

Hockey in Nineteenth Century Montréal: The emergence of French-Canadian Organizations

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A further search through some archives is needed. There is a lack of a comprehensive history of Canadian sport upon the role of Francophones, and this study is one of the few concerning this history.

Many questions are raised from this study, and this paper will not pretend to answer them all. One objective is to reaffirm the conclusion of my master's thesis that said that francophones got involved in hockey through the help of Irishmen who were students in the classical colleges with French

Canadian. Another one is to seek the background of French players before they entered the Intermediate Canadian Amateur Hockey League in 1901.

The latter study involves a complete survey of English and French newspapers of Montréal from the 1885 to the 1901 hockey seasons. All the teams' line-ups and most of boards of directors are retrieved. From these data, it is possible to follow individuals, teams and leagues in every season. Also, any data regarding conflicts and cooperation between the two linguistic groups in the newspapers are collected. All types of hockey organizations are used, being a league or a challenge, from junior to senior levels, from school to university, and sporting clubs as well as retail stores and industry teams.

This paper is based upon two of the author's projects. The first was a master's thesis completed in 1986 at the University of Windsor ("The Cultural Diffusion of Hockey in Montréal, 1890-1910", MHK Thesis, University of Windsor, 1986). The other is a Ph.D. thesis currently being done at Laval University. The data collected during these studies would establish the organizational structure of hockey in Montréal at the end of the 19th century, and particularly the place of Francophones as players and directors in these organizations.

When the first French teams were organized, we can use this newspaper survey to tell who were the people involved in the formation of these teams, their background in hockey and the teams they competed against. Although these teams were not formed until 1895, by 1901 two main organizations competed against each other and against some of the top hockey teams. Before 1895, many individuals were involved in hockey, and it is possible to see their connections with Anglophones that would last up to 1901, and beyond.