

Ottawa’s Road to 1925 Dominion of Canada Championship

Saturday, March 7th, Rideaus defeat Ottawa Rowing Club 67-35 in two-game total point series, advancing to play the Winged Wheelers of Montreal Amateur Athletic Club.

Wed, March 11, Game 1, Ottawa defeats Montreal 58 to 20 in match played at Ottawa No. 4 Fire Hall.
Sat, March 14, Game 2, Ottawa loses 23-21 at Montreal AAC Peel Street gym, but win the series 79 to 43.

Sunday, March 22, arrive in Saint John, NB, for two-game series versus Maritime Champions, the Trojans.

Monday, March 23, Game 1, Rideaus defeat Trojans 28-31 at St. Vincent’s High School Gym. Described as “one of the fastest and most exciting games ever played in the Maritimes”.
Tuesday, March 24, Game 2, Ottawa Rideaus win 32-22 over Trojans to take series 63-50.

Mon, April 6, Hervey Boyd, Ottawa-based Vice President, Dominion Amateur Basketball Association, receives confirmation letter from president Cecil Race: Ottawa will play UBC in Vancouver for national title.

Wed, April 22, Ottawa depart by train for Vancouver, with Winnipeg stop to play fundraiser game.

Thur, April 23, Ottawa play bruising game versus Winnipeg Toilers, a 22-22 tie. The Toilers will win national championships in 1926 and 1927. Bill Alldritt, YMCA secretary, founded the Toilers in 1910 and learned basketball from Thomas Duncan Patton, a good friend of basketball inventor, James Naismith. TD Patton played in the first ever game at Springfield in 1891, and introduced basketball to Canada via Ottawa YMCA, October 3, 1892. TD Patton moved back to Ottawa in 1907 to build a new YMCA on Laurier and Metcalfe.

Tue, April 28, Game 1, Vancouver. The youthful Ottawa team beat UBC 28 to 18 at the Denman Street Arena. “Snappy five-man defence” and Lyle Laishley shooting for 12 points are key to Ottawa victory.

Wed, April 29, Vancouver Rotary Club host Rideaus and they tour a logging camp to see “high rigging”.
Evening: UBC Alumni Association entertain Ottawa Rideau team.

Thursday, April 30, UBC Women’s Undergraduate Society entertain the visiting Ottawa Rideau basketball team at an afternoon tea-dance at Vancouver’s Stanley Park Pavilion.

Thur, April 30, Game 2. UBC “varsity rooters under their cheer leaders were out in full force and encouraged their team with their *college yells*.” Before thousands of fans UBC defeat Ottawa 18 to 10. But because Ottawa won game #1, 28-18, they win the series 38-36, by 2 points. Don Young’s defence is key; Ottawa are first Dominion champs. One newspaper called it: “the most thrilling and exciting basketball final ever staged.”

Friday, May 1, Ottawa Mayor John Balharrie sends congratulatory telegram to the Rideaus.

Saturday, May 2nd, Ottawa Rideaus depart Vancouver by train for Kamloops, BC, where they play an exhibition game to raise funds to pay for trip home. Rideaus defeat Kamloops 34 to 16. But injuries to two Rideau players force cancelation game planned for Edmonton.

Mon, May 4, Mayor John Balharrie announces \$200 payment to Rideau Aquatic Club to celebrate the championship and promote amateur athletics.

Thursday, May 7, at 6:15am, over 100 supporters greeted the returning Ottawa Rideaus on platform of Ottawa’s Central Station.

The *Ottawa Citizen* wrote that the Edmonton Grads defeated Toronto Young Hebrew Women’s Athletic Association (YHWA) to capture the women’s championship, and Victoria Cougars won hockey’s Stanley Cup. But the Ottawa Rideau’s win: “Successfully Challenged Western Supremacy”. The Rideau “basketball machine, champions of the Dominion, have returned from The Far West after a victorious tour that will long be remembered both by players and sport followers in the Capital.”

