



THE WINDSOR FORDS—one of the outstanding basketball teams in the history of Canada. This quintet represented the Dominion in the final game of the 1936 Olympics.

Frederick A. E. (Buff) Horton
FAMOUS CANADIAN PLAYER,
COACH AND OFFICIAL

BASKETBALL IN CANADA

CANADIANS are justly proud that basketball has played such an important part in the athletic life of their country. Two men who played on Dr. Naismith's original team played significant roles in the early development of the game in Canada.

In 1896 Lyman W. Archibald became physical director at Hamilton Y.M.C.A., and with his coming Hamilton became the first "real hot-bed" of Canadian Basketball. Exhibition games were the high spots in those days, and as early as Dec. 25th, 1896, the international flavor was added when a team from Buffalo Central Y visited Hamilton to take on the local team composed of Chadwick, Yorick, Cuzner, Jeffs, Laidlaw and Christie, and "when the shooting was over" Hamilton was on the long end of a 16—13 score. A return match was played in Buffalo on Jan. 1st, 1897, the homesters won 16—6, and on February 2nd, a third and deciding game was played in Hamilton with the locals winning 20—6.

This was just a start for Hamilton, for by 1900 the game had made great headway. They were the first team ever to defeat the Original Buffalo Germans on their own court. This Hamilton squad boasted of Art James, Frank Branston, Harvey, McKeown, and Chadwick. In 1921 and '22, Hamilton annexed their first recognized Canadian Championship. This team was led by the great pair, Baldy Laidman and Sammy Nieman.

"The other original," T. Duncan Patton, returned to his home in Toronto and rapidly imparted his knowledge of the game to local Y.M.C.A. members, and in a short time basketball was being played widely in and around Toronto. In 1900 Central Y floored a powerful club featuring Harding (Capt.), Henderson, Parnham, Edwards, Smith, and Woodland, with the great J. H. Crocker as Coach and

Physical Director. The Central magic held for a number of seasons until West End and Broadview Y.M.C.A.'s followed with strong contenders. In 1925 West End Y staged the National Y.M.C.A. Basketball Tournament with a classy crowd from Detroit carrying off top honors.

Soon after the turn of the century, churches, schools and clubs (as well as the Y.M.C.A.'s) began playing the game, but only local or provincial champions were declared in both the men's and women's series. As the game grew in popularity and became well patronized in centers like Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Windsor, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Edmonton the provincial associations got together in the Fall of 1922 to form the Canadian Amateur Basketball Association with C. E. Race, the Registrar at the University of Alberta, as its first president.

Under the continued guidance of the C.A.B.A., and good leadership provided by Sam Rogers, Toronto; Dr. Gillespie, M.D., Vancouver; Walter Hardwich, M.A., Vancouver; and Doug. Robertson of Montreal, the caliber of Basketball has improved steadily until the best Canadian teams can hold their own with any in the world. This last fact is borne out by the results of the final game played in the 1936 Olympics when the powerful representative team from the United States defeated the Canadian titleholders by the slim margin of 17—9.

Today basketball is popular in Canada, and it is one of the forces which educators feel is building better men and better women. The vast majority of our institutions are represented by teams that may justly be considered on a par in skill, mastery and technic with those of other countries. The records made by Canadian teams of other years act as an incentive to the teams of today.