

## **1956-1966: Decade Seven**

The Wests were caught by the expanding soccer program in 1956-57. After they had lost the Duncan players, their spirit waned and the team folded. **Wilf Sadler** and **Harry Youson** had a good team of youngsters, who were two or three seasons away from senior football, waiting in the wings. They cleared the way with an agreement that the Wests would be excused from the V&D League for a couple of seasons but the team's colours would be held.

Vic West stepped back into the league in 1959 with Harry as coach, Wilf as manager and probably one of the youngest sides ever in local senior soccer. Almost all were from the Optimists team which had been the previous seasons Division 1 BC Juvenile finalists.



### **VICTORIA OPTIMISTS 1958-59--DIV. 1 JUVENILE--LOWER-ISLAND & ISLAND CHAMPS**

Back Row, L-R: Wilf Sadler, Tom Wyatt, Alex Lacy, Barry Menzies, Gordon McBride, Dave Dawson, Jim Hawthorne, Daryl McIntyre, Harry Youson.

Front Row, L-R: Jim Peters, John Youson, Barry Sadler, Murray Superle, Alan Glen.  
Missing, Brian Cornall, Bob Turner.

Adding four experience players in **John McCartney**, **Horst Szukulla**, **Dick Grealy** and **Al Metcalfe** they continued the Vic West tradition. Not always winning but putting in a respectable showing, by collecting 19 points and finishing seventh in the 11-team league.

The following year the young Wests added some experience with “**Whitey**” **Wakelyn** acting as player-manager and a smooth English forward in **Les Stevenson**. The team progressed and moved up to a fifth place finish behind strong clubs like Evcoes, Kickers, Thistles and Scottish.

Two players had stood out, goalkeeper **Barry Sadler** and talented **Pat Mulcahy Jr.**, and were picked on the League’s Select squad. Pat displayed a great deal of promise and pride in following his dad’s career with Victoria West while Barry would go on to become an outstanding Coast League keeper.

**John Youson**, extended that family name to three generations of Wests until his schooling took him east where he captained the McGill University side to an Eastern title.

Hard working centre-half, **Gordie McBride**, was also a second generation player and **Brian Cornall**, full-backs **Jim Hawthorne** and **Dave Dawson** all showed good progress. **Horst Szukalla**, playing on the wing against Nanaimo, scored three goals and set up two others in one 5-2 victory.

In the 1961-62 season, Victoria United rejoined the Coast League and recruited **Sadler** and **Mulcahy** from the Wests. **Dave Unwin** and **Dave Collett** joined the green and by the

end of November Vic West sat in second place. They were one point behind Gorge and one ahead of the Kickers and Duncan in a tight standing 12-team setup. The final table showed them in sixth place, but only 10 points had separated the top eight finishers. A couple of wins in place of the Wests six tie games and five one-goal losses would have made a big difference.

With eight teams in the 1st Division of the 1962-63 session, likable Wilf convinced a keen **Frank Grealy**, who had been in the Victoria boating fraternity for 15 years, to pick-up the Vic West reins. Frank signed two talented high school athletes in **Ranjit Dillon** and **Gerry Booth** then **Pat Mulcahy** rejoined.

Vic West, who went winless for six games and had only a lone point when Jackson Cup play began, promptly let it be known they were a cup tie team. Two 3-1 wins put them into the final where they demolished the Scottish 6-1. **Ranjit** had a great game with four of the markers, **Booth** and **Wakelyn** adding the others. For the first time in eight years, there was silver in the Vic West trophy case!

Not quite as fortunate in McGavin play, it took them two games to get past Heaneys and a 3-1 overtime battle with Kickers to reach the final against first place Gorge. Ahead 2-1 in the late going, Wests gave up a tying goal and an overtime one to go down 3-2.

In Province Cup play, the Wests were going strong with wins of 7-0 from Div. 2 Drakes and 3-2 over Kickers. In that match, **Unwin** made two great saves by stopping a late penalty shot and then a second on the rebound to preserve the win.

Wests, riding a 13 game winning streak, met Gorge in the zone final. It was 2-2 after 90 minutes but once again the Wests lost in extra time.



#### **WESTS F.C.--1961-62 JACKSON CUP WINNERS**

Back Row, L-R: Wilf Sadler, Ranjit Dillon, Gordie Deacon, Brian Cornall, Dave Unwin, Dave Collett, Gerry Booth,  
Pat Mulcahy.

Front Row, L-R: Dick Grealy, Frank Grealy, Jim Hawthorne, Dave Dawson, Alan Metcalfe, Dave Wakelyn.

A great deal of credit for that positive season must go to **Frank Grealy's** coaching ability and the grueling training of fiery **Alan Metcalfe**.

In 1963-64, the youthful Wests suffered through a loss of players as university and jobs pulled many of the young fellows out of town. United was also searching for young talent and that year **Mulcahy** rejoined them along with **Jim Hawthorne**. With only four returnees, Grealy faced a huge rebuilding, but, the respected mentor recruited **Mike Addison**, **Gino Bressen**, **Jurgen Stossel**, **Don McIntosh**, **Stu McFarlane**, **Bill Harris**, **Nelson Crisp** and rookie **Doug Hill**. By the league's end their Garrison Cup record stood at 13 wins, 1 loss, 4 ties, with 47 goals for and 20 against. **Doug Hill** won "Rookie of the Year" honours and the Wests shared the Price Cup playoff award with Brodies when they posted a 1-1 overtime stalemate. Not as fortunate in Jackson Cup play they were early victims of the rival Gorge gang.

The next season, 1964-65, United picked off more Wests when they acquired coach **Grealy** and **Don McIntosh**. A handful of others left but were replaced with fine young players such as **Mike Graas**, **Nirmal Dillon** and **Dick Crompton**. **Tom Druce** took on the coaching position and the club had a second in-a-row league high points total. However Kickers, with an identical count and a much higher goal scoring average, laid claim to the Garrison Cup. Play in the Jackson series produced some good games with the Wests making it to the semis before Scottish finished them. It was the Kickers who did them in, by identical 2-1 scores, during the Price and local Province Cup playdown.

**Mike Graas** kept the Lands End Rookie Award in the Vic West club for a second term. That season was also **Al Metcalfe's** final run for Vic West as his teaching profession led him to the East.

During those few seasons, fund raising activities had gone well and the club was financially sound enough to purchase sharp green blazers for its' members. The club had never had a logo, except for the "VW" initials or word "Wests" and needed a pocket crest for the jackets. Being close to their 70th anniversary and common knowledge that Vic Wests were the oldest functioning soccer club in Canada, the maple leaf symbol was adopted.

The last year of this decade saw the Victoria Wests Soccer Club incorporated through the Societies Act that allowed them to get a Bingo Operators Permit under the new Gaming Act. They shared the license with the Retarded Children's Association, provided most of the manpower and split the income.

**Dave Unwin** and **Nelson Crisp Jr.** took on the coaching and managing in 1965-66. They signed six high school stars in Oak Bay's **Howie Anderson**, **Peter Robarts** and goalkeeper **Don Head**. **Brian Robinson**, **Dave Evans** and **Dave Graas**, from Vic High, along with **Bill Munroe** and **Carl Walker** who also joined into the rebuilding.

The season opened with Wests winning their first fixture in McGavin Cup play, but that was it. Six games before another win had them tied last on the tables at Christmas. They had more success in the new year, getting to the Jackson semis and climbing up to fifth spot with three straight wins and a draw. After knocking the league winning Kickers and second place Gorge out of Province Cup action they dropped a 1-0 overtime battle in Nanaimo for the Island berth.

**Howie Anderson** collected the "Rookie" award, making it three years in-a-row for a Wests player and four times since 1960, when **Barry Sadler** had gained the recognition.

Vic West developed quite a farm system at Lansdowne Park with 14 juvenile teams from Divisions 2 to 8 playing under the Evening Optimists colours. Many of them were coached or managed by players and executive of the Wests. A big job in running that program was handled by **Vic Hemming** and **Nelson Crisp**. Other Optimist members such as **Tony Grover**, **Art Cannon**, **Hank Graas**, **Bob Sproule** and **Nelson Crisp Sr.** provided endless help to the Wests.

Some more sets of brothers playing for the Wests during this decade were **Frank** and **Dick Grealy**. **Frank**, joining as player-coach, was a major contributor in two cup winning seasons. His talent did not go unnoticed and before long the Coast League O'Keefes had him

directing their side. **Dick** played for two seasons at inside-forward giving a good account during the early 60s start-up.

**Ranjit** and **Nirmal Dillon** began long terms with the club near the end of this decade. **Ranj** as a forward, at age 16, made his presence felt with his speed and goal-scoring ability and in one of his first cup games he netted three. Playing near a dozen seasons, he later developed into a fine passing defense player. With his great anticipation he displayed ability at every position, including goalkeeper during some emergencies. **Nirm** signed on a year or two later and always displayed a great deal of competitive spirit with his hard work and fiery play at the wing or link positions. One of his best moments came in a televised game, at Vancouver, when he scored the only goal late in the game to advance the Wests to the 1967 Province Cup quarter-finals. Two outstanding lacrosse playing brothers they have won countless awards while leading Victoria junior and senior teams to Minto and Mann Cup Canadian Championships.