

Galt 1904 Football Club



Back, left: J.A. Fraser, R. Lane, A Johnston, F. Gourlay, G. Ducker, F. Linton, O. Christian. Front left: T. A. Taylor, F. Steep, A. Hall, G. McDonald, W. Twaits, A. Henderson.

It would have surprised no serious follower in the city of Galt that the Galt Football Club won the right to represent Canada in 1904 at the Olympic Games in St. Louis. The club, comprised entirely of local talent, had a 25-year record of success in the sport we now call soccer. With 44 championships during that time, Galt was considered the football capital of Canada. A 2-0 victory over their main rivals, the University of Toronto Varsity Blues, guaranteed a trip to St. Louis.

On Olympic game days, enthusiastic crowds gathered in the cool November weather for the posting of scores at the Galt Weekly Reformer on Water Street. The weaker of Galt's

opponents were defeated 7-0 in the first contest. When the stronger opponents were beaten on the strength of four second-half goals, Galt had its first and only Olympic team sport champions. Indeed, the victory was Canada's first-ever team gold at an Olympic Games.

Returning home on Nov. 21, 1904, the players were greeted by a crowd of 2,500 at the railway station on North Water Street. It was the biggest celebration in Galt's history. The enthusiasm continued through the day with a torchlight parade through the city to Scott's Opera House where a formal reception was held a week later.

Galt, long called the Manchester of Canada, through its

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