

Developments In Amateurism and Professionalism In Early 20th. Century Canadian Sport

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The distinction between amateur and professional athletes at the time of Confederation was not usually “determined by financial transactions but by social status.”¹ The confusion concerning amateurism among sports governing bodies up to 1883 caused the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association (M.A.A.A.) to instigate the formation of the Amateur Athletic Association of Canada (A.A.A. of C.).² Although this organization appeared to be successful in its early years in the battle against professionalism, towards the end of the century, Cox described the situation, as follows:

. . . The A. A. A. of C. seemed to be fighting a losing battle against professionalism in those team sports which drew large paying crowds. In football, lacrosse and hockey extremely keen inter-town and inter-city rivalry brought about the gradual changes. Inducements were made to top class players, business houses sponsored clubs, and professionalism did not creep, but rushed into these sports during the late nineties, despite the vigilance of the A.A.A. of C.³

By 1900 the professional athlete was no longer determined by his social status, but by the monetary rewards he received for his physical performances. The A.A.A. of C. had not been very successful in controlling certain team sports, but it was able to develop and control a concept of amateurism in several of the individual sports such as rowing, cycling, boxing, swimming and track and field.

A clear indication of the general feeling towards the professional athlete in this period was given by one of Canada’s most prominent physical educators and supporters of amateurism - Dr. A.S. Lamb:

Governing bodies of amateur sport have no quarrel with the out-and-out professional. Amateur organizations have their ideals and principles which they must maintain, but they would

¹Allan E. Cox, “A History of Sports in Canada 1868-1900.” Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis. The University of Alberta, Edmonton. 1969. p. 409.

²*First Annual Report of the A.A.A. of C.*, 1884, p. 4.

³Cox, *op cit.*, p. 421.

infinitely rather see a man declare his intention openly to go into the professional ranks, than see the individual who is a cheat and a sneak thief, masked under the guise of amateurism, but who directly or indirectly receives material gain for his ability as an athlete. That individual is a menace to all the true ideals of Amateurism and Sportsmanship and should relentlessly be driven from cover and denied the privilege of associating in competition with bona fide amateurs.⁴

In 1900 several other sports, in addition to hockey, football and lacrosse, had professional athletes within their ranks. These included the following - baseball, cycling (including women⁵), cricket, golf, shooting, track and field, billiards, bowling (tenpin), ice skating, skiing, wrestling, canoeing, rowing and horse racing. Some of these require little or no further mention because of the very nature of the sport. For example, golf and skiing needed professionals to teach the activity to those who wished to learn the game and were willing to pay for the privilege of instruction. The cricket club professional was also another form of paid coach, except that he was permitted to play with a team and was expected to be an outstanding player. Horse racing, by 1900, was a commercialized sport and few, if any, debates surrounded this sport with respect to professionalism.

Before the various sports are considered the development of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada and its predecessors will be briefly described. Late in 1901 a meeting was called, in Toronto, of the A.A.A. of C., and all the sport governing bodies outside that organization, in an effort to establish a new union which "would accommodate all the governing bodies in sport throughout the country."⁶ A new constitution was drafted and on December 5, 1901, the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union (C.A.A.U.) was formed to encourage "systematic physical exercise and education in Canada."⁷ Their definition of an amateur is given - and one wonders how many leading amateur athletes of today would qualify!

An amateur is one who has not competed in any competition for a staked bet or monies, private or public, or gate receipts, or competed with or against a professional for a prize.

One who has never taught or assisted in the pursuit of any athletic exercise or sport as a means of livelihood; who has never directly or indirectly received any bonus or payment in lieu of

⁴A.S. Lamb, "Amateurism." Unpublished report to the A.A.U. of C., 1925, p. 3.

⁵*Manitoba Free Press*, Winnipeg, November 26, 1900.

⁶*The Globe and Mail*, Toronto, October 24, 1901.

⁷Nancy Howell and Maxwell L. Howell. *Sports and Games in Canadian Life 1700 to the present* (Toronto: 1969), p. 152.

loss of time while playing as a member of any club.

Or any money consideration whatever for any services as an athlete except his actual travelling and hotel expenses.

Or who has never entered into any competition under a name other than his own.

Or who has never been guilty of selling or pledging his prizes.⁸

In 1904 the Manitoba Amateur Athletic Union (M.A.A.U.) was formed in Winnipeg (with Mr. E. Loftus as its first president), to control amateur sport in that province.⁹ This action by Manitoba must have appealed to the C.A.A.U., because early in 1905 its secretary, Fred J. Tees of Montreal, wrote to R.A.C. Manning, the new president of the M.A.A.U., concerning affiliation.¹⁰ The C.A.A.U. continued in its efforts to set up provincial bodies, such as the M.A.A.U., and in 1906, Captain P. Gorman, president of the C.A.A.U., toured the Maritimes, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia with a view to adding to the Union's membership. He said that "the C.A.A.U. is too local and he wishes to see it embrace all the important clubs from coast to coast."¹¹ Captain Gorman must have been fairly successful, because later that year the Cape Breton A.A.A. was formed and was affiliated with the C.A.A.U.¹²

In 1906 what has been described as the "Athletic War"¹³ took place over the Montreal Amateur Athletic Association's (M.A.A.A.) insistence that they be allowed to use professionals on their hockey and lacrosse teams, in order to successfully compete against other "pseudo amateur" teams. This conflict between the M.A.A.A. and the C.A.A.U. led to thirteen Montreal clubs, on February 1, 1907, forming the Amateur Athletic Federation of Canada, and their constitution allowed professionals to play against amateurs.¹⁴ Later, C.A. Springings, the Secretary-Treasurer, listed their objectives as:

1. The encouragement of systematic physical exercise and education in Canada.

⁸J.H. Crocker. "Amateur Sports and Games in Canada." (Mimeographed booklet prepared for the sixtieth anniversary of the A.A.U. of C., 1953). p. 18.

⁹*Manitoba Free Press*. May 7, 1904.

¹⁰*Ibid.*. January 5, 1905.

¹¹*Ibid.*. January 13, 1906.

¹²*The Globe and Mail*, December 15, 1906.

¹³Tom Bedecki. "An Examination of the Amateur Code of Canada." Unpublished material prepared for the Department of National Health and Welfare Fitness and Amateur Sport Directorate. Ottawa, 1968. p. 5.

¹⁴*The Globe and Mail*. February 1, 1907.

2. The advancement and improvement of athletic sports.
3. The establishment and maintenance throughout Canada of a uniform test of an athlete's standing and uniform rules for the governing of all athletic sports.
4. The institution, regulation and awarding of the Athletic Championships of Canada.
5. All clubs are to employ one or more professionals who are to play but they must be declared.¹⁵

During the next two years the "Athletic Battle" continued, with various organizations changing sides while others were consistent in their fight for amateurism. The Quebec Rugby Football Union, for example, resigned from the C.A.A.U. and joined the A.A.F. of C.;¹⁶ the Ontario Association Football League, the Western Canadian Lacrosse Association, the Winnipeg Rowing Club, the Alberta Lacrosse Association,¹⁷ the Canadian Association of Amateur Oarsmen's and the Manitoba Football Association (with 81 clubs and 2,000 players)¹⁹ were a few of the clubs which affiliated with the C.A.A.U.

This dispute between these two groups produced the rapid development of provincial organizations, with the Maritime Provinces A.A.A. affiliating in 1907.²⁰ That year President W. Stark announced that the C.A.A.U. had a membership of over 600 clubs in various branches of sport.²¹ In 1908, the British Columbia A.U.,²² the Alberta A.A.A.,²³ the Quebec branch of the C.A.A.U.²⁴ and the Saskatchewan A.A.A.,²⁵ were formed and were affiliated with the C.A.A.U., thus giving it national control of amateur sports.

Even though these two organizations could not agree on certain issues, they were able to form the Canadian Olympic Committee in December, 1907,²⁶ so that the best possible Canadian Olympic team could be selected for the 1908 Olympics. President Stark, in his annual report to the C.A.A.U. in 1908, clearly indicated the feelings between his association and the A.A.F. of C:

The reorganization of the Union in September, 1906, as a result of the proposal of the M.A.A.A. to permit amateurs and

¹⁵*Manitoba Free Press*, February 22, 1907

¹⁶*The Globe and Mail*, March 11, 1907.

¹⁷*Ibid.*, April 2, 1907.

¹⁸*Ibid.*, April 8, 1907.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, April 16, 1907.

²⁰*Ibid.*, May 7, 1907.

²¹*Toronto Daily Star*, Toronto, October 28, 1907.

²²*Edmonton Bulletin*, Edmonton, March 20, 1908.

²³*Ibid.*, May 18, 1908.

²⁴*The Globe and Mail*, October 26, 1908

²⁵*Ibid.*, November 11, 1908.

²⁶*Ibid.*, December 2, 1907.

professionals to compete together without the loss to the amateur of his status, has been very beneficial in every class of sport, and from that hour dates the marvellous growth of the Union [now over 60,000 athletes] which proves abundantly that the amateur sentiment of Canada, notwithstanding the corrupting influences about us, is still sound and loyal. And let me say for the encouragement of the Canadian people that the Union stands to-day perhaps more firmly than ever behind the principles on which it was founded, and for which it has always contended, viz., the promotion of athletics simply as a means of healthful recreation and innocent amusement, and the discouragement of everything calculated to unsettle our young men and tempt them from life's ordinary avocations and its more serious affairs into the unprofitable and ever disappointing field of professionalism.²⁷

Early in 1909 the A.A.U. of Australia affiliated with the C.A.A.U., and clubs such as the Ottawa Athletic Club left the A.A.F. of C. This appeared to be a trend, as the A.A.F. of C. were losing all their clubs, and consequently, on September 6, 1909, at Russell House in Ottawa, the two organizations settled their differences and the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada (A.A.U. of C.) was formed.²⁸ Bedecki described this merger:

The occurrence of the "Athletic War" without doubt re-established amateur sentiment in Canada and created an upsurge of interest in sport circles. The newly created amateur governing body, which truly represented sport across Canada, soon became recognized as the custodian of the amateur principle in this country.²⁹

Over the next decade several developments within the A.A.U. of C. need to be mentioned. In 1910, after much discussion, it was finally decided that amateurs could officiate at professional games.³⁰ The following year Canada gained a representation on the International Olympic Committee, when Sir John Hanbury-Williams, was elected to this committee.³¹ In an effort to resolve the problems with respect to professionalism the A.A.U. of C., in 1911, issued the following definition of an amateur for the Olympic Games:

All persons shall be considered Amateurs for the purposes of the Olympic Games who have not at any time-A.-(a) Competed

²⁷*Minutes of the 1908 Annual Meeting of the C. A. A. U.*, p. 4.

²⁸*Edmonton Bulletin*, September 7, 1909.

²⁹Bedecki, *Op. cit.*, p. 6.

³⁰*The Globe and Mail*, January 19, 1910.

³¹Crocker. *op cit.*, p. 19.

at an athletic meeting for a money prize or monetary consideration, or for any declared wager or staked bet.

(b) Received money or pecuniary benefit in consideration of their taking part in any athletic competition, exhibition or performance.

(Note.-The payment of the actual out of pocket, travelling and hotel expenses of a competitor by the club which he is selected to represent, does not involve forfeiture of his amateur status under this clause.)

(c) Received directly or indirectly any bonus or payment as compensation for loss of time while competing in, or training for, any athletic competition.

(d) Sold or pledged any prize won in any athletic competition
B.-(a) Received any pecuniary consideration for the teaching of, or assisting in, any athletic exercises.

(b) Accepted appointment to any salaried post on the consideration, expressed or implied, of taking part in, assisting in, or teaching any athletic exercise, the taking part in, assisting in, or teaching of which does not form part of the normal duties of such post.

C.-(a) Competed at athletic meetings open to any others but amateurs.

(b) Competed against a professional at an athletic meeting, whether for a prize or not.

D.-Been a recognized professional, or been disqualified as an amateur at any other sport³²

By 1912 the membership of the A.A.U. of C. had grown to 1,300 clubs in their seven branches, with close to 100,000 athletes being registered.³³ The following year President Tees appointed standing committees, in order to assist in increasing the work of the association in the following areas:

Championship; National Registration; Records; Special Committee on Affiliations; Special Committee on Revision of Rules; Special Committee on Amateur Standing; Special Committee re the Referee Question; Special Committee for Challenge Cups, Medals, etc; and Special Committee to Co-ordinate Branch constitutions.³⁴

At the start of the twentieth century professionalism was to be found in many sports. It would be interesting to establish which was the first professional sport in Canada, but this is virtually impossible

³²*Minutes of the 1911 Annual Meeting of the A.A.U. of C.*, pp.21-2

³³*Minutes of the 1912 Annual Meeting of the A.A.U. of C.*, p. 14

³⁴The Globe and Mail, March 6, 1913.

because the practice in the nineteenth century was for prizes to be given for all levels of competition and for all sports. Rowing and baseball were probably the first two sports to be organized at the openly professional level, and the influence in this direction appeared to spread northward into Canada from the United States. This certainly was true of baseball. Professional baseball leagues were operating in Canada well before 1900, and their practices probably influenced lacrosse, hockey, track and field, cycling and football in considering the introduction of the professional athlete. The evidence leads to the hypothesis that the American influence was the main factor in the spread of professionalism into Canadian athletics.

In 1900 professional lacrosse was well established in British Columbia and Manitoba, as well as in parts of Ontario and Quebec. The C.A.A.U. fought this rising phenomenon with a great number of suspensions, but these were to no avail, as, in 1904, the Minto Cup (supposedly for Canada's top amateur team) was won by the Montreal Shamrocks, who openly declared themselves to be professional.³⁵ Lacrosse continued to develop in popularity and, prior to the war, was probably one of the leading spectator sports in Canada. But the professional game, by 1914, developed into a "blood bath" and the public became disenchanted. In fact after the war the professional game could not be revived. Even the amateur game waned and lost much of its support.

Rowing was Canada's most successful international professional sport, with athletes such as Edward Hanlan of Toronto, the world professional singles champion from 1880-1884, and Jacob Gaudaur of Orillia, Ontario, who held the title from 1896 to 1901.³⁶ These colourful athletes captured the imagination of the Canadian public, but the twentieth century witnessed the triumph of amateurism when such athletes as Lou Scholes of Toronto, who won the Diamond Sculls at the Henley Regatta, England, in 1904³⁷ and E. B. Butler of Toronto, who won a bronze medal in the 1912 Olympic Games,³⁸ came to the fore and captured public imagination. Professional rowing continued for some years into the twentieth century, with Eddie Duman of Toronto, nephew of the famous "Ned" Hanlan, holding the professional championship of America for many years. But professional rowing in Canada was to decline and increasingly bowed to the dominance of the amateur code.

Professional track and field, or more correctly marathon running in Canada, was influenced by Alfie Shrubbs, the world champion professional distance runner from England, in the early years of the twentieth century. But it was Tom Longboat, the Onondaga Indian,

³⁵Howell and Howell. *op cit.*, p. 306.

³⁶Cox. *op. cit.*, p. 318.

³⁷*Manitoba Free Press*, July 7, 1904.

³⁸*Minutes of the 1912 Annual Meeting of the A.A.U. of C.*, p. 5

who captured the public's imagination. He turned professional after the 1908 Olympic Games and influenced many of the top marathon runners in the world to do likewise. They travelled to North America to run in hundreds of races across the continent. This sport reached its peak just prior to the First World War, when crowds of 30,000 were not uncommon at these races. After the war the professional marathon races were not continued to any extent, and this form of track and field, which had increased the public's appreciation of the sport, gave way to amateur athletics.

Cycling was another sport which attracted professional athletes early in its history. By 1900, both professional and amateur events were often held at the same meet, an example of this being the Dominion Championships of that year held in Ottawa.³⁹ This was one of the few sports where this situation was to be found, and it was a matter of some concern to the A.A.U. of C. for many years. Another sporting trend which caused concern was the growth of commercialism in certain sports. This was particularly true of cycling, and a report in the 1912 minutes of the A.A.U. of C. was particularly aimed at the Canada Cycle and Motor Company and the Dunlop Company,⁴⁰ when it stated:

The situation in the Canadian Wheelman's Association as well as developments that have taken place in other branches of sport, have arisen, to a certain extent, through the appearance of commercial interests in sport and the inducements held out by them, in the way of prizes or positions.

It would not be going too far to say that cycling has been more exposed to this class of unfavorable trade attention than other sports.

It is an insidious evil which may appear innocent enough at the commencement. It inevitably, when it assumes a commanding position, breaks down the morale of individuals and clubs brought most immediately into contact with it, and through them opens the avenue for the most flagrant breaches of amateur principle.

Amateur sport should keep at arm's length the commercial element. We have nothing in common with it. Our duty is to supervise the recreation of young men; to protect their interests and to oppose most vigorously anything that threatens the freedom of contest.

³⁹*The Globe and Mail*, June 15, 1900.

⁴⁰*Minutes of the 1912 Annual Meeting of the A.A.U. of C* p. 54.

Commercialism has been appearing more and more in various directions during the past few years. Unless the Union is continually on guard, it is to be feared that its unchecked presence among us may lead to many future difficulties.⁴¹

Women cyclists were attracted to the sport and even into professional ranks by 1900. That year, Miss Lottie Brandon of Peterborough, Ontario, finished only one lap behind Miss Marguerite Gast of Brooklyn at the Clermont Avenue rink in Brooklyn, New York, in the six-day event. Miss Gast covered 575 miles and 6 laps during the race.⁴² Archie McEachern of Toronto was one of Canada's most famous professional cyclists in 1900 and, on December 31, 1900, it was reported that he won the 25 mile championship of the World at Boston.⁴³ In 1902, he broke the world's five mile record in Philadelphia in the time of 7 minutes, 52-2/5 seconds.⁴⁴ Unfortunately for Canada and the sport of cycling, McEachern was killed later that year in an accident while training in Atlantic City.⁴⁵ Canada was not able to produce another top professional cyclist until in 1917, when Arthur Spencer *won* the United States Professional Championship from Frank Kramer, who had held the title for sixteen years.⁴⁶

The Canadian Wheelman's Association (C.W.A.) was in constant conflict with the A.A.U. of C., and, in 1912, secretary Norton H. Crow issued the following statement:

On October 19th a combined professional and amateur bicycle meet was held under C.W.A. sanction at Toronto, and again later in October, at the new Arena, a professional six-day race was held under the jurisdiction of the C.W.A., and was handled by C.W.A. officials. Professional riders, refused reinstatement by the Union, have secured licenses to ride from the C.W.A.⁴⁷

This animosity between these two organizations had abated by 1919 and, in that year the C.W.A. affiliated with the A.A.U. of C.⁴⁸ Under amateur influence the professional side of the sport lost most of its popularity in Canada.

Hockey appeared to follow the trend of lacrosse in this period, and in 1900 the sports pages often contained items such as - "The O.H.A. suspended the Guelph Nationals last night for playing non-resident players (not lived in Guelph since November 1st). Also the club was

⁴¹*Ibid.*, p. 10.

⁴²*Manitoba Free Press*, November 26, 1900.

⁴³*The Globe and Mail*, December 31, 1900.

⁴⁴*Ibid.*, January 27, 1902.

⁴⁵*Ibid.*, May 14, 1902.

⁴⁶*Ibid.*, July 2, 1917.

⁴⁷*Minutes of the 1912 Annual Meeting of the A.A.U. of C.*, p. 17.

⁴⁸*Minutes of the 1912 Annual Meeting of the A.A.U. of C.*, p.18

conducted on a professional basis.”⁴⁹ The first openly-stated professional team was not formed in Canada but in Houghton, Michigan, during the winter of 1903-4, but it was not long before professional hockey teams were widespread throughout Canada.⁵⁰ By 1904 professional teams had a Federal Hockey League comprised of the Ottawa Senators, Ottawa Capitals and Montreal Shamrocks.⁵¹ This became the International Professional Hockey League in the following year.⁵² In 1908, when the Montreal Wanderers won the Stanley Cup and then declared themselves a professional team, the trustees of the trophy announced that in future the Cup was to be for the best team in Canada - amateur or professional.⁵³

In order to be successful a professional hockey team required a great number of club supporters, who could best be attained in large cities. The requirement of a large urban population plus the growing strength of the A.A.U. of C. branches in the Maritime and Prairie provinces, caused professional hockey teams in those areas to be much weaker than the Eastern and Western teams by 1910. This was to be the continuing trend for hockey, as by 1920, amateur or semi-professional leagues were very popular in the smaller cities, while Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver were the only areas in Canada which could support a successful professional team.

Canadian football, by 1920, was still amateur in name, and the first openly-stated professional team was not to appear until the 1930's, and a professional league not until the 1950's.⁵⁴ However, at the turn of the century, players were constantly being suspended, and in some cases reinstated, for various reasons, the chief one being professionalism. “Chaucer” Elliott, in 1900, was reinstated as an amateur by the Ontario Rugby Football Union after careful consideration of his case.⁵⁵

As professionalism increased, amateur organizations increased their pressure against them and, in 1907, after Montreal defeated the Toronto Argonauts 17-8, the C.A.A.U. disqualified both teams “for playing with or against Ernie Russell who was ineligible.” The Argonauts Rowing Club were so upset with their football team that they disowned them.⁵⁶ A later report indicated that the football club would call themselves the Torontos and would withdraw from the C.A.A.U.⁵⁷

Such was the state of affairs in football that, at the 1908 C.A.A.U.

⁴⁹*The Globe and Mail*, January 18, 1900.

⁵⁰Howell and Howell. *op. cit.*, p. 206

⁵¹*The Globe and Mail*, January 15, 1904.

⁵²W. V. (Bill) Roche (ed.), *The Hockey Book*. (Toronto: 1953), p. 16.

⁵³J. M. Gibbons, *Our Old Montreal* (Toronto: 1947). p. 239.

⁵⁴Frank Cosentino, “A History of Canadian Football 1909-1968.” Unpublished M.A. Thesis, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969.

⁵⁵*The Globe and Mail*, October 26, 1900.

⁵⁶*Ibid.*, October 7, 1907.

⁵⁷*Ibid.*, October 12, 1907.

annual meeting, much time was taken up discussing cases of football players accused of professionalism. The annual report later listed three players who were declared professional; thirteen players whose applications for reinstatement were rejected; sixteen players who were suspended for competing in unsanctioned games and thirty-seven players who were reinstated.⁵⁸ An article in *the Edmonton Bulletin* aptly described the situation as it existed in that period:

Talk of War in Rugby—Take rugby for instance. Three senior organizations, the Intercollegiate, Interprovincial and Ontario unions, have been in existence for some years. . . . Now, the latter union is endeavouring to invade the territory of the Interprovincial League, and the ultimate “war” must result. It will be costly to both clubs and at the same time create a condition of affairs that should not exist. Dickering for the services of a star player of another club is not the true amateur spirit and there is little doubt but that the competition for players between the clubs will lead to professionalism of the rankest sort . . .⁵⁹

Other Canadian sports had professional players and leagues within their ranks during the period. Boxing and wrestling seemingly always had athletes who wanted to use their physical skill as a means of gaining “pecuniary benefit,” and their fortunes were to rise and fall along with the social acceptance of these sports. In golf and, later, skiing, professionals were regarded as necessary for those sports to flourish.

Professional ten-pin bowling tournaments were organized in Toronto by 1908, but were of a minor nature in these early days.⁶⁰ Even as early as 1900 criticism had been directed “at the detrimental effects on curling of the competitive quest for trophies and prizes, which some felt approached professionalism.”⁶¹

The twenty years from 1900 to 1920 were marked by a rising amateur movement which swept many sports into “respectability”. Finally came the rise of a few professional sports such as hockey, baseball, lacrosse and later football. What was the reason for this rise of the amateur movement? The most likely answer to this question was to be found in the acceptance of the Olympic Games. Canada displayed no interest in the 1896 or 1900 Games, but the growth of internationalism in Canadian society forced a change in this attitude, and Canada was represented at St. Louis in 1904 with considerable success, though with little organization. The growth of the Canadian Olympic Committee and the A.A.U. of C. produced rapid changes,

⁵⁸*Minutes of the 1908 Annual Meeting of the C. A. A. U.* pp. 30-1.

⁵⁹*Edmonton Bulletin*. September 21, 1912.

⁶⁰*The Globe and Mail*. September 1, 1908.

⁶¹Howell and Howell, *op cit.*, p. 176.

and Canada's teams for the 1908 and 1912 Olympic Games were probably the most successful to ever represent this country.

The First World War produced some major changes associated with Canadian sports. Sportsmen's Battalions were formed and produced some remarkable teams during the early years of the war, and amateurs and professionals were permitted to play on the same teams without a loss of status.⁶² Many proposals were presented after the war to reinstate any returned soldier to amateur ranks,⁶³ but this was eventually refused by the A.A.U. of C. The Alberta Branch of the A.A.U. of C. were so incensed by this action that they decided to "whitewash all athletes in the province dating from May 17, 1919-irrespective of what action the A.A.U. of C. may take."⁶⁴

The war also appeared to be the starting point for sporting trends which would influence Canadian sport for the next half century, at least. Cricket and lacrosse never regained their pre-war position and quickly faded into obscurity, while the minor professional sports such as rowing, cycling and track and field returned to the amateur code. The major sports of hockey, baseball and football were able to survive the war and prosper. But the die was cast. Major sports would remain professional, football later became so, while all other sports would fall under the dominance of the A.A.U. of C. or its influence. Baseball was the only exception to this 1920 trend. It would later lose its popularity, only to be revived in 1969.

⁶²*The Globe and Mail*. May 26, 1916.

⁶³*Manitoba Free Press*. December 6, 1918.

⁶⁴*Edmonton Bulletin*. May 19, 1919.