

“CORKY”



C.H.CORKUM

**“THE ANGEL OF JUNIOR HOCKEY
IN VANCOUVER”**



A WEST END STORY

C.H.CORKUM “THE ANGEL OF JUNIOR HOCKEY IN VANCOUVER”

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KING GEORGE HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY TEAM
B.C. High School Champions
 1919-1920
 (WINNERS OF THE KER TROPHY)



M. Pyke N. Gyles C. Gyles G. Hope
 G. Bolt G. Livingston G. McLean W. Broadfoot
 C. H. Corkum, Manager W. Patrick, Captain

A landmark team --- the first champion of Vancouver's first inter-high school league. The West End's King George high school are champions of this newly formed league and by virtue of a victory over Victoria's best team are B.C. high school champions and winners of the brand-new Ker trophy. This squad captained by Walter Patrick of hockey's famous Patrick family and managed by K.G. teacher C.H. Corkum, was in fact the first of twelve consecutive Vancouver high school hockey championships for King George launching a high school sport winning streak unsurpassed.

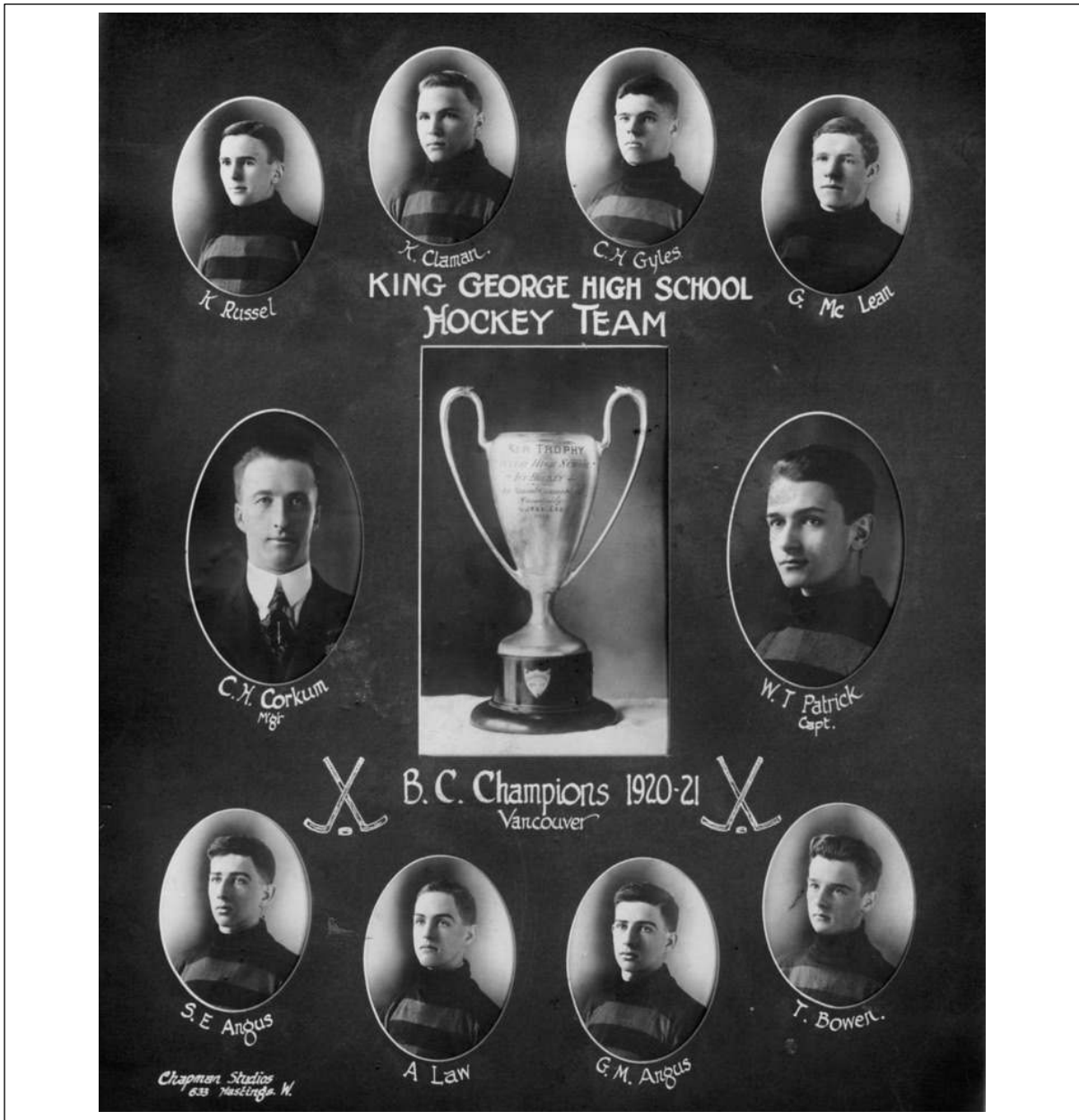
Ed. Note: This photo taken in front of the Denman Arena.

Vancouver's King George high school has always been unique. It was and is the high school that serves downtown Vancouver, its residential West End in particular. It has always been one of the smallest high schools of the greater Vancouver area even when it began in 1914 in what was then a less transient neighborhood. As well, King George has experienced its share of academic achievers and notable alumni but when and where it especially excelled was in the field of sports, during those years between World War I and World War II. Competing against Vancouver's larger high schools at this time, King George produced a disproportionate number of celebrated athletes and teams most notably in hockey, track & field and rugby.

This King George athletic success was initially captured and carried forward by one of its early teachers, Mr. C.H. Corkum, who coached, managed, mentored and nurtured those young, mostly male athletes through various sports over the 1920s and '30s. To inspire the King George students' athletic progress, the energetic and multi-skilled Corkum in 1923 formed a sport organization for King George alumni designed to provide a platform for those to pursue their athletic endeavours and build upon their successes. The organization quickly became known as the Ex-King George Athletic Club. The Ex-King George banner embraced several sport teams, hockey, rugby, baseball, football and basketball among them, resulting in certain ground-breaking achievements along with city and provincial championships. Ex-K.G.'s rising profile on the local sport scene was the result of the diligence and passion of Ex-K.G.'s founding president, Corkum, together with the fact tiny King George high school continued to pump out its best athletes(both before and after graduation) on to the various Ex-King George teams.

In the world of sports, the alliance of King George high school with Ex-King George was a Vancouver sport anomaly; the high school producing more than its share of top athletes and Ex-K.G., the unique concept that provided opportunities for the alumni to leave a sport imprint beyond the high school level. Also noteworthy is the realization that this extraordinary sport era has been rarely recognized through history. But perhaps more interesting is the fact that at King George high school and especially with Ex-King George, success seemed to emanate from the work of C.H. Corkum, for when Mr. Corkum was no longer involved after 20 years, those successes and indeed Ex-King George itself, ceased to exist.

For the early days of the West End, this high school and its extension the "X-men", these are their stories....



The Vancouver Sun - Sunday, April 10, 1921

NO HOCKEY TEAM in British Columbia has enjoyed the triumphant march to undisputed victory than this local aggregation of puck chasers, students at the King George High School.

The King George boys not only walked through the Vancouver Inter-high League without a defeat, but also turned back the Kamloops team and beat Victoria twice.

In fact, they did not drop a game all season, although the King Edward High School team emerged victorious in an exhibition racket after the championship had been won; but on that occasion King George was not at full strength.

“CORKY”

In a 1933 Vancouver Sun expose' by E. L (Buck) Yeo telling us of the work of Vancouver sports innovator, administrator and coach C.H. 'Corky' Corkum, Mr. Yeo virtually idolizes the accomplishments of Mr. Corkum. In concluding his column Yeo asks; "Idol did I say? How about miracle?"

Perhaps both terms apply to Carroll Howe Corkum. Since his arrival in Vancouver in January 1919 to teach at the West End's King George high school through to 1940 and the war years, local sports including high school , Junior and Senior hockey and the origin of B.C. football were embraced by the creativity, passion and resulting influence of Mr. Corkum. His fingerprints could be found all over the local amateur sports landscape.

It would be less than a month after Corkum, an Acadia University graduate, began teaching math at K.G. that he organized King George's first hockey team – February 1, 1919 – a moment that could be considered the genesis of Junior hockey in Vancouver. C.H. was the team's honorary president with an overall vision for sport and sport opportunities in student life which in the case of hockey was enhanced by the fact the vast Denman Arena, the city's only artificial ice surface, was mere blocks from this small school. Shortly following his creation of the K.G. hockey team, his credibility established, he was elected president of the Inter-High School Hockey League as the seeds of Vancouver amateur hockey were being planted.

It would also be this same year, 1919, that the very first Memorial Cup would be contested – the launching of Junior hockey in Canada and the most storied trophy in amateur hockey.

Corkum's first success occurred in early 1920 when the Green & Black of King George won the Vancouver inter-high school hockey championship and in defeating Victoria high school won the Ker trophy emblematic of B.C. high school hockey supremacy. Mr. Corkum was manager / coach of these upstart champions featuring skilled athletes such as Garret Livingston, the Gyles brothers and the Patrick family's Walter Patrick.



Inter-High School Champions - 1920
 Back row – C. H. Corkum - G. Livingston - H.C. Findlay
 Middle row –P. F. Palmer - L. Cowan - L. Barr - C. MacKenzie
 Front row - E.T. Cathcart - W.A. Hotson

The Province : 22 November 1923

Gives Address on the History of Athletics

“The History and Government of Athletics” was the subject of an address by **Mr. C.H. Corkum** of the King George High School staff before the Literary Society on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Corkum introduced his subject by a careful delineation of the two types of athletes, the amateur and the professional. He followed this by dealing with the history of athletics, beginning by calling attention to some of the games of the ancient Egyptians. The athletes of Greece and the Marathon runners received special attention, but even among the Greeks, he declared, there existed no rules for athletic events. It was not, in fact, until the year 1848 that rules were instituted. After dealing to some extent with athletics in England, the originator of modern athletics, the speaker passed to Canada and the athletic associations here.

Corkum's influence spread to track & field as in June, 1920, teacher/manager/coach Corkum guided King George to the 1920 inter-high track & field championship with KG's Garret Livingston the male aggregate winner. Corkum was also becoming more vital in the administration of high school sports as in 1921 he was the representative of the B.C. Amateur Athletic Union. At the same time, he was becoming involved with organizing sport competitions in Church leagues and at YMCA's Camp Elphinstone.

Throughout, Corkum's teaching inspired future mathematicians but he was also looking after other elements required by the school. Within two years at K.G. he had arranged for the use of the YMCA gym as his school which was built a few years earlier and was the smallest of local high schools, was not equipped with a gym.

In 1922 the King George hockey team was "...in line to make history..." as the high school team was now in the city Junior 'A' league as well as the inter-high league and under the direction of Corkum had, as of February 5/22, suffered only a "single defeat during three years play."

Clean, penalty-free play was how 'Corky' described the success of the 1922/23 King George Junior hockey team. This squad along with K.G.'s Intermediate team won the city and provincial championships defeating competition such as Vernon, Victoria and Trail. It is remarkable a high school team winning the provincial Junior title, King George's first, but with Corkum as manager, Art Jefferd as coach, team captain Cedric Gyles, Russell Clark and goalie Bill Bryson leading the way, it was indeed accomplished, the West End school winning with "clean play. "

During these years the high-energy Corkum was also involved in official positions and committees largely to negotiate with the levels of government "to see what arrangements can be made to further the interests of amateur athletics in this province." The press described him as the "hardworking secretary of the B.C. Amateur Athletic Union (who) has long been associated with athletics in the Province." It may have seemed a long time but with this caption it had been in fact less than three years.

Vancouver Daily World: 2 February 1924

Ex-King George to Start Formation of Big Athletic Body

Representatives from the Ex-King George hockey team, their Canadian and English rugby squads, their track club, with delegates from the newly organized girls' basketball teams, attended the meeting.

With the appointment of C.H. Corkum, one of the most enthusiastic amateur sportsmen in the city, the Ex-King George association showed that they appreciated the work that he had done on behalf of the former students.

During the rugby season, when their English code team won the provincial intermediate championship, Corkum was a hard worker and at present he is attempting to lift the intermediate hockey championship along with the Canadian rugby championship.

"It is the intention of the organization to eventually secure club quarters and to erect a modern gym," states Corkum. "The chief reason of several, why the association was formed was because there is no gymnasium or athletic association in the West End, that can take care of the graduating students. The organization, once it commences to function will not only assist former members of the King George high school, but will also do all it can for the students who are attending the institution.

Ed. Note:
Football was known as
"Canadian Rugby" at
this time.

In 1923 Corkum embarked upon the creation of a rather unique athletic association which would become a B.C. powerhouse. It was designed to provide K.G.H.S. students, mostly males, the opportunity to play on sports teams following graduation --- teams in established leagues with, ideally, additional new venues. Initially intended for West End students and graduates it eventually included those from other parts of the city. Corkum, who was described as the “directing genius” behind this emerging sport concept, was appointed president of what was now officially known as Ex-King George Athletic club. It began with a rugby team then intermediate hockey, both managed by Corkum and in late 1923 turned to football as Ex-King George had entered a team in B.C.’s first official football league. As it happened this team dominated this new four team league going undefeated including playoffs, and in early 1924 was crowned B.C.’s first football champion. This league formed the early foundation for football in B.C. launching the competitive environment that would later include teams from New Westminster, Victoria, North Shore and names such as Meralomas, Blue Bombers and Thunderbirds.

By April 1924 and looking back, Corkum’s Ex-King George teams had won provincial Junior and City Intermediate hockey championships, the Intermediate rugby title along with the B.C. football championship. And it was president “Corky’s” former students and players such as Percy Choate, Bill Bryson, Lyle Barr, Gordie McLean and Murray Rowan who would make up the newly-formed Ex-King George executive.

Within six years of his arrival in Vancouver, Corkum had thoroughly woven himself into the community; high-school teacher and coach, track & field official, B.C. Amateur Athletic Union representative, founder and president of the Ex-King George Athletic Club and manager of its teams, plus involvement with the YMCA and the Church. He was from a family of teachers but they all remained in the Maritimes so while alone here in B.C. he quickly evolved to become, according to the press, “popular” and “a prominent figure in amateur sport circles of the city.”

The 1924/25 season was another highlight for Ex-King George hockey as the boys from the coast defeated both Vernon and Trail to capture the B.C. intermediate championship. President Corkum along with coach Jefferd took the lads to Vernon for the three-team tournament at which Ex-K.G. was described as “... good sports who were just a little quicker on the break”. Former high school athletes on this squad included familiar names Glen Hope, Gordie McLean, Bill Henderson, Cedric Gyles, and Stan Angus who showcased once again the hockey skills of what was at the time anything but a hockey “hotbed” downtown Vancouver.



ORGANIZED less than three years ago, the Ex-King George Club, which embraces the students who have passed through the King George High School, is playing a most important part in athletic life in Vancouver, particularly in English rugby, hockey and baseball. Basketball was undertaken for a season but lack of gym facilities made it necessary to forego this pastime for the present.

In June 1925 another Inter-high school Boy's track & field championship for King George which followed overall titles won by K.G. in 1919, 1920 and 1921 under coach Corkum. In the corresponding 1925 newspaper photo, coach Corkum is surrounded by his athletes including individual champion Quene Yip along with Doug McIntyre (who were later inducted into the B.C. and U.B.C. Sport Halls of Fame respectively) together with the cherished Malkin Cup.

As a result of the age ineligibility of some of Ex-King George's fine Junior players and the great showing of its Intermediate team, an entry into the city's Senior 'A' hockey loop was announced by the "X-men" prior to the 1925/26 season. Corkum of course would manage this new team made up of all-around athletes from the West End (average of 20) and coached by his former Junior coach, Art Jefferd, all seeking the ultimate Senior "A" prize, the Allan Cup.

The local press would annually report on the accomplishments of this Vancouver's unique sport club/association and in March 1927 Ex-KG president Corkum unveiled the achievements of the various teams during the previous year. The Ex-K.G. rugby team had won the Miller, Rounsefell and Tisdall Cups, the baseball team finished second in the Terminal League and the Senior hockey team – in its second season – had reached the league playoff final. There was also a social component to this Athletic club that would include the students of King George high school. Dinners, meetings and gatherings were all part of the package. Corkum also included local high-profile personalities to his list of Ex-King George officers including Vancouver mayor Taylor, Frank Patrick (formally of the Millionaires and Denman Arena owner), well known sports promoter Con Jones and K.G. athletes such as Walter Patrick, Percy Choate and Heily Arkley.

In 1928 Corkum's local hockey "empire" was reaching new heights. The Ex-K.G. Senior team again reached the league playoffs, the Intermediate team won the league championship and the Birks Cup while the Junior 'A' team led by Noel Davidson again won the City championship reaching the B.C. championship final which in fact was the very first Mowat Cup competition. Fernie won this first Mowat Cup with a hard-fought 5 – 4 overtime victory over Ex-King George at the Denman Arena. Meanwhile, his K.G. high school hockey team continued to dominate high school competition again winning the Inter-high league and the Worthington Cup. In fact, King George under the guidance of Corkum would win twelve consecutive Vancouver high school championships from 1920 through 1931 with several B.C. championships among those years.

Throughout this time C.H. was expanding his scope when named vice-president of the local branch of the Amateur Athletic Union of

Ex-King George Wins City Hockey Championship

1929 Senior 'A' city hockey champions



GLEN HOPE CEDRIC GYLES PHIL BAIN JEFF HASZARD HARRY JONES



JACK WALMSLEY BUSTER PENNOCK BILL HENDERSON NOEL DAVIDSON JACK RILEY
(Captain)



1925 King George High School Track Team

1925 Inter-High school Boy's track and field champions, King George with Malkin Cup.

With:
Coach Corkum
(back row 4th from right) and
B.C. Hall of Famer,
Quene Yip
(middle row 3rd from left)

Canada. Mayor Malkin and UBC's Gordon Shrum were among this group's honoree appointees. There didn't seem to be much of any amateur sport on the lower mainland outside of UBC that was without the involvement and influence of C.H. Corkum. Virtually all articles involving amateur sports found in local newspapers contained somewhere the name C.H. Corkum, this despite the fact Corkum was anything but a self-promoter. It was always about his students, his teams and the joy they derived from sport.

In 1929 a further step was taken in the evolution of Ex-King George hockey. The Senior team won the City League Championship and with it the right to represent the coast in a playoff against the Kootenay champions for the Savage Cup. The winner of that series would meet the Alberta champion in the first round of Allan Cup playoffs. This was now the hockey trifecta for the Vancouver based sport organization, once again described by the media as the "...best organized athletic institution in the city or province ... C.H. Corkum as the directing genius." Ex-King George Green & Black had won the B.C. Junior and Intermediate hockey titles and now were provincial Senior finalists all within six years. Meanwhile Corkum did everything he could to promote hockey through the media which at this time was, according to the hockey people, paying more attention to local football and basketball.

One has to keep in mind that aside from his teaching duties at King George Corkum's time working as team, League and Association president, his committees and official positions plus his time as coach, judge, time-keeper etc. was all essentially volunteer. Recognition however was beginning to appear in small measures in 1929 when West End and downtown elementary school's annual track meet began to compete for an overall championship and the Corkum Cup.

With the introduction of the 1930s Corkum's hockey success was blossoming through the Ex-King George Junior team. This was the beginning of another piece of esoteric Vancouver Junior Hockey history. The Green & Black under the coaching of former NHL'er Clarence Boucher and management of Corkum were 1929/30 City Junior champions and having defeated Trail to win the provincial championship, became the first lower mainland team to win the Mowat Cup and the right to advance along the trail to the Memorial Cup. A compelling story – a team from the lower mainland, all but one player attending or attended King



The High Schools Athletic Association honored C. H. Corkum of King George by electing him to the presidency and in doing so they made a wise choice. Though "Corky," by which he is known to most of his boys, has been chiefly interested in ice hockey and track, there is not a sport on the high school calendar with which he is not familiar. The wonderful success of the Ex-King George Association with its varied ramifications is largely due to Corkum's initiative and unlimited energy. He keeps a fatherly watch over all who have gone through this well-conducted West End school. Last winter his Ex-King George hockey team won the provincial championship and made an excellent showing in the first round of the O.H.A. Memorial Cup series at Calgary, with some of the cards stacked against his club. The High School Association should have a good year under his guidance.

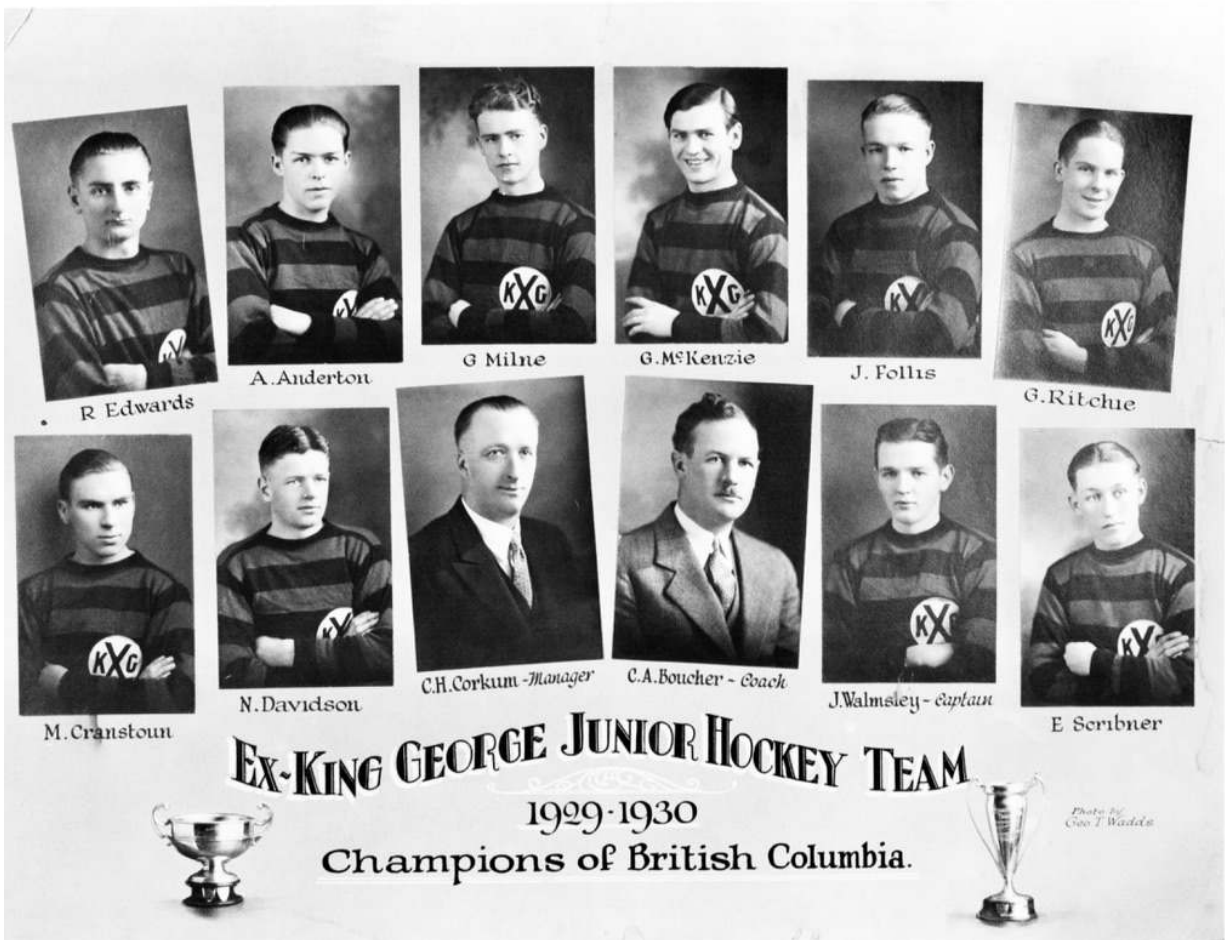
George high school, advancing to the Memorial Cup playdowns. However Ex-King George did lose to the Alberta champion Calgary Canadians who four years earlier were Memorial Cup champions.

In a February 1931 Vancouver Sun column by well-known sports writer Andy Lytle, Andy extols the virtues of 'Corky' and his Ex-King George hockey club "...a group that probably outshines any other Junior hockey aggregation ever wielded in this city." Lytle commends "the general excellence of team spirit and joyous camaraderie so painstakingly being built up among high school athletes by Corkum in his Ex-King George club activities." This in reaction to Ex-King George winning its second consecutive B.C. Junior championship and Mowat Cup.

February 1932 marked the end of another successful season for both C.H. and the West Enders. The Ex-K.G. Senior hockey club easily won the City championship but were edged out by the Trail Smoke Eaters in Trail for the B.C. championship by scores of 3-2 and 2-0. Corkum meanwhile, elected to his tenth term as president of the Ex-King George group, was also elected to the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association Executive at the same time gaining kudos for his efficiency in handling the inter-high track & field meets as president of the Inter-High School Athletic Assn. He would remain a member of the Inter-High School Athletic Assn. advisory committee for five more years through 1946.

As the 32/33 hockey season got underway The Province wrote "Among the prominent officials whose interest has been responsible for the continuance of amateur hockey in the lower mainland, Mr. C.H. Corkum deserves a great deal of credit. As a result of his efforts the Ex-King George team has flourished for the last eight years and the championship squads at King George high school are the products of his coaching." By spring 1933 the Ex-K.G. Juniors had won yet another City championship but bowed to the always-tough Trail Juniors in the B.C. final. Notable was not only the influence Corkum had on the development of Ex-K.G. and K.G.H.S. hockey but that the success of the Junior, Senior and Intermediate "ex-student" teams was the result of everyone of the players having learned to play the game of hockey in the city of Vancouver. This fact, despite the climate, was in large part due to the existence of the Denman Arena.

The effervescent E. L. Yeo wrote in the Vancouver Sun in 1933 that "Space is too scarce to print a list of the triumphs of 'Corkyized' hockey teams" and stressed the amount of volunteered time Corkum has given to his causes, not just



The first lower mainland team to win the Mowat Cup – Junior 'A' Championship of British Columbia.



C.M. Corkum
Manager



J. Walsley



N. Davidson



C.A. Boucher
Coach



C. Gamlin



E. Scribner



R. Edwards



C. Ritchie



M. Cranston



J. Follis

Mowat Cup
Winners
1931
Ex-King George



C. Milne



GEO-T-WAIDS PHOTO

EX-KING GEORGE JUNIOR HOCKEY TEAM
 1934 - 1935
 Champions of British Columbia.

Winners of the Mowat Cup 1935

hockey but track & field and amateur sports in general. Yeo adds “ In private life ‘Corky’ finds time to operate a boat which he optimistically invites his friends to go fishing.” Yeo also mentions he has yet to be invited but claims it is a nice boat.

By the 1934/35 season Ex-King George Junior team had built a powerhouse. The Taylor brothers Fred and John, sons of hockey legend ‘Cyclone’ Taylor, were leading the way with other flashy players such as Jim Harmer (a future UBC Hall of Famer), ‘Safe as the Bank of England’ Bob Turrell in goal, Julius Levine, Alex McIvor, George Mortimer et al, “Actually an All-Star high school team Developed exclusively in Vancouver,” claimed coach Boucher. In fact, the sixteen-year-old John Taylor led the 34/35 City League in scoring. But this team broke new ground. For the first time in history a B.C. Junior champion would advance further than Alberta in the quest for Canada’s Junior ‘A’ ultimate prize, the Memorial Cup. The “Ex-Kings” won the City League then defeated Trail Tigers to win the B.C. championship and the Mowat Cup. A few days later, March 6, 1935, manager Corkum who was referred to as the “Angel of Junior hockey in Vancouver”, announced Ex-King George would be departing from the Pacific Coast to Saskatoon for the first round of the Memorial Cup playoffs against the Saskatoon Wesleys. For the Vancouver lads it was the first time any of them had played playoff hockey past B.C.

Ex-K.G., first team to represent B.C. this deep into the Memorial Cup playoffs, went down in two straight to Saskatoon in Saskatoon despite the efforts of John Taylor who scored twice and the heroics of goalie Bob Turrell who “received tremendous applause” from the Saskatoon fans. The Wesleys then would lose a very close series to the Winnipeg Monarchs the team who would go on to win the 1935 Memorial Cup.

Local fans, media and hockey officials were however, super proud and gave the local lads a rousing welcome home. The March 9,1935 issue of The Province following the Ex-K.G. Junior’s success stated “...were it not for Corkum there would be no Junior hockey today ... Corkum must dream Junior hockey. In any event it is safe to bet that outside of school hours, he spends more time than any dozen men interested in that brand of the sport. He is a good organizer, does his work thoroughly and enjoys the confidence of the lads under his care.”

The Province: October 7, 1937

NEW DEAL For Puckmen?

Those three tireless hockey commissioners, Fred "Cyclone" Taylor, Art Jefferd and C.H. Corkum, went to the mat with the Exhibition Association yesterday afternoon and figure they have a spot of cheering news for team owners of the Vancouver amateur hockey circuit.

The commission will meet George Irvine, owner of Cubs; Bill Mott, head man of Westminster, and Doughy Spring, manager of Canadians today to lay the proposition before them. The commissioners figure they have received the long-awaited "New Deal" for hockey with the Exhibition Association's allocation of playing nights and practise hours and percentages.

The Province: October 21, 1937

Amateur Pucksters Show Enthusiasm

If the crowds would attend the games as they do the annual meetings, Vancouver amateur hockey would soon be out of the red. The boardroom of the Stock Exchange Building was crammed to the doors with team managers, officials and players Wednesday night.

As forecast in Tuesday's issue of The Daily Province, Fred "Cyclone" Taylor and his two commissioners, A.H. "Art" Jefferd and C.H. "Corky" Corkum, were re-elected. Receiving full control over the formation of the league and the schedule.

The Commissioners



Fred "Cyclone" Taylor



C. H. "Corky" Corkum



Art Jefferd

The following season saw changes in both the local Senior and Junior leagues as Ex-King George became the Arnold & Quigley team in the two four team loops with UBC joining the Junior league. And beginning this season all amateur hockey in Vancouver and B.C. was now under the control and direction of Art Jefferd, Fred “Cyclone” Taylor and C.H. ‘Corky” Corkum as these three “ tireless hockey commissioners” made up the executive of the British Columbia Amateur Hockey Association.

Amateur hockey in Vancouver did continue through the decade but alas, without the Ex-King George Green & Black. Yet Corkum remained heavily involved with Taylor and Jefferd as the three-man leadership of the B.C.A.H.A. Exactly why Ex-K.G., the club and all its teams, seemed to fade away to the point where the once prominent name could no longer be found in research, remains a subject of speculation. Perhaps the onset of war and the War Effort drew many athletes from sport participation ... maybe the high school source of hockey players, at least from King George, dried up or became too expensive. Noteworthy is the fact that the West End’s Denman Arena, the “King George advantage”, had burned down at this time – 1936. Or perhaps the “directing genius” C.H. Corkum, had shifted his priorities, focusing elsewhere.

In fact, in 1937 C.H. would become more involved in local charity and social work. He became an executive of the Rotary Club, a non-political group stressing the principles of fellowship and service – qualities that applied to Mr. Corkum himself. In 1941, now principal of King George high school, he led his school in raising funds for the War Effort. Later in 1944 Corkum became involved with local Neighborhood Houses particularly the West End’s Gordon House and also Alexandria House. The following year he was elected vice-president and in ’47 president of these centres which promoted activities for families, youngsters and young adults. He would also, until his retirement in 1949 at age 60, continue in education as principal (and 30 years) at King George high school, located prominently on Burrard street across from St. Paul’s Hospital.

An insight on Mr. C. H. Corkum: The Teacher

Mr. Corkum arrived at King George High School in Vancouver in 1919 as a math teacher. During his tenure until his retirement in 1949, we have shown him as a person who loved sports with a passion and was extremely hard working, and dedicated to various sports menus and the students who participate in them.

But how would he be remembered as a teacher and then principal of the school. I asked Robert, a 1945 grad of King George high school if he remembered Mr. Corkum.

Here is Robert's reply:

"And now the story of Mr. Corkum. During one of my years at KG, I believe it was either grade 10 or 11, I came down with an eye infection in my left eye. It was quite serious and I missed at least 3 months school. It happened during the winter time and of course in those days the fog was very heavy and lasted most of the day due to all the sawdust burners in use. Also, in those days they didn't have Penicillin and they had to rely on Sulfa drugs, which didn't do much for my particular problem.

I really enjoyed math and it was by far my best subject and I got "A's" for math on almost every report card. In those days we took Algebra and Geometry and of course they were tricky to learn. When Mr. Corkum learned of my illness, he very kindly came to my home on 2 or 3 occasions in spite of all the fog and tutored me for about an hour each time on the classes I was missing. And he wouldn't accept any money or gift from my parents for doing so, as those were very trying times for everyone during the depression. The end result was that I managed a "B" on my final report, all due to Mr. Corkum. What a wonderful man he was.

Those were certainly difficult times for everyone but life was made manageable by the actions of people like Mr. Corkum."

Robert

The last note on Mr. Corkum appeared in a 1948 issue of the Gambier Island newspaper reporting on a dance given at the Veterans Memorial Hall by the Army, Navy and Air Force veterans. 'Corky', who was a veteran serving Canada for a year in World War I, "...had a large house party at his farm at Keats island. Mr. Corkum is well known to residents of Gambier Island and served in the P.C.M.R. He is principal of King George high school, Vancouver." For the next twenty-five years through his generosity, his impressive farm "Corky's Farm", would be the destination for families and kids.

Today, we have yet another C.H. Corkum legacy, the Carroll Howe Corkum Bursary at UBC. Requirements include having been a King George high school graduate with excellent grades within UBC's Faculty of Education.

On December 7, 1977, Carroll Howe Corkum aged 89 years of Keats island B.C., passed away. For a period of twenty years the "Angel of Junior hockey" took this fledgling sport in Vancouver from creating a team in a small West End high school through to producing B.C. champions at three levels ... and in the case of the Juniors advancing beyond B.C. on the way to the prized Memorial Cup, the last being in 1935. This would not again be accomplished by a lower mainland team for another thirty years.



C.H. Corkum
Relaxing at his farm on
Keats Island, B.C.

King George High School Inter High-School Champions

There just may be a high school sports winning streak that will likely never be broken. This statement after 125 years of high school sports in Vancouver can be proven to be true as we zero in on one amazing set of championships by one high school in one sport.

The sport is ice hockey and the era was post-World War I when Vancouver and indeed the province were featuring high school hockey teams. Beginning just after the First War, Vancouver's hockey landscape included an inter-high school hockey league formed in 1919, which lasted into the 1930s ending at the height of the Depression. King George high school serving Vancouver's West End and one of the city's smallest high schools was a member of this new league, dominating for two decades both the city and indeed the province in this sport of hockey.

With its first championship victory in the 1919/20 season through 1930/31, the Green & Black of King George were city high school hockey champions. A championship streak of 12 consecutive seasons. And during these years the provincial high school championships were also contested and King George won those as well.

In the history of high school sports there has been only one other Vancouver high school sports feat that compares. Between 1932 and 1943 the Girls' track and field teams of John Oliver high school won 12 consecutive Vancouver championships.

To illustrate the degree of dominance King George hockey teams exhibited, they also entered their teams in the Lower Mainland Junior League (20 and under) and continued to be victorious within this older competition winning provincial championships at this Junior level. In fact, these high school players became known as outstanding Junior players while playing for their high school and later with Ex-King George, players such as team captains Walter Patrick, Ced Gyles, Harry Matheson and Jack Walmsley, Bill Henderson, Noel Davidson, Ken Valentine and Alex McIvor.

King George, despite its relatively small enrolment, had three notable features during this era that contributed to its amazing hockey success: an inordinate number of outstanding athletes in several sports, access to what was Vancouver's only indoor arena, Denman Arena at Georgia and Denman and Mr. C.H. Corkum, a teacher/coach/ manager who was a passionate innovator, inspiration and mentor. Corkum was also the first president of this Inter-high school hockey league as well as King George team coach and manager with league games played in front of enthusiastic students at Denman Arena.

For close to 100 years this early high school sport achievement has flown under the radar. The following accounts and team pictures will reveal the story of a small school with an amazing sport accomplishment.

King George High School City High School Hockey Champions

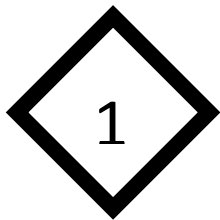
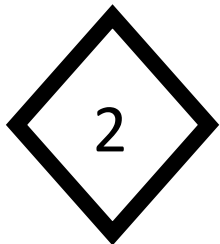


Photo – See page 4



Photo– See page 6



1921/22
 Lyle Barr
 Cedric Gyles
 Bill Henderson
 Gordie McLean
 Murray Rowan
 A. Hill
 T. Bowen
 Norman Gyles



1922/23
 Cedric Gyles
 J. Wetmore
 Bill Henderson
 Hudson
 Bruce McIntyre
 Murray Rowan
 Selman
 Spouse
 Bill Bryson
 Art Jefferd coach





6

J. Chambers

A. Henderson.
Coach.

G. Humphries.

G. Hazard.

J. McInure.
Captain.

D.B. Johnston
Principal.

C. Rowles.

I. Mackay.

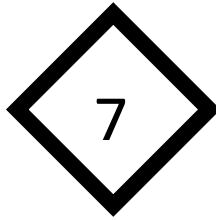
G. Mackay.

H. Nolan.

C. Woods.

**KING GEORGE
Sr.
HOCKEY TEAM
HIGH SCHOOL
CHAMPIONS
of B.C.
1924-25.**

Photo by Geo T. Woods.



J.H. McEwen.

J.L. McKee.

H.A. Matheson. capt.

J.H. Davidson.

A.D. Sewell.

Wm. Henderson. Coach.

D.B. Johnston. Principal.

C.H. Corkum. Manager.

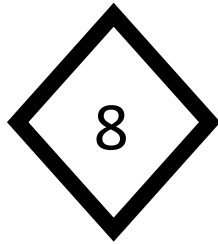
G.O. Humphries.

G.C. Haszard.

J.R. Parker.

King George High School Hockey Team B.C. High School Champions 1925-1926.

Photo by G.E.O.T. WADDS.



H. McKay

J. Walmsley
Captain

C. Magee

R. Gillespie

J. Walker

A. Cryderman

C. H. Corkum
Coach

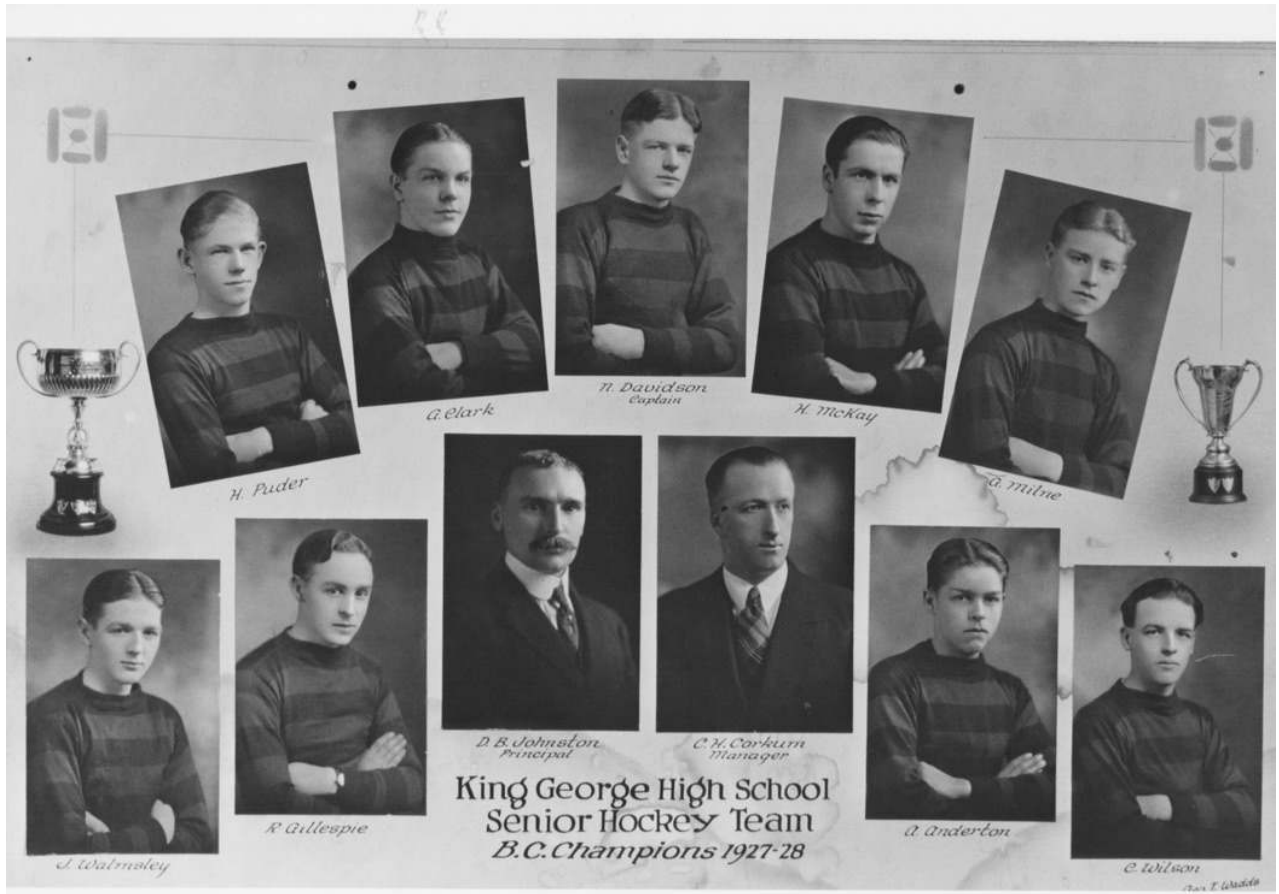
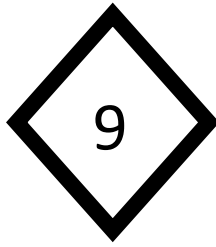
J. Wilson

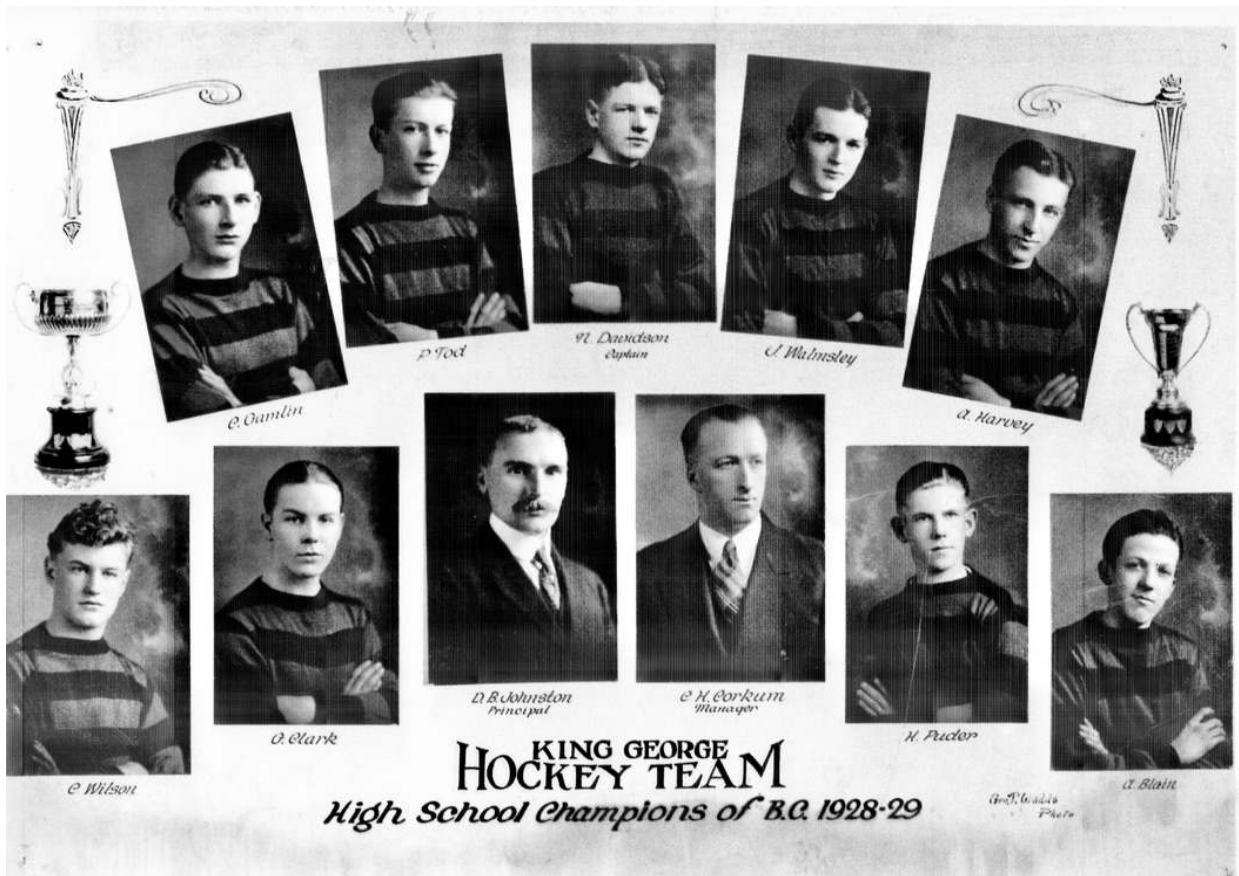
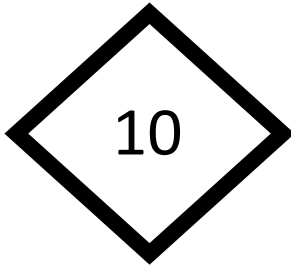
H. Puder

D. B. Johnston
Principal

C. McKenzie

**KING GEORGE
JUNIOR HOCKEY TEAM CHAMPIONS
OF B. C. 1926-27**
*Photo by
Geo. T. Wadds*





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J. Ratledge.

H. Davidson.

H. McIver.

H. Puder.

K. Valentine.

R. Edwards.

C.H. Corkum, *Coach.*

J. Walmsley, *Captain.*

D.B. Johnston, *Principal.*

E. Gamlin.

KING GEORGE SENIOR HOCKEY TEAM
B.C.
HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONS.
1929-30.

Geo. T. Wadds
photo.

HOCKEY IMPRESSES P ROVINCE CARTOONIST



The Province
January 28, 1928



1931

C. Gamlin
J. Ratledge
Wm. Fowler
R. Edwards
Alex McIvor



Worthington Trophy



Ker Trophy



G.V.A.A.A. Trophy

Sources

King George High School Archives

B.C. Sports Hall of Fame (1934-35 Ex-King George Junior hockey champions photo)

City of Vancouver archives

The Vancouver Sun newspaper

The Province newspaper (Vancouver)

The Star-Phoenix newspaper (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)