

BOX LACROSSE

PADDY BRENNAN - THE INVENTOR OF BOX LACROSSE

Paddy's interest in Lacrosse did not wane when his playing career came to an end in 1909. He was a referee for many years, always turning over his fees anonymously to various charities. He continuously pressed for change, to make the game more interesting to the fans. Nothing slowed the game down more than a missed pass rolling to the boundary. The player nearest started to retrieve it, but the opponent realizing there was little chance of racing him to the ball, remained where he was. With this, there was a complete slow-down and in many cases the retriever started walking to the ball, and continued walking back to the action.

Paddy always said, "There is no place to hide in Hockey, so there's always action." He was constantly pressing for a smaller field and was successful in his efforts to reduce the number of players from twelve to ten.

THE FIRST BOX LACROSSE MATCH

In his continued efforts to improve the game, Paddy Brennan invented the Game of Box Lacrosse. The Mount Royal Arena, then the winter home of the Montreal Canadiens, was the scene of the First Box Lacrosse Match, which he organized in the early 1920's, but the C.A.L.A. failed to show any interest in promoting this new game.

NEW PROFESSIONAL "BOXLA" LEAGUE

In 1930, he helped organize the new Professional Box Lacrosse League. Four teams participated, Montreal Canadiens, Montreal Maroons, Toronto Maple Leafs and Cornwall, with Montreal home games played at the Forum. The "Great Depression" soon caused the demise of this venture, but the idea lived on with C.A.L.A. acceptance of Box Lacrosse as its official game, in 1931.

The Montreal Senior Amateur Lacrosse League commenced operations at the Forum. It is of interest that the Montreal Lacrosse Club (M.A.A.A.) was one of the founding clubs, the same club had in 1867, given impetus to the new game of Lacrosse. Other clubs included Canadiens, Casquette, Columbus, Lachine-Ville St. Pierre, Shamrocks (a new group) and Verdun.

During World War 2, Box Lacrosse moved to the hinterland of Montreal, with continued activity throughout the 1940's, 50's and 1960's. Good competitive Lacrosse was enjoyed during this period, however the limited supply of experienced Lacrosse players militated against the Quebec champions in their quest for the Mann Cup.

TRACEY, MICHAEL,

SUMMARY OF DRAFT SUBMISSIONS

FOR CAN LACROSSE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE'S BOOK

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