



## TED HUNT

Ted was an extraordinary player for his high school, university, club, sub-union, provincial union and country at a time (1950's & 1960's) when there were very few Rugby Canada teams to play international matches. He played rugby at the top level for two decades, competing nationally and internationally, often as captain.

Ted excelled in many sports but he was always at his best in rugby. He played fly half for the UBC Thunderbirds where his passing, kicking, running and tackling skills were best used. Max Howell, an Australian international and one of Hunt's coaches, thought that Hunt would be an international in any country in the world. In all of Hunt's matches for British Columbia or Canada he demonstrated this.

Following UBC, Ted joined the Kats Rugby Club in Vancouver and often captained the team during the 15 years when it won many Rounsefell Cup provincial championships. During the period of 1957- 1967, Ted played and (in most) captained Canada & BC, against such Unions, as New Zealand (x 2), Australia (x 2), Japan (x 3), British Lions (x 2), England and the Barbarians.

In 1966, Ted Hunt and Peter Grantham combined to lead the BC Provincial rugby team to a stunning upset over the touring British Lions. Vancouver Sun writer Arv Olson rhapsodized that the victory was "a masterpiece painted by 15 artists, headed by a Van Gogh who goes by the name of Ted Hunt." Province reporter Geoff Wellens added, "Hunt's game winning play in the 53rd minute... will be remembered as long as rugby is played on this coast." With four minutes left and the score 3 - 3, British Lions centre Sandy Hinselwood was running at full stride toward the goal line when Hunt punched the ball out of Hinselwood's loose grasp, grabbed it, and raced 75 yards the other way, down the left sideline. Olson described what happened next: "The Lions pursuing him ran him down at the British 35 yardline. Hunt, realizing he was about to be grounded, cross-kicked with his left foot. The ball bounded over the goal line and forward Peter Grantham, the 34 year old doctor...beat winger Colin McFadyean to the ball for a try. Fullback Don Burgess converted, and the BC Rep team beat the Lions 8 - 3."

While this victory before 6,347 fans at Empire Stadium on September 14, 1966 was the highlight of Hunt's storied athletic career, it would require a book to chronicle all his exploits.

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In 1957, Hunt was the recipient of the B.C. Athlete of the Year award and in the following year in 1958, his athletic abilities, leadership and sportsmanship were once again recognized, this time by UBC, by awarding him the Bobby Gaul trophy. He was inducted into the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame in 1977, the UBC Sports Hall of Fame in 1993 and the BC Rugby Union's Hall of Fame in 2010

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