

# THE RIDEAU'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

## CANADIAN MEN'S BASKETBALL 1925 CHAMPIONSHIP



### HERITAGE JERSEY GAME

WEDNESDAY DEC 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2025 AT 4PM  
LISGAR COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Celebrate Ottawa's 100th Anniversary Win: the 1925 Canadian Men's Basketball Championship**

100 Years Ago, Lisgar Collegiate Boys' basketball sent the youngest Ottawa team, ever, to compete in the national Canadian Men's Basketball Championship. Playing as part of "Rideau Aquatic Club," the Lisgar ballers defeated the University of British Columbia in Vancouver to become Canadian champions.

On December 3rd, at 4pm, Lisgar Boy's Basketball will again morph into the "Rideaus" vs UBC.

With support from Lisgar, Rideau Canoe Club, UBC and Xeist Teamwear, we've created replica jerseys to recreate the spirit of this historic match. We will play a "Heritage Jersey" game to commemorate what was Ottawa's first ever national basketball championship.

On April 30, 1925, a team selected and led by Lisgar teacher, coach, and drill instructor Arthur Burridge captured the first-ever Dominion Amateur Basketball Association-sanctioned men's national title in Vancouver. Burridge later went on to become the athletic director at McMaster University, where the gymnasium now bears his name.

It was a special group of athletes. Don Young, a cousin of basketball inventor James Naismith, was a star on the team. Later that fall, he and teammate Jake Jamieson would win Ottawa's first Grey Cup playing for the Rough Riders. Two years later, in 1927, teammate Alex "Boots" Smith would help the Senators to win the Stanley Cup.

Arnold Henderson from UBC would go onto coach the Edmonton Grad's, and become part of the most famous and successful basketball team in Canada. Dal Grauer would become UBC Chancellor.

### ***A Legacy That Continued Beyond the Court***

After graduating, several team members served Canada during the Second World War. Don Young and Eric Nichol both became doctors and enlisted with divisions of the Royal Medical Corps.

In 1945, King George VI awarded Don Young the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his service.

### ***Centennial Commemoration: Heritage Jersey Game***

The 100th anniversary celebration at Lisgar will feature a Heritage Jersey Basketball Game, honouring the athletes and their impact on Canadian and Ottawa sports culture. To commemorate the championship, the Lisgar boy's basketball team will sport the purple retro jersey and the alumni team will wear the UBC white retro jersey provided by Xeist.

The event is supported by the Ottawa Basketball Network (OBN), a not-for-profit that leverages basketball to build community and was instrumental in helping establish World Basketball Day at the United Nations.

At half-time, Wheelchair Basketball Canada will demonstrate their sport and profile the 2026 World Championships in Ottawa.

Descendants of players, including Naismith family descendants plan to attend.

"This anniversary is more than a sports milestone, it's a celebration of Ottawa's rightful place in Canadian basketball history."

— Leo B. Doyle, Ottawa Basketball Network

Individuals or organizations interested in supporting the Heritage Jersey Game or contributing to the centennial initiative may contact:

#### **Leo B. Doyle**

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