

LACROSSE GROWING IN LOCAL INTEREST.

Resume of Games Played by
Crescent Athletic Club Dur-
ing Past Season.

LOCAL TEAM BEST IN COUNTRY.

Development of Prowess in the Canadian
Game Has Been Rapid During the
Last Ten Years.

The crowds who visited the Bay Ridge grounds of the Crescent Athletic Club during the spring, to watch the lacrosse games, attested ably to the popularity of the Indian game, locally, which popularity is due, almost entirely, to the development of America's champion twelve in the ranks of the Crescent Athletic Club.

The past season presented the most interesting lacrosse programme yet arranged for the enjoyment of local enthusiasts. Manager Doyle had scheduled fifteen games for the season, beginning on April 8 and closing with the last championship game at Buffalo, on July 4.

The list included trying out games for the juniors against Swarthmore College and Johns Hopkins University.

Nearly all of the games were played upon the Bay Ridge grounds, which gave the thousands in this vicinity, who have through the efforts of the Crescent Athletic Club, become interested in the Canadian game, an opportunity to witness the majority of the contests.

On April 8, in the opening game of the season, Stevens Institute was defeated by 8 goals to 3. Two weeks later the Crimson banner was lowered to the Crescent emblem, Harvard scoring 4 goals to 8 for the local twelve.

On the same day the Crescent second team yielded to Johns Hopkins by a score of 2 goals to 1.

Again on Monday twelves were put in the field, Hobart College being defeated here by 8 to 3, while the juniors took a trip to Swarthmore and lost a hotly contested game by 2 goals to 3 for the collegians.

A week later Stevens Institute was given its second beating, the final score being 5 goals to 1; while, on May 18, in the most one-sided game of the season, the College of the City of New York failed to make a single basket, the Crescent twelve rolling up 11 goals.

A return game was played at Cambridge on May 25, the Harvard varsity twelve being taken into camp by 6 goals to 1.

The first international games of the year took place on May 30 and June 1.

The visiting twelve of Toronto University were hospitably received and entertained, but inhospitably defeated by scores of 7 to 2 and 8 to 1.

A week later the Montreal Lacrosse Club team met a like fate, the "new moon" representatives scoring 8 goals, while the visitors' efforts against the strong defense of the locals resulted in only 2 goals.

On June 15, for the first time in the season, the Crescent senior twelve met defeat, the champion Shamrocks of Montreal winning from them in a spectacular contest by 9 goals to 5.

This was the closing game of the local season.

The championship games were held at Buffalo, in connection with the exposition, early in July.

The Crescent team won from the Rangers of Rochester and the Seneca Indians by respective scores of 8 to 1 and 4 to 2.

The final game, against the Capitals of Ottawa, resulted in a victory for the Canadians by 7 goals to 3.

After the close of the local season, Manager Doyle took an extended trip through

Canada, the home of the game, with the double object of seeing the representative teams of that country in field play and making partial arrangements for the coming season. He discovered that the fame of the Crescents as excellent players and hospitable entertainers was spread from border to border of the north land and he was able to enter upon negotiations with the best twelves for contests during the coming season.

In Canada the growing boys play the game as our youngsters play base ball. Consequently, there is no lack of lacrosse material.

The Crescent Athletic Club, however, in developing the game, has been obliged to depend wholly upon players trained in the club, and upon recruits whom the game attracted.

The leading exponent of lacrosse in America, ten years ago, was the New York Athletic Club, whose twelve was undefeated in 1891, winning the A. A. U. championship. Several members of this team were Brooklynites, and, in 1892, they took up the game under the emblem of the Crescent Athletic Club, forming the nucleus of the team.

L. J. Doyle, C. H. Roberts, G. W. Gilmore, Dr. Bush and Emory McLean were the first Crescent players of note.

In 1892 the strong Staten Island Athletic Club went out of existence, and from their ranks C. C. Miller, J. P. Curry, L. Moses, jr., and Giles Whitney, all able wielders of the net, were added to the playing strength of the local twelve.

In those days the game was more spectacular in some ways, but much more wearisome to the players, more running and longer passing obtaining than in the game as developed in recent years.

The local representatives increased consistently in playing strength up to 1897, in which year a trip to England was projected and carried out, thirteen players being taken.

The best English lacrosse organizations were met on the turf, among them being the representative teams of London, Liverpool and Belfast.

Although hampered by the lack of substitutes and the consequent necessity of playing disabled men in some of the games, the Crescent players returned with the creditable record of eight games won, four lost, and two drawn.

Other good players have developed in the club since that year, among them being Charles De Casanova, the captain of the 1901 team; James Garvin, G. H. Jewell, Howard Drakeley, A. Griffin and C. C. Mason.

Among the well known players who learned lacrosse in its home and who, settling here, naturally took up the game in its American stronghold, are R. J. Wall, recently elected captain for the 1902 team; William Dobby, J. S. Kennedy, A. Liffiton, H. McConaghy, Dr. Rose and George Ross.

At present there are several promising players in process of development who will undoubtedly add materially to the playing strength of the Crescent team.

Among these are A. V. Simis, B. A. Kelley, W. R. Bennett, O. Heinigke, L. De Casanova, George Cruise and B. A. Starr.

There is now left in the active ranks of today's Crescent lacrosse twelve only one of the original team, L. J. Doyle, the worthy manager, to whose efforts the success of the organization is largely due.

Others of the older players, who worthily sustain the club's reputation on the field, are C. C. Miller and J. P. Curry.

In the course of the coming season the Crescent twelve will meet the best of the Canadian lacrosse organizations, probably including the Shamrocks of Montreal, the Capitals of Ottawa, the Dufferins of Ontario, the Crescents of Perth and last, but not least, the famous Seneca Indians, whose game at Bay Ridge will undoubtedly attract an audience testing the capacity of the grounds.

The game of lacrosse is increasing in general popularity, even in its home, the cold country to our north.

Upon the recent visit of the Duke of Cornwall and York, heir to the British throne, to Ottawa, he witnessed the game in which the Capitals of that city defeated the Cornwalls of Cornwall for the Minto cup.

His royal highness put the ball in play, and, at the game's close, carried it off as a memento of the occasion.

The older local players can remember when lacrosse games here attracted only a handful of spectators, the game being a mystery to the majority of the club members.

When this picture is contrasted with last season, when nearly every game was watched by enthusiastic thousands, the remarkable increase in popularity, which has attended