

1950 Vancouver Firemen

2012 Inductee - Team Category

The 1950 Vancouver Fireman's Major Men's Fastball team competed in the first ever Canadian Men's Fastball Championship held at the Canadian National Exhibition Fairgrounds in Toronto. What the team had to go through just to get to the finals was extraordinary.



First, they won the Major Men's league playoffs, at Prince Edward Park before an overflow crowd of 4,500. More than 11,000 fans flocked to the park on August 12 and 13th 1950 to watch the Fireman sweep the series against Victoria Douglas Tire. The majority of the crowd formed a human wall around the outfield standing 10 deep. In an effort to view the game, even the trees surrounding the park were full and photos were recorded in the newspaper.

They then travelled by bus to Trail, BC to compete against the Trail Crown Point Hotel. They defeated Trail two games straight by identical 5-1 scores. Canada's Railways were on strike so travel was via Greyhound bus to Lethbridge where they participated against the Alberta Champion Shaughnessy Cadillac's. Lethbridge won the first game of the best of three series 6-3. Dick Pickering, one of two non-firemen on the team, took the loss. Vancouver won game two 5-4 in thirteen innings. Norm Ford, the other non-fireman, pitched all 13 innings for the win. The deciding game was won by Vancouver 2-0 in eleven innings. Back on Greyhound and on to Saskatoon where they played Saskatoon Legion. They defeated the legion team two straight by identical 3-2 scores. Back on the bus and off to Winnipeg for the Western Canada Finals. Vancouver lost the first game of the best of five series, 6-3. Game two was won by the Firemen 4-0. Game three was a 12 inning scoreless tie called by darkness. Pete Proctor allowed only two hits the entire game. Vancouver won game four 5-4 behind the pitching of Ford and Proctor. Game five was a whitewash, Firemen won 15-0. Pete Proctor, Alex Turkington and Norm Warren each recorded three hits.

Finally the trains were back in business and the Firemen were on the road to Toronto. Vancouver met a powerhouse, Peoples Credit Jewelers team at the Canadian National Exhibition Fairgrounds. The Firemen lost all three games by scores of 2-0, 4-3, and 3-2. Despite losing in the finals, this team deserves their induction into the Softball BC's Hall of Fame. They accomplished something no other team from BC has done.