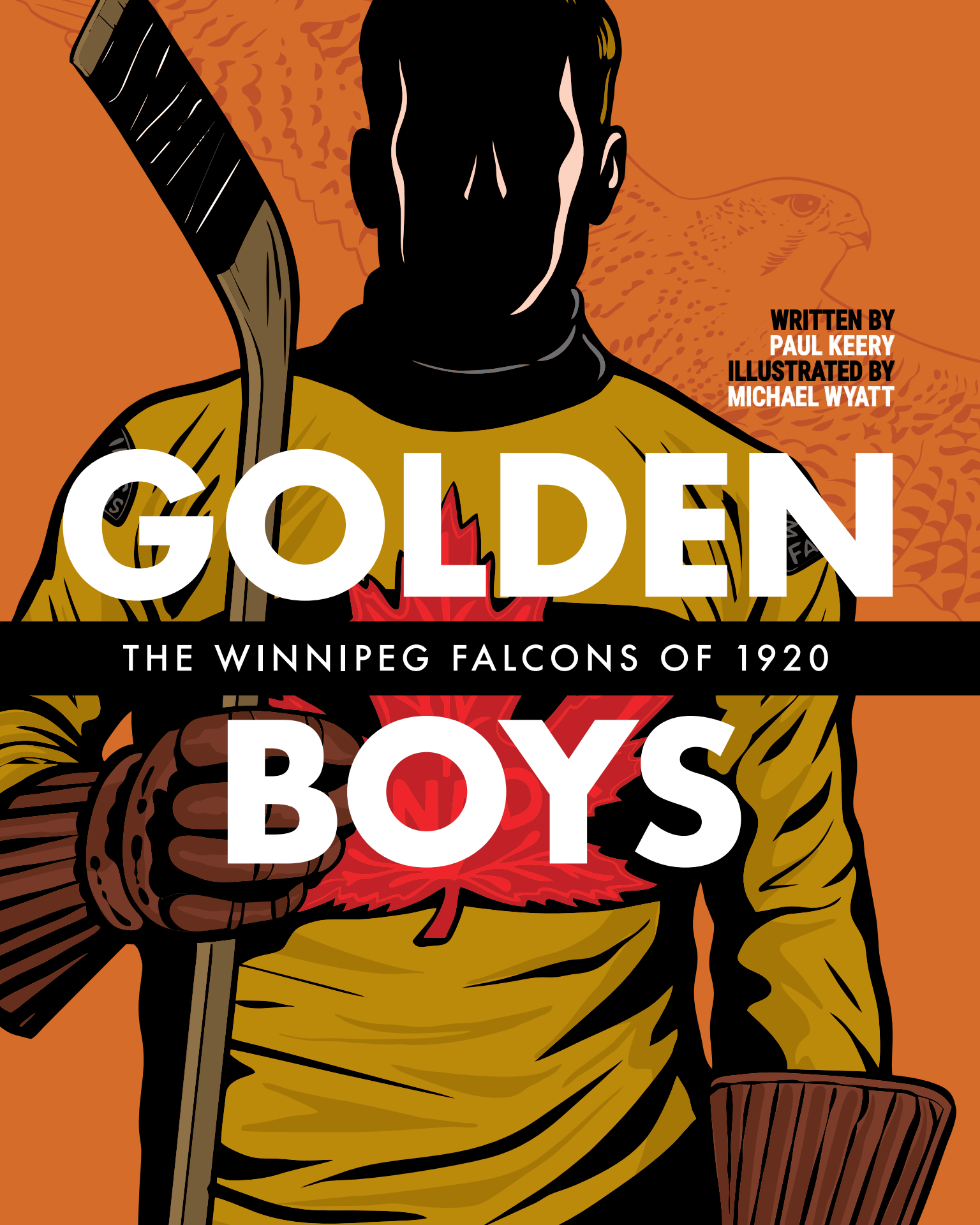




WRITTEN BY
PAUL KEERY
ILLUSTRATED BY
MICHAEL WYATT

GOLDEN

THE WINNIPEG FALCONS OF 1920

BOYS

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TEACHMEDIA

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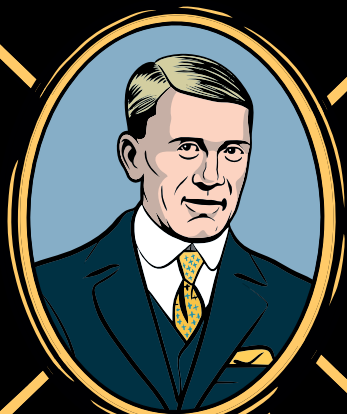
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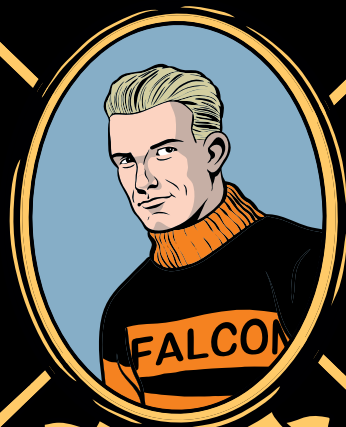
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AXFORD

HERBERT "HEBBIE" AXFORD WAS AN ORIGINAL FALCON, AND THEN BECAME THE TEAM'S PRESIDENT. AXFORD FOUGHT ANTI-ICELANDIC BIGOTRY TO WIN HIS TEAM A PLACE IN THE WINNIPEG SENIOR LEAGUES AND GUIDED THEM TO THE ALLAN CUP AND 1920 OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIP.



BENSON

BOBBY BENSON PLAYED LEFT DEFENCE. HE STARTED PLAYING HOCKEY AT 15. ANOTHER ORIGINAL FALCON, HE PLAYED FOR THE FALCONS FOR HIS ENTIRE CAREER.



BYRON

WALLY BYRON GUARDED THE FALCONS' NET. HE FIRST PLAYED WITH THE INTERMEDIATE FALCONS IN 1913-1914 AND JOINED THE SENIOR FALCONS ON THE 223RD BATTALION TEAM IN 1916-1917.



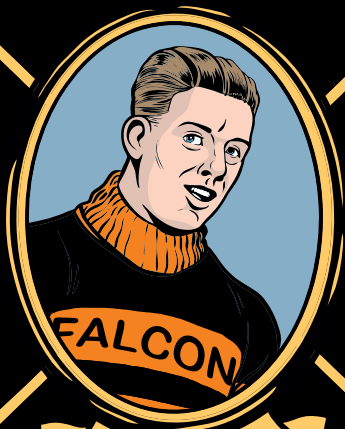
FREDRICKSON

FRANK FREDRICKSON WAS THE TEAM'S CENTRE. HE WAS THE TEAM CAPTAIN AND WAS SEEN AS ONE OF THE BEST WINNIPEG-BORN HOCKEY PLAYERS OF ALL TIME. HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TWO PLAYERS TO WIN BOTH AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL AND THE STANLEY CUP. FREDRICKSON FINISHED HIS CAREER PLAYING WITH DETROIT IN THE NHL.



FRIDFINNSON

CHRIS FRIDFINNSON WAS A SUBSTITUTE FORWARD. HE PLAYED WITH THE VIMY TEAM IN THE MILITARY LEAGUE AND THE WINNIPEG MONARCHS BEFORE JOINING THE FALCONS.



GOODMAN

MIKE GOODMAN WAS THE 1920 CANADIAN SPEED SKATING CHAMPION. HE BROUGHT THAT EXPLOSIVE SPEED TO THE FALCONS, WHERE HE WAS KNOWN FOR HIS SUPERB BACK-CHECKING AND HIS "CORKSCREW" RUSHES.



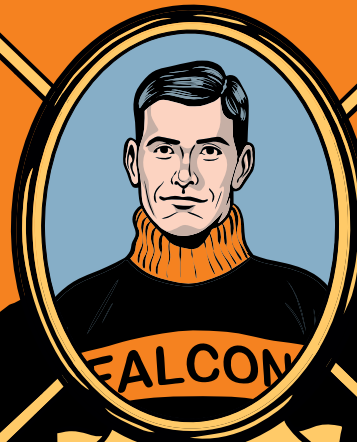
HALDERSON

HALLIE "SLIM" HALDERSON PLAYED LEFT WING. HE STARTED PLAYING SENIOR HOCKEY WITH YPRES IN THE MILITARY LEAGUE. HE ALSO PLAYED FOR THE MONARCHS BEFORE HE JOINED THE FALCONS. "SLIM" WAS NOTED FOR HIS KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY AND WAS CONSIDERED THE "MATINEE IDOL" OF THE TEAM.



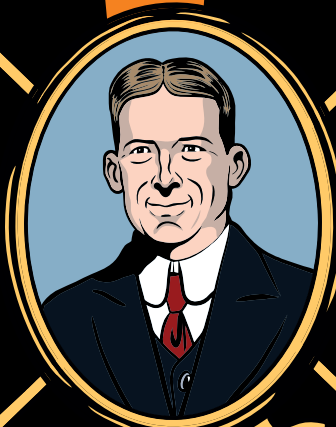
JOHANNESSEN

KONNIE JOHANNESSEN WAS THE FALCONS' GIANT RIGHT DEFENCEMAN. HE WAS A GIFTED SHOT-BLOCKER AND POSSESSED A POWERFUL SHOT. KONNIE BEGAN HIS FALCONS CAREER AS A SPARE ON THE INDEPENDENT LEAGUE TEAM, THEN STARTED PLAYING REGULARLY WITH THE 223RD BATTALION TEAM.



WOODMAN

ALLAN "HUCK" WOODMAN WAS THE FALCONS' OTHER SUB FORWARD. HE BROKE INTO SENIOR HOCKEY WITH THE FALCONS IN 1919-1920, AND HAD A TERRIFIC SHOT.



MAXWELL

FRED "STEAMER" MAXWELL WAS THE FALCONS' MANAGER (COACH TODAY). MAXWELL WAS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT HOCKEY SKILLS AND STRATEGY, AND WAS MASTERFUL AT HANDLING THE TEAM DURING GAMES.

CANADIANS OF ICELANDIC
DESCENT HAVE A LONG
AND PROUD HISTORY.

INDOMITABLE LIKE
ICELAND'S GYRFALCON,
THEY HAVE MET EVERY
CHALLENGE WITH
GRACE AND COURAGE.

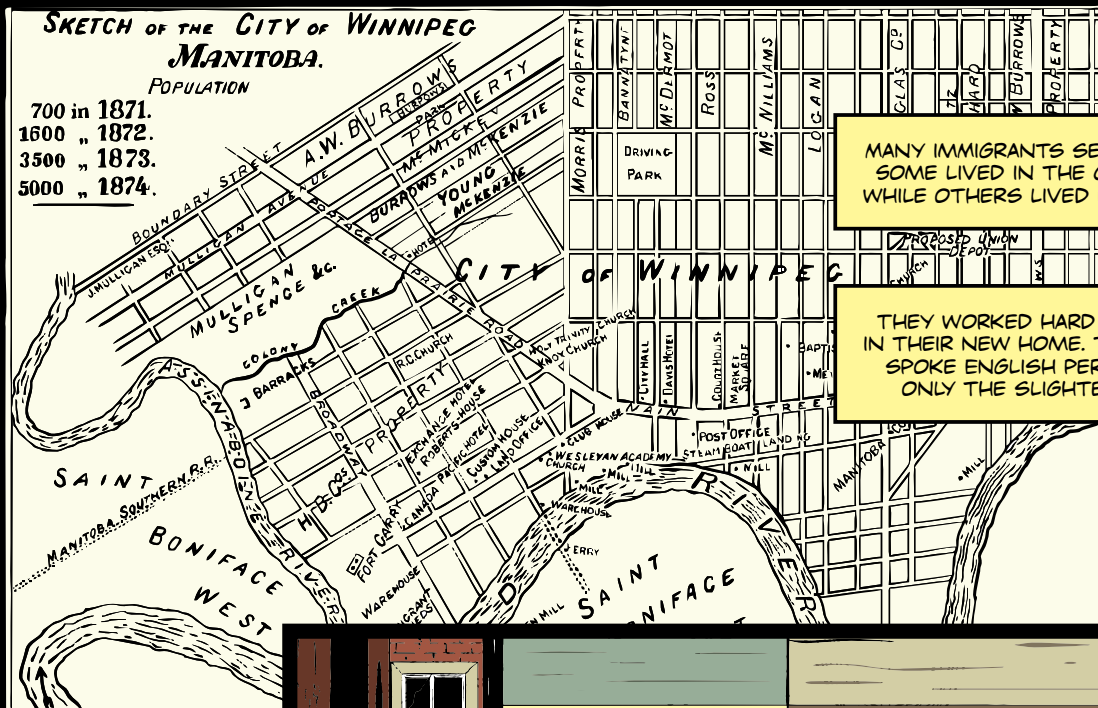
ICELANDIC-CANADIANS FIRST BEGAN
IMMIGRATING TO MANITOBA IN THE LATE 1800S.



SKETCH OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG MANITOBA.

POPULATION

700 in 1871.
1600 " 1872.
3500 " 1873.
5000 " 1874.



MANY IMMIGRANTS SETTLED IN WINNIPEG. SOME LIVED IN THE CITY'S NORTH END WHILE OTHERS LIVED IN SOUTH WINNIPEG.

THEY WORKED HARD AND DID WELL IN THEIR NEW HOME. THEIR CHILDREN SPOKE ENGLISH PERFECTLY, WITH ONLY THE SLIGHTEST ACCENT.

ICELANDIC-CANADIANS CALLED THEMSELVES "ISLENDINGUR." BUT SOME BIGOTTED AND ENVIOUS WINNIPEGGERS CORRUPTED THIS INTO THE INSULTING TERM, "GOOLIES."

THE ICELANDERS' NEIGHBOURHOOD WAS CALLED "GOOLIE TOWN" WHILE SARGENT AVENUE (THE AREA'S MAIN STREET) BECAME "GOOLIE CRESCENT."

GOOLIES!
DIRTY GOOLIES!

THE ICELANDERS WANTED TO PLAY HOCKEY, AS MANY CANADIANS DID, BUT THE RESENTMENT OF THE OTHER WINNIPEGGERS WAS VERY STRONG. THEY REFUSED TO LET THE ICELANDERS JOIN ANY OF THEIR HOCKEY TEAMS.



UNDETERRED, THE ICELANDERS FORMED THEIR OWN TWO TEAMS IN 1897 AND AN INTENSE RIVALRY QUICKLY FORMED BETWEEN THEM.

THE ICELANDIC ATHLETIC CLUB (IAC) WAS MADE UP OF PLAYERS FROM THE NORTH END OF WINNIPEG. THEY WORE BLUE SWEATERS.



WHILE THE VIKINGS TEAM WAS COMPRISED OF PLAYERS FROM WINNIPEG'S SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD. THEY WORE RED SWEATERS.

BUT AS THE PLAYERS AGED AND LEFT THE TEAMS, FEWER YOUNGER ONES WERE JOINING. BY 1908, THERE WERE ONLY ENOUGH PLAYERS TO FORM ONE ICELANDIC CLUB. WHAT TO DO?



THE REMAINING PLAYERS DECIDED TO FORM ONE TEAM—THE WINNIPEG FALCONS—NAMED AFTER ICELAND'S NATIONAL BIRD.

THE TEAM, HOWEVER, HAD A NEW PROBLEM: FINDING A LEAGUE TO PLAY IN. OTHER HOCKEY CLUBS IN WINNIPEG STILL REFUSED TO PLAY WITH THEM.

THE FALCONS WERE EVENTUALLY ALLOWED TO PLAY AGAINST JUNIOR OR INTERMEDIATE TEAMS, BUT THEY WANTED TO PLAY AGAINST THOSE AT THEIR SENIOR LEVEL TOO.

1912 - 13 SCHEDULE

Nov. 5th	Brandon	a.
	A.A.A.	h.
		a.
		h.

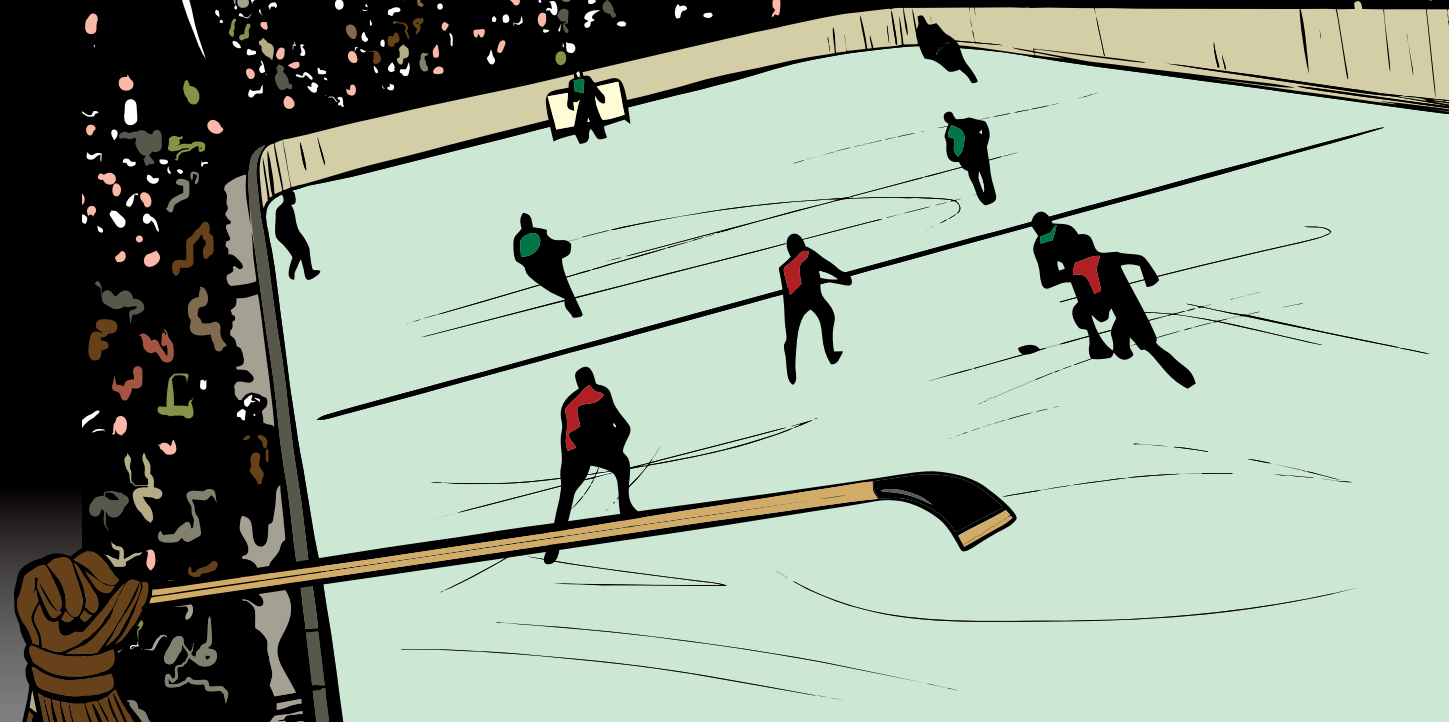
SO THE FALCONS APPLIED TO PLAY IN THE 1910-1911 WINNIPEG SENIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE, BUT THEY WERE ONCE AGAIN REJECTED SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THEIR ETHNICITY. BIGOTRY IN THE CITY WAS STILL STRONG.

Dec. 15th

NOT ABOUT TO GIVE UP, THE FALCONS RESPONDED BY CREATING A NEW LEAGUE MADE UP OF TEAMS FROM KENORA, BRANDON, AND A NEW WINNIPEG AMATEUR ASSOCIATION TEAM. IN 1912, THE FALCONS WON THAT LEAGUE'S CHAMPIONSHIP.



AT THE SAME TIME, THE WINNIPEG VICTORIAS DEFEATED THE TORONTO EATONS TO WIN THE 1912 ALLAN CUP. THE ALLAN CUP WAS NOW THE CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY FOR SENIOR PLAYERS, AS THE STANLEY CUP HAD BECOME THE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS.



AS THEY WATCHED THE GAME, THE FALCONS REALIZED THEY WERE AS GOOD AS THE VICTORIAS. SO THEY APPLIED AGAIN TO PLAY IN THE WINNIPEG SENIOR LEAGUE. SURELY OTHERS HAD TO RECOGNIZE HOW GOOD THE FALCONS WERE BY NOW!



BUT ONCE AGAIN, THEY WERE TURNED DOWN, DESPITE FALCONS PRESIDENT HERBERT AXFORD'S BEST EFFORTS.

UNDETERRED, THE FALCONS ORGANIZED A NEW SENIOR LEAGUE WITH TEAMS IN SELKIRK, PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, AND THE WINNIPEG STRATHCONAS. IT WAS CALLED THE MANITOBA INDEPENDENT LEAGUE.



THE FALCONS WON THE INDEPENDENT LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1915, WHICH EARNED THEM THE CHANCE TO PLAY THE WINNIPEG MONARCHS, WHO WERE THE CHAMPIONS OF THE WINNIPEG SENIOR LEAGUE.



THE FALCONS LOST, BUT WERE FINALLY ADMITTED TO THE SENIOR LEAGUE'S "B" DIVISION FOR THE 1915-1916 SEASON. BUT THEN, IN 1916, THE FALCONS ENLISTED IN THE ARMY.

KAISER DECLARES FOR WAR IS AUSTRIA'S EDICT GREY CAN'T STOP WAR BESIEGE BELGRADE

4 O'CLOCK
EDITION

The Winnipeg Tribune

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 11, 1914
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
PRICE 5 CENTS

"ON TO BELGRADE!" 50,000 AUSTRIAN TROOPS CROSS LINE

CAUSE OF

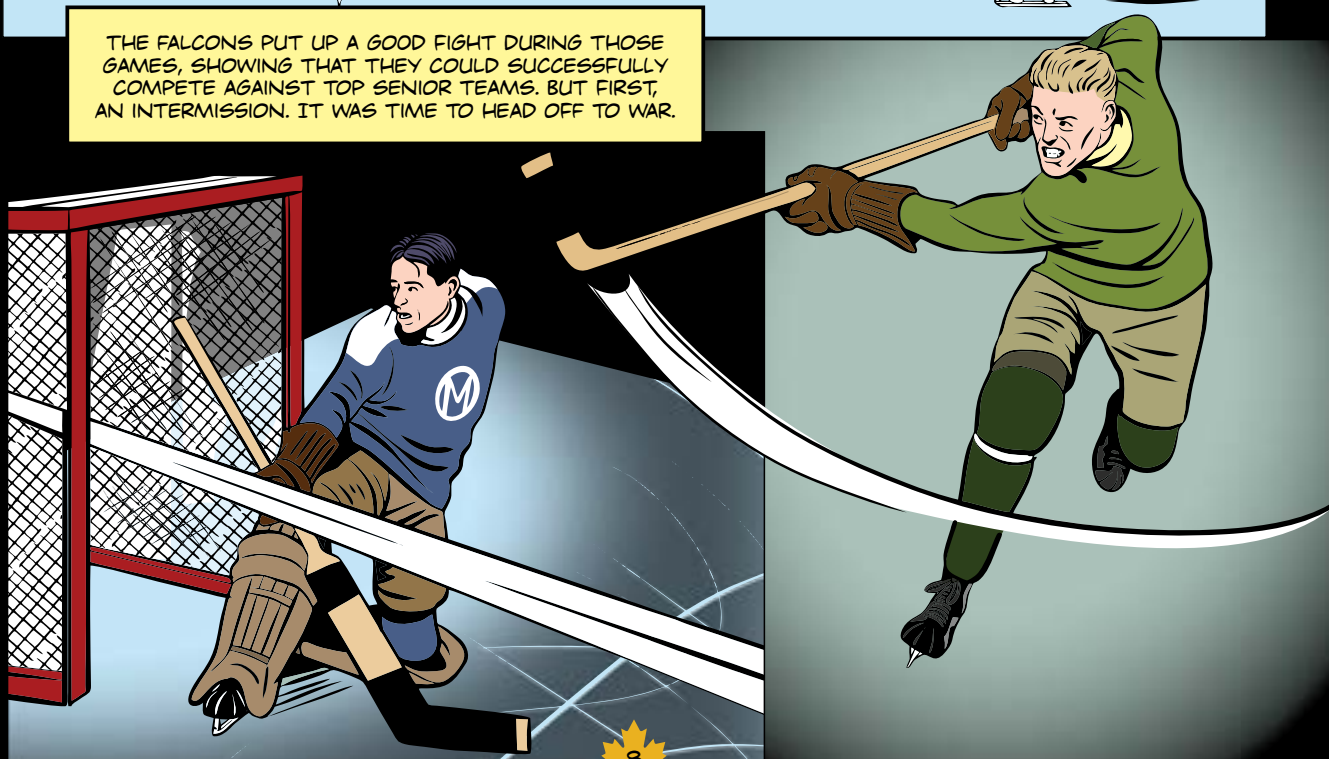
GERMANY LOOSE WAR DOGS ENGLAND FIGHTS FOR PEACE

MEN OF WINNIPEG ENLIST NOW!



BY THAT TIME, THE FIRST WORLD WAR
HAD ALREADY BEEN GOING ON FOR
OVER A YEAR. THE FALCONS WERE
READY TO HELP SERVE THEIR COUNTRY.

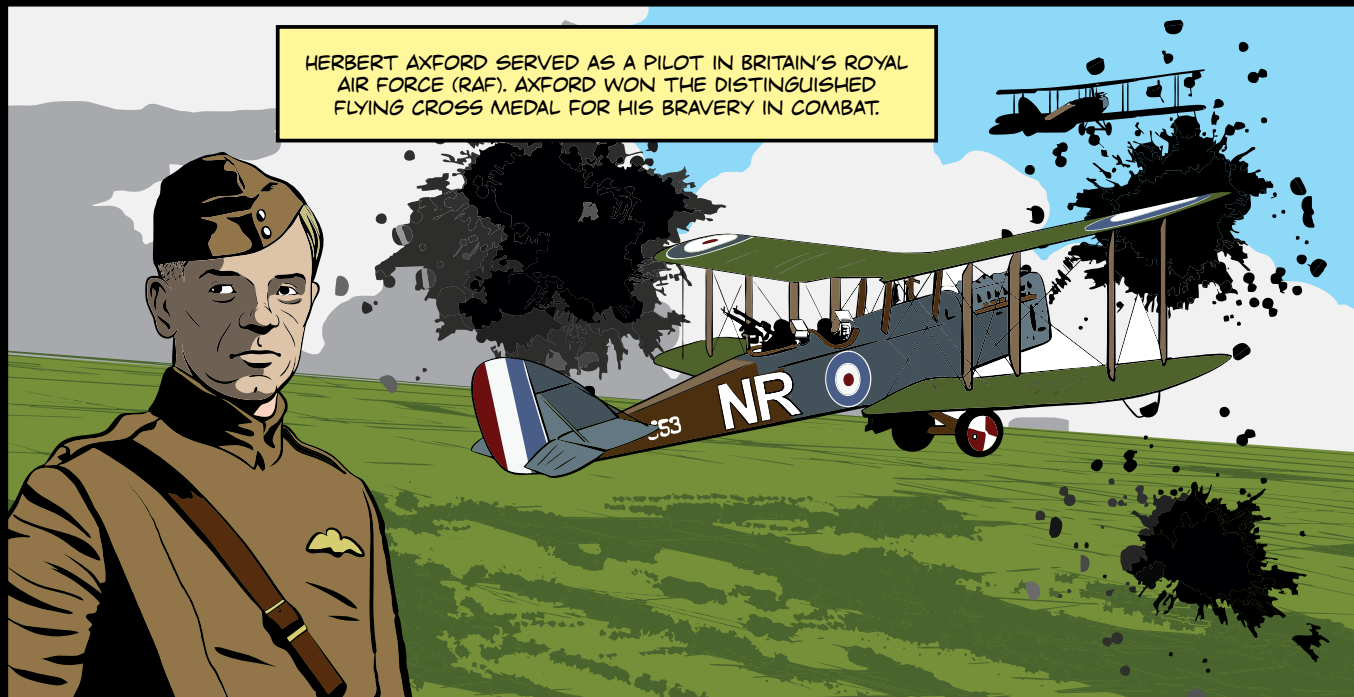




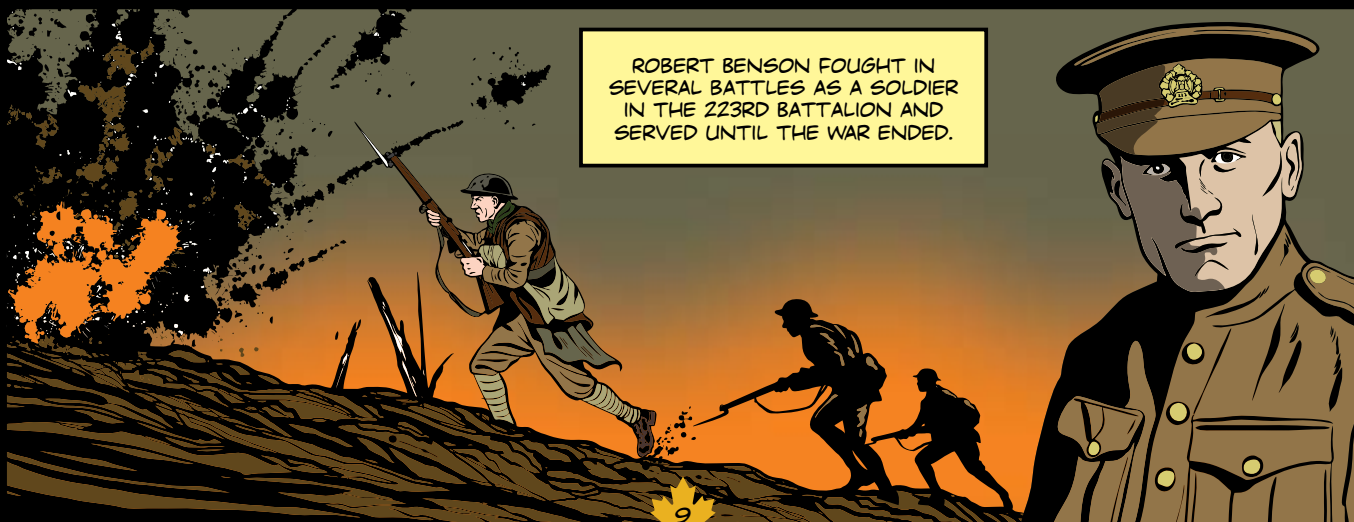
AFTER A TRAIN TRIP TO HALIFAX, THE FALCONS SAILED FOR EUROPE IN APRIL 1917. LITTLE DID THEY KNOW WHAT AWAITED THEM THERE.

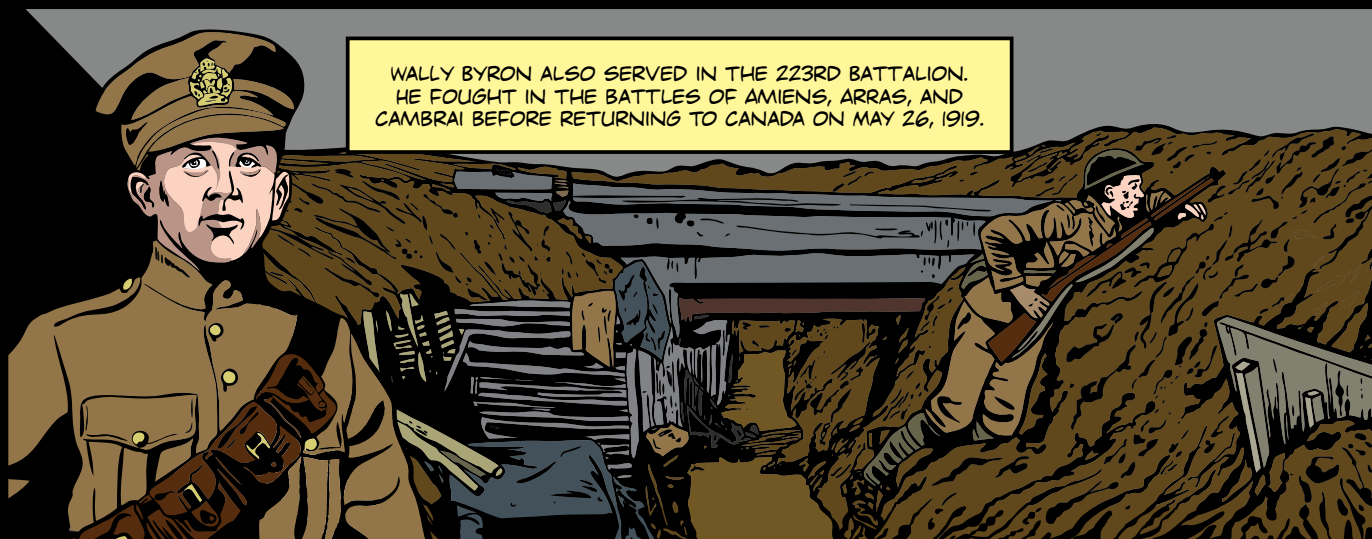


HERBERT AXFORD SERVED AS A PILOT IN BRITAIN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE (RAF). AXFORD WON THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS MEDAL FOR HIS BRAVERY IN COMBAT.

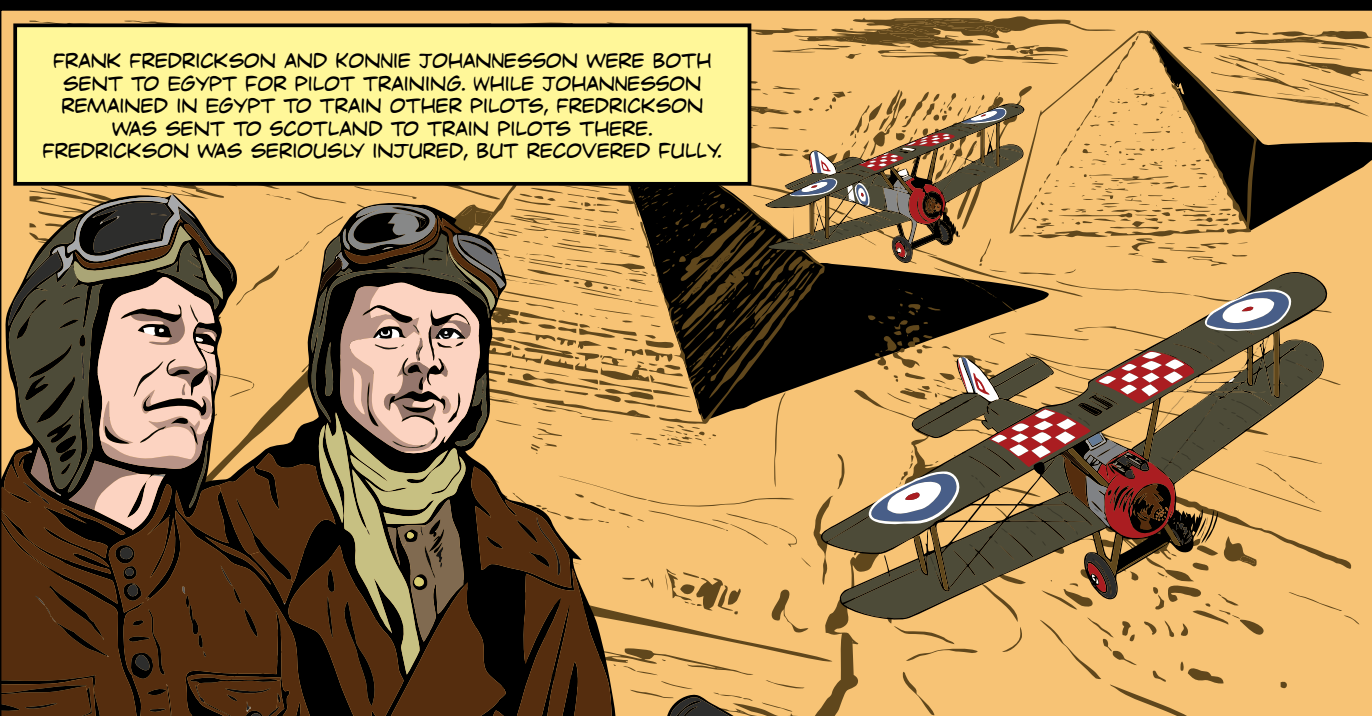


ROBERT BENSON FOUGHT IN SEVERAL BATTLES AS A SOLDIER IN THE 223RD BATTALION AND SERVED UNTIL THE WAR ENDED.





WALLY BYRON ALSO SERVED IN THE 223RD BATTALION. HE FOUGHT IN THE BATTLES OF AMIENS, ARRAS, AND CAMBRAI BEFORE RETURNING TO CANADA ON MAY 26, 1919.

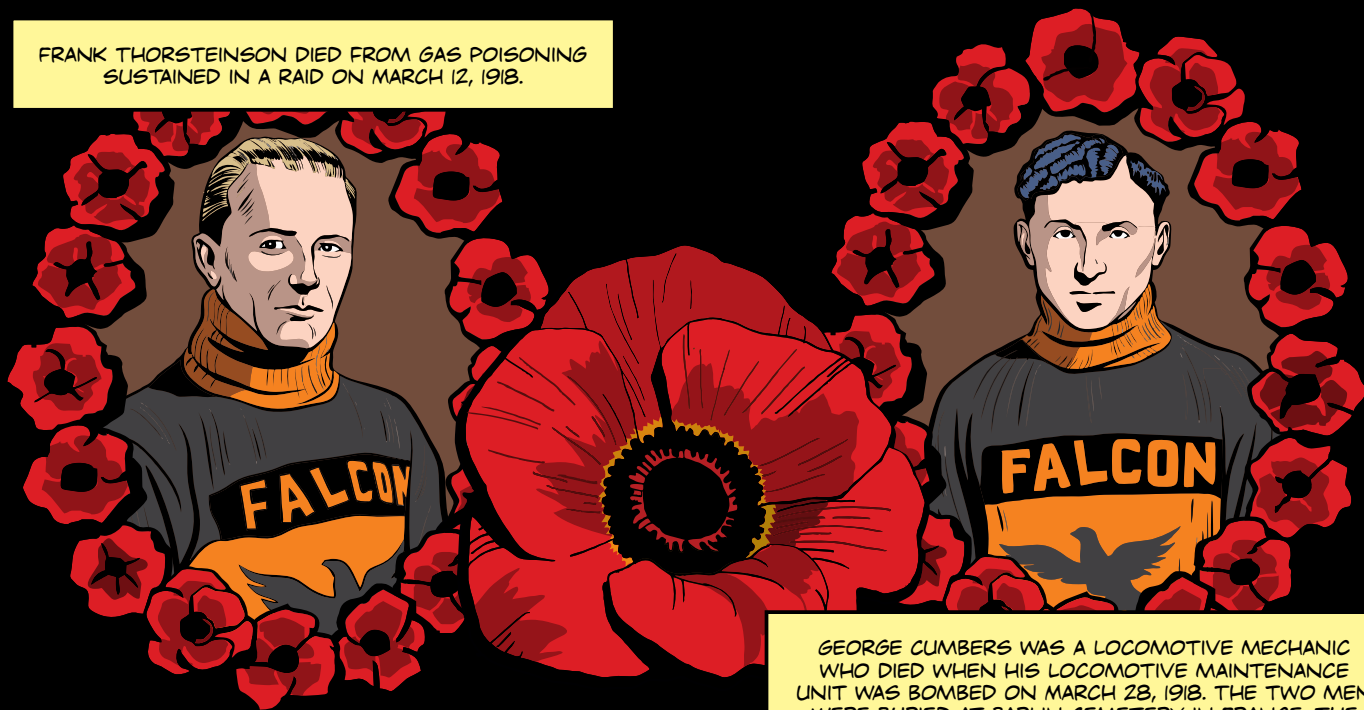


FRANK FREDRICKSON AND KONNIE JOHANNESSON WERE BOTH SENT TO EGYPT FOR PILOT TRAINING. WHILE JOHANNESSON REMAINED IN EGYPT TO TRAIN OTHER PILOTS, FREDRICKSON WAS SENT TO SCOTLAND TO TRAIN PILOTS THERE. FREDRICKSON WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED, BUT RECOVERED FULLY.



GORDON SIGURJONSSON WAS A SERGEANT IN THE 27TH BATTALION OF THE CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, ATTACHED TO THE BRITISH ARMY. HE SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY UNTIL THE ARMISTICE THAT ENDED THE FIGHTING AND THEN SERVED IN OCCUPIED GERMANY.

FRANK THORSTEINSON DIED FROM GAS POISONING
SUSTAINED IN A RAID ON MARCH 12, 1918.



GEORGE CUMBERS WAS A LOCOMOTIVE MECHANIC
WHO DIED WHEN HIS LOCOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE
UNIT WAS BOMBED ON MARCH 28, 1918. THE TWO MEN
WERE BURIED AT BARLIN CEMETERY IN FRANCE. THE
CEMETERY HAS 1000+ GRAVES YET THEY WERE BURIED
CLOSE TO EACH OTHER, ONLY EIGHT PLOTS APART.

AFTER FOUR LONG YEARS, THE WAR WAS OVER.
IT WAS TIME TO GO HOME. BUT WOULD THE
FALCONS STILL FACE PREJUDICE AND EXCLUSION
AFTER THEIR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE?

CANADA TO CELEBRATE SIGNING OF TREATY IN AUGUST

The Winnipeg Evening Tribune

Winnipeg, Saturday, June 28, 1919. Vol. 7, No. 177. Home Edition.



COST OF LIVING PROBLEM
MUST BE SOLVED NOW, OR
GREATER TROUBLE LOOMS

PEG PEACE
FESTIVAL
AUGUST

F.J. Dixon and
Woodsworth
on Bail

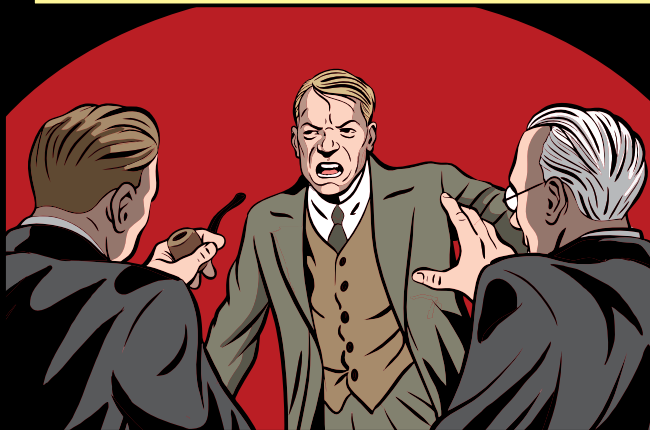
ALL NATIONS
CHINA
GEN

IT WAS TIME FOR THE FALCONS TO START THINKING ABOUT HOCKEY AGAIN. FIRST, THEY NEEDED TO RECRUIT SOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE TEAM. NEWCOMERS "SLIM" HALDERSON, MIKE GOODMAN, AND HUCK WOODMAN JOINED VETERANS FRANK FREDRICKSON, KONNIE JOHANNESSON, BOBBY BENSON, CHRIS FRIDFINNSEN, AND WALLY BYRON. THEY HOPED TO FINALLY PLAY IN THE TOP LEVEL OF THE WINNIPEG SENIOR LEAGUE.

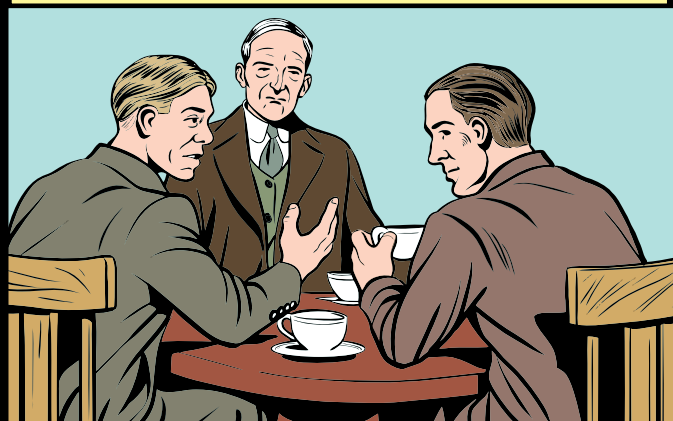


YET AGAIN, BIGOTRY PREVAILED. EVEN AFTER THEIR WARTIME SERVICE, THE OTHER TEAMS STILL THOUGHT THE FALCONS WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH—AS PLAYERS OR PEOPLE—TO PLAY IN THEIR LEAGUE.

SO THE FALCONS DECIDED TO FORM THEIR OWN LEAGUE ONCE MORE. THIS TIME THE SELKIRK FISHERMEN AND BRANDON WHEAT CITY TEAMS AGREED TO JOIN AS WELL.



THE FALCONS, FISHERMEN, AND WHEAT CITY PLAYED IN THE MANITOBA HOCKEY LEAGUE...



...WHILE THE WINNIPEG WINNIPEGS (YES, THAT'S THEIR REAL NAME—WINNIPEGS FOR SHORT), VICTORIAS, AND MONARCHS PLAYED IN THE WINNIPEG HOCKEY LEAGUE.

FALCON

WHEAT CITY

SELKIRK



THE FIRST-PLACE TEAM IN EACH LEAGUE WOULD COMPETE FOR THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ALLAN CUP PLAYOFFS.

THE FALCONS WERE COACHED BY FRED "STEAMER" MAXWELL. HE HAD PLAYED WITH THE WINNIPEG MONARCHS FOR SIX SEASONS, AND EVEN HELPED THEM WIN THE ALLAN CUP IN 1915. HIS COACHING BROUGHT OUT THE BEST IN THE FALCON PLAYERS.

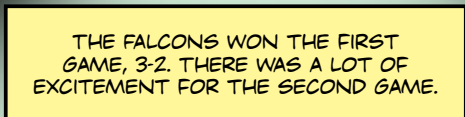


THE FALCONS AND FISHERMEN CLASHED ALL SEASON LONG IN A CLOSE RACE. WHICH TEAM WOULD COME FIRST IN THE STANDINGS?

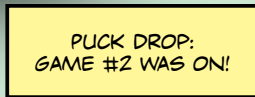
THEIR TWO FINAL HEAD-TO-HEAD GAMES OF THE SEASON WOULD DETERMINE THE WINNER.



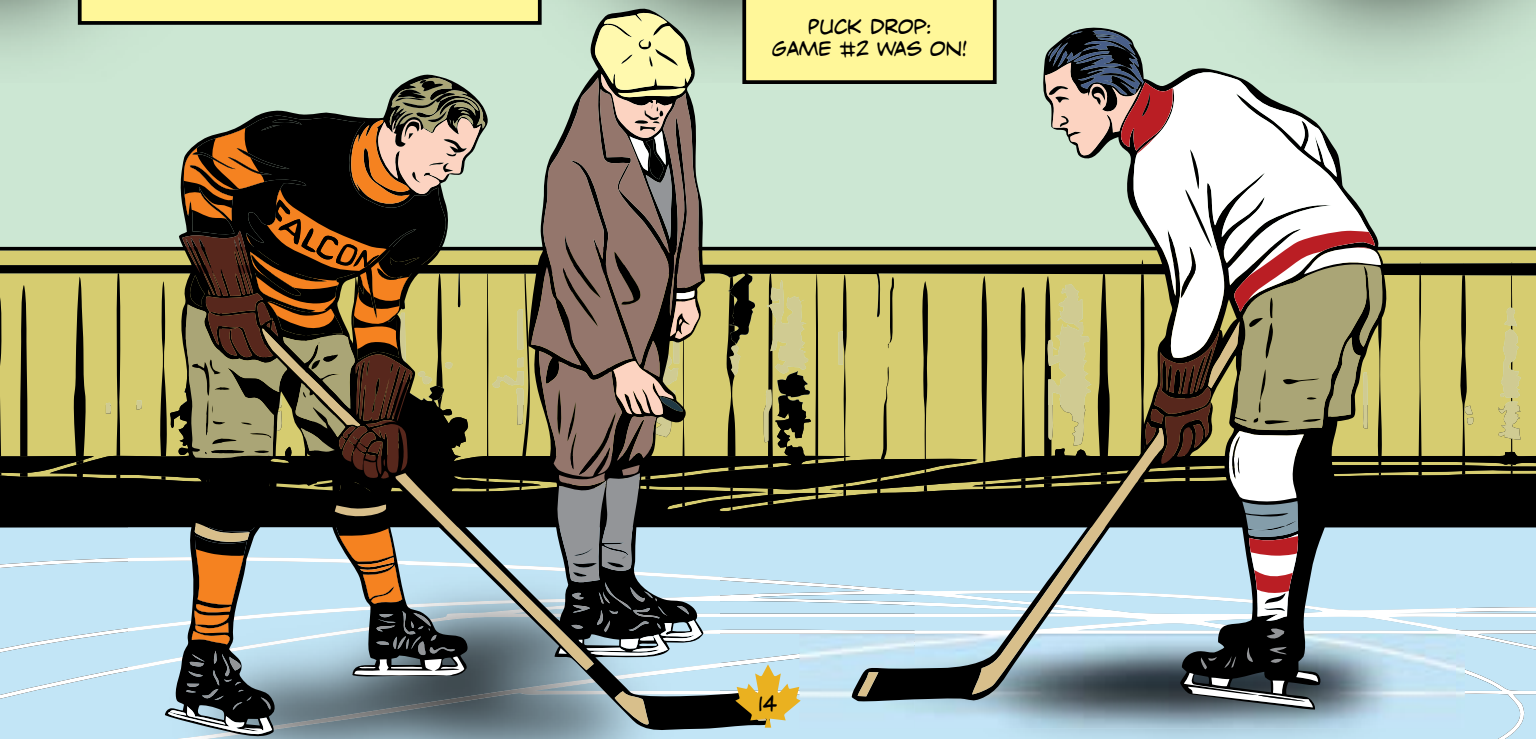
THE FALCONS WON THE FIRST GAME, 3-2. THERE WAS A LOT OF EXCITEMENT FOR THE SECOND GAME.



PUCK DROP:
GAME #2 WAS ON!

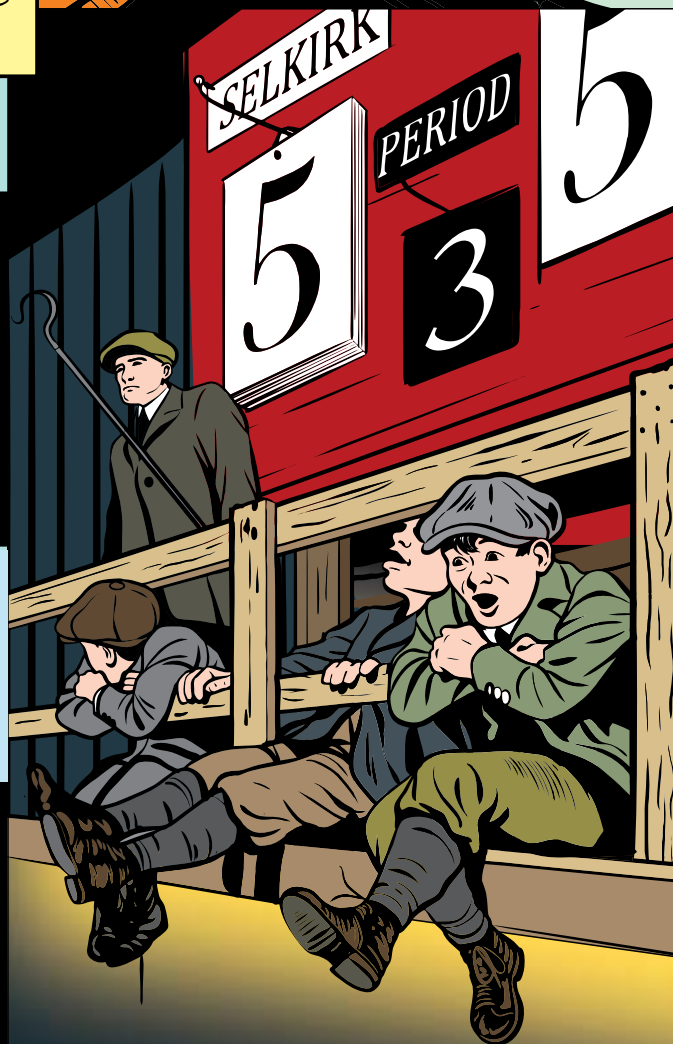
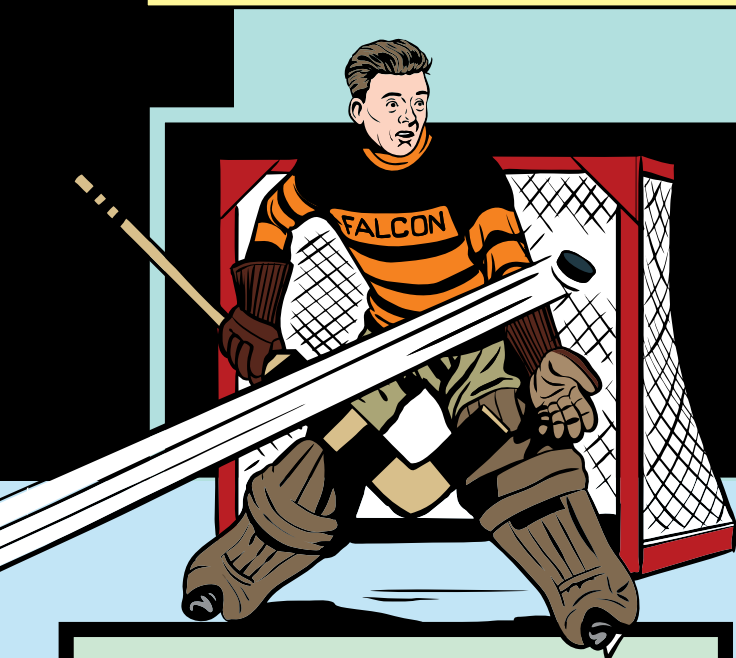


THE TEAM THAT WON WOULD GO ON TO PLAY THE WINNIPEG LEAGUE CHAMPION FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF MANITOBA.

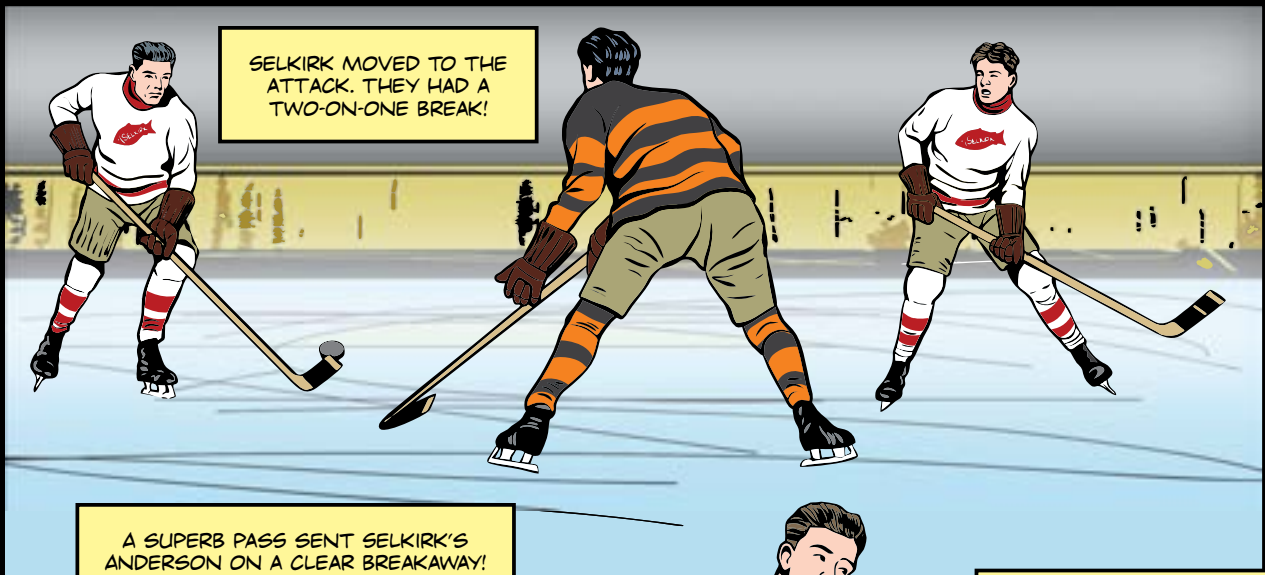




THE FISHERMEN DOMINATED THE FIRST TWO PERIODS AND BUILT UP A 5-2 LEAD. HAD THE FALCONS LOST THE GAME AND THEIR SHOT AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP?



BUT THEY WEREN'T ABOUT TO GIVE UP. THE FALCONS FOUGHT BACK, AND TIED THE SCORE 5-5. THEN THE GAME WENT INTO OVERTIME.

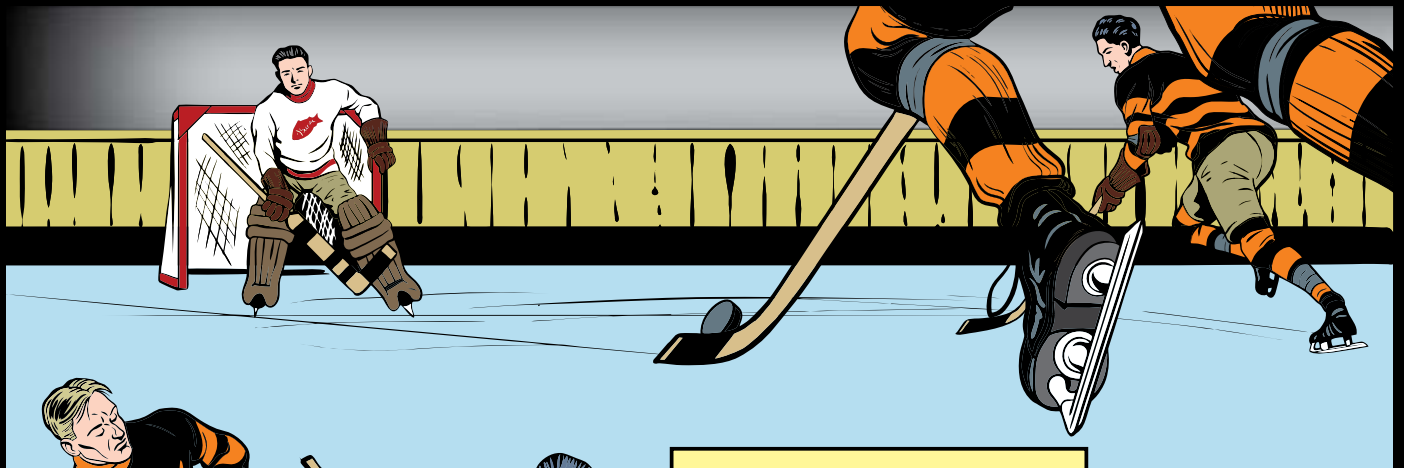


A SUPERB PASS SENT SELKIRK'S ANDERSON ON A CLEAR BREAKAWAY!



WALLY BYRON KICKED THE SHOT AWAY TO BOBBY BENSON. NOW IT WAS THE FALCONS' TURN!





BENSON SKATED QUICKLY UP THE ICE AND UNLEASHED A SHOT ON THE FISHERMEN'S GOALIE, MORRISON, WHO STOPPED THE SHOT. BUT THE PUCK WAS LOOSE!



THE FALCONS' WINGER "SLIM" HALDERSON BATTED IN THE REBOUND. IT WAS NOW 6-5, FALCONS. THEY'D PULLED OFF AN INCREDIBLE COMEBACK AND A WIN!



IT WAS A TOUGH BATTLE, BUT THE FALCONS HADN'T GIVEN UP. THANKS TO THEIR HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION, THEY HAD BECOME CHAMPIONS OF THE NEW MANITOBA LEAGUE!



THE FALCONS WERE NOW OFF TO PLAY THE WINNIPEG FOR THE MANITOBA PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP!

FALCON

W

THEY WENT ON TO PLAY A TWO-GAME SERIES. THIS TIME, THE TEAM THAT SCORED THE MOST GOALS ACROSS BOTH GAMES WOULD BE THE WINNER.



FRANK FREDRICKSON MADE SURE THE FALCONS WON GAME ONE BY SCORING ALL FIVE GOALS IN THEIR 5-0 VICTORY.



IN THE SECOND GAME, FREDRICKSON SCORED SIX GOALS. "SLIM" HALDERSON ADDED TWO MORE WHILE KONNIE JOHANNESSEN AND MIKE GOODMAN SCORED THE REST.

THE FALCONS WON DECISIVELY, 15-1. THEY HAD SHOWN THE BIGOTS THAT SKILL AND COURAGE, NOT ETHNIC BACKGROUND, WERE WHAT TRULY MATTERED.



THE FALCONS WERE MANITOBA CHAMPIONS. NOW THEIR LONG QUEST FOR THE ALLAN CUP BEGAN.

WINNIPEG

FT. WILLIAM

WEST

SUDBURY

U of T VARSITY

EAST



FIRST, THE FALCONS HAD TO PLAY THE FORT WILLIAM MAPLE LEAFS FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF WESTERN CANADA.



MEANWHILE, THE SUDBURY WOLVES WOULD PLAY THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO VARSITY TEAM TO DETERMINE THE EASTERN CANADA CHAMPIONS.



THE TWO REGIONAL CHAMPIONS WOULD THEN COMPETE TO PLAY FOR THE ALLAN CUP!

THE FALCONS AND MAPLE LEAFS MET AT SHEA'S AMPHITHEATRE IN WINNIPEG. ONCE AGAIN, THE TEAM THAT SCORED THE MOST GOALS ACROSS THE TWO-GAME SERIES WOULD WIN.



THE FALCONS TOOK THE LEAD AFTER GAME ONE WITH A 7-2 WIN. FRANK FREDRICKSON SCORED FIVE GOALS WHILE MIKE GOODMAN NOTCHED THE OTHER TWO.



THE FALCONS WON THE SECOND GAME 9-1, THE SERIES 16-3, AND THE RIGHT TO COMPETE FOR THE ALLAN CUP! GOODMAN SCORED FOUR GOALS, WHILE FREDRICKSON AND JOHANNESSON SCORED TWO APIECE, AND HALDERSON FINISHED OFF THE SCORING.

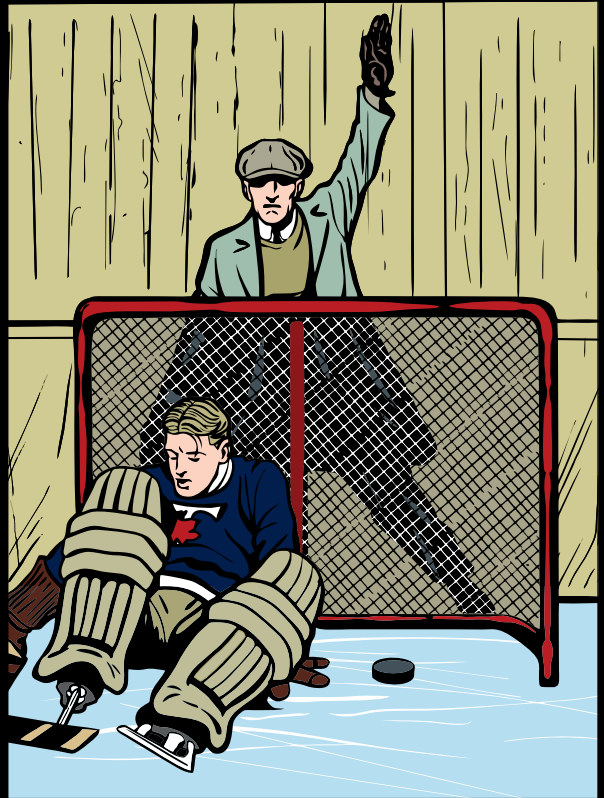




NOW IT WAS TIME FOR THE FALCONS TO SET OFF FOR TORONTO, WHERE THE ALLAN CUP GAMES WERE TO TAKE PLACE.

THE EASTERNERS IN TORONTO THOUGHT THAT THEIR PLAYERS WERE SUPERIOR TO THOSE FROM THE WEST. THE FALCONS WERE FACING PREJUDICE ONCE AGAIN.

BUT THEY STUNNED THE TORONTO CROWD OF 8,000 BY OUTPLAYING VARSITY AND RACKING UP AN 8-3 VICTORY. FREDRICKSON SCORED FOUR GOALS, WHILE GOODMAN SCORED THREE. HUCK WOODMAN, THE TEAM'S ONLY NON-ICELANDIC PLAYER, ADDED ONE MORE.





THE VARSITY TEAM
PLAYED A MORE PHYSICAL
AND HARD-CHECKING GAME
IN THE SECOND MATCH.



MIKE GOODMAN GAVE THE FALCONS A 3-1 LEAD.
THEN DISASTER STRUCK!



GOALIES DIDN'T WEAR MASKS BACK THEN. THEIR
STAR GOALIE, WALLY BYRON, WAS INJURED!



"BABE" ELLIOTT WAS SENT
IN TO REPLACE HIM.



ELLIOTT GAVE UP ONLY ONE GOAL AS
THE FALCONS HUNG ON TO WIN 3-2.



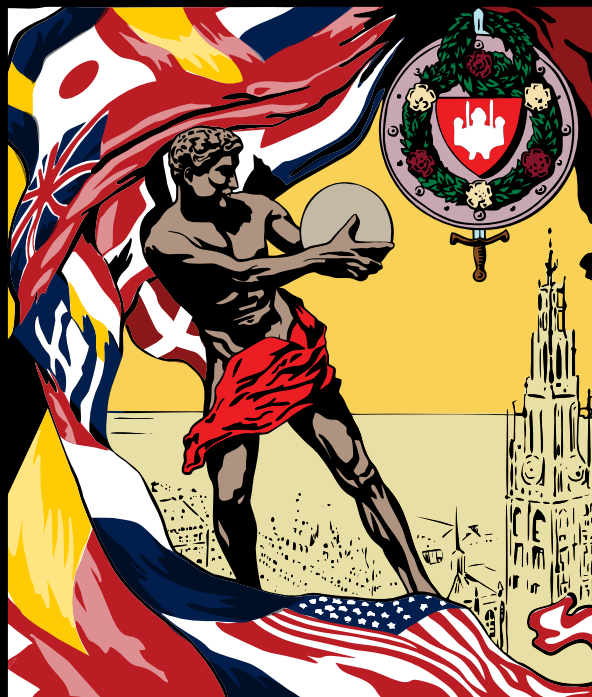
THE FALCONS HAD WON THE ALLAN CUP! THEIR
NEXT STOP: THE 1920 OLYMPICS IN ANTWERP!



WORLD WAR I HAD SHATTERED EUROPE. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAD DIED IN THE FIGHTING AND IN THE INFLUENZA PANDEMIC AFTER THE WAR.



IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR WAS OVER, THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) AWARDED THE 1920 GAMES TO ANTWERP, BELGIUM.



VII^e OLYMPIADE
ANVERS (BELGIQUE)

THE 1916 BERLIN OLYMPIC GAMES HAD BEEN CANCELLED. THERE WAS NO TIME FOR FRIENDLY COMPETITION DURING THE WAR.



THE IOC DECIDED TO MAKE THE RETURN OF THE OLYMPICS SPECIAL.

IN THE SPRING, SOME WINTER SPORTS, SUCH AS ICE HOCKEY, WOULD BE PART OF THE OLYMPICS FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE REGULAR SUMMER OLYMPICS WOULD BE HELD IN JULY AND AUGUST.

THE CANADIAN AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (CAHA) WAS INVITED TO SEND A HOCKEY TEAM TO ANTWERP.



IT DECIDED TO SEND THE WINNERS OF THE ALLAN CUP.

AXFORD WAS DELIGHTED WHEN HE WAS TOLD OF THE CAHA'S DECISION.



THE FALCONS WERE OVERJOYED! THERE WAS ONLY ONE PROBLEM. HOW WERE THEY GOING TO PAY FOR THE TRIP?

UNLIKE TODAY, THE PLAYERS THEMSELVES HAD TO RAISE MONEY TO COVER MUCH OF THE TRIP'S COSTS. THE CAHA ONLY PAID BASIC HOTEL AND TRAVELLING EXPENSES.

MANITOBA PREMIER TOBIAS NORRIS AND THE MANITOBA LEGISLATURE VOTED TO GIVE THE FALCONS \$2,000.

MAYOR CHARLES GRAY GAVE THE TEAM \$500 ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG.

FALCON BOOSTERS

PRIVATE CITIZENS IN TORONTO AND WINNIPEG ALSO RAISED MONEY FOR THE FALCONS TO TRAVEL TO ANTWERP.

HELP OUR BOYS ON THEIR WAY

CANADA

ENGLAND

ANTWERP
BELGIUM

THE TEAM HAD TO SAIL TO LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND, THEN MAKE THEIR WAY TO ANTWERP, BELGIUM. IT WOULD TAKE THEM 16 DAYS TO GET THERE.

ON APRIL 1, THEY LEFT TORONTO AND HEADED EAST TO SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK BY TRAIN. THEN THEY SET SAIL FOR LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND ON APRIL 3.



TO WHILE AWAY THE TIME, THEY PLAYED CARDS. BILL FRIDFINNISON LATER WROTE "[W]E HAVE PLAYED SO MUCH CARDS THAT WE ARE GETTING FED UP WITH IT."



THE SEAS WERE SO ROUGH THAT FREDRICKSON WROTE "SLIM, MIKE, BOBBY, WALLY, KONNIE AND MYSELF HAVE ALL BEEN PRACTICING A DASH FOR THE RAIL. SLIM SAYS IF IT GETS MUCH ROUGHER THAT HE'S GOING TO JUMP OFF AND WALK TO SHORE!"



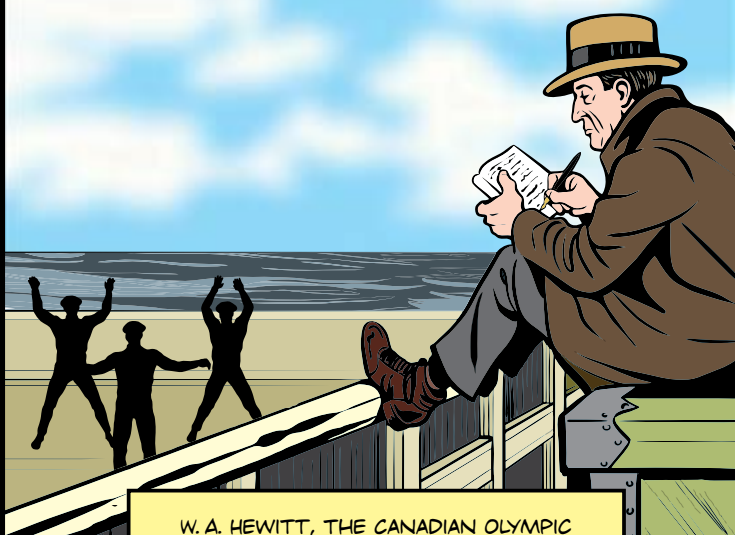
BUT THE TRIP WASN'T ALL ABOUT KEEPING THEIR FOOD DOWN. AXFORD CHEERED THE TEAM UP BY SHOWING THEM THEIR NEW OLYMPIC JERSEYS.



TO STAY IN SHAPE FOR THE GAMES, THE PLAYERS JOGGED ON DECK...



...AND DID CALISTHENICS WHEN THE SEAS SETTLED DOWN.



W. A. HEWITT, THE CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE'S (COC) REPRESENTATIVE, WATCHED OVER THE FALCONS AND TOOK CARE OF TRAVEL DETAILS FOR THE TEAM.

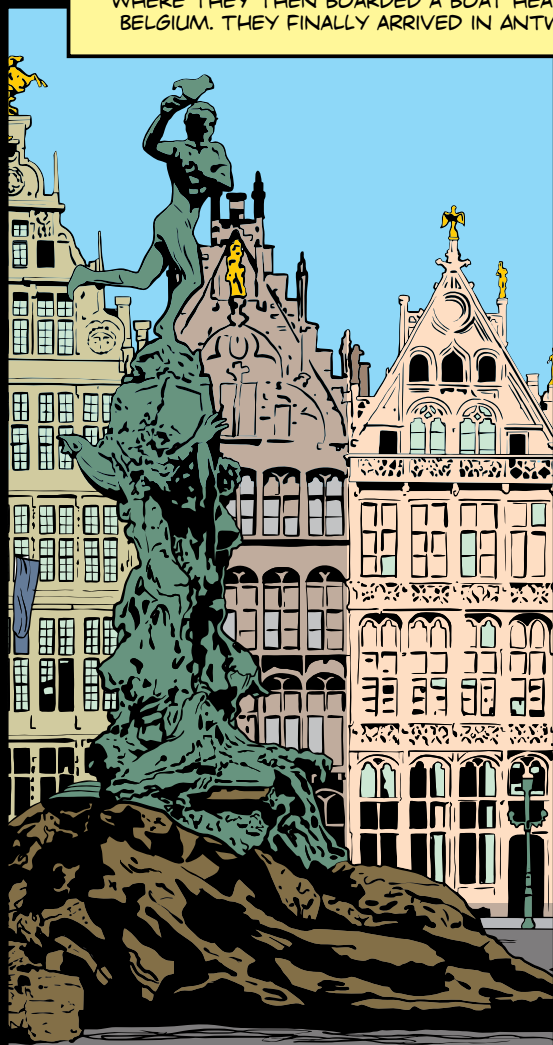
THE TEAM ARRIVED IN LIVERPOOL ON APRIL 12...



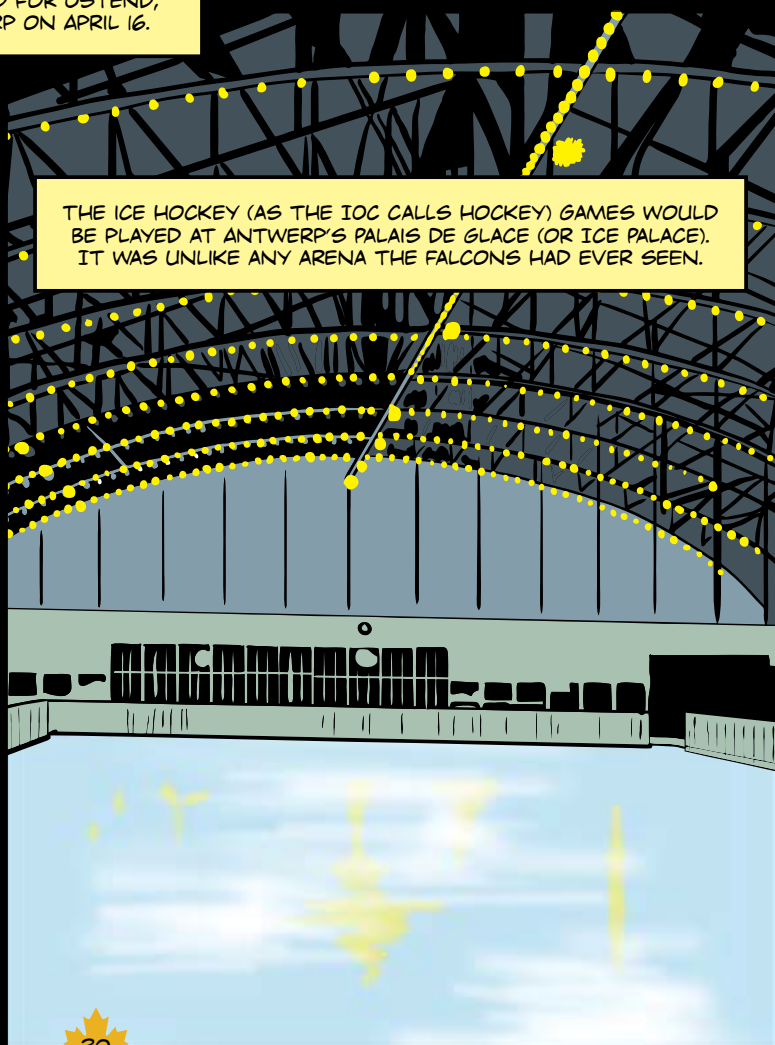
...THEN TRAVELLED
BY TRAIN TO LONDON.



ON APRIL 15, THEY TOOK ANOTHER TRAIN TO DOVER, ENGLAND,
WHERE THEY THEN BOARDED A BOAT HEADED FOR OSTEND,
BELGIUM. THEY FINALLY ARRIVED IN ANTWERP ON APRIL 16.



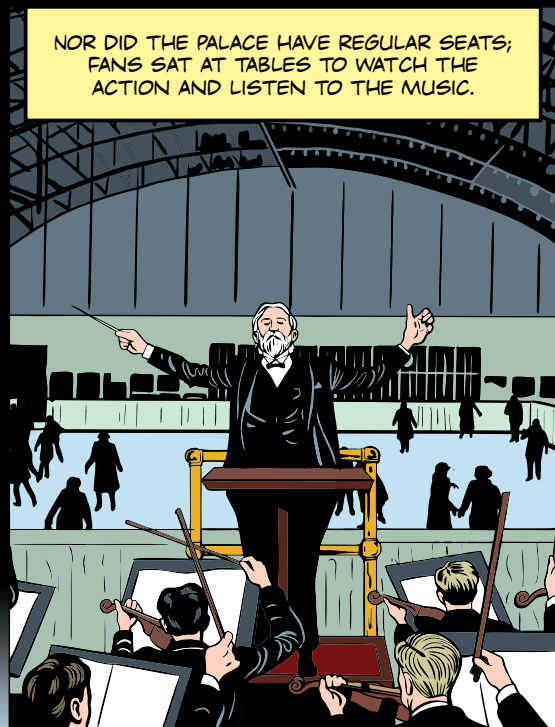
THE ICE HOCKEY (AS THE IOC CALLS HOCKEY) GAMES WOULD
BE PLAYED AT ANTWERP'S PALAIS DE GLACE (OR ICE PALACE).
IT WAS UNLIKE ANY ARENA THE FALCONS HAD EVER SEEN.



THE PALAIS DE GLACE WAS USED FOR LEISURE SKATING. IT WASN'T BUILT FOR HOCKEY. THE ICE SURFACE WAS MUCH SMALLER THAN THE RINKS THE CANADIANS PLAYED ON AT HOME.



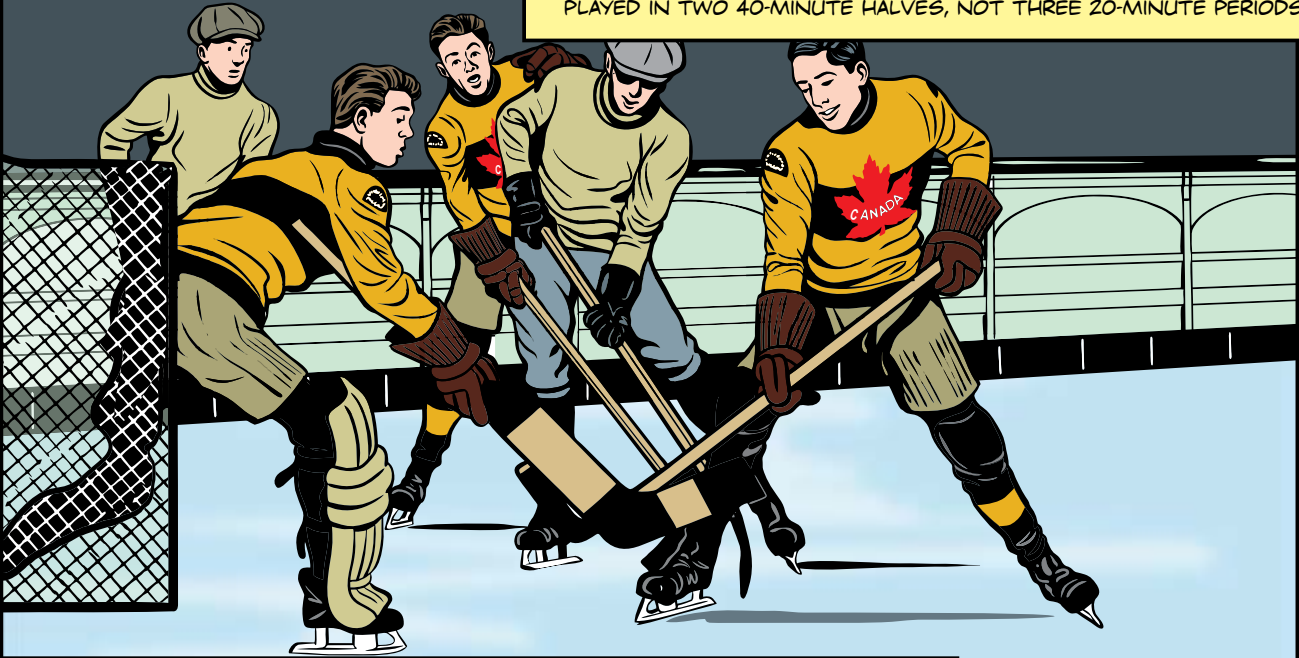
NOR DID THE PALACE HAVE REGULAR SEATS; FANS SAT AT TABLES TO WATCH THE ACTION AND LISTEN TO THE MUSIC.



EACH TEAM PUT SEVEN PLAYERS ON THE ICE IN INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY, UNLIKE IN CANADA WHERE ONLY SIX PLAYERS SKATED AT A TIME. THE SEVENTH PLAYER WAS A ROVER.



THE FALCONS HAD TO GET USED TO OTHER DIFFERENCES. GAMES WERE PLAYED IN TWO 40-MINUTE HALVES, NOT THREE 20-MINUTE PERIODS.



THE FALCONS' DEFENCE AND SUBSTITUTES PLAYED AN EXHIBITION GAME AGAINST THEIR FORWARDS, BOLSTERED BY IOC REFEREES PLAYING DEFENCE. THE GAME RAISED MONEY FOR CHARITY AND ALLOWED THE FALCONS TO ADAPT TO PLAYING ON THE NARROW ICE.

THE OTHER TEAMS LOOKED VERY UNUSUAL TO CANADIAN EYES.



THE SWEDISH TEAM WAS ACTUALLY A BANDY TEAM! THE SPORT OF BANDY WAS SIMILAR TO HOCKEY, BUT NOT AS ROUGH AND PLAYERS ONLY WORE GOLF SOCKS TO PROTECT THEIR SHINS. THE GOALIE WORE A SMALL PAIR OF CRICKET PADS AND HAD NO CHEST PROTECTOR.

THE SWISS GOALIE ALSO WORE VERY LITTLE EQUIPMENT, AND PREFERRED TO WEAR A SHIRT AND TIE IN NET. FRANK FREDRICKSON THOUGHT HE HANDLED HIS GOALIE STICK LIKE A MANURE SHOVEL, AND SCOOPED THE PUCK AROUND THE ICE!





ONE OF THE FRENCH
PLAYERS WORE GLASSES
AND HAD A LONG BEARD.



BELGIUM



CZECHOSLOVAKIA

THE OTHER TEAMS WERE BETTER EQUIPPED,
ESPECIALLY THE UNITED STATES TEAM. IT WAS
CLEAR THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD BE THE
FALCONS' ONLY REAL RIVALS FOR THE GOLD MEDAL.



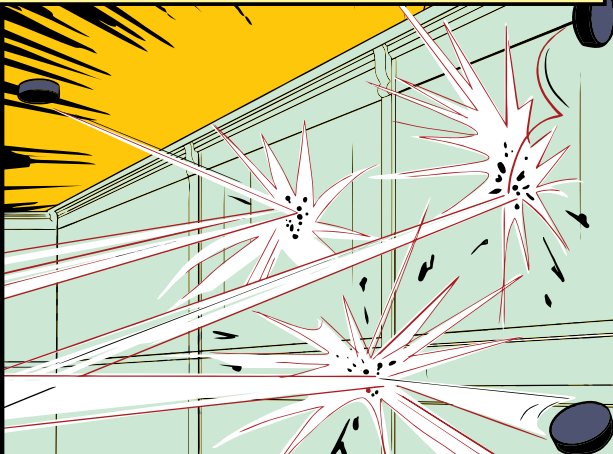
THE EUROPEAN PLAYERS WERE AS AMAZED AS THE CANADIANS, BUT FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. THEY LAUGHED AT ALL THE EQUIPMENT THE CANADIANS WORE, WONDERING WHY THEY NEEDED IT.



THEN THEY WATCHED THE CANADIANS SHOOTING PUCKS AT THE BOARDS.



TO THE SURPRISE OF THE CANADIANS, AND THE HORROR OF THE EUROPEANS, THE FALCONS' SHOTS WERE SO HARD THAT THEY SHATTERED THE BOARDS!



BECAUSE THE FALCONS KNEW WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE HUMILIATED BY OTHERS, THEY DECIDED NOT TO EMBARRASS THE OTHER TEAMS BY RUNNING UP THE SCORE AGAINST THEM. THE FALCONS SHOWED TRUE OLYMPIC SPORTSMANSHIP.

"WE TRIED TO LIMIT OURSELVES TO 14 OR 15 GOALS AGAINST THE EUROPEAN TEAMS," FRANK FREDRICKSON EXPLAINED. "BELIEVE ME, IT WAS DIFFICULT!"



IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE GAMES STARTED, THE CANADIANS TRAINED THE OTHER TEAMS, WHO WERE HAPPY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PLAYING ICE HOCKEY.



Suède

8

AT LAST, THE FIRST OLYMPIC ICE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT BEGAN! THE EUROPEANS JUST HOPED THEY WOULD NOT BE UTTERLY EMBARRASSED BY THEIR NORTH AMERICAN RIVALS.

THE PLAYERS ON THE SWEDISH BANDY TEAM SHOWED THEY COULD ALSO PLAY ICE HOCKEY.

Belgique

0

États-Unis
d'Amérique

29

THE SWISS GOALIE'S EXPERIENCE AT USING HIS STICK LIKE A SHOVEL CAME IN HANDY, AS HE HAD TO SHOVEL A LOT OF PUCKS OUT OF HIS NET! UNLIKE THE CANADIANS, THE UNSPORTSMANLIKE AMERICANS RAN UP THE SCORE ON THE POOR SWISS, BURYING THEM 29-0.

Suisse

0

CANADA DEFEATED THE CZECHOSLOVAKIANS 15-0.



TO KEEP THE SCORE DOWN, THEY PASSED THE PUCK BACK AND FORTH AMONGST THEMSELVES.



DEMAND FOR TICKETS TO THE CANADA-USA GAME WAS HIGH.
THERE WERE ONLY 1,600 SEATS IN THE PALAIS DE GLACE!

*Amérique
et
Canada*



THE STREETS SURROUNDING THE PALACE
WERE SO CROWDED THAT SOLDIERS WERE
NEEDED TO GET THE PLAYERS INSIDE SAFELY.



FANS WEARING TUXEDOS BEGGED PLAYERS TO LET THEM CARRY IN THEIR EQUIPMENT, SO THEY COULD GET IN TO WATCH THE GAME.

THE LUCKY FANS WHO GOT SEATS WARMED UP WITH CHAMPAGNE WHILE THE PLAYERS WARMED UP ON THE ICE.

THE TWO TEAMS SIZED EACH OTHER UP AS THEY FINISHED THEIR PRE-GAME SKATES.



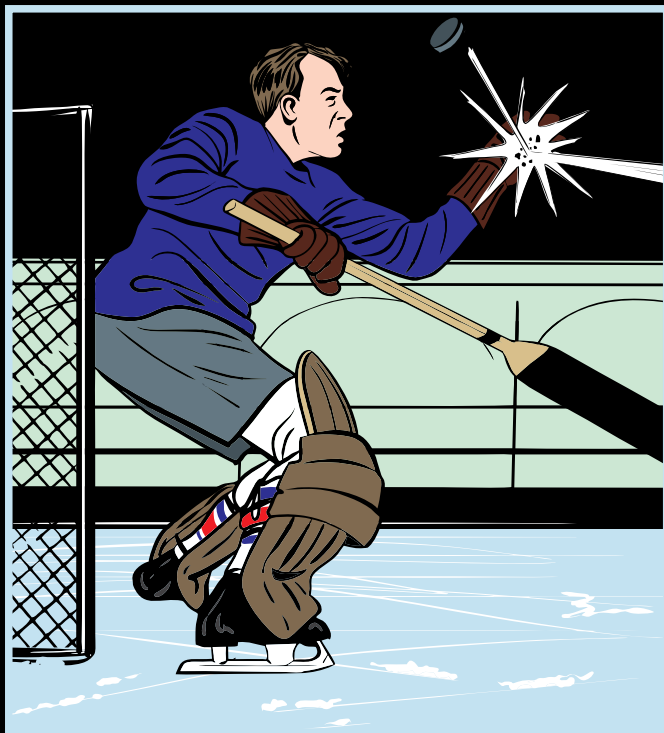
FACEOFF: THE PRESSURE WAS ON!



THE CANADIANS DOMINATED PLAY FOR THE FIRST TEN MINUTES.
THE PUCK NEVER ENTERED THEIR SIDE OF THE ICE.



THEY BOMBARDED THE AMERICAN NET
WITH SHOTS, BUT BONNEY, THE AMERICAN
GOALIE, BLOCKED EVERY SINGLE ONE.



THEN THE AMERICANS
TOOK CONTROL AND BEGAN
ATTACKING THE CANADIAN NET.

BYRON WAS JUST AS UNBEATABLE
IN CANADA'S GOAL.



THE FANS WERE AMAZED WHEN KONNIE
JOHANNESSEN GOT UP SMILING AFTER
HIS HEAD CRACKED THE BOARDS!



WHEN THE FIRST HALF
ENDED, THERE WAS NO
SCORE. WOULD THE FIRST
GOAL WIN THE GAME?

MIDWAY THROUGH THE SECOND HALF,
FREDRICKSON GOT A BREAKAWAY!



HE FIRED IN HIS REBOUND. THE SCORE WAS NOW 1-0 CANADA!

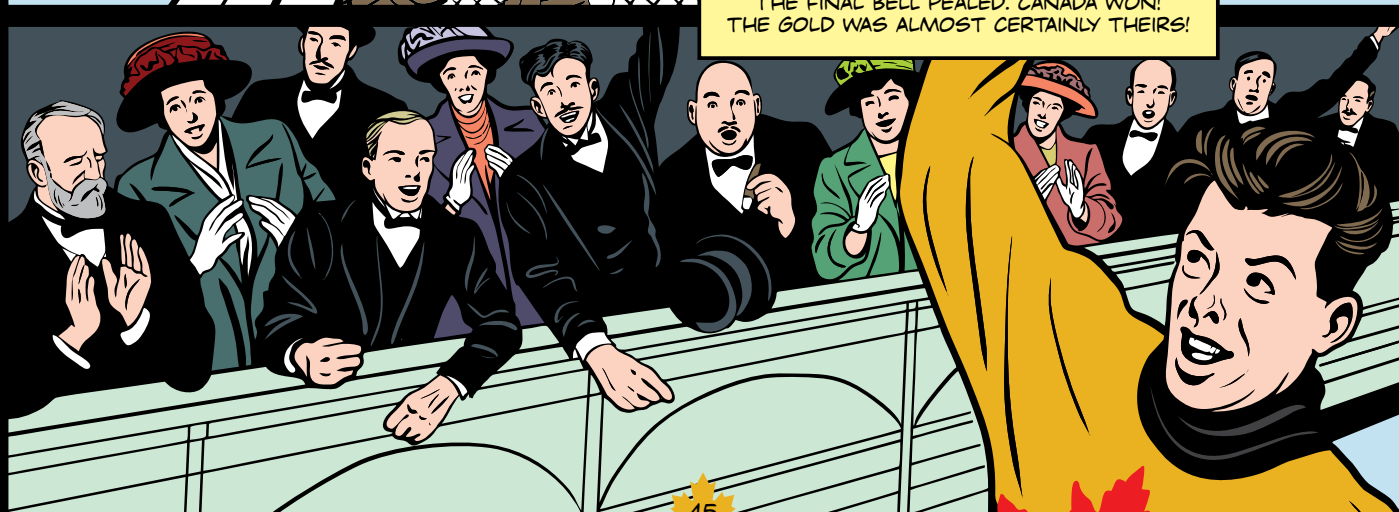




THE AMERICANS STORMED
BACK, SHOOTING AT BYRON
WHENEVER THEY COULD.

BUT HE STOPPED
EVERY SHOT.

HALDERSON SEIZED A REBOUND AND CARRIED
THE PUCK UP ICE, PASSING BACK AND FORTH
WITH GOODMAN TOWARDS THE AMERICAN NET.



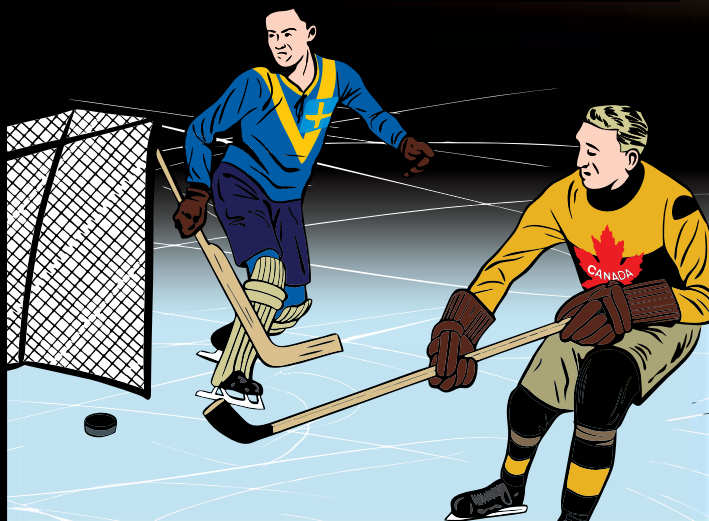
THE CANADIAN PLAYERS WERE POPULAR WITH BOTH THE FANS AND THE OTHER TEAMS.



IF CANADA DEFEATED SWEDEN, THE FALCONS WOULD WIN THE GOLD MEDAL.



CANADA SOON BUILT UP A 5-0 LEAD. THE SWEDES COULD NEVER CATCH UP. COULD THEY EVEN SCORE ONE GOAL?



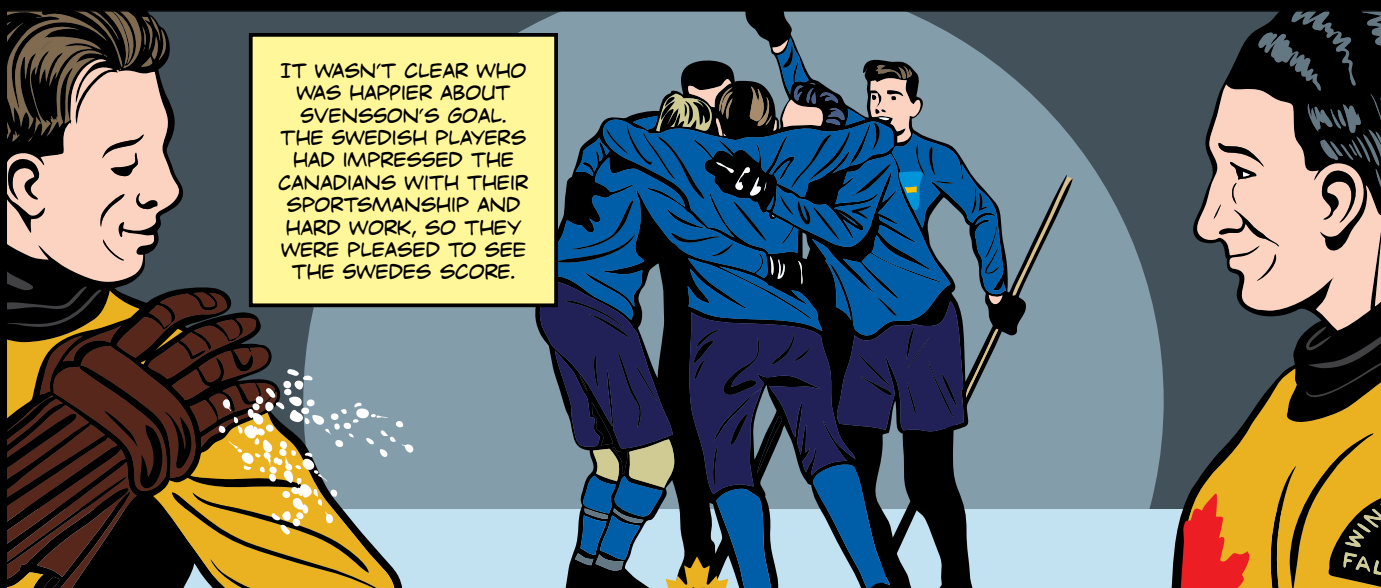
SVENSSON RUSHED THE CANADIAN NET, WHILE THE CANADIAN PLAYERS STUMBLED.



BYRON FELL. SVENSSON SCORED FOR SWEDEN!



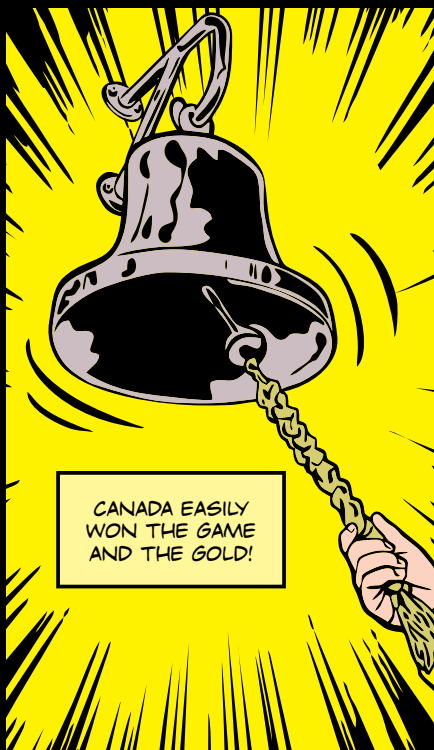
IT WASN'T CLEAR WHO WAS HAPPIER ABOUT SVENSSON'S GOAL. THE SWEDISH PLAYERS HAD IMPRESSED THE CANADIANS WITH THEIR SPORTSMANSHIP AND HARD WORK, SO THEY WERE PLEASED TO SEE THE SWEDES SCORE.



W. A. HEWITT KEPT TRACK OF THE GAMES FOR THE COC. THEY WERE BOTH VERY PLEASED WITH THE FALCONS' PLAY.



FREDRICKSON LED THE WAY, SCORING SEVEN MORE GOALS FOR CANADA.



CANADA EASILY WON THE GAME AND THE GOLD!



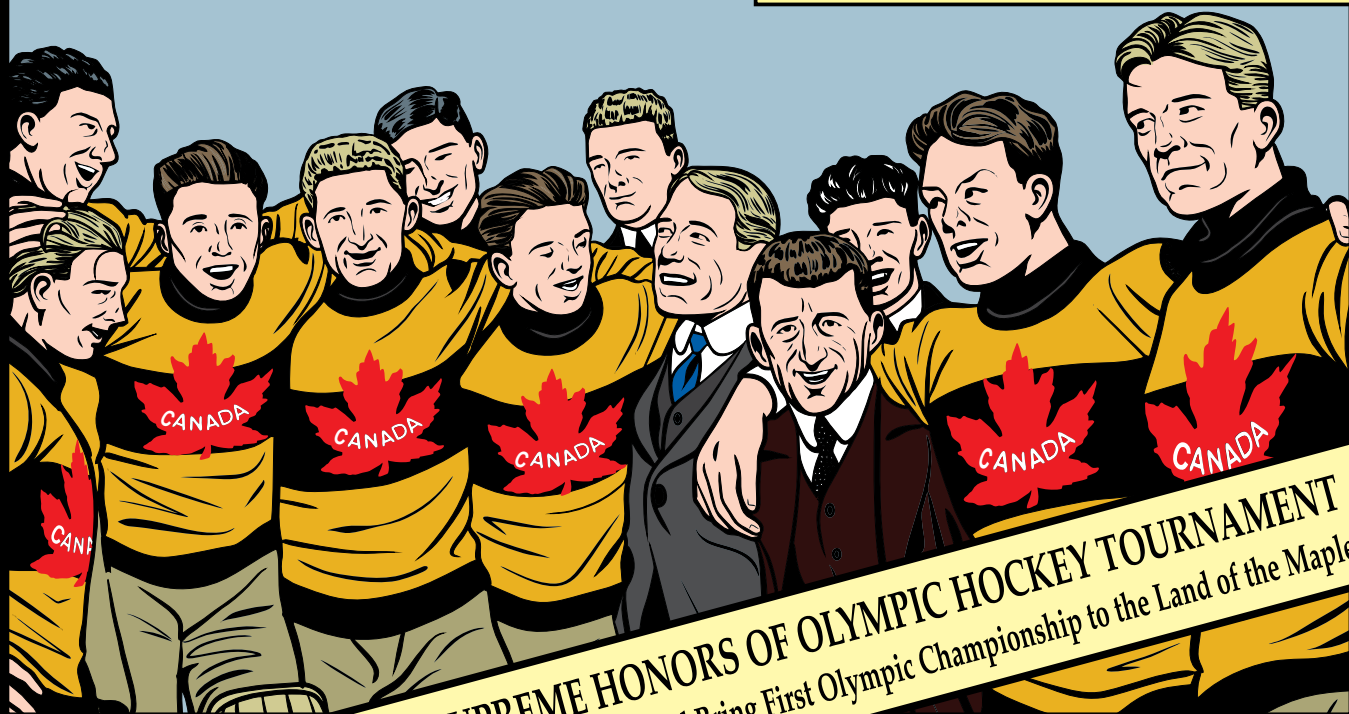
THE WINNIPEG FALCONS HAD WON THE FIRST OLYMPIC ICE HOCKEY GOLD MEDAL FOR CANADA!

THE TEAMS TRADED STICKS AS SOUVENIRS OF THE GAME.



THE UNITED STATES WON THE SILVER MEDAL,
AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA TOOK THE BRONZE.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE FALCONS NEVER PERSONALLY
RECEIVED THEIR GOLD MEDALS. THEY MAY HAVE
BEEN LOST ON THE WAY TO CANADA, OR THE IOC
MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN TO SEND THEM.



WINNIPEG FALCONS WIN SUPREME HONORS OF OLYMPIC HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
Canadian Representatives Defeat Sweden 12 - 1 in Final and Bring First Olympic Championship to the Land of the Maple

**FALCONS WIN WORLD'S AMATEUR HOCKEY
HONORS BY DEFEATING SWEDEN IN FINAL
OLYMPIC GAME AT ANTWERP BY 12 TO 1**

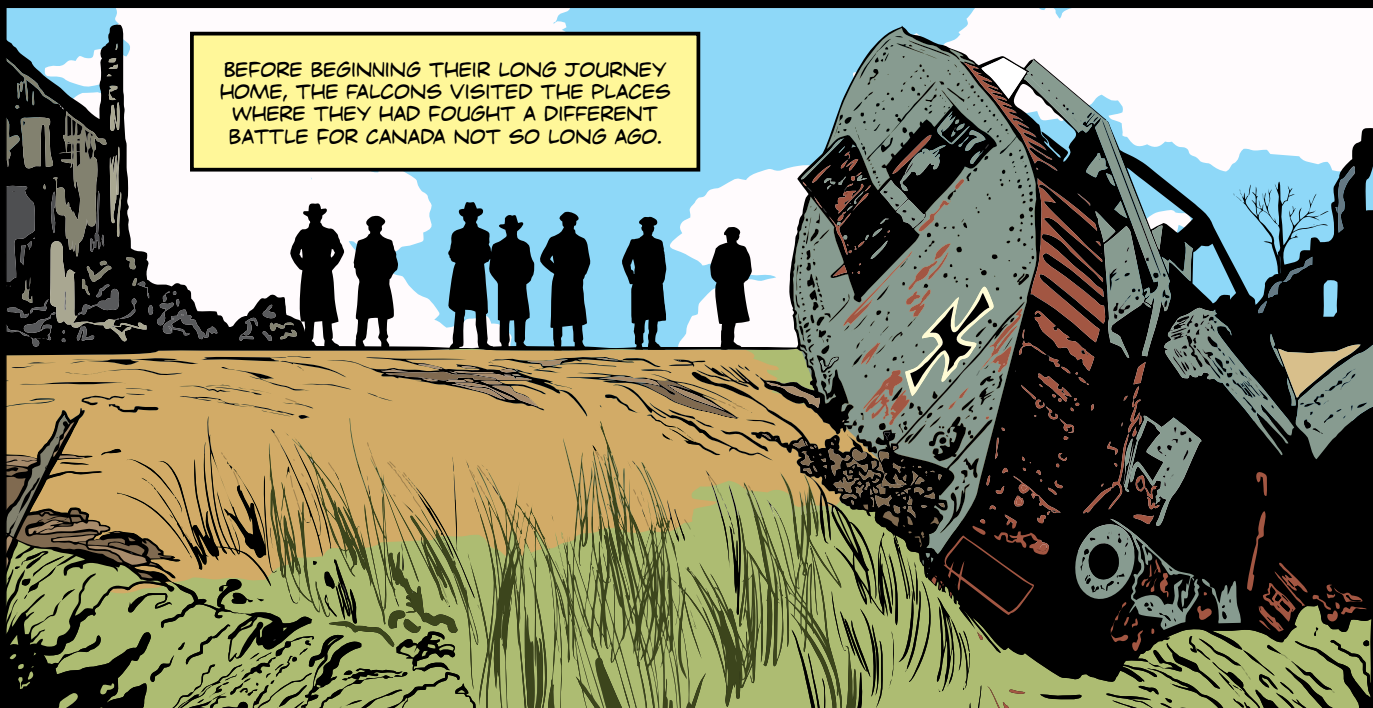
Beat Czecho-Slovak
Finals Against Sweden — Team Has Set Up
Wonderful Record and Are Worthy Champions —
Every Player Put Heart and Soul Into Game to
Give Canada Highest Winter Pastime Title

**CANADA WINS OLYMPIC HOCKEY
HONORS, OUTCLASSING SWEDEN**
Falcons Place Winnipeg Conspicuously on World Sporting
Map, Overwhelming Swedes in Final 12 To 1 —
Byron Drops in Surprise and Scandinavian Team
Escapes a Whitewash

**WINNIPEG FALCONS WIN
WORLD'S HOCKEY HONORS;
TROUNCE SWEDEN 12 TO 1**

**Local Boys Continue Great
Work by Winning Final
At Antwerp**

BEFORE BEGINNING THEIR LONG JOURNEY HOME, THE FALCONS VISITED THE PLACES WHERE THEY HAD FOUGHT A DIFFERENT BATTLE FOR CANADA NOT SO LONG AGO.



IN PARIS, THE FALCONS WERE HONoured FOR THEIR VICTORY.



THEN THE TEAM WAS ON ITS WAY HOME. WHAT WELCOME WOULD CANADIANS GIVE THEM?



IN MONTREAL, THE FALCONS WERE CELEBRATED AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY SIR H. MONTAGU ALLAN, THE DONOR OF THE ALLAN CUP.



IN TORONTO, MAYOR THOMAS CHURCH PRESENTED GOLD-HEADED CANES TO THE FALCONS.



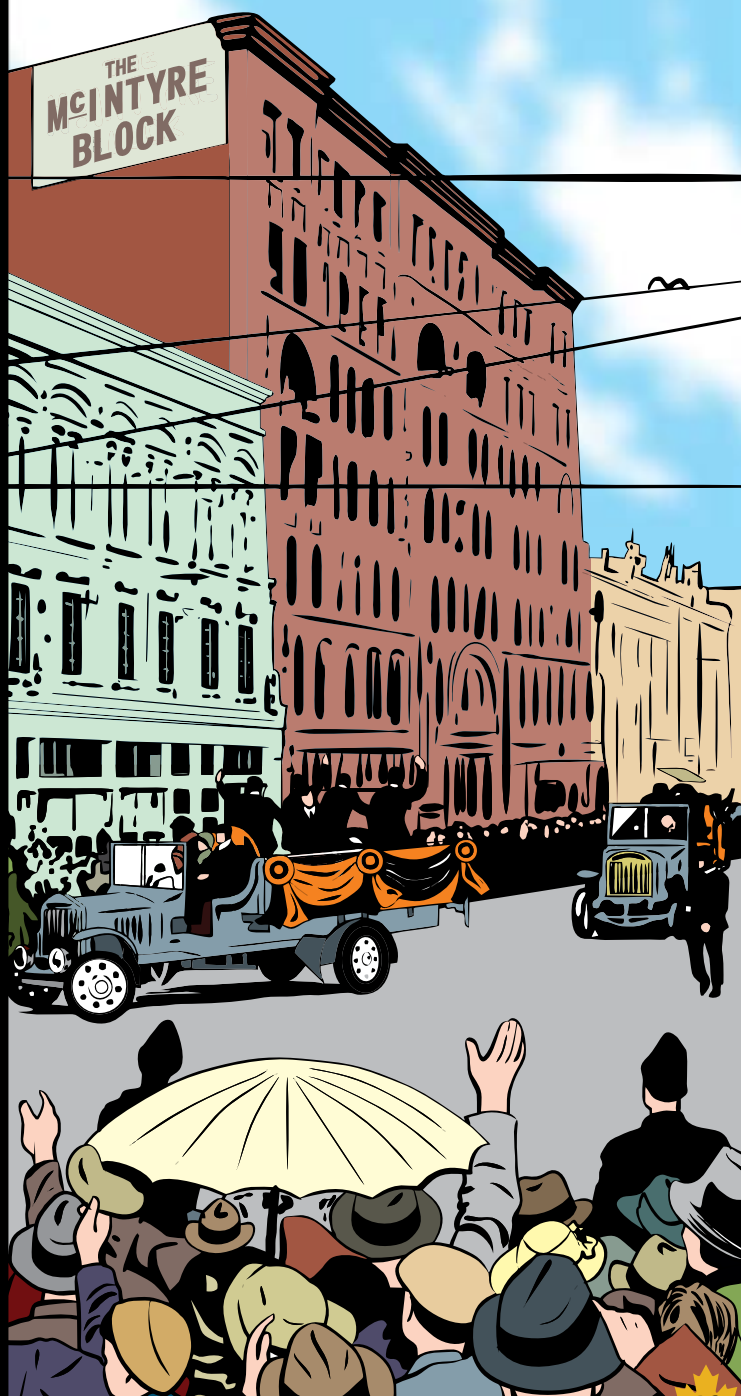
"YOU ARE A CREDIT TO CANADA," SAID THE MAYOR. "YOU PLAYED A CLEAN GAME AND ARE A CREDIT TO YOUR HOME CITY. WINNIPEG IS TO BE CONGRATULATED ON HAVING SUCH A FINE BODY OF MEN."



AT LAST, THE FALCONS WERE ON THEIR WAY BACK HOME. WHILE THEY LOOKED FORWARD TO THEIR RETURN, THEY ALSO WONDERED HOW THE PEOPLE OF WINNIPEG WOULD REACT TO THEIR WIN.



WINNIPEGGERS GREETED THE
FALCONS WITH OPEN ARMS!

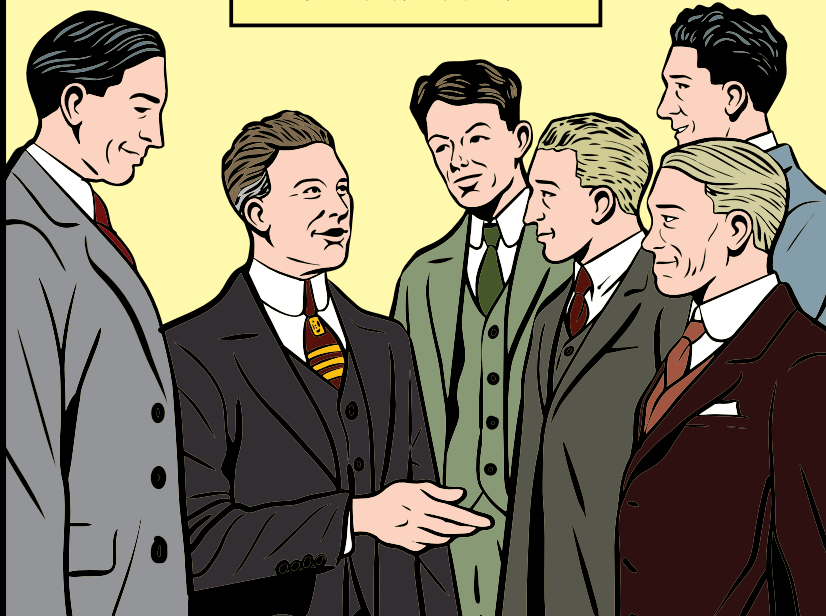


HUNDREDS OF FANS LINED THE STREETS
TO WATCH THE PLAYERS AND THE
PARADE DURING THE HALF-DAY HOLIDAY.

Western Trust Com
rth Empire Fire Ins



MAYOR CHARLES GRAY
WELCOMED THE TEAM HOME.

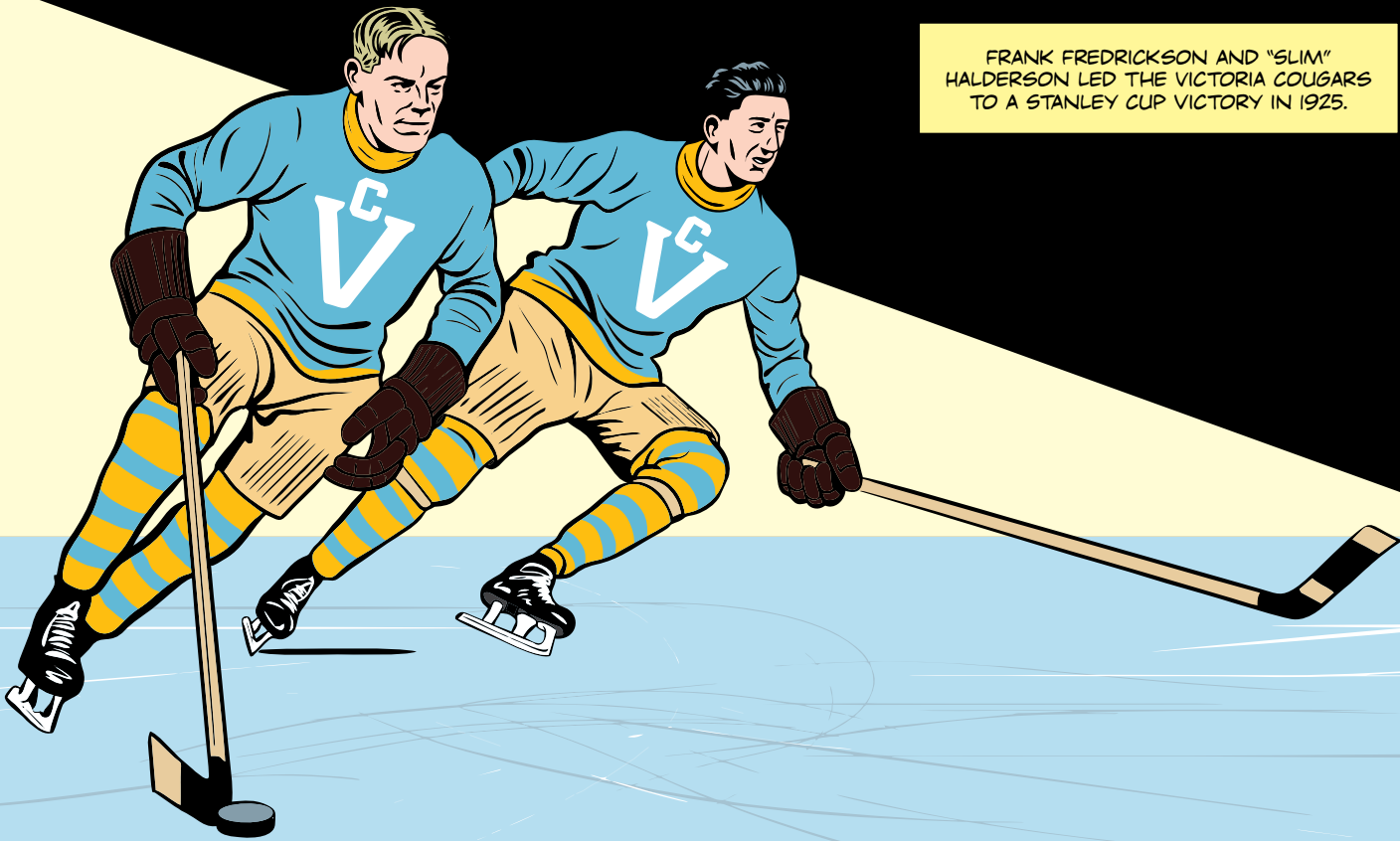


THAT NIGHT, AT THE
FORT GARRY HOTEL, EACH
FALCON WAS PRESENTED
WITH AN INSCRIBED GOLD
WATCH FROM THE CITY
OF WINNIPEG.

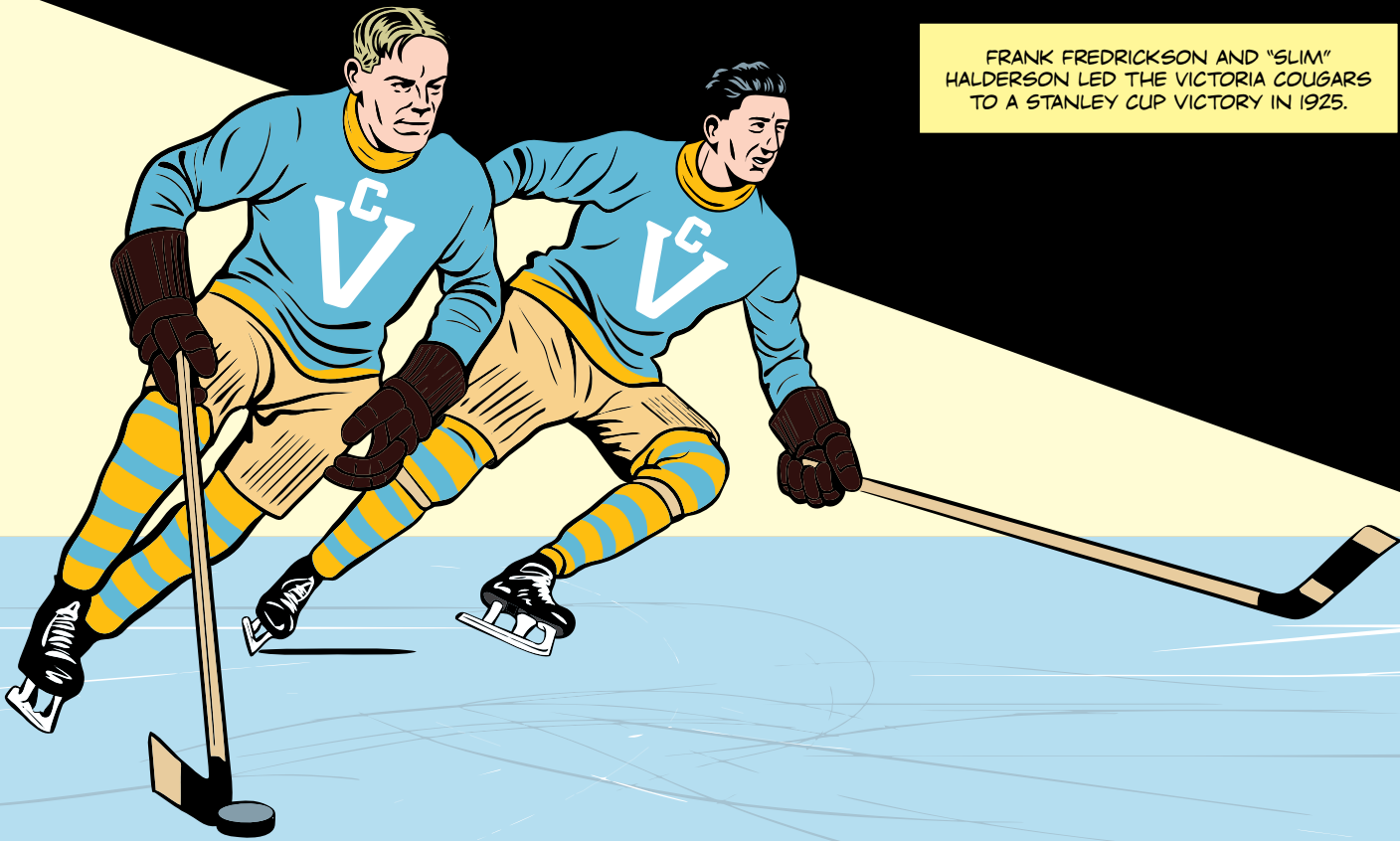


IN 1921 ANOTHER PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE WAS
FOUNDED: THE WESTERN CANADA HOCKEY LEAGUE. ITS
PLAYOFF CHAMPION WOULD GO ON TO FACE THE WINNER
OF THE NHL IN A COMPETITION FOR THE STANLEY CUP.





FRANK FREDRICKSON AND "SLIM"
HALDERSON LED THE VICTORIA COUGARS
TO A STANLEY CUP VICTORY IN 1925.



THE COUGARS WERE THE
LAST NON-NHL TEAM TO
WIN THE STANLEY CUP.



FREDRICKSON AND
HALDERSON WERE THE FIRST
PLAYERS TO WIN BOTH AN
OLYMPIC ICE HOCKEY GOLD
MEDAL AND THE STANLEY CUP.

IN 1924, THE IOC HELD THE FIRST OFFICIAL WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES. THE TORONTO GRANITES WON THE "FIRST" ICE HOCKEY GOLD MEDAL FOR CANADA.

1924 Chamonix

OLYMPIC HISTORIANS WRONGLY IGNORED THE 1920 GAMES, CLAIMING THEY WERE ONLY "DEMONSTRATION" GAMES.

1928 St. Moritz

2002 Salt Lake City

2010 Vancouver

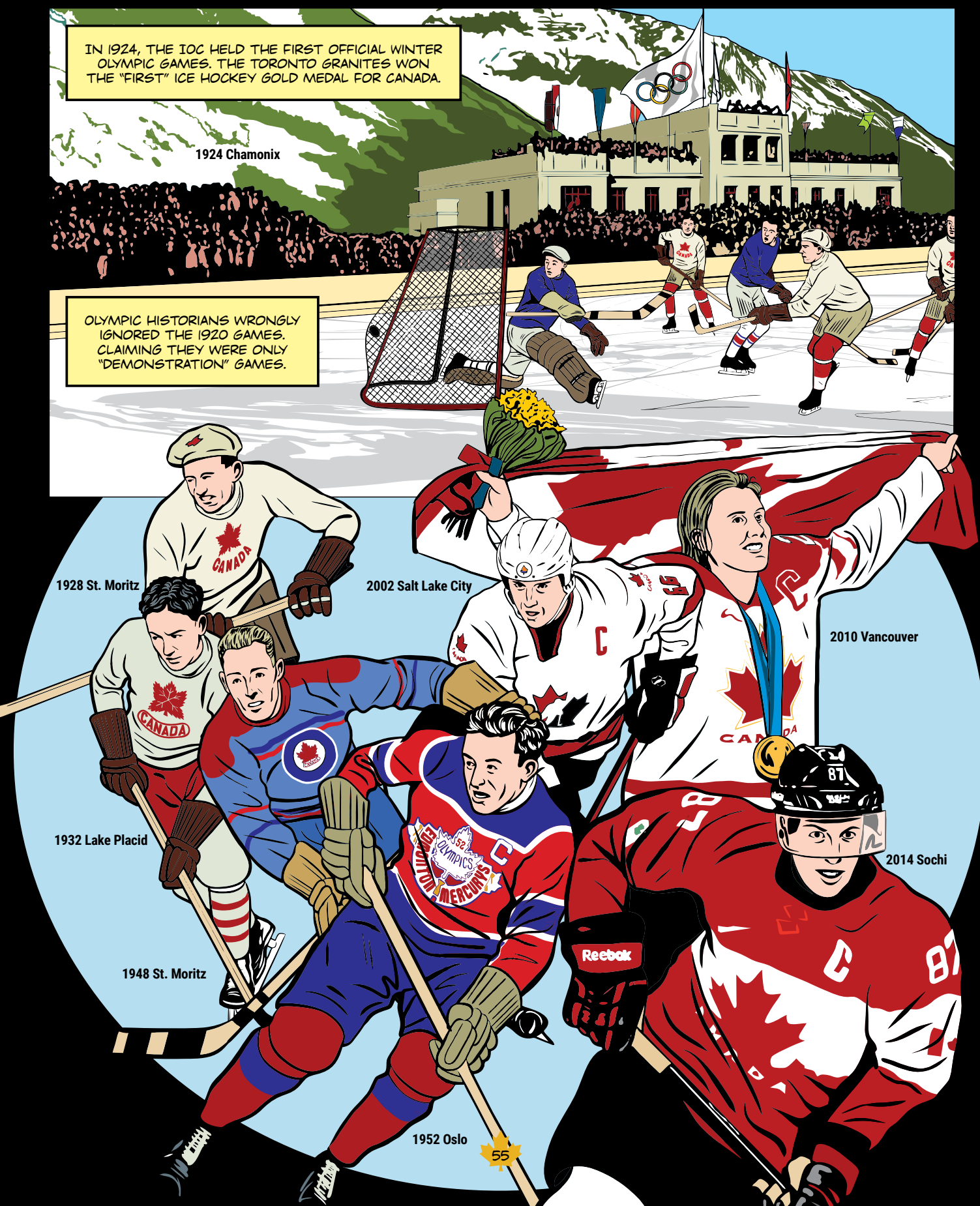
1932 Lake Placid

2014 Sochi

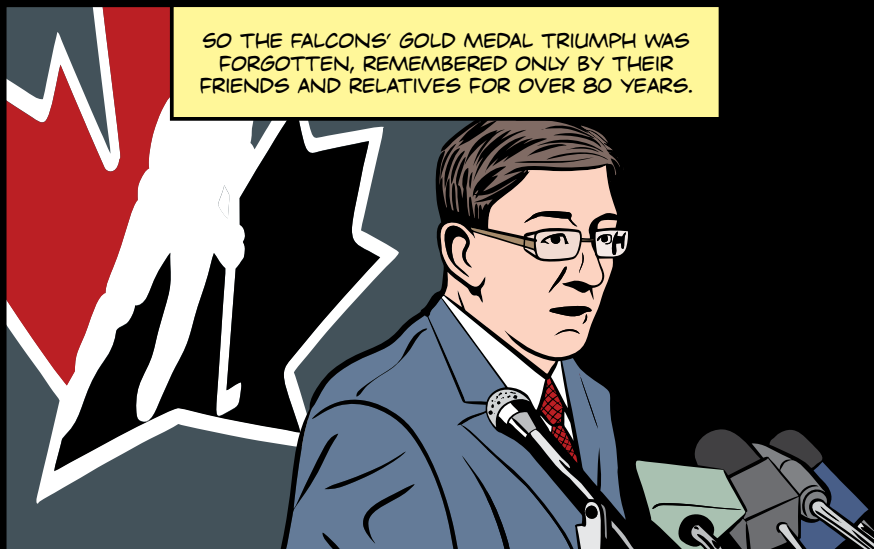
1948 St. Moritz

1952 Oslo

55

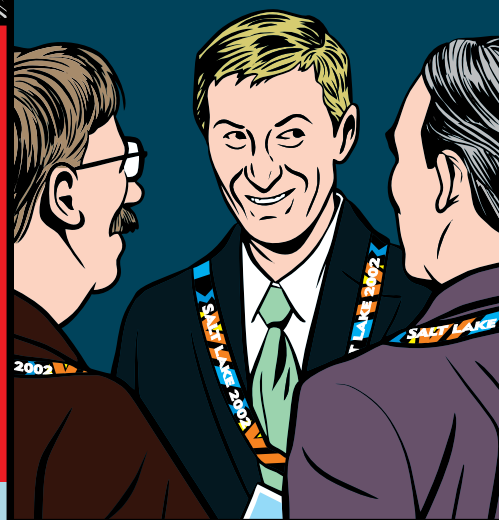


SO THE FALCONS' GOLD MEDAL TRIUMPH WAS FORGOTTEN, REMEMBERED ONLY BY THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES FOR OVER 80 YEARS.



IN FALL 2001, HOCKEY CANADA ADDED INSULT TO INJURY BY ANNOUNCING THAT TEAM CANADA 2002 WOULD HONOUR THE FIRST CANADIAN OLYMPIC ICE HOCKEY GOLD MEDAL WINNERS BY WEARING THEIR JERSEYS—THE TORONTO GRANITES!

UPSET AT HOCKEY CANADA'S MISTAKE, THE UNITED ICELANDIC APPEAL STARTED THE "FALCONS FOREVER" CAMPAIGN AT THE 2002 SALT LAKE CITY OLYMPIC GAMES. TEAM CANADA DIRECTOR WAYNE GRETZKY SUPPORTED THE CAMPAIGN.



TEAM CANADA WORE THE FALCONS' OLYMPIC JERSEYS TO HONOUR THEIR FEAT DURING THE 2004 WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY.

ON APRIL 25, 2005, MANITOBA PREMIER GARY DOER AND THE "FALCONS FOREVER" COMMITTEE OPENED AN EXHIBIT TO HONOUR THE FALCONS AT WINNIPEG'S MTS CENTRE.



The Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame
Le Temple de la renommée olympique du Canada

Winnipeg Falcons
1920 Men's Hockey Team
Équipe masculine de hockey de 1920

Athletes (Team) / Athlètes (Équipe)

Inducted April 29, 2006
Intronisés le 29 avril 2006



FINALLY, THE CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FALCONS HAD WON THE FIRST ICE HOCKEY GOLD MEDAL.

THE FALCONS WERE INDUCTED INTO THE CANADIAN OLYMPIC HALL OF FAME ON APRIL 29, 2006.



THE WINNIPEG FALCONS OVERCAME EXTREME PREJUDICE TO REPRESENT CANADA AT ITS BEST OFF AND ON THE ICE. THROUGH HARD WORK, DETERMINATION, COURAGE, COMPASSION, AND SPORTSMANSHIP, THEY SHOWED THE REST OF CANADA-AND THE WORLD-WHAT IT TRULY MEANS TO BE CANADIAN.

FALCONS FOREVER!

GOLDEN BOYS

THE WINNIPEG FALCONS OF 1920

The Winnipeg Falcons are called Canada's Golden Boys for a reason. In the pantheon of ice hockey, they are unknown superstars, but to their fans, no one was surprised. They lived and breathed hockey, playing with a joyful menace as they took title after title and defeated team after team. Comprised of players of Icelandic descent, the Falcons suffered indignities and prejudice, and were denied access to the senior league. So, undaunted, they formed their own and played so well that they were finally invited to play in the big leagues.

In 1920, the Olympic Games took place in Antwerp, Belgium. Teams across Canada played for the privilege to represent their country. In the end, one team remained standing—the Winnipeg Falcons. This was both vindication for their suffering and recognition of their talent. The Falcons faced little competition and won the Olympic gold, handily. Canada became the first country in Olympic history to win a gold medal in hockey. Upon their return, the Falcons were celebrated from coast to coast. From humble beginnings, a pure love for hockey catapulted the team to global prominence.

