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Edmonton grads heritage minute

Edmonton GradsDivisionDominion of Canadian Women's BasketballHistory1912 - 1940LocationEdmonton, Alberta, CanadaHead CoachJohn Percy Page Edmonton Grads were canadian women's basketball team based in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada active from 1912 to 1940. The team continues to hold the North American record for a women's sports team with the best winning percentage. Grads won her first women's world basketball champion title in 1924. [1] [2] Origins History Team in 1912, 25-year-old teacher John Percy Page [3] moved from Ontario to Edmonton, Alberta, where she was employed by local high schools to organize commercial classes. Page soon taught commercial classes at the newly introduced McDougall High School. When Page decided to organize basketball teams for the school, his assistant teacher decided to train the boys' team while Page coached the girls. [4] Despite having only a basic knowledge of basketball, Page has improved his understanding of the sport through study. He has prams twice a week. High school didn't have a gym, so students practiced basketball on an outdoor court all year round, even during freezing winter weather. [5] Beginning their first year of competitive play in 1914, the McDougall High School girls team won local high school tournaments. [4] [6] After graduating from McDougall High School in mid-1915, team members decided they wanted to continue playing basketball, setting out what eventually became the Commercial Alumni Basketball Club. [7] Their new basketball team was called Commercial Graduates (informally known as Grads). [8] Page remained the team's coach. Members were recruited primarily from McDougall High School students and graduates, but also from other business and technical schools. [7] Page also created a feeder system to train and recruit his new players: promising high school students were invited to join a secondary team called Gradettes, and the best Gradettes were promoted to Grads whenever space opened. [9] In the early years of 1915, Grads beat women's basketball teams across Alberta to become provincial champions. [9] Teams could challenge title holders to a match at any time of the year-with a three-month wait between matches if the loser and Grads successfully held on to their trophy for the next few years. [10] In 1917, with a growing reputation for beating all challengers, Grads retained their status as provincial champion without once defending him. On April 27, 1919, the University of Alberta Varsity team attacked Grads, won the match by two points and took the trophy. In November of that year, Grads had a rematch and successfully won their title as provincial champions. [10] The University of Alberta challenged Grads again in April 1920 and lost the match, but immediately demanded more. Grads had improperly allowed younger high-school-age players on their team. After another game, Grads lost the title to their opponents once more. [11] North American Underwood Trophy in 1923, Canadian and U.S. women's basketball championship teams competed for the first international Underwood Trophy. The Edmonton Grads faced off against the Cleveland Favor-Knits and beat them with a two-game score of 53-33, becoming inaugural Underwood Trophy winners. [7] Edmonton Grads in 1923, the winners of the first Underwood International Trophy Grads Olympics retained their amateur status to make sure they would qualify for the Olympics if basketball was made an official Olympic sport. [12] In 1924, Grads were invited to play at the Summer Olympics in Paris. They won every match, beating women's teams from Paris, Roubaix, Strasbourg and Lille with an average score of 60-10. [14] After their last match, the team travelled around Europe on holiday. Page and two of his players - Winnie Martin and Daisy Johnson - returned to Paris for the third downhill of the Fédération Sportive Féminine Internationale (International Women's Sports Federation). The federation formally admitted Canada as a member and declared Grads world champions in basketball, allowing the team to hold the title until the next world games. [15] Returning home as world champions, Grads has received new sponsors and financial support in Canada. The site has secured Edmonton Arena as a permanent home venue for the team. [14] Although the Grads were hoping to return to Europe for the Women's World Games in 1926, basketball was not included at this year's event, and Grads remained in North America to compete against Canadian and U.S. teams. [16] Over the next two years, Grads advocated the inclusion of basketball - both men's and women's - as a sport at the 1928 Summer Olympics. Despite the support of the Canadian Olympic Committee, this request was rejected by the International Olympic Committee, and basketball did not get a place on the program. However, Fédération Sportive Féminine Internationale, in cooperation with the Olympics, organized the European Women's Basketball Tour and the federation invited Grads to travel to Amsterdam, Netherlands, to defend their world title. [17] After winning the Canadian Women's Championship in 1928, Grads came to Europe and played nine games. They won every match, beating most teams by 60 or 70 points, and Grads finished their tour by beating the French champions by 46-14. [18] In addition to dominating their sport in North America, Grads also took on the best teams in Europe, eventually beating challengers in Paris, London, Amsterdam and Berlin. [19] Grads swept four consecutive Olympics between 1924 and 1936, winning all 24 Olympic games Played. That success was unmarked on the medal podium, however, as women's basketball did not become an official Olympic sport until the 1976 Summer Games in Montreal. [7] Disbanding in 1940, the Royal Canadian Air Force took over the Edmonton Arena for wartime use. [20] Deprives Grads of the local area in which to play against international teams. The start of The Second World War disrupted regular basketball competitions across Europe and beyond, causing tournaments and championships to be cancelled and made it harder for sports teams to travel. [21] Moreover, despite Page's constant efforts to find suitable competition over the years, [22] no team has ever proven itself to be good enough to be a clear opponent for Grads. Grads' dominance in basketball has already attracted the same attention that before, and regular game attendance has been shrinking. [23] In May 1940, Grads won their last Canadian championship before dissolving. [24] Dr. James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, called Grads the best basketball team that ever stepped out on the floor. [25] Some Grads players went on to join other Canadian basketball teams such as Comets and Hedlunds. [7] Grads continue to keep in touch with each other after dissolution, meeting for meetings every four years. [13] In 1976, Grads decided to create an official organization to help them stay connected and answer public questions about the team. Founded by the Edmonton Grads club, they began collecting and continuing archival material and memorabilia, and the group continued its official meetings until 1987. [26] On July 23, 2018, the last living member of Grads, Kay MacBeth, died at the age of 96. [27] Head Coach Page encouraged his players to play basketball, think basketball, and dream basketball. [6] He has put a firm emphasis on the moral behavior of his team, insisting that Grads strive for a clean game all the time. During the trip, Page enforced a curfew, and players were discouraged from drinking or smoking. His players described him as a nice man and an amazing gentleman. [6] After the team disbanded in 1940, Page was subsequently elected to Alberta's legislature, where he served as a politician until 1959. [7] At the end of 1959, at the age of 72, Page became lieutenant-governor of Alberta. He held this post until 1966. Page died in 1973 due to complications of pneumonia. [28] Record Official records traditionally state that Grads played a total of 522 official matches between 1915 and 1940, with 502 wins and 20 losses. This gives the team an overall win-loss percentage of 96.2%. [7] [29] [2] [13] Biographer M. Ann Hall suggested that this total number of games played (522) may be incorrect, partly because the official record keeping of grads' games only began to be accepted after their national championship win in 1922. Based on his research, Hall suggests that Grads played a total of 412 games, with 392 wins and 20 losses. This approach would affect the winning percentage of the team only slightly (95.1%). 30% Legacy's last Edmonton Grads roster, joined by former players, photographed July 3, 1940 as the most successful women's basketball team in the early 20th century. Their success had a strong impact on public attitudes towards female athletes, making it more socially acceptable for women to play sports. [7] The Grads National Basketball Championship in 1932 was essential for the Edmonton Rustlers women's hockey team, which helped them gain support when traveling east and playing Preston Rivulettes for the national hockey title. [31] When the Canadian Press polled sportscasters and sports editors around the country in the 1950s, Grads were elected Canada's largest basketball team in the first half of the 20th [3] In 1976, Grads' success was designated a national historic event. Two years later, Parks Canada donated a plaque in honor of the team. [32] In 1983, the Canada Basketball Hall of Fame inducted the entire team's list of 38 players. [33] In 1987, the National Film Council released a documentary about the team called Shooting Stars. [3] In the late 1980s, the city of Edmonton established Edmonton Grads Park in Westmount, installing a permanent historical display. [34] In 2010, the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Tennessee, commemorated Grads with an honor plaque. [35] In 2014, Canada Basketball launched its first Edmonton Grads International Classic event, named in honor of Grads. Held every two years, this event pitted Canada's women's national basketball team against teams from Brazil, China and Turkey. [36] A nonprofit organization called edmonton grads basketball centre currently operates outside the Saville Center in Edmonton, where they offer summer basketball programs for girls. [3] In 2015, a mural dedicated to Grads was unveiled at the Saville Center, and the Edmonton Grads Basketball Centre Board of Governors announced that it would begin awarding an annual scholarship to commercial grads to members of the University of Alberta Pandas women's basketball team. [37] Grads was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 2017. [38] The same year, Historica Canada released a heritage minute clip about the team for International Women's Day. On November 9, 2019, Grads were featured in the Google Doodle celebrating the team. [40] See also Edmonton Rustlers Timeline of Women's Basketball History Notes ^ Hall 2008, p. 89. ^ and b Library & Archives Canada. ^ Daly 2013, p. 49. ^ and b Hall 2008, p. 28. ^ Daly 2013, p. 50. ^ and b Daly 2013, p. 6. ^ and b c Daly 2013, p. 52. ^ and b Hall 2011, p. 7. ^ Hall 2011, p. 9-10. ^ Daly 2013, p. 53. ^ and b c e f Klinkenberg 2019. ^ and b Daly 2013, p. 59. ^ Hall 2011, p. 57-58. ^ Hall 2011, p. 61-62. ^ Hall 2011, p. 62-63. ^ Hall 2011, p. 63-64.66-67. ^ Hall 2011, p. 53-67, 74-81. ^ Hall 2008, p. 50. ^ Hall 2011, p. 251. ^ Hall 2008, p. 47. ^ Daly 2013, p. 67. ^ Hawthorne 2012. ^ Hall 2011, p. x. ^ Hall 2011, p. 256 - 259. ^ Ewing 2018. ^ Hall 2011, p. 69. ^ Hall 2011, p. 192-193. ^ Norton 2009, p. 142. ^ Parks Canada. ^ Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame. ^ Hills 2015, p. 261. ^ Canada Basketball. ^ Hills 2015. ^ Canada Sports Hall of Fame. ^ Gould 2017. ^ Celebrating Edmonton Grads. Google. 9 November 2019. References Daly, Brian I. (2013). 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