



# 1936 North Shore Indians Lacrosse Team

The North Shore Indians team was described by sports columnist Jim Coleman "as the greatest drawing card in the history of lacrosse". Wearing white jerseys emblazoned with a large Indian headdress, the players were renowned for their exciting play and exceptional stick skills.

Sellout crowds of over 10,000 packed Denman Arena to watch the North Shore Indians vanquish the powerful New Westminster Salmonbellies for top spot in the league.

The North Shore Indians team represented the West in the 1936 National Lacrosse Championships held at Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto. They battled the two-time defending Mann Cup champions, the Orillia Terriers for the Cup. In a hard-fought best-of-four series, the Terriers overcame the Indians by taking the series three games to one.

The celebrated North Shore Indians team was composed entirely of First Nations lacrosse players. Dominic, Henry, Ray and Simon Baker were

just a few of the team's many athletes from the Squamish Nation. Other teammates, such as Louie Lewis and Cec Vanevery were members of the Six Nations in Ontario and had been wooed from the East.

With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the North Shore Indians franchise was suspended. In 1945 the team was revived as the PNE Indians, coaxing former stars out of retirement. The team folded in 1957.

The 'Indians' name has been used since 1969 in the Senior B lacrosse league where many of the nephews, cousins, grandsons and great-grandsons of players from the great 1936 team now play.

## 1936 Team Members:

**Henry Baker, Ray Baker, Simon Baker, Dominic Baker, Joe Johnston, Stan Joseph, Moses Joseph, Louie Lewis, Cec Vanevery, Harry Newman, Hubey Smith, Stew Bomberry, Gayland Thomas, L. Smith, Fred Johnston, Fred August, Earl Newman, Ted Band, Cliff Paull, Tommy Cole, Victor Guerin, Oscar Bomberry, Harry Smith**