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# PACIFIC coast soccer



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## The PCSL's teddy bear general

Richard Howes

Who would have thought that 30 years ago that the big, burly, easygoing and taciturn semi-professional baseball pitcher, and BC Hall of Famer with the evil sense of humour, would eventually be a critical cog in the small but efficient 'machine' that runs the Pacific Coast Soccer League.

Born and brought up in Vancouver, Bill Gillespie began his baseball playing career in 1951 as a member of the New Westminster Junior Lions. Despite several scholarship offers from US colleges including UCLA, Gillespie elected to join CP Air at Vancouver International Airport and continue his baseball career locally. After a number of highly successful years he was offered a professional contract with the PCL Seattle Rainiers but declined, preferring to continue his local involvement.

### Sermon from the mound

Bill came to be regarded as one of the finest pitchers ever to take to the mound in the Dewdney and Vancouver and District Leagues. He earned many valuable player awards as he competed against the finest teams in the Pacific Northwest.

After turning down a second professional offer in 1964, Bill concentrated on his career in the airline industry and finally retired from playing the game in 1969. For the next 18 years he coached in local programs and conducted workshops for interested groups of young players.

Bill Gillespie's prowess as a player ranks on par with the finest produced in BC. His long and illustrious career culminated with his induction into the BC Hall of Fame in 1986. As such he was invited that year to pitch the first ball at the inaugural Major League Baseball exhibition game at BC Place, between Seattle Mariners and Montreal Expos.

### Certified chocoholic

"He would sell his soul for anything sweet," said Gillespie's wife, Phyllis, as she related

how his doting grandmother from Revelstoke would travel to Kamloops to watch "Billy" pitch in the annual Labour Day tournament. She would take one of her home baked chocolate cakes and order from hotel room service a quart of milk and a thick and creamy peanut butter sandwich, all of which Bill would consume on his own after the game.

"She made the best chocolate cakes in the world," said Gillespie.

### Gillespie glory days

Gillespie's involvement with soccer began when he joined the CP Air company team which played in the Lower Mainland League. Languishing in Division 5 when he joined, Gillespie helped the team move up a level every year till they won the 1966 Division 2 Cup Final against BC Sugar – a game played the day after he and Phyllis were married, and which she attended still in her short wedding dress.

Pacific Coast Soccer League president Len McAdams, who also worked for CP Air at the airport, convinced Gillespie to run for director of the PCSL in 1987. He has been re-elected for seven consecutive terms since and shows no interest in stepping down just yet.

### A sordid history with Pot

His involvement with the PCSL landed him the job of managing the Seamans Centre while the PCSL still played out of there, a job which he took on in 1993 shortly before he retired from CP Air. Gillespie recalls how the PCSL installed lights at the field, \$10,000 worth of which were promptly stolen one night. The RCMP explained that the lights were a highly desirable commodity in the pot growing industry and that's likely where they ended up.

### Gillespie the Compassionate

There is another side to Bill Gillespie, he was my first non-family visitor when I was admitted to Langley Memorial Hospital after a major heart attack year before last. Recipient of a heart pacemaker himself, Bill has always



GANG / WORLD FOOTBALL PAGES

**LOVEABLE TEDDY BEAR:** If you went down to the park today, you'd be in for a surprise if you saw this man wearing baseball tights, stirrups, cup and glove. It's really better for all of us that Big Bill Gillespie strapped on shin pads and took up football

been very concerned and caring about my health and welfare and that of my lovely wife Lorna. Thank you for everything Billy.

**GAME PICS:** Intrepid photographer/league director Richard Howes posts slide shows frequently online during the season. Be there!

**SCHEDULES & RESULTS:** For results and complete schedules visit: [www.pcsl.org](http://www.pcsl.org)

## GOALSCORERS

Men	July 20
Steven Scott	Victoria United 16
Andrew Corrazza	Whitecaps Reserves 15
Jim Krueger	Okanagan Challenge 14
Omari Aldridge	New West. Khalsa 11
B. Swartzendruber	Okanagan Challenge 11
Ian Chursky	Hibs & Caledonian 11
Mark Peters	Fraser Valley Action 8
Matt Mori	New West. Khalsa 7
Mike Brkich	New West. Khalsa 7
Brian van Schagen	Whitecaps Reserves 7

Women	FINAL
Amelie Mercier	Victoria Stars 8
Carlee O'Brien	Fraser Valley Action 6
Moirra Hood	Victoria Stars 5
Carey Gustafson	Victoria Stars 5
Kirsteen Buchan	Whitecaps Reserves 5
Natalie Halco	Whitecaps reserves 5
Alexis Heinz	Fraser Valley Action 4
Megan Lienhard	Hibs & Caledonian 4
Mariele Solsberg	Victoria Stars 3

## MEN July 20

### PCSL MEN'S LEAGUE North Division

Team	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	Pt
Whitecaps Reserves	16	10	2	4	40	15	34
Hibernian & Caledonian	16	9	3	4	41	20	31
Fraser Valley Action	16	9	3	4	28	17	31
Vancouver Thunderbirds	15	7	4	4	25	23	25
Columbus Clan	15	4	8	3	27	34	15
Skagit Rapids	14	1	12	1	19	49	4

### South Division

Team	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	Pt
Victoria United	16	11	2	3	54	17	36
New Westminster Khalsa	16	10	4	2	47	31	32
Okanagan Challenge	16	7	6	3	47	35	24
Surrey United	16	4	10	2	15	42	14
Penticton Pinnacles	15	3	11	1	18	44	10
Kamloops City	13	1	11	1	14	48	4

## WOMEN FINAL

### PCSL WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Team	P	W	L	D	GF	GA	Pt
Victoria Stars	10	8	1	1	33	8	25
Fraser Valley Action	10	6	2	2	25	15	20
Hibernian & Caledonian	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
Whitecaps Reserves	10	4	4	2	16	19	14
Tri-Cities Xtreme	10	4	5	1	15	22	13
Sportstown TSS	10	3	5	2	13	13	11
Norvan/NSGSC Eagles	10	2	7	1	8	30	7
Kamloops City	10	1	8	1	9	20	4

## Cup Qualifiers

The following PCSL clubs have qualified for cup tournaments over the weekends of July 23-24 and 30-31:

**J.F. Kennedy Cup**  
BC representative: Victoria United

**Kevin McAdams Cup**  
BC Representative: Victoria Stars

**Men's Challenge Cup**  
Okanagan Challenge - host team  
Victoria United - 36 points  
Whitecaps Reserves - 34 points  
New Westminster Sporting - 32 points

**Women's Challenge Cup**  
Tri-Cities Xtreme - host team  
Victoria Stars - 25 points  
Fraser Valley Action - 20 points  
Hibernian & Caledonian - 20 points

Check the relevant tournament sections online, for full tournament details, accessible from the 'Tournament' link at the main menu.

### Sheila Anderson Memorial Challenge Cup

The Okanagan Challenge will host the Men's PCSL Playoffs at the Apple Bowl in Kelowna July 30-31, 2005. Semi-finals are at 5:00pm and 7:30pm Saturday, July 30 with the Final at 1:00pm July 31. Tickets are \$5 adult/\$3 youth and are available at the gate. Season tickets are not valid for the playoffs.

### Dave Fryatt Challenge Cup

The 2005 women's cup will be hosted by Tri-Cities Xtreme at Charles Best Field in Coquitlam. Semi-finals will be a 2:00pm and 7:00pm July 30, with the Final at 4:00pm July 31. Admission is free.

### Kennedy & McAdams cups

The Tournaments will be hosted together by the Skagit Rapids Soccer Club in Washington State at Wally Sigmar Field, Mount Vernon, WA, July 23-24. The Kennedy Cup (men) and Kevin McAdams Memorial Cup (women) are contested by the Oregon State champions, the Washington State champions, the highest-ranked BC team in the PCSL, and a chosen host team.