

Saskatchewan Soccer: A Story of Prairie Immigration

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The history of Saskatchewan soccer is a reflection of a pioneer society and, perhaps more than any other sport, parallels the province's socio-economic patterns. The prosperous and depressed times that the province has witnessed have been closely mirrored by soccer. Good times' for Saskatchewan as a whole usually meant boom times for soccer, while during hard times' the reverse was true.

Directly linked to the prosperity of Saskatchewan and its soccer scene was the influx of immigrants. Whenever Saskatchewan was the recipient of a wave of immigrants, the well-being of the province, and therefore soccer, was, in most instances, improved. Soccer was usually the main sporting activity of the immigrant. Unlike hockey, basketball, football and baseball, soccer was a game whose development had occurred outside of North America. When the European immigrants arrived in Saskatchewan, it was only natural that their beloved game would come with them.

With the knowledge that the immigrant to Saskatchewan was the main proponent of soccer it becomes easy to decipher the time periods in which the game was at its highest and lowest ebbs. Saskatchewan's latter territorial days, its inaugural decade as a province, the "roaring 20's," and the mid 50's to 1960 were all periods in which soccer was expanding. Conversely, the years encompassing the First and Second World Wars, the Depression and those immediately following World War II marked the low eras of the game.