in associating their name with the Walk of Excellence. As a whole, these projects ensure that our past achievements will be celebrated and honored to inspire future generations of Vikes student athletes, and to uphold the reputation of excellence that is our valued tradition.



▲ Clint Hamilton's Vikes playing card, ca. 1990. [Uvic Athletics]

KEN AND KATHY SHIELDS

FORMER UVIC BASKETBALL HEAD COACHES

LED VICTORIA TO 15 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

IN 1975 THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA OPENED a new athletics, recreation, and physical education complex named after legendary Victoria sportsman Archie McKinnon. While recreation and physical education simply needed new space and consequently flourished, athletics was in need of change.

Shortly thereafter, President Petch struck a task force to chart a new course for athletics and recreation, co-chaired by Ian Stewart and Bob Hutchison. Its recommendations were that UVic select a small number of sports which were popular within this region and would thereby provide a strong base of community support and a ready supply of athletes. The mandate was to prepare the athletes and teams involved in these sports to achieve excellence at national and international levels. The sports selected were: men's and women's rowing, basketball, volleyball, middle distance running; men's soccer and rugby; and women's field hockey.

Ken Shields succeeded Mike Elcock to become Manager of Athletics and Recreation Services, and the men's basketball coach. He oversaw the development of a broad base of programs spearheaded by the recreation staff, and led the planning and implementation of the new athletic policy. The highest quality coaches were chosen in order to provide the necessary leadership and expertise required to achieve the lofty new goals for their sports.

Partnering with provincial and national sport organizations, national training centers were developed in rowing, middle distance running and men's soccer. At the same time, a UVic study showed that there had been a one-third drop in athletic programs in western Canadian universities due to increased travel costs. President Petch and Ken Shields travelled to Ottawa to meet with the Minister of Sport at that time, Iona Campagnolo. As a result, \$500,000 was granted to assist with interprovincial travel for Canada West Universities.

With the new athletic focus thriving by 1986, UVic led the establishment of the first ever National Coaching Institute in partnership with the provincial government, Sport Canada, and the Coaching Association of Canada. Just a few years later, UVic sparked the bid for the 1994 Commonwealth Games. It was an exciting time for all involved in sport at UVic.

The McKinnon Building developed an energetic presence. It was alive with people with purpose, high achievers passionately engaged in a variety of endeavors. "McKinnon" housed activity in many forms, including academic and non-academic classes required for various disciplines. Beginning early each fall season, workouts for most athletes took place twice a day under the direction of



▲ Ken and Kathy Shields, 2009.
[UVic Athletics]

▼ **February 14, 2015.** Vikes alumni gather to celebrate the final regular season home basketball game on Ken and Kathy Shields Court in McKinnon Gym. [UVic Athletics]



their coaches, eleven of whom held coaching positions with national teams. Each of these team leaders shared the common goal of developing excellent athletes and teams and an extraordinary *esprit de corps* in the athletic department evolved. A true team, in every sense of the word, was born.

Student athletes were all striving to cope with the demands involved with the pursuit of excellence in their chosen sport as well as in their area of study. Unprecedented achievement arrived in the 1980s when twenty UVic teams won CIS National Championships, and twenty-five UVic athletes and coaches represented Canada at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984.

Another significant achievement during this time involved the results of an institutional study which found that UVic athletes fared above the mean in academic performance when compared to the achievements of the general student body.

The goal of achieving both national and international levels of success in sport concurrent with similar levels of success in academics was attained.

Wayne McDonald succeeded Ken Shields as the manager of the program in 1989. Forty-six CIS National Championships in total were captured by UVic teams during this time, twenty in the 1980s and seventeen in the 1990s, making this period the heart of the “McKinnon Era”.

Early in the 1990s, golf, swimming, women’s soccer, and women’s rugby replaced men’s and women’s volleyball. In the mid-1990s, national sports organiza-

tions which were not affiliated with CIS, began to offer their own university national championships. To date, UVic has won twenty-six of these Canadian National University Championships.

Jim Hays succeeded Wayne McDonald and served as Acting Manager of Athletics until Clint Hamilton was hired in 2004 and was named Director of Athletics and Recreation. Clint's impact was immediate as he developed the Annual Vikes Championship Breakfast where the University of Victoria matches the first \$200,000 generated by the banquet. It has yielded a total of \$2.8 million to date, a great boost for athletics.

Hamilton then led the planning and development of CARSA, the new home for athletics and recreation and the current hub where lofty goals and dreams continue to be pursued. The national championship banners that once adorned the McKinnon gymnasium will now hang in CARSA, representing the inspiring legacy of the McKinnon era. CARSA has big shoes to fill.

We thank "The McKinnon" for giving us a superb training environment which transformed into an electrifying and formidable home court on game nights. We share an immense gratitude to the incredible staff who made coming to work such a joy. We are eternally grateful for the efforts and performances of the athletes, whose relationships we treasure, and who represented UVic with such distinction. "The McKinnon", the staff, and our athletes serve as the genesis of many cherished memories for us both. May UVic Athletics continue to pursue excellence and achieve even greater success in CARSA.

▼ **CARSA, 2015.** The new Centre for Athletics, Recreation, and Special Abilities (CARSA) at the University of Victoria, established 2015. CARSA brings students, faculty, staff, elite athletes and community members of all abilities together under one inclusive roof. [UVic Athletics]



PROLOGUE



Past. Present. Future. Join us on a journey through the history of Uvic Athletics, featuring important dates, personalities, and events that mark the span of our continuing tradition of excellence.

UVIC ATHLETICS A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE THE MCKINNON YEARS

BY TOM HAWTHORN

T FIRST GLANCE, it is a gym like any other. Wooden floor. Painted concrete walls. A collapsible grandstand. The squeak and squeal of rubber-soled sneakers on dry wood. The gym is notable not for its setting, nor its architecture, nor even necessarily the victories won on its floor in the name of the University of Victoria. Hundreds like it exist on campuses and school grounds and civic centres across the continent.

McKinnon Gym is utilitarian, a serious place, and a visitor is not surprised to learn that at the end of term this is where rows of desks are arranged for exams to be written. It is not a sports palace, not a playpen for unpaid athletes who might soon find fortune as professionals, as is the case south of the border, but a venue for serious competition at a serious university by serious scholars. Those young athletes, studious and dedicated, make McKinnon their theatre and its wooden floor their stage. The attraction of a sporting match, its inherent promise, is the playing out of an unknown and unwritten final act of a drama. The resolution might involve chance, or it might be the result of days, weeks, months, even years of practice. McKinnon is a special place for the athletes who have competed there and for the coaches who have guided them.

The nervousness of the locker-room before the game is cast aside in a rush of adrenalin once competition commences. Sport is liberating in temporarily relieving the athlete of all concerns — grades, romances, income — other than what it is faced in the game. In the stands, the athletes are cheered by friends and classmates, neighbours and generations of family. They have been led in their cheers by a character called the Mad Viking and now by a costumed mascot known as Thunder. Where else does daily life offer such spectacle?



▲ **The University of Victoria Cheerleaders** strike a pose on the McKinnon Gym floor, ca. 1980s. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

◀ **Game time at the McKinnon Gym.** [UVic Athletics]

August 19, 1896: Archie McKinnon is born in Glasgow, Scotland. After moving to Canada, he becomes a coach at four Olympics and teaches more than 60,000 Victoria residents to swim. His name will grace a campus athletic complex opened at UVic in 1975.

1903: Victoria College is founded and affiliated with McGill University in Montreal. In 1920, the college becomes affiliated with the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.



▲ **The original Mad Viking**, Jim “Mother Hubbard,” an iconic basketball fan and supporter. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

In 1978, the university adopted an athletic policy promising all students a chance to participate in recreational sports. At the same time, the university decided to provide elite coaching for select varsity sports. The pursuit of excellence, as championed by former UVic President Harold Petch, has been a hallmark of the university’s athletic program. The results can be seen on the interior wall of McKinnon Gym, which is draped by banners that hang like heraldic flags. Each banner represents a national university championship won by a UVic team, 74 in all by 2015, in eight sports — rowing (17), basketball (17), cross-country (13), field hockey (11), soccer (6), golf (4), and rugby (6). In addition to this, more than 300 Vikes runners and swimmers have won individual championships in Canadian Interuniversity Sports (CIS) competition, and the athletic program has been a gateway for dozens of students to Olympic and Paralympic Games. On January 20, 2007, the gym’s main playing area was renamed the Ken & Kathy Shields Court to honour the husband-and-wife basketball coaches responsible for seven consecutive men’s national titles (Ken) and eight women’s national titles (Kathy). The two were among the inaugural five inductees into UVic’s Sports Hall of Fame in 2002, which also included Lorne Loomer, Wally Milligan and Gareth Rees. The Vikes’ success on the gym floor has been matched on the water and on the grass; the championships all celebrated by ceremonies inside the gym.

September, 1925: A 16-year-old sign painter’s son enrolls at Victoria College, where he joins the rugby team. He manages not to mangle hands that will later make Jack Shadbolt one of the most celebrated painters in the land.

1931: Lansdowne airfield is closed following complaints by nearby homeowners. Aviators move their planes to a pasture in the Gordon Head area, where X-shaped runways and a small hangar would be built on the site of a gymnasium on the future campus.



▲ **Ken and Kathy Shields** at the court named in their honor at the McKinnon gym, 2007. [UVic Athletics]

October, 1940: The Canadian Army opens Militia Training Centre No. 111 at Gordon Head Camp, a series of huts quickly erected after the outbreak of war.

March 5, 1941: The Gordon Head Camp, is renamed 02 Officers Training Centre (Western Command), operating until Oct. 30, 1943.



April 14, 1958: The Victoria College Vikings trounce Ontario's Windsor AKO by 62-49 for a three-game sweep of the national junior men's basketball championship. The Vikings, coached by former Viking and all-round athlete Bill Garner, a junior high school teacher, won earlier games by 71-56 and 61-43. All games were

played in the gymnasium at Victoria High. The triumph was the only Canadian championship won by a Victoria College team.



▲ **McKinnon Gym**, with its signature peacock-blue walls, and bleachers at each end, boasts its many championship banners, celebrating the rich tradition of athletic excellence at the University of Victoria. [UVic Athletics]

June, 1961: The modern Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union (CIAU) is founded in Montreal as a national governing body for university sport. It will alter its name in 1978 to the Canadian Interuniversity Athletics Union.

July 1, 1963: The University of Victoria is established as British Columbia's second university.

1964: Former Scottish professional Wally Milligan becomes founding coach of the men's soccer team.



▲ An aerial view of the athletic grounds and facilities at the University of Victoria, pre-CARSA. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

1965: Local municipal governments agree on a compromise to build an “Outdoor Stadium Complex” on a site provided by the university on the Gordon Head campus. Victoria had preferred a Topaz location, while Saanich proposed Tillicum.

1965: Bob Bell serves as the university’s first athletic director for six years, followed by Michael Elcock (1971-80), Ken Shields (1980-1990), Wayne MacDonald (1990-2004), Jim Hays (interim 2003-04), and Clint Hamilton (2004-present).



May 19, 1967: Princess Alexandra, the Queen's cousin, inaugurates Centennial Stadium.

September 28, 1968: A pre-Olympic track meet attracts top international athletes to campus, including Canada's Harry Jerome and 11 holders of world records.

FROM THE OUTSIDE,



THE MCKINNON BUILDING shows sharp-angled corners, walls framed by horizontal concrete bars, a bunker carved into the earth in the 1970s style. The main entrance is recessed, found only by climbing first one short set of concrete steps and then another. A brass plaque near the front doors presents this as the McKinnon Building, opened on February 15, 1975, and named in honour of Archie McKinnon “in recognition of his unique contribution to Greater Victoria through his dedication to the athletic development of its youth.”

You can stand on those steps and let the years roll back, the decades peel away, the millennia pass into prehistory.

Fifty thousand years ago, the land on which the gym now rests was crushed beneath a massive slab of glacial ice. As the Cordilleran ice sheet melted, draining into what is now Puget Sound, the great weight scraped the land. A low-lying mixed forest grew and this area, rich in plant and animal life, became home about 6,000 years ago to the Lekwungen (Songhees) and WSANEC’ (Saanich) nations. By the time of contact, the Songhees territory stretched from what would be named Albert Head to Cordova Bay.

In 1850, James Douglas, the chief factor of the Hudson’s Bay Company (he would become governor of the colony of Vancouver Island the following year) signed a treaty with “the tribe or Family of Che-ko-nein” for use of the lands “between Point Gonzales and Mount Douglas.” The expenditure for the large tract, which includes today’s campus of the University of Victoria, cost 79 pounds, 10 shillings.

The first Europeans to work these lands did so for the Hudson’s Bay Company, whose huge Uplands Farm stretched inland for 1,100 acres (about 445 hectares). The property included Garry oak meadows and mixed forests with sword fern, cottonwoods and crabapples. In time, farm houses and a one-room schoolhouse would appear on future campus lands, which were dotted by orchards, market gardens and poultry farms with grain and berry crops throughout.

The drone of pollinating bees was drowned out by a louder, if less welcome, buzz when Victoria’s airfield shifted to Gordon Head in 1931. Nearby pastures were claimed by

August 30-31, 1969: Canadian track and field championships held at Centennial Stadium.

1969: The University of Victoria enters Canadian interuniversity competition.

June 2, 1973: University president Hugh Farquhar lifts dirt with a shovel as part of ceremonial sod-turning for new athletics building.

February 15, 1975: Archie McKinnon officially opens the athletic complex that bears his name.



▶ **An aerial view of the McKinnon Building**, ca. 1980s. Note the solar panels on the roof, as well as the huts in the background where CARSA now stands. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

▲ **Archie McKinnon** officially opens the building named in his honour at a ribbon cutting ceremony at UVic on February 15, 1975. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

◀ **The McKinnon Building**, ca. 1980s. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

◀◀ **Hanging out** on the steps of the McKinnon, ca. 1980s. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

November 9, 1975: The men's soccer team defeats Montreal's Concordia Stingers by 2-1 at Centennial Stadium for Victoria's first national championship in university competition.

August, 1976: Ken Shields is hired as the university's first full-time basketball coach. Intense, dedicated, and a fanatical student of the game, Shields will turn a competitive men's program into a dominant one. He will guide the men's team to an unprecedented

VICTORIA'S COACH

Archie McKinnon was one of the best known and most popular figures in Victoria's sporting scene. He was credited with teaching more than 60,000 local residents to swim over six decades of instruction. When it came time to select a name for the new athletic complex under construction at the University of Victoria, the venerable coach was an obvious choice.

Archibald McNaughton McKinnon was born on August 19, 1896, in the working-class Govan district of Glasgow. He arrived in Victoria in 1913 and enlisted in the war effort in 1917. A position as an office clerk for an importer of building supplies did not hold his interest and by the mid-1920s he was physical director for the Young Men's Christian Association. In those days, the YMCA was on the northeast corner of Blanshard and View Streets, a popular meeting place for youth.

A small (his enlistment papers put his height at fraction over five feet) but wiry man, McKinnon served as a full-time coach from 1930 to 1960. His "Flying Y" teams enjoyed great success in the pool and on the track, as he is credited with placing at least one club athlete on every one of Canada's Olympic or British Empire (later Commonwealth) Games teams during his tenure. After aiding swimmers at the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics as an unofficial coach, McKinnon traveled to Nazi Germany as Canada's official track coach at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Twelve years later, he was Canada's swim coach at the London Olympics and four years after that he returned poolside at the Olympics in Helsinki. (The Olympic stints were not without controversy. After a disappointing result at London in 1948, swimmer Irene Young of Vancouver complained of a lack of training opportunities in the fortnight prior to competition, adding the coach "never did anything to encourage us." In turn, McKinnon got a strong endorsement by Irene Wall, co-manager of the Canadian women's Olympic team.)

In 1954, he was one of Florence Chadwick's coaches when the American distance swimmer tried, but failed, to conquer the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

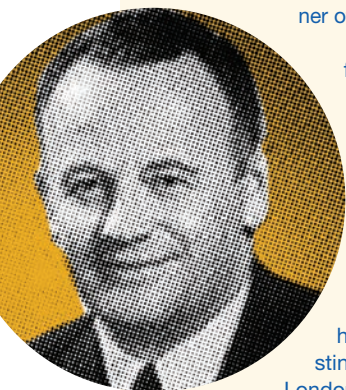
The swim and track coach was one of the inaugural inductees into the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame in 1966. He was named to the Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.

McKinnon was on hand to cut the ceremonial ribbon when the complex bearing his name was officially opened on February 15, 1975. He was 78 and retired, choking with emotion in the moment and unable to complete his remarks.

Before he stopped, he reminded the dignitaries, guests and sports fans gathered in the new gymnasium that he credited his wife, the former Dorothy Aird, whom he had married in 1924, with his success.

Noting he himself had not been able to attend university, the namesake noted he had special reason to be grateful for the honour.

"We have no son — three lovely daughters but no son — and to have the name McKinnon carried on like this is just terrific," he said.



the federal government in 1940, when temporary huts were built west of Finnerty Road as part of the Gordon Head Military Camp. The huts became temporary housing for returning veterans after the war.

Meanwhile, Victoria College also felt the strain of post-war growth, as the student body grew from 250 students in 1945 to 2,000 by 1959. Founded in 1903 as an affiliate of McGill University in Montreal, the college later became affiliated with the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. Sports were an essential part of school life in the Edwardian era with



the men playing rugby and basketball, while women played what was known as girls' hockey, or grass hockey. By the 1920s, additional Victoria College men's teams had been organized for golf and ice hockey. Basketball also became a second sport for women with the later addition of golf, badminton and table tennis.

The college rugby team claimed the British Columbia intermediate championship in 1929, while the school's first national junior championship was won in 1958 when the Vikings basket-

▲ **Archie McKinnon.** [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

▼ **Victoria's airfield** at Gordon Head, where the University of Victoria now exists. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

streak of seven consecutive W.P. McGee trophies as Canadian university champions.

January 28, 1977: Jim Hubbard accepts an invitation by basketball coach Ken Shields to lead cheers at home games. A

hairy, bearded man, Hubbard drapes furs across his bare chest, wears a horned helmet, and waves a sword. His character is known as "Mother Hubbard," the Mad Viking.

ball team swept the Windsor AKO in three games played in the Victoria High School gymnasium.

In 1961, the college's university development board purchased 120 acres (48.6 hectares) of mostly open land with temporary military buildings for \$115,500. An additional 141 acres of forested land was bought for \$438,235 from the Hudson's Bay Company, which had otherwise sold its holdings to Oak Bay for residential development. Other bits of land in private hands would also be purchased over the coming years.



New buildings were constructed on campus, while some of the old army huts were put to (what was expected to be) temporary use. The former drill hall, designated 'S Hut', was familiar to all students both as a registration hall (with all the hopeful expectancy a new term brings) and as an exam hall (with all the dreaded foreboding an end of term brings). The old building also served as the university's first gymnasium.

In 1965, the City of Victoria and neighbouring municipalities agreed to build an "Outdoor Stadium Complex"

THE DISTRICT OF GORDON HEAD

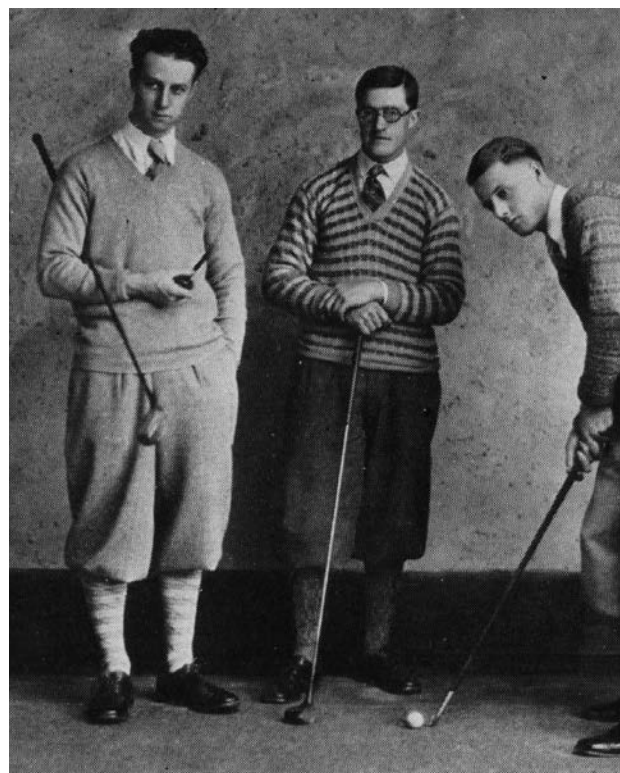
- The land provided a bounty, including the bulbs of the edible blue camas, an important source of carbohydrates. "These were pried out with digging sticks, cooked for hours in earth-ovens, then eaten at feasts or dried for winter use," distinguished professor and ethnobotanist Nancy Turner (BSc '69) has written. "Families would congregate around the camas meadows to dig bulbs in the summertime, harvesting thousands of bulbs for winter or trading with neighbouring groups. Wild fruits, ripening from late spring to fall, included Indian plums, salmonberries, wild strawberries, trailing blackberries, and Saskatoon berries. The juicier berries were dried in cakes, to be reconstituted in winter. Crabapples and elderberries would be stored fresh or buried in underground caches."
- Grant Keddie, an archaeology curator at the Royal BC Museum, suggests a seasonal camp was established near the present site of the Elliott Building some 1,900 years ago.
- The district known as Gordon Head was named for Capt. John Gordon, commander of HMS *America*. The 50-gun ship had been ordered to the Pacific coast by the Admiralty following the inaugural address by U.S. President James Polk,

who insisted the American claim to Oregon was "clear and unquestionable." Capt. Gordon, unimpressed by his assignment and the lands on which his presence made a claim, eventually sailed home with cargo, though he had been instructed to remain in the northeastern Pacific. He was court-martialled a week after arriving in Portsmouth, England, in 1846. The charge of leaving his station was "fully proved" and the captain was "severely reprimanded," and he soon after retired. Blissfully unaware of this mark on Gordon's career, the captain of a surveying vessel named the area after the captain.

- Gordon Head Military Camp opened in 1940 with streets named for senior officers responsible for establishing the camp — Atwood, Hadley, Haig, Puttick, Stockwell, Montgomery, Bell-Irving, as well as Ralston Avenue after James Ralston, the national minister of defence. The camp served as a training centre first for recruits, then for officers, and was later used as a hospital and for rehabilitation of wounded soldiers and returning prisoners of war. Among the officers trained at Gordon Head was a lawyer and National Hockey League referee named Clarence Campbell. At war's end, he prosecuted Nazis for war crimes before becoming NHL president.
- A naval wireless and telegraphy station operated adjacent to Gordon Head Military Camp. By the end of the war, it was staffed entirely by members of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, popularly known as Wrens. The building, designated Y Hut, still stands and is now used for storage.
- Victoria's airfield was situated at Lansdowne field until neighbours, tired of the noise of aircraft taking off and landing, forced the closure of the aerodrome in 1931. The local Skyroads flying club moved operations to a large, clear field where, at a spot between today's University Centre and Centennial Stadium, two runways converged to mark an X clearly visible in aerial photographs. A small nose hangar was built for use in repairing airplanes.

1978: Students launch a no-smoking campaign inside the McKinnon Building, the start of a movement that would see the smoking of tobacco, once a common habit, restricted throughout campus.

March, 1978: Kathy Shields becomes head coach of the women's basketball team. She will go on to guide the team to eight national university championships, one more than her husband won with the men's team. For good reason, the coaching couple are known as Mr. and Mrs. Basketball.



▲ **An essential part of school life** in the Edwardian era, this selected collage of photographs represents only a handful of men's and women's athletic teams from the early days of Victoria College. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

Spring, 1978: The university's Board of Governors approves an athletic policy in which selected sports will be featured as the university pursues a "Tradition of Excellence." The philosophy, credited to university president Howard Petch, will transform UVic

into a powerhouse in rowing, basketball, field hockey, and cross-country running.

March 8, 1980: Luanne (Hebb) Krawetz scores 19 points (15 in the second half) to pace the Vikettes to a 64-59 come-from-behind

as a project to mark Canada's centennial. The original plans for the university included provision for an outdoor stadium, so it was decided to build a 3,000-seat facility on campus with the university providing the site, roadways and parking.

Although sports teams representing Victoria College played local rivals, it was not until 1969 that UVic formally began an era of interuniversity competition. On June 2, 1973, university president Hugh Farquhar lifted a shovelful of dirt as part of a ceremonial sod-turning for a new athletics building to replace the old drill hall. The facility boasted a triple gymnasium (basketball, badminton, volleyball), a squash court, a dance studio, an L-shaped 25-metre pool, offices and other amenities. The building was named for Archie McKinnon, a popular figure on the Victoria sporting scene, who, as well as coaching Canadian athletes at four Olympic Games, was credited with teaching some 60,000 local children to swim. McKinnon, then aged 78, cut the ribbon to formally open the building. "This building isn't a monument to McKinnon," he said, speaking of himself in the third person, "it's to the young people we've had to work with."

In the following years, one of those children would be Jessica Renfrew, who first stepped on the court at McKinnon when she was about 10 years old to provide entertainment during half-time at a Vikes basketball game. A decade later, she would be playing on the court herself, a forward whose five-year university career with the Vikes ended with the era of McKinnon Gym. At the final basketball game of

A RICH TRADITION OF SPORT

- Even in the face of adversity, students were expected to be undiminished in their support of Victoria College's sports teams. "Despite the fact every team lost more games than it won, sports at the College were, on the whole, more successful than ever," reads the opening of the school's yearbook on sports in 1939-40. A few new sports had been added to the roster as students played rugby, soccer, basketball, swimming, table tennis, badminton, and softball.
- The era of felt pennants and coonskin coats also included school songs and cheers. Professor Walter Gage encouraged several of these. Some of the more memorable lyrics:

*Rack and ruin,
Blood and gore;
Victoria College
Evermore.*

*Catfish, dogfish, devilfish, sharks,
Atta boy, atta boy, raise some sparks,
Eat 'em up, eat 'em up, eat 'em up raw;
Victoria College! Rah, rah, rah!*

- A teenaged Bill Reid was male student athletic representative and a key part of the 1939-40 Victoria College basketball team. Under coach Frank (Bomber) Elliot, the hoopsters adopted the cry, "We'll kill 'em." Young Reid tried to recruit rugby players to the squad to provide more muscle under the basket. Alas, despite the bravado, the team went 3-7 on the season. Reid soon after became a radio announcer and would later enjoy a career as one of Canada's most acclaimed artists as a master Haida goldsmith, carver and sculptor.
- A young Lynn Patrick was recruited to the Victoria College rugby team in 1931. "Good inside three-quarter — fast and has a good swerve but is inclined to keep the ball too long before passing — tackling fair," was the verdict of the school yearbook. Patrick preferred "Canadian rugby," what we now call football, and went on to play professionally with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. He also had a long career in the National Hockey League with the New York Rangers. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1980 for his long service as a coach, general manager and executive in the NHL.
- Marge, as secretary of the Students' Council, has proved her ability to handle large sums of money," the Victoria College Annual noted of Marjorie Leeming in 1924. "Her spare moments she devotes to golf, and nothing need be said concerning her skill in wielding a tennis racket." The following year, Marge won the first of two consecutive Canadian singles championships in tennis. She was also a four-time runner-up. In her career, she also won three women's doubles titles, two of those coming with her sister Hope Leeming, who also attended Victoria College.
- Bob Hutchison wrote about sports at Victoria College for the student newspaper and for the yearbook. The sprinter was recruited to the Flying Y track team by Archie McKinnon and in 1952 competed at the Helsinki Olympic Games in both the 100-metre and 200-metre dash. The son of noted journalist Bruce Hutchison, Bob's own brief journalistic career was put aside. "The footprints were too big to walk into," he said. Instead, he became a lawyer and eventually retired as a judge. Along the way, he played a leadership role in the construction of Centennial Stadium and was a longtime supporter of athletics on campus.



victory over Dalhousie at Halifax to claim the university's first Bronze Baby as university women's basketball champions.

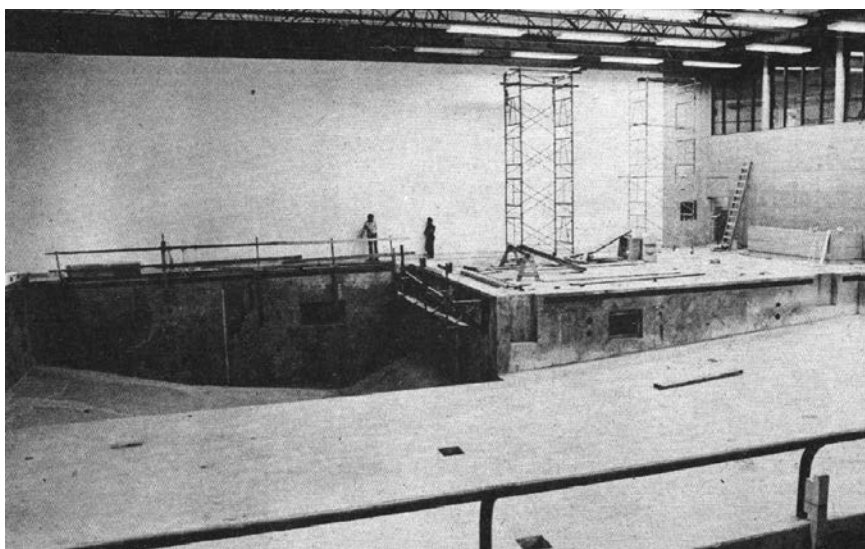
March 15, 1980: Tenacious rebounding helps the Vikes defeat the Brandon Bobcats, 73-65, to claim the university's first men's

national basketball championship. The game was nationally televised from Max Bell Arena in Calgary. In one week, UVic captures both basketball titles, a triumph for women's coach Kathy Shields and her husband, men's coach Ken Shields.

the 2014-15 regular season, the crowd cheered a parade of former coaches and athletes, still carrying themselves with the assurance of those who have competed at a high level, who have chased excellence, who have tested themselves against others and have not been found wanting.

A new era begins in 2015 with the opening of CARSA (Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities), a state-of-the-art facility certain to become a landmark in the region. The building includes a 2,100-seat performance gym, a field house for court sports, a fitness and weight-training area, squash and racquetball courts, a dance space, a yoga studio, a rowing ergometer centre, a sports therapy clinic, and offices for Vikes Athletics and Recreation. It is also home to the Peninsula Co-op Climbing Centre, with a 16-metre climbing wall and bouldering area, as well as CanAssist, which develops technologies and programs to improve the lives of those living with disabilities.

The magnificent building, with as much floor space as three football fields, is a worthy reward at the conclusion of the McKinnon era, a time of great achievement which will be remembered not so much for the building itself but for the people who competed within its confines.

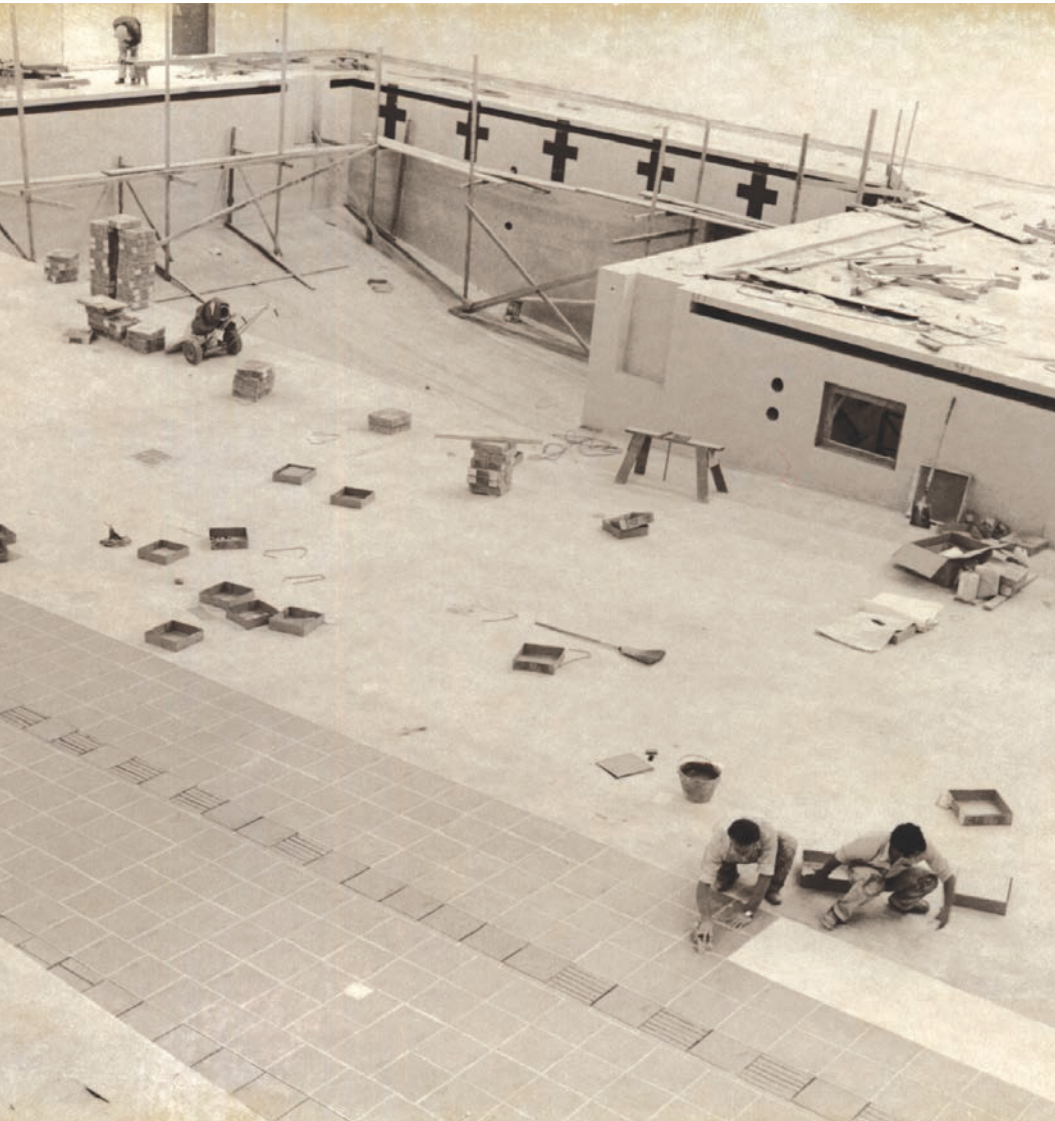


▲▲ **Construction of the McKinnon gym**, 1974. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

▲▼ **Construction of the McKinnon pool**, 1974. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

November 8, 1980: The women's team wins the inaugural national university championship in cross-country running in a competition at Guelph, Ont.

1981: Solar panels are installed on the McKinnon roof. Thirty years later, concern for the environment will be a driving factor in the design of an environmentally-friendly replacement for the building.



“THE MCKINNON”

The McKinnon Building opened with a triple gymnasium, an L-shaped swimming pool, a dance room, and other amenities. Among the rejected facilities: a bowling alley and ranges for archery and rifle shooting.

The McKinnon gym floor is marked with all manner of lines, both solid and checked, forming squares and circles and rectangles and arcs. To the unlearned eye, it is a jumbled geoglyph as puzzling as the Nazca Lines. It takes more than one rule book to decipher the markings. The white markings are for badminton with four courts perpendicular to a basketball court. The green markings are for volleyball. The royal blue lines are for basketball, the sport with which the gym is associated more than any other.

In an age of costly sports entertainments, a Vikes game at McKinnon Gym remained stubbornly affordable. Top ticket: \$10. Hot dog: \$4. Pop: \$2.50. A cup of candy cost a toonie and two quarters, the kind of spare change a tooth fairy might leave. In the stands, kids clutched at bags of popcorn (\$3). Students painted their face in the Vikes colours of blue and gold. The retractable wooden grandstands jostled with every fan climbing up or down, so any foot-stomping cheer had the entire section rumbling and thundering.

June 1, 1983: Rick Crawley begins his tenure as women’s rowing coach, a job he will hold for 32 years and counting. Crawley will guide the rowers to 11 national university championships, while more than two dozen of his athletes will compete at the Olympics.

July 28, 1984: The Summer Olympics open in Los Angeles. Thirty-eight UVic athletes take part, winning gold, silver and bronze medals in rowing, as well as a bronze medal in swimming. Earlier, Mike Edgson, a 15-year-old visually impaired swimmer from Vancouver Island, wins three gold medals at the International



Games for the Disabled (now known as the Paralympics) at Hempstead, N.Y. He will later enrol at UVic.

August 19, 1984: Olympian and varsity rower Tony Zasada is killed in a car crash in Regina. He will be posthumously inducted

into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 1991 and in the UVic Sports Hall of Fame in 2009 as a member of the university's 1983 eights crew. There is also an annual rowing award named after him.

A NEW ERA

The cone rises skyward, an indoor volcano speckled with climbing holds in red, yellow, orange, and blue. The colours delineate routes upward for climbers, who are supported by belay ropes attached to handlers on the ground. The climbing wall reaches upwards to 16 metres and is indented with 5,000 holes in which the foot and hand holds can be rearranged to offer different routes. A nearby bouldering wall offers climbs to 4.3 metres.

The Peninsula Co-Op Climbing Centre is a landmark feature of CARSA, the \$77-million Centre for Athletics, Recreation, and Special Abilities. Less than two years after a ceremonial groundbreaking, on turf once occupied by wooden army huts, the building opened on schedule in the spring of 2015.

A tour of CARSA shows off a building offering a wide selection of fitness techniques and sports venues. The list of amenities is lengthy — weight rooms with squat racks, dumb bells, and low-profile stacks; low-impact tread mills; a wood-floored studio for yoga, dance, karate, or Pilates; a TRX (Total Resistance eXercise) studio; 30 stationary cycles facing a 90-inch television; a rowing ergometer room; an athletic therapy clinic; squash and racquetball courts.

When fully opened, the expansive field house resembles an airplane hangar. The 35,000-square-foot space boasts a sprung floor on which can be played tennis, or table tennis, or badminton, or volleyball, or indoor soccer, or floor hockey, or pick-up basketball. Opaque dividing screens permit matches to be played simultaneously. Along one wall stretches an 80-metre sprint track.

All corridors in the building are wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs. As well, a section is dedicated to the offices and machine shop of CanAssist, the innovative centre where customized technologies are developed to aid those living with disabilities.

McKinnon was best known for the triumphs of the men and women's varsity teams on the basketball court. The new building includes an intimate bowl with seating for 2,100. A giant television screen is to be mounted on one wall, a scoreboard on the other. Painted on the new gym floor is the legend "Ken & Kathy Shields Gym" to honour the basketball coaches who brought so many championships to the campus.

As of 2015, the University of Victoria has celebrated 74 national championships in university competition, while 173 Vikes athletes and coaches have made appearances for Canada at the Olympic or Paralympic Games.

This state-of-the-art facility is more than a worthy successor to McKinnon Gym. It heralds a new era of athletic excellence at the University of Victoria.

◀ The Peninsula Co-Op Climbing

Centre at CARSA. At 16 metres, the wall is the tallest climbing tower of any Canadian university.

[UVic Athletics]

▶ The CARSA multi-purpose field

house has flexible space for court sports, sprint lanes and other activities. [UVic Athletics]



November 1, 1984: Eiko Tabata scores the lone goal as Victoria defeats York Yeowomen in Vancouver to claim UVic's first national championship in field hockey. Days later, head coach Sandy Drever retires. She is replaced by assistant coach Lynne Beecroft, who will guide the team to another 10 titles.

December 25, 1984: Archie McKinnon, one of the most popular figures in Victoria's rich sporting history, and for whom the athletic complex on campus is named, dies of pneumonia on Christmas Day. He was 88.

BASKET- BALL

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

1979-80
1980-81
1981-82
1984-85
1986-87
1991-92
1997-98
1999-00
2002-03

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

1979-80
1980-81
1981-82
1982-83
1983-84
1984-85
1996-97

HALL OF FAME 🏆

1979-80 men's team
1981-82 women's team
Kelly Dukeshire
Erik Hinrichsen
Gerald Kazanowski
Luanne (Hebb) Krawetz
Tracie (Sibbald) McAra
Phil Ohl
Robbie Parris
Eli Pasquale
Ken Shields
Kathy Shields



KEN SHIELDS WORKED THE SIDELINES of a basketball court like a bird of prey, unblinking eyes surveying the play in front of him searching for any weakness in an opponent. Driven by nature, intense in focus, Shields dedicated his life to mastering his coaching technique. A patient but uncompromising style would bring remarkable success to the varsity basketball program, as he guided the men's team to an unprecedented streak of seven consecutive W.P. McGee trophies as Canadian university champions. He would be named coach of the year three times (in 1978, '81, and '82) on teams that produced six MVPs, eight all-stars and nine all-Canadians.

Shields also helped encourage his wife, Kathy, a former player, to become a coach. If Ken was the steely fanatic, Kathy was the worrier, searching her own players for weaknesses that might be exploited by opponents. She knew from her time as a player that a team was only as strong as its weakest member, and she would design a game plan to lessen the chance of the flaw being exploited. Kathy Shields led the women's team to eight titles, one more than her hus-

band. She would win the coach of the year honours only twice, in retrospect a surprising snub considering all she accomplished. Her regular-season coaching record was a spectacular 320-50. With the three national titles she won as a player at Laurentian University, where she was coached by her future husband, Kathy Shields stands alone as a figure in the history of Canadian women's basketball. Her talents for leadership and teaching also found expression in that eight of her former assistant coaches or players have gone on to become head coaches of university programs.

The couple, dubbed Mr. and Mrs. Basketball, had superb players on which to rely.

In 1981, Luanne (Hebb) Krawetz helped lead the Vikettes to their first three championships. In 1981, she was named



► **Head coach Ken Shields** on the sidelines in the McKinnon Gym.

[UVic Athletics]

▼▲ **Kathy Shields with the Vikettes;** and a team photo from 1978-

1979 with Shields as coach (top row). [UVic Athletics]

March 15, 1986: The Vikes win a record seventh consecutive men's basketball title with a 70-61 victory over the Waterloo Warriors in Halifax.

September, 1986: The National Coaching Institute is founded at the university. Modelled on German programs, the institute provides full-time training to elite-level coaches.

tournament MVP, as well as player of the year. Her teammate, Tracie (Sibbald) McAra, a sharpshooting guard, also won three titles. Both would play for Canada's national team.

Among the men, the hardworking ironman Kelly Dukeshire, a hulking post, won four titles and was named tournament MVP in 1982 when he averaged 15.3 points per game before hometown crowds at Memorial Arena. A teammate of Dukeshire, Phil Ohl, a 6-foot-7 guard-forward, won four titles with the Vikes. He is now an assistant coach of the men's team.

Another Hall of Fame member of those first championship teams was Gerald Kazanowski, a dominating front-court presence. The son of Polish immigrants, Gerald's father was a sergeant in the Polish Army during the Second World War, and had been taken prisoner by the Soviets. "He was captured, taken to Russia, and pretty much left to starve," Gerald said. "But the Russians eventually said we'll feed you if you fight for us." The family of six children grew up in a small house in Nanaimo, so his mother was always shooing her boisterous boys outside, where they played sports late into the night.



Kaz, as he was known, was an unassuming and quiet figure who made his presence known through physical play as a centre-forward, and always seemed to be a half-step ahead of the play on the court.

"Every time we played," said teammate Eli Pasquale, a guard, "he seemed to have his hands on the ball. He had great mitts."

At 6-foot-9, Kaz was Mutt to Pasquale's Jeff. The 6-foot-1 point guard also had a blue-collar background. He grew up in an Italian immigrant neighbourhood in Sudbury, Ont. The two made for an odd couple,

as Pasquale was as exuberant as Kaz was reticent. Kaz won four titles with UVic, while Pasquale won five. They won gold medals together at the 1983 World University Games after defeating an American team featuring future NBA stars Charles Barkley and Karl Malone, and they both played for the Canadian Olympic team in 1984, which finished fourth. Both Kaz's No. 24 and Pasquale's No. 13 have been retired and hang proudly from the wall at McKinnon Gym. The third Vike to have had his jersey retired, No. 20 Robbie Parris, known for his inspirational play and ball-handling skills, starred for the Vikes in the years leading up to the dynasty.

Eric Hinrichsen, two-time winner of the Mike Moser Trophy as top university player of the year, led the Vikes to the 1997 title under coach Guy Vetrie, who would die suddenly six years later while jogging on a campus trail. His loss at age 52 was keenly felt and was all the more tragic because his son, Ryan Vetrie, was about to join the varsity team. Veets, as the coach was known, had been a player under the tutelage of Ken Shields for four years at Laurentian. A memorial tournament in his name is held on campus every other year. Craig Beaucamp took the reins of the men's team. He has led

A REMARKABLE CAREER

Carol Turney-Loos arrived in Victoria in 1977 having already earned a reputation as one of the greatest basketball players of her era.

She began her university career in Vancouver with the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds, where she broke a 52-year-old scoring record by scoring 37 points in a game. She led the Thunderettes to a national title in 1974.

Selected to play for Canada at the 1976 Olympics, she moved to Atlantic Canada to train with the team. Afterwards, she enrolled at St. Mary's University in Halifax, where she established a Canadian university record for points in

one game with 50. She married local athlete Bill Loos and the couple moved from Atlantic Canada to the West Coast.

In two seasons with the Vikettes (1977-78 and 1979-80), Turney-Loos averaged 25.4 points per game and boasted a remarkable .880 free-throw average (making 228 of 259 attempts). She led Victoria to the finals in both of her seasons, winning her second national championship in 1980. She was named most-valuable player of the championship tournament. Turney-Loos also became the inaugural recipient of the Nan Copp Award as Canada's outstanding basketball player of the year.

January 23, 1988: The Olympic torch relay on the way to Calgary for the Winter Olympics passes through Victoria. The relay is halted briefly to pay respects to Darryl Smith and Gareth Lineen, novice rowers who had died eight days earlier in a training accident on Elk Lake.

August 22, 1988: Bruce Wilson, a defender who was captain of Canada's World Cup soccer team two years earlier, is hired as head coach of the men's soccer team. He will guide the team to championships in 1996, 2004, and 2011.



▼ **Tracie (Sibbald) McAra.** [UVic Athletics]

▲ **The Vikettes in action at McKinnon,** from the past to the present. Top: Luanne (Hebb) Krawetz; Megan Dalziel; Kim (Johnson) Graves.

Bottom (L-R): The 1999-2000 Women's Basketball champions celebrate their win; Lily Blair. [UVic Athletics]

September, 1988: Brent Fougner becomes men's track and cross-country coach after working three years as assistant coach. He will also become the women's coach a decade later.

September 17, 1988: The Summer Olympics open in Seoul, South Korea. Twenty athletes with a connection to UVic take part. At the Paralympics in Seoul the following month, Mike Edgson wins eight gold medals in the pool.

A TRYOUT TO REMEMBER

September, 1983. A basketball tryout at McKinnon Gym. A freshman student from rural Armstrong, B.C., steps onto the gym’s wooden floor for the first time. He will be taking part in a scrimmage. On the other side are five players who will all go on to play for the Vikes, some even making Canada’s national team — Gerald Kazanowski, Howard Kelsey, Ken Larson, Robbie Parris and Kelly Dukeshire.

It was a daunting test for our freshman. “The scrimmage was highly competitive and at an intensity (to) which I had never been exposed,” the freshman would recall years later. He learned an immediate lesson that would serve him well in years to come — “Play as hard as possible and compete with every inch of my body.”

As it turned out, the freshman held his own, helped in the scrimmage by playing alongside Eli Pasquale, Greg Wiltjer, Phil Ohl and Jay Triano, all of whom played for varsity and the national team.

Our self-described naive freshman is Clint Hamilton, who would make the varsity squad before becoming Vikes director of athletics and recreation.

the team to the Final 8 tournament three times, while he has five times been named Canada West coach of the year.

In 2007, the centre court at McKinnon Gym was officially named after Ken and Kathy Shields to honour their combined 15 national championships. (In 13 seasons, Ken’s teams went 98-7 on that floor, while Kathy’s teams were 183-12 over 22 seasons.) Carrying on the same tradition of excellence from McKinnon, the floor of the new performance gym at CARSA has been named the Ken and Kathy Shields Court.

Among the outstanding athletes to close out the McKinnon era were guard Debbie Yeboah (career statistics: 1,469 points, 436 rebounds, 7.5 grade-point average), and point guard Cassandra Goodis, who established a Canada West record for career assists with 598. Both ended their careers with the Vikes under the guidance of women’s head coach Dani (Everitt) Sinclair, who as a player was named a tournament all-star when the Vikes won the national championship in 2003.

▼ 1997-98 Women’s Basketball champions’ team photo

taken on the steps of the McKinnon. [UVic Athletics]



1990: The university purchases the Racquet Club sports facility from St. Michael’s University School. Ian Stewart, a Board of Governors member and a stalwart supporter of athletics, plays a key role in the acquisition. The Gordon Head Complex becomes a recreational centre for the university, providing a gym, tennis

courts, squash and racquetball courts, a dance studio, a weight room, a physiotherapy clinic and an ice rink.

July 25, 1992: The Barcelona Games open. UVic rowers return to the Olympic podium with gold medals in the men’s eights,



INSPIRING GENERATIONS

- Mike Gallo, who coached the Vikettes basketball team from 1970-71 until 1977-78, directed the Vikettes women's team to a national championship in his first year as coach. They won the senior A championship of all of Canada, as the Canadian women's national university championship had yet to be established. Gallo also handled many top-notch talents in his tenure, but he is now best known for a pupil he coached in elementary school. Young Steve Nash, a soccer player, went on to become Canada's greatest ever all-time basketball player.
- Cindy Smith was captain of three Vikettes teams to win national titles. Known for her deadeye accuracy in shooting, Smith had a rare claim to a sporting legacy. Her grandmother, Marjorie Levirs (née Canning), had been a guard for the varsity Blue and Gold basketball at the University of British Columbia in the 1920s. She later formed basketball teams for girls at Creston and other BC Interior communities. Levirs was a regular at Vikettes home games, cheering on her granddaughter.
- Shortly before the 1980 national tournament, Bill Loos legally changed his name to Turney-Loos to match that of his wife. Carol Turney-Loos was a key player in the Vikettes' national championship and was named season MVP. "There are only girls in Carol's family," he told the *Toronto Star*, "so it would have meant the end to the Turney name otherwise. Since she had quite a name in sports herself, it wouldn't have been fair for her to lose it."

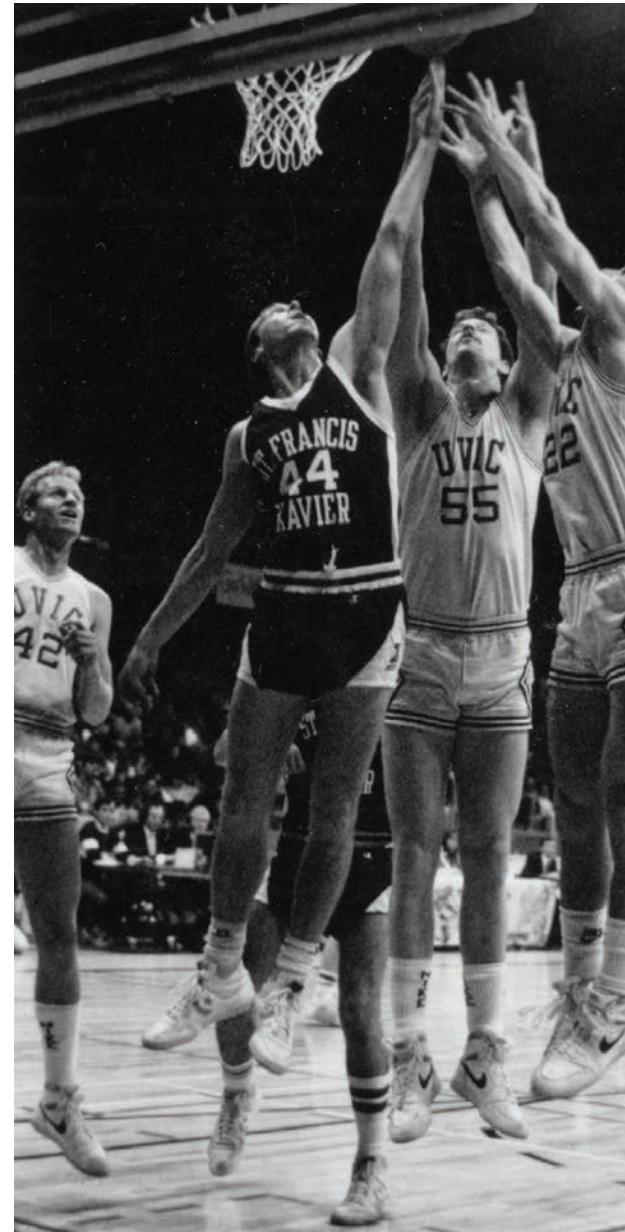
► **UVic head basketball coach Guy Vetric.** He had 543 victories in his 14-season career, which started in 1989. [UVic Athletics]

◄ **Eli Pasquale (#13) and Greg Kazanowski (#12)** aim high. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

women's eights, and women's coxless fours. Mike Edgson wins another four gold medals in the Paralympics.

1992: An all-weather field hockey pitch is constructed behind the McKinnon Building. Construction for housing for Commonwealth

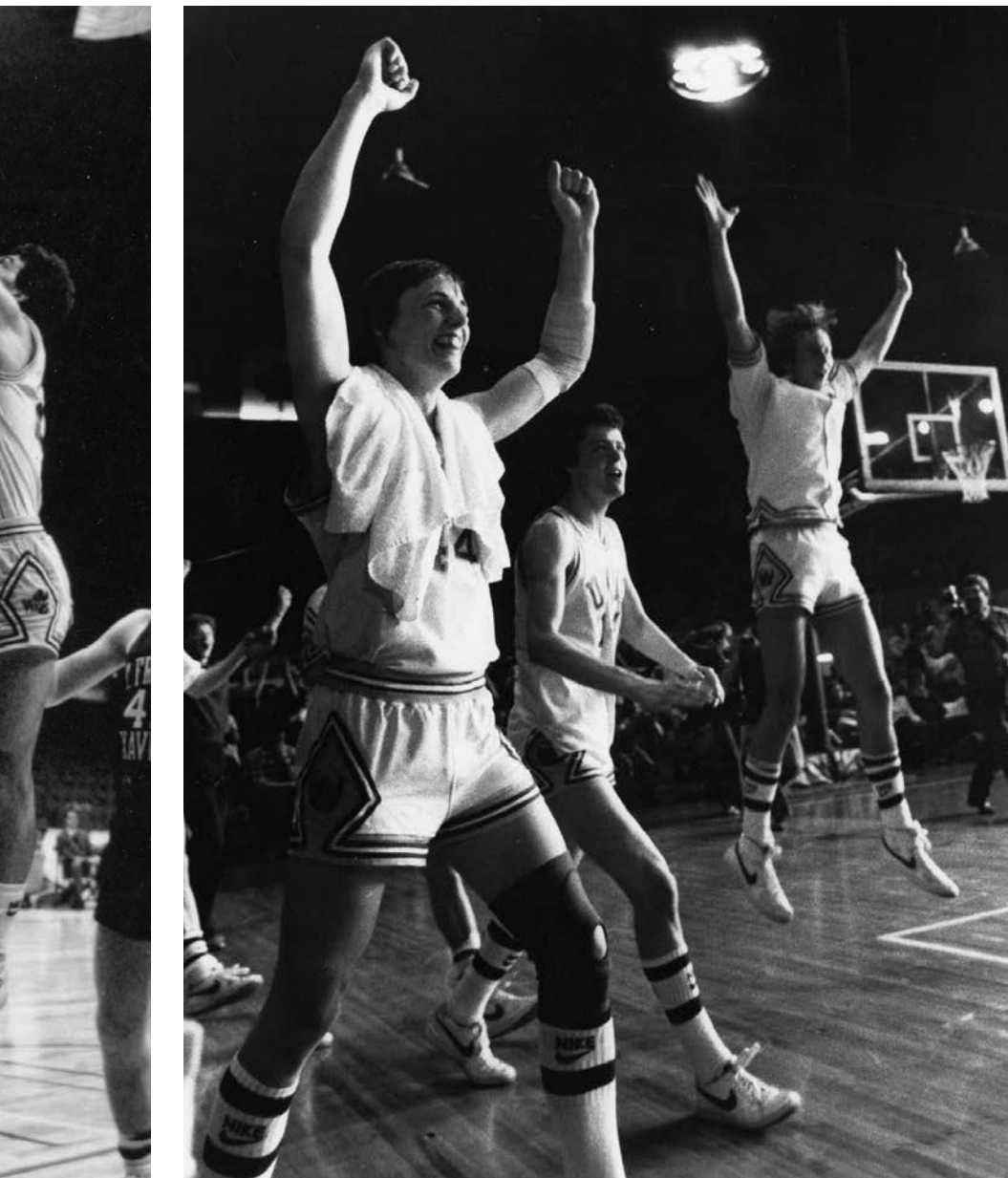
Games athletes is begun. After the Games, the Commonwealth Village housing cluster will be home to 400 students in apartment-style dormitories with shared kitchens, bathrooms and living rooms.



1993: The women's national CIS basketball championship is held at McKinnon Gym. Winnipeg wins the Bronze Baby.

August 18, 1994: Athletes from 63 participating nations in the XV Commonwealth Games march around a widened track at

Centennial Stadium before taking seats in the stadium during the Opening Ceremonies. The RCMP Musical Ride, a flyover by the Snowbirds, and a presentation of a thunderbird by First Nations were highlights enjoyed by spectators, including among them HRH Queen Elizabeth II. The stadium, which has been upgraded with



◀◀◀ **Robbie Parris (#20)** watches as **Reni Dolcetti (#33)** shoots for the net.

[University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

◀◀ **Cord Clemens (#55)** and **David Sheehan (#22)** jump for the rebound with

James Newman (#42) at the ready. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

◀ **Vikes teammates** Kelly Dukeshire, Ryan

Burles and Ken Larson celebrate. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

new seating and a better playing surface, played host to 44 athletics events, including two for disabled athletes.

August 28, 1994: Closing Ceremonies of the XV Commonwealth Games with Prince Edward in attendance.

July 19, 1996: The Summer Games open in Atlanta. Thirteen athletes, a coach and an athletic therapist from UVic will take part. Five UVic rowers win silver medals.

CROSS- COUNTRY & TRACK

WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

1980
1985
1986
1987
1994
1998
1999
2000
2001

MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

1994
1995
1996
1997

HALL OF FAME 🏆

Dr. Derek Ellis
Robyn Meagher
Carey Nelson
Debbie Scott
Silverado Socrates



▲ Centennial Stadium at The University of Victoria. [UVic Athletics]

LITERATURE ACKNOWLEDGES long-distance running as a lonely pursuit. It is also a sport overshadowed by others in popularity. The men's and women's teams at UVic have claimed a combined 13 national university championships, yet the sport is often relegated to agate type, or short stories in the newspaper, if it merits coverage at all. "We work just as hard as basketball players," cross-country coach Brent Fougner complained in 1998, "and yet we don't get the same recognition."

In 27 seasons as coach of middle-distance runners, Fougner has guided his male student athletes to four consecutive titles (1994-97) immediately followed by another four-year streak by the women (1998-2001). He has been named coach of the year nine times (including the eight championship years, as well as 2013).

In 1980, Debbie Scott won a five-kilometre race at the Lethbridge Country Club in Alberta in 17 minutes, 18 seconds. The runner-up finished a staggering 53 seconds behind. On the strength of her victory, the Victoria team won the Canada West University Athletic Association title for the first time and qualified for the inaugural university women's championship to be held a week later in Guelph, Ont. Scott finished 13 seconds behind a Guelph runner in the 5k run, but the Victoria team won the national title with 25 points to Guelph's 27. (The best five times of six athletes competing from each school were considered with one point awarded for first place, two for second, and so on.) Other runners with the triumphant Victoria team were Anne Harrison, Maev Lydon, Debbie Campbell, Denise Kelly and Meghan Lambeth.

Born in Victoria, Scott is one of the greatest athletes to

have worn the university colours. After a stellar university career, the slight, 5-foot-4, 106-pound runner competed in three Olympic Games (1984, '88, '92) and likely would have a fourth on her resumé were it not for the Canadian boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics. In 1985, she won a gold medal in the 3000-metres at the World Indoor Games at Paris. The next year, she won silver medals in the 1500 and 3000m races at the Commonwealth Games at Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1987, she took silver in the 1,500 at the Pan-

NO TRIVIAL MATTER

- Centennial Stadium opened to rave reviews in 1967. Unfortunately, no provision had been made for equipment for use by athletes. The Alumni Association stepped in with a \$2,500 donation, which bought hurdles for the track, as well as pole-vaulting equipment, including poles, a cross-bar, lifters. This was followed by another emergency call, since although athletes could take-off, they could not land without injury. Donations were solicited for the purchase of a foam-rubber landing pit.
- After leaving university, the celebrated cross-country and track athlete Brenda Shackleton changed her name to Silverado Socrates. She operates a trail-riding business on acreage in the Okanagan. In 2013, she ran as an independent candidate in the provincial by-election in Westside-Kelowna, a rare race in which she did not emerge victorious. Liberal Premier Christy Clark won handily, while Socrates tied for sixth of eight candidates with 43 votes. Socrates was inducted into the university's Sports Hall of Fame the same year. She is president of the British Columbia chapter of the International Institute for Peace Through Tourism.

November 8, 1997: At London, Ont., the men's cross-country team wins a fourth consecutive CIAU title.

November 9, 1997: Both the men and women's rowing teams win their first national championships in a regatta held on Elk Lake, their training site, 11 kilometres northwest of UVic campus.

American Games in Indianapolis, Ind. She was inducted into the Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

Robyn Meagher contributed to the Vikes winning national university cross-country titles in 1986 and '87. In 1988, she joined Tania Jones, Brenda Shackleton (later known as Silverado Socrates) and Trish Wellman to run the 4-by-800-metre relay in eight minutes, 41.66 seconds, establishing a Canadian university record that has stood for 27 years. Meagher (at 3000m) joined Scott (1500m) in competing at the Summer Games in Barcelona in 1992. Meagher also raced in the 5000m at the Atlanta Olympics four years later.

Socrates contributed to the Vikettes' winning consecutive titles in her first three years of university competition in the mid-1980s. The team finished second in her senior year, though they did claim the Canada West title. She won three Canadian university championships and was named Canada's cross-country athlete of the year in her freshman and sophomore campaigns. She also won medals on the track (gold in the 1500m and 3000m, and bronze in the 1000m).

Carey Nelson captured four medals (a silver and three bronze) on the track and as a cross-country runner in two seasons with the Vikes in 1984 and '85. The 5-foot-10, 141-pound distance runner from Saskatoon, Sask., went on to compete in two Olympics, running in the 5000m at Seoul in 1988 and finishing 35th in the marathon in Atlanta eight years later.

The best results for the men's track team at the nationals was a fifth-place finish in 2014. The best women's team result was a third-place finish in 1984. Individual and relay athletes have fared better, winning a total (through 2014) of 44 gold, 27 silver and 31 bronze medals.

In 2008, the team of Richard Lehman, Daniel Mallie, Darren Mazzei and Geoff Martinson won the university title in the 4x800-metre relay in 7:30.83 at the national

▼ **In 1996, the Vikes men's cross-country team** won the CIAU national championship for the third time, setting the record for the largest margin of victory (72 points). Coach Brent Fougner won CIAU Coach of the Year for the third consecutive year. [UVic Athletics]



November 15, 1997: The Vikes thump the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds by 33-6 at Centennial Stadium to win the inaugural Canadian university men's rugby championship.

1998: A blue-ribbon year for campus sports, as the women's basketball team, women's cross-country, men's rugby, and men's and women's rowing teams all win national university championships.

championships in Montreal. Martinson also won gold in the 1500m at the same meet.

Thomas Riva was named UVic's co-male athlete of the year in 2015 after winning the national university 1500m title in 4:06.16. A year earlier, he was national university champion in the 1000m. Rachel François won the female athlete of the year honours in 2014 and 2015 as she successfully defended her national 600m crown, which she has held for four consecutive years.

One of the Vikes' first gold medals was won by a young Brent Fougner, who won the triple jump at Lethbridge, Alta., in 1981 before embarking on his notable coaching career.

▼ **Dr. Derek Ellis**, the founder and first coach of the cross-country program at the University of Victoria. [UVic Athletics]

▼ **The Vickettes Cross Country champions** (L-R): Debbie Scott; Anne Harrison; Debbie Campbell; Maeve Lydon. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]



▲ **A former UVic national champion** in triple jump, Brent Fougner is the current cross-country and track coach for UVic. [UVic Athletics]



January 17, 1999: The NBA's Vancouver Grizzlies play a preseason intrasquad game at McKinnon Gym.

June 26, 2000: The Gordon Head Complex is renamed the Ian H. Stewart Complex in dedication to the longtime Board of Governors member who was instrumental in obtaining the facility.

FIELD HOCKEY

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

1984
1987
1989
1991
1992
1994
1995
1997
2000
2002
2008

HALL OF FAME 🏆

1984-85 women's team
Lynne Beecroft
Jan Crook
Milena Gaiga
Lauralee Kopeck
Rochelle Low
Nancy (Chariton) Mollenhauer
Deb Whitten



◀ **UVic women's field hockey players**

defending a penalty corner. Note the original sand-based turf. L- R Andrea Rushton; Janet Filipenko; Anna Grimes; Kristal Timmer; Meggan Hunt. [UVic Athletics]

▼ **UVic field hockey coach and player**

Lynne Beecroft, ca. early 1980s, when she played for the Canadian national team. [UVic Athletics]

IN 1984, **COACH SANDY DREVER** guided the women's field hockey team to an undefeated 10-0-3 season. The Vikettes scored 41 goals and only allowed two, earning them a top-seed ranking as they crossed Georgia Strait to compete at the national championship tournament in Vancouver.

The Vikettes knocked off the Waterloo Warriors (4-1) and St. Mary's Huskies (3-0) to advance to a semifinal showdown against the University of British Columbia, arch rivals and tournament hosts. The match was tied 1-1 after regulation. In extra time, the Vikettes scored three goals.

A continuous downpour of rain, as well as an unexpected snowfall, forced the championship game against the York Yeowomen to be moved off campus into the indoor splendour of BC Place Stadium. Midway through the second half, Eiko Tabata scored the game's lone goal to give Victoria its first field hockey title. Many more were to come.

The coach stepped aside after the season to be replaced by her assistant, former varsity player and Olympian Lynne Beecroft. The daughter of a logger and a stay-at-home mother, Beecroft grew up in several hamlets and towns along the British Columbia coast. "Living in logging camps, we had two-room schoolhouses, no gymnasiums, no fields," she said. She did not play any organized sports until her

family settled in Duncan when she was in Grade 5. The sport — field hockey. Her position — goal. "It didn't take me long to realize I'd rather shoot at people than have them shoot at me."

In high school, the 5-foot-3 dynamo played softball, soccer, volleyball, skated as a forward in ice hockey, and played guard on the basketball court. Her high school field hockey coach refused to sign her yearbook unless she agreed to try out for field hockey at university.



July 28, 2000: B.C. Summer Games open in Victoria. Track and field events are held at Centennial Stadium.

August 13, 2000: Canadian Olympic track and field trials conclude at Centennial Stadium.

September 15, 2000: The Sydney Games open. UVic rowers Theresa Luke and Buffy (Alexander) Williams win bronze medals in the women's eights. Paralympic swimmer Stephanie Dixon wins five gold medals.

Beecroft joined the varsity field hockey team for the 1975-76 season. The clay-based pitch was like a quagmire when it rained. The field also lacked lights, so sometimes practice would be held in the parking lot of Centennial Stadium. The replacement, built for the 1994 Commonwealth Games, was an improvement, though the “Brillo Pad field” still scraped knees. A world-class, water-based pitch opened on campus in time for an Olympic qualifying tournament in 2008. The field, designed to elite international standards, allows for a faster game.

Her childhood ambition had been to be a competitor at the Olympics, a dream which came true when the centre half played alongside UVic teammates Diane (Mahy) Virjee and Nancy (Charlton) Mollenhauer at the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

As the field hockey team won 10 national titles under Beecroft, including five in seven years from 1991 to 1997,

the university provided a steady flow of players to Canada’s national team. Lauralee Kopeck competed at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics before serving for six years as the national team captain.

Six of the 13 players on the 1997 university champion squad — Aoibhinn Grimes, Kristen Taunton, Julia Wong, Meggan Hunt, Kristal Timmer and Andrea Rushton — went on to play for Canada’s team. Rushton, a defender, earned 127 caps representing her country in international competition.

In 2008, a team with limited experience won the university title while playing before a home crowd on the new, state-of-the-art pitch.

Beecroft has never been one to dwell on championships. She’s prouder of building camaraderie and a spirit of cooperation among her student athletes. She places an emphasis on morale-building exercises, contributing to what she

▼ **Lauren MacLean and Kristal Timmer** grab a drink on the sidelines. [UVic Athletics]



▼ **Rochelle Low** takes a swing. [UVic Athletics]



June, 2001: The CIAU changes its name to Canadian Interuniversity Sport.

November 10, 2001: The women’s cross-country team wins a fourth consecutive university title in a meet at Sherbrooke, Que.

August 17-25, 2002: Group C of the FIFA women’s under-19 soccer tournament competes at Centennial Stadium. The United States, Australia and England advance in round-robin play while Chinese Taipei is eliminated. The U.S. then defeats Denmark in a quarter-final match.



readily admits is an unorthodox approach to coaching. Beecroft confesses she measures success less by an annual won-loss record than by her ability to get her players and coaches to put aside individual aspirations in favour of working together for a common goal.

Her team-building exercises revolve around an annual theme. One year it was the Magic School Bus. Another year it was a bee theme, a play on her surname as well as her nickname of Buzz, which she earned as a speedy sprite zipping up and down the pitch.

▲ **Nancy (Charlton) Mollenhauer's** team photo, 2007. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

▼ **In 2007 a group of alumni** gathered to celebrate the permanent national championship banners that hang at the field hockey pitch. [UVic Athletics]

AN IMPRESSIVE LINE-UP

- Forty-eight Vikes field hockey players have gone on to play for Canada on the junior or national teams.
- Head coach Lynne Beecroft does not schedule practices during exams in December and April. "It is student-athlete, not athlete-student," she insists. She wants her athletes to focus on studies for a simple reason. "In our sport, they aren't going to make a living at it." Adds Beecroft: "I'm proud I've had nine medical doctors come out of this program. Also physios, chiropractors, veterinarians, teachers. They've been successful."
- The women's success has inspired the men's field hockey program, who have produced several national team athletes, including 2008 Olympian Connor Grimes.
- Ali Lee captained the field hockey team for four years, leading a young squad to a championship in 2008. Lee is the only field hockey player to be named CIS rookie of the year (2004) and player of the year (2005) in consecutive seasons. She went on to compete for Canada in 43 international matches. She became a communications officer for UVic Athletics in 2011.



May 29, 2003: The men's team wins the inaugural university golf championship by one stroke over Humber College in a tournament at Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge, Ont.

September 15, 2003: Men's basketball head coach Guy Vetrie collapses and dies at age 52 while jogging along a trail on UVic campus.

GOLF

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

2008

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

2003

2005

2006

WHEN THE GOLF PROGRAM started in 2000, a poster appeared on campus asking, “Does anybody golf?” The answer was affirmative, not surprising for a campus set amidst numerous public and private courses offering year-round play — a rarity in Canada.

With many of the top Vancouver Island golfers accepting scholarships in the United States, a golf program was launched at the University of Victoria to provide an opportunity for golfers to stay and compete in Canada. Founding head coach Bryan Carbery, a former teaching professional, spent the next 14 years recruiting athletes, booking hotel rooms, driving to tournaments (to save money), and cajoling benefactors to contribute to scholarship funds. Carbs, as he is nicknamed, retired as head coach in 2013. He was replaced by Justin Clews, a former golfing Vike. The team’s home course is the Uplands Golf Club, a longtime supporter of the program.

The Royal Canadian Golf Association conducted the inaugural Canadian University and College Championship in 2003 at Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge, Ont. The Vikes men’s team of Justin Clews, Shelby Dreher, Todd Halpen and Brian Sluggett finished with a final-round total of 662 to defeat the Humber College Hawks of Toronto by a single stroke.

Team captain Halpen also guided the Vikes teams to a victory in the 2005 tournament at the Duncan Meadows



▲ **Anne Balsler** on the fairway playing for UVic in 2008. [UVic Athletics]

June 2004: The University of Victoria purchases from BC Hydro the field and clubhouse on Gordon Head Road used by the Velox Valhallians rugby club.

July 9-11, 2004: Canadian Olympic track and field trials held at Centennial Stadium.



▲ **Alison Quinlan** sinking a putt during the 2008 RCGA championship.
[UVic Athletics]

Golf and Country Club in the Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island. Halpen and teammates Saare Adams, Jade Dennill, Shelby Dreher and Ross MacPherson defended the title at the 2006 tournament at the Thornhill (Ont.) Country Club. Victoria trailed Humber by two strokes after the first day's competition, only to prevail by two strokes by the end of the four-day showdown. Dennill, a fourth-year student from Nakusp, B.C., aced the 192-yard, par-3 fifth hole, the only hole-in-one in the championship.

Halpen had been attending Western New Mexico University on a golf scholarship when the Calgarian decided to return to Canada to tackle a more stringent academic challenge. Under the guidance of coach Bryan Carbery, Halpen wound up winning three championships in four years.

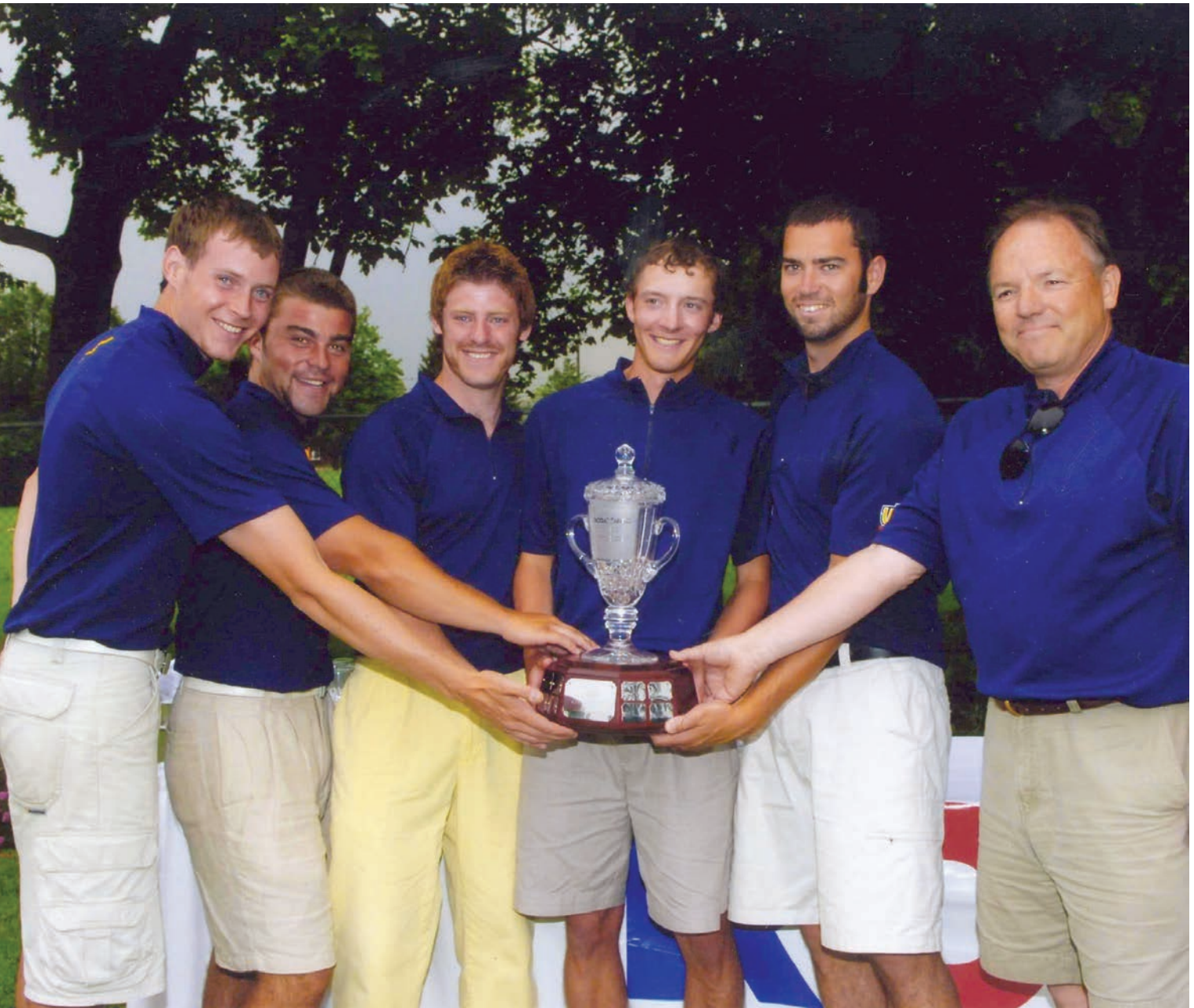
In 2008, the women's team won their first university and college championship at nearby Cordova Bay Golf Course. The Vikes upset the five-time defending champion UBC Thunderbirds by four strokes. Christina Spence won the individual title with a four-day total of 297 strokes, while teammates Anne Balsler, Kristen Chew, Alison Quinlan and Kenzie Jensen gamely hung on as the Thunderbirds picked up three strokes while coming up short with a charge on the back nine on the tournament's final day. UVic prevailed by 1,232 to 1,236. At the awards ceremony, Spence, of Cobble Hill, B.C., dedicated the victory to her father, who had died the previous fall.

In 2014, Megan Woodland captured the women's title at the Canadian University/College Championship at the Southwood Golf and Country Club in Winnipeg. She carded an 8-over 296 to win by one stroke. Two years earlier, Woodland won the individual title in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics by shooting an even par 292 to top a field of 144 golfers at the Link Hills Country Club in Greeneville, Tenn.

Brynn Tomie capped her university career by sinking a 15-foot putt to win the 2015 Canadian university championship at Cutten Fields at Guelph, Ont. She became the fourth Vikes golfer to win the individual championship following Woodland (2014), Anne Blaser (2010) and Christina Spence Proteau (2007-08).

August 13, 2004: The Athens Games open. Barney Williams, the husband of UVic Olympic medallist Buffy Williams, wins a rowing silver in the men's coxless fours. Stephanie Dixon wins another eight medals in the Paralympic pool.

November 13, 2005: In Edmonton, the women's soccer team defeats the Ottawa Gee-Gees by 3-0 to claim the program's first national championship.



▲ **Men's golf champs.** (L-R) Jade Dennill, Saare Adams, Shelby Dreher, Ross Macpherson, Todd Halpen, and Bryan Carbery after their 2005 victory. [UVic Athletics]

January 20, 2007: The centre basketball court at McKinnon Gym is named the Ken & Kathy Shields Court.

April 26 to May 4, 2008: An Olympic qualifying tournament is held on a new state-of-the-art, water-based field hockey pitch at

UVic. A temporary grandstand seating 2,100 forces a closure of part of Gabriola Road for the duration.

August 8, 2008: The Beijing Games open. UVic rowers Kevin Light and Adam Kreek win golds, while Mike Lewis gets a bronze.

ROWING

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2005
2010
2011
2012

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

1997
1998
2000
2001
2009
2010

HALL OF FAME 🏆

1983 men's varsity eights
Kirsten Barnes
Lorne Loomer
Al Morrow
Derek Porter



ROWING IS NOT A SPORT FOR DILETTANTES. Practice is conducted at dawn. It can be cold, dark, wet. Strength and endurance are essential. The training regimen is gruelling, relentless, and unpleasant. A race is deemed successful if the athletes collapse in exhaustion as the shell crosses the finish line.

For 32 years, the coach overseeing the woman's program has been Rick Crawley. His personal motto: "Humble in victory, gracious in defeat." Over the years, Crawley has had reason to be humble. He has guided the Vikes to 11 Canadian University Rowing Championships, including a string of seven consecutive titles. The championship banners hang in the Elk Lake boathouse, a reminder of the program's great success.

Of the 172 athletes from UVic who have competed at the Olympics, 102 have been rowers.

Some of those include Olympic medalists such as Buffy (Alexander) Williams, Darcy Marquardt, Rachelle (De Jong) Vinberg, Marilyn Brain, Jessica Monroe-Gonin, Anna Van-

▲ **Derek Porter.** [UVic Athletics]

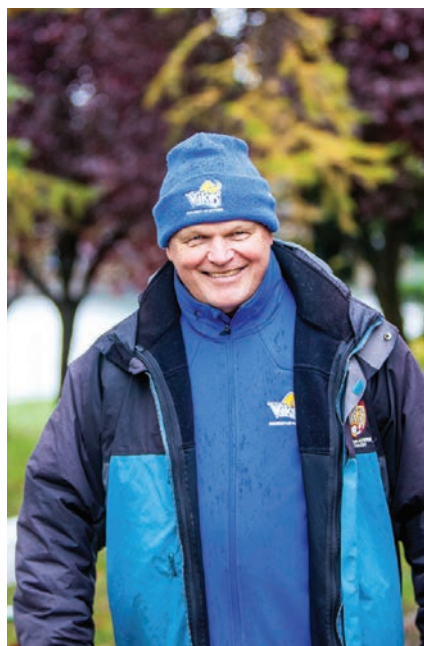
Ryan Cochrane takes a bronze in the pool. Stephanie Dixon adds to her Paralympic haul with another four medals.

September 30, 2008: Sports broadcaster Chris Hebb, a former Vikes basketball player, delivers the keynote speech at the

POWER HOUSE

- Since 1992, the Vikes eights compete for the Brown Cup every year against their provincial rivals at the University of British Columbia. The contests, designed to match the famed Oxford-Cambridge rivalry, alternate between the waters of the Gorge and the Fraser River. The prize — a gilded silver cup mounted on a mahogany base — was donated by Dr. Bruce and Dorothy Brown of Victoria, noted travellers and collectors, as well as benefactors to the University of Victoria.
- The start of the 1998 men's competition for rowing's Brown Cup was delayed when an officials' boat rescued a man who jumped from the Blue Bridge into the waters of the Inner Harbour. The man was unhurt in the plunge, but was evaluated in hospital for his mental health.
- Women's rowing coach Rick Crawley qualified for the 1976 Olympics, only to be sidelined by a slipped disk in his back. "I was all prepared to perform before family and friends in Montreal," he said. "I got shut out and sent home." Only 26, he became determined to qualify again four years later, only to have Canada boycott the Moscow Olympics. "That was it. I retired." He finally got his Olympic experience in 1992, when he helped the women's crew capture three gold medals at the Barcelona Games as an assistant coach.
- Rick Crawley prowled the boathouse for so long he even wound up coaching his younger daughter, Lacey Crawley, through her graduation from university. "I said to her, 'You're going to earn your seat,'" he told his daughter. He remembers telling her: "I'll try to be fair to you and won't be tougher than with any of the other girls."
- Tony Zasada became a rower at age 15 by accident. His mother suggested he take up canoeing, but when he went to Wascana Lake in Regina he entered the rowing clubhouse. He became a Victoria student in 1982, making the varsity squad. By the next year, he was on the national team, winning a bronze medal in the men's eights at the Pan American Games at Caracas, Venezuela. In 1984, he raced at the Olympics in Los Angeles in the coxed pairs with Harold Backer and Tan Barkley. The crew finished fifth in a field of 22. Days after returning to Canada, Zasada was a passenger in a car struck head-on by a drunk driver in Regina. He was posthumously inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports hall of Fame as the first oarsman from the prairie province to have competed at the Olympics. The varsity eights team was inducted into the university's Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. A memorial award in his name is provided annually to a rower who emulates his character and determination.

inaugural Vikes Championship Breakfast. The annual event has raised \$3-million in support of varsity athletes.



derKamp, Kirsten Barnes, as well as Gabe Bergen, Doug Csimá, Adam Kreek, Kevin Light, Gavin Hasset, Dean Crawford, Kevin Neufeld, Grant Main, and Derek Porter, among others. The rowing varsity is a stepping stone to the Olympics and, often enough, to the podium. What has made the program so successful? “Good athletes,” Crawley said. “We work hard. We’ve had a consistent and organized approach.”

“The novices come in with a clean slate. They have no idea what they’re getting into. Our sport is probably more demanding than any other sport on campus. Which is not to demean any other sport. The nature of the sport and the physicality required, they have to do a lot of training to build their endurance and their power.”

In 1997, the university played host to the first university rowing championships, which were held at Elk Lake. Angela Paletta-Paslam was honoured as a President’s Cup recipient for combining academic and athletic achievement. The women’s team went on to win eight of the first nine national competitions. A later streak included three consecutive titles from 2010-12, as the women’s continued success strengthened Victoria’s claim as the best program in the land.

The men’s team has won six national titles, including four

since the turn of the century. More recently, the men’s eights crew won gold on Elk Lake at the 2014 championships.

Crawley joined the coaching staff in 1983, working alongside the legendary Al Morrow, who came to Victoria in 1978, two years after serving as an alternative for Canada at the Montreal Olympics. Morrow was inducted into the UVic Sports Hall of Fame in 2004, one of six shrines in which he has been immortalized.

Howie Campbell coached the men’s team for 23 years before leaving in 2013 to become an assistant coach with the National Training Centre, yet another connection between the university and the national program, between Elk Lake and Lago de Bañolas, Lake Lanier, the Sydney International Regatta Centre, Schinias, Shunyi, and Eton Dorney, the sites of Olympic competition.

Campbell was replaced by Aalbert Van Schothorst, a former Vikes rower who will seek to add to the six men’s championships won by his predecessor.

Before them all, there was founding coach Lorne Loomer, an Olympic rower (gold in 1956, silver in 1960) who built from scratch a program that has gone on to beat the best in the world.

November 2, 2008: Playing on home turf, Katie Collison and Dani Hennig score as the Vikes nip the pesky Alberta Pandas 2-1 to win the McCrae Cup as national university field hockey champions for the 11th time.

June 8, 2009: Athletic director Clint Hamilton is installed as president of Canadian Interuniversity Sport. He will serve in the post for two years.

IN MEMORIAM

Two rowing shells were on the waters of Elk Lake for a practice session one late afternoon in January, 1988. The novice team rowers were out on the water when a sudden change in the weather brought with it an order to return to shore.

Before the crews reached the boat house, a rain squall with gusting winds descended on the lake.

One of the lightweight shells overturned, dumping nine crew into the water. A coach in a 15-foot motorboat picked up the nine, but, on the return to shore, the overloaded boat was swamped. All managed to swim to shore.

While this drama played out, the other rowing shell also overturned. Nine more men went into the chilly waters. Darkness fell. By the time a rescue craft from the fire department reached them, one had slipped away into the lake and drowned. Another oarsman died in hospital of acute hyperthermia.

The university held a memorial service for the two men. They are remembered today with memorial awards in the name of Darryl Smith and Gareth Lineen. These are presented to varsity rowers on the basis of work ethic, commitment and performance.



▶▶ **Rick Crawley.** [UVic Athletics]

▶ **The Vikes rowing team** at Elk Lake.
[UVic Athletics]

▲ **The women's rowing team** pose on deck following their 2005 win. [UVic Athletics]

October 30, 2009: The Olympic torch is run through campus on its way to Vancouver for the Winter Olympics the following February.

June 10, 2010: Canadian Interuniversity Sport unveils a new, acronym-based logo as part of a branding effort.

November 23, 2010: Bob Hutchison, a retired justice of the B.C. Supreme Court, is presented the Legacy Award for Sport for his leadership in the building of Centennial Stadium, as well as for his contribution to the design of the university's policy on athletics and recreation.

RUGBY

MEN'S 15'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

1997-98
1998-99

MEN'S 7'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

2011
2013
2014
2015

HALL OF FAME 🏆

1970-71 men's team
Dr. David Docherty
Gary Dukelow
Howard Gerwing
Dr. Bruce Howe
Gareth Rees
Mark Wyatt



THE INAUGURAL CANADIAN UNIVERSITY championship in rugby in 1997 was something of a ragged affair, since Western dropped out and were replaced by Alberta at the last minute. That a tournament was held at all was the result of a years-long campaign by the coaches and administrators of the Vikes rugby team.

In the semifinals at Centennial Stadium, the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds defeated fill-in Alberta, while the Vikes romped 68-6 over McGill. The final pitted the longtime provincial rivals in a one-game showdown for bragging rights.

In the end, the Vikes maintained a tenacious defence, while taking advantage of scoring opportunities. It was 19-0 for the home side at the half, and the Vikes went on to a commanding 33-6 win. Tim Van Vliet, Trevor Hammond, Andrew Lauchlan, Phil Murphy and Mike Dewit scored tries, while Richard Farkas kicked four converts for eight points. (An oddity of the match involved head coach Doug Tate, who watched the match from the vantage point of lying in his van, a position taken to ease back pain.)

In 1998, the preliminary games were played in driving rain at Centennial Stadium. (Among those games was a 31-7 defeat of Alberta by the Vikes, followed by 81-0 drubbing of the Trinity Western Spartans, a defeat of Biblical proportions.) The play and the weather so tore up the muddy pitch that coach Tate decided to move the deciding game across McKenzie Avenue to Wallace Field. The wider field was thought perhaps to be a defensive challenge for the Vikes, although in the end they benefited when Harold Williams scored one of his three tries by going wide to avoid Thun-

A PLACE OF CULTURE

“Every playing field, court and yard, where the athletic and not so athletic contend, is a place of culture. Just as the stage, the concert hall, and the gallery reflect a people’s culture, so do the sweaty settings of sportsmen and sports-women,” Howard Gerwing wrote in *The Martlet* on January 11, 1973. Gerwing was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2003 for his long commitment to the rugby team, including a stint as coach.

derbird tacklers as he scampered along the touchline. Marcus Blumensaat kicked two penalty goals and three converts, while his booming kicks kept the Vancouver side deep in their own end. The Vikes defended their title with a 37-13 victory. The team celebrated by dousing their coach in Gatorade, a liquid shower befitting a tourney played in such liquid conditions.

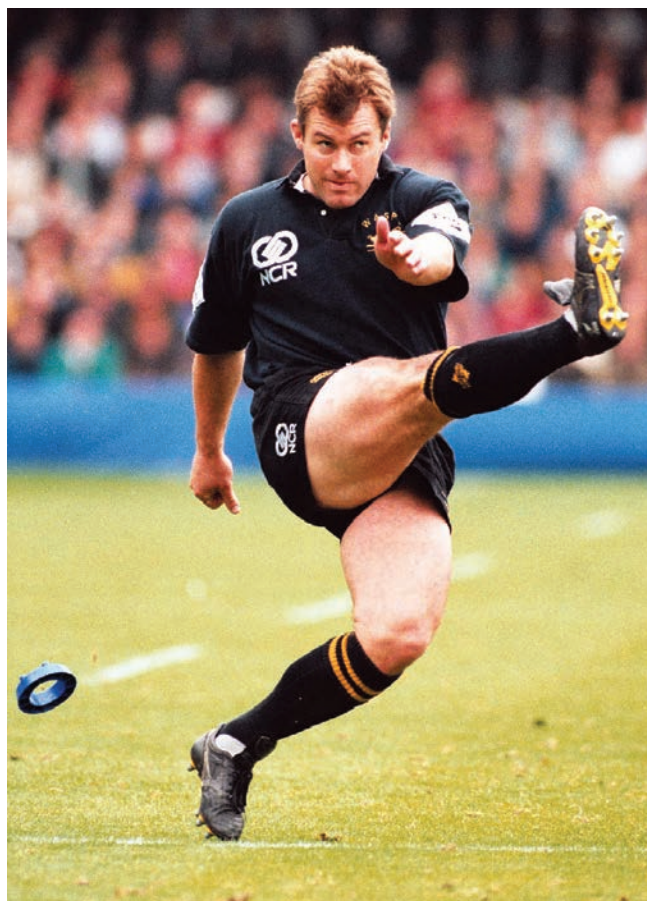
Tate, hired in 1994, has coached the men’s rugby team for 21 seasons. He was preceded by Dave Docherty, who held the job for nearly two decades, sharing duties with Bruce Howe.

A highlight of every rugby season is the battle for the Wightman Boot. The boot originally belonged to Brian Wightman, UBC’s coach in the 1960s. Players stole one of his rugby cleats and had it bronzed. Now mounted to a base, the trophy is awarded annually to the winner of a two-

▲ **A rugby scrum** on the field behind the McKinnon building. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

March 12, 2011: The men’s rugby sevens win the inaugural national university championship with a 37-17 victory over the University of Western Ontario Mustangs at Vancouver.

June 28, 2011: The board of governors approves a budget for construction of a new facility to replace the McKinnon Building. The Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities, to be known by its acronym CARSA, is heralded as a unique, state-of-the-art facility.



▲ **Vikes Hall of Fame recipient Gareth Rees.** [UVic Athletics]

game, home-and-home, total points series between the Vikes and Thunderbirds. In 2009, the Vikes won both matches with an accumulated score of 117-23. Victoria's streak of 17 consecutive Boot triumphs over UBC was at last broken by the Thunderbirds in 2014.

The Barnard Cup has been awarded to the city rugby champion in Victoria since 1911, making it one of the oldest trophies in Western Canada. Victoria College won the storied trophy in 1948 and '49. The Vikes won the first of four consecutive cups in 1968. It has claimed the cup seven other times (1984, '85, '87, 2003, '06, '09, '14.). The most recent victory, a 35-17 decision over the Castaway Wanderers, ended a frustrating streak of five consecutive cup defeats

for the Vikes at the hands of the James Bay Athletic Association club.

The Rounsefell Cup has been awarded to the elite club champions of British Columbia since 1922. The Vikes have won the provincial title three times — 1971, 2003, and 2010.

RUGBY SEVENS IS A FAST-PACED game featuring sprinting, quick passing, and big hits. Each team has only seven players, hence the name. Matches last just 14 minutes with a free-flowing style of play. The sport, which favours agile and fleet athletes, will make its Olympic debut at the Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

This newest addition to the university's sports repertoire has achieved great success, winning four national championships in five seasons.

The inaugural university championship for this growing international sport was held on the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver in March, 2011. The Vikes dominated their round-robin pool, allowing just seven points in three matches as they rolled over McMaster (19-0), UBC Okanagan (29-7) and Calgary (38-0).

After a whitewashing of Alberta (50-0) and surviving a challenge from arch-rival UBC (26-14), the Vikes opened the championship game against the Western Mustangs with a 22-0 run to end the first half. The Vikes eased on the throttle in the second half, cruising to a 37-17 victory. Fly half Nathan Hirayama, with 12 points, was named man of the match. Hirayama scored one try and kicked nine conversions in the two-day competition, while teammates Sean Duke and Phil Mack each scored three tries and one convert. Sean Duke is currently on record as the highest Canadian tries scorer.

After losing the 2012 finals to Western, the Vikes returned to the 2013 finals seeking to regain the title. In six games at Westhills Stadium in the Victoria suburb of Langley. The Vikes averaged 37.5 points to advance to the final game, where their opponent would be the Mustangs for the third consecutive year. First-year Vikes player Fergus Hall scooped a loose ball to open the scoring with a try. Liam Murray soon scored a try of his own to put Victoria up 14-0. Dustin Dubrovsky also scored a try, while Patrick Kay, who would be named tournament MVP, scored two tries and all five conversions in Victoria's 35-5 victory.

November 13, 2011: A 3-1 win over the Saint Mary's Huskies before 3,023 fans at Centennial Stadium earns the men's Vikes soccer team a fifth national title.

July 27, 2012: The London Games open. UVic alumni Gabe Bergen, Doug Csima, Darcy Marquardt and Rachele Viinberg win double silver in men's and women's rowing eights. Ryan Cochrane won a silver in the pool, while Richard Weinberger took a bronze in long-distance swimming.

A VERSATILE ATHLETE

The late Chris Hall excelled at every sport he tried — and he tried plenty.

As a young man, he played junior football for the Victoria Dolphins, rugby for the Velox and James Bay clubs, and minor-league professional baseball in Saskatchewan with the Swift Current Indians.

Later, he played professional lacrosse for the Boston Bolts before joining the hometown Victoria Shamrocks with whom he won three Mann Cup national championships (one as a player, two as head coach). On grass, he won three medals in field lacrosse (two silvers and a bronze) with Team Canada at the world championships.

Hall came to UVic campus after graduating from Oak Bay High, where he had been a basketball star. The big man had an immediate impact on the junior varsity team, becoming the Jayvees' top scorer before making the varsity squad. The sportswriter Cleve Dheensaw described him as "a barging, space-eating forward in the key." Hall also played hoops for such local junior and senior teams as Chinooks, Datatech, and Scorpions.

"I was part of the post-war wave in Victoria where you played everything and coaches and builders like Archie McKinnon and Norm Baker Sr. encouraged that," Hall told Dheensaw on his induction into the Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

On May 17, 1986, Hall married Pam Harknett, a longtime friend who had played for the Vikettes.

He had a long career with BC Buildings Corp., a Crown corporation, around which he pursued his sporting interests, which also notably included being chairman of the Commonwealth Games committee responsible for marshalling nearly 15,000 volunteers.

The fourth university championship tournament returned to Westhills in 2014, where, once again, the Vikes advanced to the title game. They fell behind early, as the UBC Thunderbirds scored two tries. First-year player James Pitblado responded with two tries for Victoria before Beau Parker's try put Victoria ahead, 19-14, with four minutes remaining. UBC responded with a try of their own, but they failed to convert, leaving the score tied. The game — and with it the championship — was settled by Kane Wyatt's try beneath the goal posts for a 24-19 win.

If imaginable, the 2015 championship between the same two schools was settled in even more dramatic fashion. With just seven seconds left on the clock, Victoria's Doug Fraser scored a try to break a 12-12 deadlock. Lucas Hammond ran the ball through the middle of the UBC defence before dishing it off to Fraser, who bobbled the ball after accidentally kneeing it before gaining control and scoring untouched.

Head coach Doug Tate guided all four championship teams.

The tradition at the university has been for championships to be celebrated indoors at McKinnon Gym during basketball season. The 2015 rugby sevens team was the last team to be so honoured. The Vikes women's rugby program began competing in the Canada West and CIS in 1999. The program continues to evolve, with many athletes going on to compete for Canada.

▼ **Tim Floor carries the ball** with brothers Peter and Mike Holmes in support, 1984. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]



▼ **Barnard Cup win** for Rugby 15's, 2009. [UVic Athletics]



September, 2012: Saanich council approves a parkade as part of the new athletic centre.

October, 2012: S Hut, the former drill hall that served as the university's first gym, is dismantled to make way for construction of CARSA.

SOCCER

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

2005

MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏆

1975

1987

1996

2004

2011

HALL OF FAME 🏆

1975 men's team

Wally Milligan

Nicci Wright

MEN'S SOCCER COACH BRIAN HUGHES had to juggle his lineup before the university championship game in 1975. A midfielder had been declared ineligible and, worse, his goalkeeper was injured.

The Vikings rode a brief winning streak to reach the final game. In a short season, they had dispatched the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds in Vancouver by 4-0 to advance to the Canada West tournament in Edmonton.

In the first game of the regional showdown, the hometown University of Alberta Golden Bears scored a first-half goal before Victoria answered with two in the second half for the win. The Vikes then claimed the Canada West title with a 4-0 shellacking of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

The victory sent the Vikings into the CIAU finals, which were to be held at Centennial Stadium. After outscoring opponents 10-1 on the road, the Vikes at last would play before a home crowd.

The five-team, single-loss elimination tournament included teams from Queen's, Dalhousie, Manitoba and Concordia. The Vikings earned a berth in the championship game with a 3-1 victory over the Dalhousie Tigers, during which Victoria goalkeeper Mike Armstrong suffered an injury. With the title on the line, coach Hughes decided to replace the injured 'keeper with Danny Lomas, who not only had not played the position in three seasons but was also the Vikes leading scorer.

The Vikings met the undefeated Concordia Stingers in the final game. Brian Barraclough and Gord Manzini scored for Victoria before Concordia midfielder Jim Corci, left unmarked at the edge of the goal box, kicked a point-blank goal late in the match. The 2-1 victory gave Victoria its first ever official intercollegiate title.

A triumph on a windswept pitch in Edmonton began an era of unqualified success for the athletic program at UVic. That first national title would be followed by another 73 championships in the 40-year span of the McKinnon era. The men's team was inducted into the UVic Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

Coach Hughes came to Canada after a playing career as a professional in his native Britain. Born in Wales in 1937, he was a tenacious defender for his hometown Swansea Town (now City) team. In 1964, he started at left back, despite having suffered a recent separated shoulder, when the Swans lost 2-1 to Preston North End in an FA Cup semifinal.



On May 3, 1966, the club held a testimonial match in his honour at Vetch Field versus Arsenal.

Hughes moved to Canada in 1971. While coaching the university's men's team, he also held a variety of coaching roles with the national men's and youth teams, becoming an outspoken critic of what he called "a totally inadequate Canadian development system that continuously produces inferior players for international competition."

Twelve years would pass before another men's team claimed a championship. In regular Canada West season play in 1987, the Vikes went 8-1-1 with all-star goalkeeper Jon Bos recording shutouts in the first three games. The Vikes qualified for the national tournament in Montreal after striker Doug Muirhead scored a goal with five minutes remaining to hand the UBC Thunderbirds their first defeat in three seasons. "Getting past UBC," said coach Bruce Twamley, "was getting a monkey off our backs."

In the gold-medal game against the Wilfred Laurier Hawks of Waterloo, Ont., right fullback Scott Sieben opened the scoring for Victoria in the 20th minute when he slotted home a rebound from a free kick on goal by John Hughes.

In the 71st minute, Muirhead put Victoria up by 2-0 by intercepting a clearing pass before kicking the ball into the top corner of the net. The Hawks responded with their first goal four minutes later. As the Ontario side pressed for an

▲ **Soccer coach Brian Hughes** keeps a close eye on the pitch. [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

May 28, 2013: A groundbreaking ceremony marks the start of the construction of CARSA, a legacy project to mark the university's 50th anniversary. Former Vikes rower and Olympic silver medallist Barney Williams is among the speakers.

November 19, 2014: Sixty-nine student athletes were honoured at the Vikes Honour Roll Luncheon to celebrate their academic achievement (a minimum 6.6 GPA, or 80%) while training and competing as varsity athletes. The honour now includes a \$500 award.

equalizer, Steve Cecchi, a replacement for Dallas Moen, who had suffered a fractured ankle, scored an insurance goal for Victoria for a 3-1 victory and a second men's soccer title.

After winning the championship, coach Twamley took a position as an assistant coach with Canada's World Cup team. His replacement was Bruce Wilson, the ironman of Canadian soccer, who had spent a decade as captain of Canada's national team, leading them to Canada's only men's World Cup finals appearance in 1986.

In 1996, the Vikings advanced to the gold-medal game on the campus of York University in Toronto on Dominic Butcher's shoot-out goal against the University of Toronto. Victoria won the national title with a 1-0 victory over the University of Western Ontario on Stefane Steiner's goal following a breakaway pass from Daniel Imhof. Maurizio Conforti was named most valuable player, while Wilson took coach of the year honours. He had also been named top coach in 1991.

The fourth men's title came in 2004 with a 3-1 victory over McGill University, as Carl Speed, Sean Battistoni and Pat Gawrys scored for Victoria. Trevor Stiles was outstanding in goal for Victoria. Battistoni, a midfielder, was named

championship MVP.

The 2011 championship game pitted the visiting Saint Mary's Huskies against the Vikes at Centennial Stadium. Wes Barrett, one of three brothers from Richmond, B.C., who played for the Vikes that season, opened the scoring for the home team before fleet rookie Cam Hundal thrilled the 3,023 fans in attendance with two goals as the Huskies fell, 3-1. The crowd chanted "Cam-V-P" and the freshman was indeed named the tournament's MVP.

Wally Milligan, the founding coach of the men's soccer team in 1964, came to Victoria in 1950 after having played professionally in his native Scotland for Airdrie, Dumbar-ton, Aldershot and East Stirling. Known for his inspirational leadership, Milligan guided the team to an unofficial national championship in 1967, a season before the sport was sanctioned by the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union. Alumni players started a Wally Milligan Soccer Scholarship to support a student athlete each season.

The women's soccer team claimed its only national championship at Edmonton in 2005. Liz Hanzen (27th minute), Amelie Mercier (36) and Janelle Smith (80) scored

▼ **The Vikes men's soccer team, 1973.** [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]

◀◀ **Keeper Ted van Waes makes the save.** [University of Victoria Libraries Archives and Special Collections]



November 29, 2014: The rugby Vikes win their 11th Barnard Cup as city champions with a 35-17 victory over Castaway Wanderers at Wallace Field.

February 21, 2015: The Vikes overcome a 21-point deficit in the third quarter to defeat the Calgary Dinos 80-78 in what would be the women's basketball team's final game in McKinnon Gym.

for Victoria, while freshman Kasia Gwazdia earned the shut out, stopping the lone University of Ottawa shot to be allowed by a tough Vikes defence. The Vikes were guided by coach Tracy David, who was hired in 2002. As a student at the University of Alberta, David was active in campaigning for the creation of a women's intercollegiate soccer league, which was established in 1983. David has coached the women's team for nine seasons, surpassing her predecessor Ian Bridge's nine campaigns.

Nicole (Nicci) Wright spent four seasons as a goalkeeper for the Vikes under the guidance of coach Ian Bridge in the mid-1990s. She went on to earn 37 caps and 11 shutouts in the nets for the Canadian national women's team. She was inducted into the university's sports hall of fame in 2013. Other Vikes to participate to international competition include Kendra Flock, a striker who scored 14 goals in 14 games in her final season with the Vikes, while Jaelyn Sawicki won a silver medal with Canada at the CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football) women's under-20 championship in Panama in 2012.

◀◀ **In November 2005** the Vikes women's soccer team captured their first-ever CIS national title. [UVic Athletics]



February 27, 2015: Chris McLaughlin scores 21 points as the men's team also bids adieu to McKinnon Gym in style, defeating the Alberta Golden Bears by 81-67 in a Canada West semifinal playoff.

BUILDING THE TRADITION

- The University of Victoria Sports Hall of Fame was founded in 2002. Since then, 43 individuals and six teams have been inducted. Five have been enshrined as builders.
- Wally Milligan was the founding coach of the men's soccer team, a position he held from 1964 until 1971. A professional in his Scottish homeland, Milligan came to Victoria after the war, winning a league championship with the Victoria United club.
- The university's athletic teams had limited success in the decade following the school's founding. The construction of the McKinnon Building and a later adoption of a policy in which selected sports would be supported made UVic a sporting powerhouse in rowing, basketball and field hockey. Howard Petch, who served as university president from 1975 until 1990, is credited with devising the philosophy of the "Tradition of Excellence." UVic would win 25 national championships during his presidency. Petch supported coaching and training centres on campus. He also was a proponent of Victoria playing host to the 1994 Commonwealth Games.
- David Docherty and Bruce Howe met while doing post-graduate studies at the University of Oregon. Both wound up teaching at UVic, where they coached the rugby team from 1978 to 1991. They continued to aid the men's and women's rugby teams for many years after.



April 1, 2015: Phil Ohl (basketball), Milena Gaiga (field hockey) and Christin Petelski (swimming) are inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame at the end-of-year Celebration of Champions. The hall, opened in 2002, now includes 40 athletes, coaches, and

SWIMMING

HALL OF FAME

Michael Edgson
Jon Kelly
Christin Petelski
Pam Rai
Greg Streppel

I F YOU CAN'T FIND A UVIC SWIMMER in the pool, check the Olympic or Paralympic podium.

UVic swimmers have competed at every Olympics and Paralympics since 1984. Pamela Rai won a bronze medal swimming the freestyle leg of the 400-metre medley relay at the Los Angeles Olympics that year. The next month, she was in classes at UVic. Dr. Peter Vizsolnyi, a Hungarian-born medical doctor who had concluded his competitive university swimming career only seven years earlier, was in his first year as coach, a position he has now held for 31 years. In 1985, Rai set five university records and was named the Canadian university female swimmer of the year.

Jon Kelly was named male swimmer of the year in 1986, the last UVic student to claim the award until Ryan Cochrane took the honour in 2011. Cochrane was named the top rookie swimmer in university competition that same year, an award also won by Eric Hedlin two years later. Dr. Vizsolnyi is a two-time coach of the year.

Cochrane won a silver medal in the 1500-metre freestyle at the 2012 London Games. (He had won a bronze in the same event in Beijing four years earlier.) At London, he missed swimming in the 400m final by one-hundredth of a second (0.01), finishing ninth.

Vikes swimmer Richard Weinberger took a hiatus on the 2011-12 varsity season to train for the London Games, where he won a bronze medal in the men's 10-kilometre marathon swim, becoming the first Canadian to earn an open-water Olympic medal.

Other Vikes to compete in the Olympic pool include Wayne Kelly (1984), Christin Petelski (1996, 2000),



Rick Say (2000, 2004, 2008), Stephanie Horner (2012) and Hilary Caldwell (2012).

Greg Streppel, who was inducted into the UVic Sports Hall of Fame in 2011, was a terrific marathon swimmer who competed before his discipline became an Olympic sport.

Two UVic swimmers are among the most decorated Paralympians in sporting history. Mike Edgson, who is visually impaired, won 18 gold and three silver medals over three Paralympics from 1984 to 1992. He also set nine world records. With the Vikes, Edgson competed against able-bodied swimmers, even though he can only see at six metres what an able-sighted person can see at 60 metres. He competed in class 3 at the Paralympics, with class 1 designating total blindness.

Along with his UVic Sports Hall of Fame honour, Edgson has been inducted into the Nanaimo, Greater Victoria, and B.C. Sports Halls of Fame.

Stephanie Dixon, who was born without a right leg and hip, had already won four Paralympic gold medals as a 16-year-old before she registered at UVic as a psychology student. She went on to compete at the Paralympics in Athens in 2004 and at Beijing in 2008. Her medal total: 13 gold, 11 silver, two bronze.

"I felt really free in the water," she once said. "I always felt I was meant to be a mermaid."

▲▲ **Paralympic swimmer and UVic athlete Michael Edgson.** [UVic Athletics]

◀ **Stephanie Dixon** is one of the most celebrated UVic athletes, with a total of 26 Paralympic medals. [UVic Athletics]

administrators, as well as six teams. The annual athletic award winners are also honoured at the Celebration.

April 2, 2015: Ken and Kathy Shields receive honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the university in a special convocation

ceremony at First Peoples House. "By recognizing us, UVic is recognizing our players," Ken Shields says. Former players Eli Pasquale, Gerald Kazanowski and Tracie (McCara) Sibbald are on hand to celebrate with their former basketball coaches.

WALK OF EXCELLENCE



April 6, 2015: Women rowers defeat the University of British Columbia in a grueling race along the Fraser River to claim the Brown Cup for the 21st time.

May 1, 2015: University president Jamie Cassels officially opens CARSA, a spectacular, \$77-million sports facility. He does so dressed in workout clothes.



“Recreation and Athletics help form the heart and soul of our post-secondary institutions. The Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA) at UVic reflects the importance of an active lifestyle and the pursuit of athletic excellence in building healthy lives and communities.

The Walk of Excellence serves as a stimulating visual panorama of Vikes accomplishments and showcases those individuals who through their hard work, determination and self-discipline have created our athletic history — reflecting stories of excellence that have the potential to inspire others to live their own lives to the fullest and in the best way possible, whatever path is taken.”

— *Lynda and Murray Farmer*

▼ **Situated at the entrance** to the CARSA performance gym, the Lynda & Murray Farmer Walk of Excellence — lined with Vikes Athletics’ photographs, historic memorabilia and success stories — celebrates the talent, history and accomplishments of Vikes athletes, coaches and supporters while also honouring the legacy of former UVic Chancellor Murray Farmer and his wife, Lynda. The Lynda & Murray Farmer Walk of Excellence is also the new home of the UVic Sports Hall of Fame. [UVic Athletics]

▲ **Lynda and Murray Farmer.** [UVic Athletics]

◀ **Celebrating the official opening** of the Lynda & Murray Farmer Walk of Excellence, August 26, 2015. Pictured L-R: Lynda Farmer; Jamie Cassels, President, University of Victoria; Clint Hamilton, Director, Vikes Athletics; Murray Farmer, former UVic Chancellor, 2009-2014; Nancy (Charlton) Mollenhauer, former UVic field hockey player. [UVic Athletics]

May 13, 2015: Former Vike, 2005 CIS-All-Canadian and current Canadian 15s national team member Brittany Waters hired as head coach of Vikes women’s rugby program.

August 26, 2015: The Lynda and Murray Farmer Walk of Excellence is unveiled within CARSA, chronicling the proud history of Vikes athletics.



▲ Tom Hawthorn. [Deddada White]

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

TOM HAWTHORN is an award-winning newspaper and magazine writer. He has been a columnist for the *Globe & Mail*, composed sports trivia questions for 30 episodes of a television quiz show, and was an archival researcher for a National Film Board sports documentary. Tom is the author of *Deadlines* (Harbour, 2012) and has contributed to a dozen books released by the Society for American Baseball Research. In 2014, Tom taught a course on sports journalism as the Harvey S. Southam Lecturer in the Department of Writing at the University of Victoria.

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