

THE  
SOCCER

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Newfoundland and Labrador  
Soccer Association

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## How It All Began

The Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association (NLSA) was formally organized in 1950 when an inaugural meeting was held at the Ayre Athletic Grounds Pavilion in St. John's. The meeting was organized by John V. Rabbits of St. John's and Fred Tessier of Grand Bank. Rabbits was elected the first president while Tessier and Joe Healey of St. John's were elected vice-presidents. Heber Bartlett of St. John's was the first secretary-treasurer.

- Dee Murphy

## Our History

While the NLSA came into being in 1950, the roots of the sport, especially in St. John's and on the Burin Peninsula, goes well back into the 1800's. Soccer was introduced into these regions early and often by crews of visiting cargo and war ships, by members of the British military

and by other immigrants, particularly of European descent, who settled in the province. Ports such as Botwood and Corner Brook sported soccer matches early in the 1900's. The builders of the paper mill in Grand Falls promoted soccer and, not surprisingly, the sport spread to Bishop's Falls, Gander, Springdale, Stephenville and Clarenville.

The arrival of workers at Labrador City and Wabush established solid soccer leagues in these communities in the late 1950's and 1960's. Soccer players in Happy Valley-Goose Bay not only played soccer during the summer but played on packed snow on frozen rivers or ponds during the winter. The game has since spread around Conception Bay from Manuels to Carbonear.

- Dee Murphy

## Provincial Leagues Preparing For New Season

Eight teams have been confirmed for the 2006 Molson Provincial Challenge Cup season while 6 teams will compete in the 2006 Breen's Provincial Jubilee Trophy League. Defending Challenge Cup champions St. Lawrence will be joined by Holy Cross, Marystown, Mount Pearl, Feildians and Burin. A new champion will be crowned in Jubilee Trophy with Holy Cross, Feildians, Molson Kick, Mount Pearl, Paradise

Physiotherapy and Marystown all fighting for the title.

Last year's champions, Sundance Sorella, have withdrawn. St. John's Under-18A all-stars will play on an exhibition basis in Challenge Cup while St. John's Under-16A and Under-18A and CBS U18A will play an exhibition schedule in Jubilee Trophy. The first games for both leagues are scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd.

## Did You Know?

Holy Cross won the first Provincial Senior Men's Championship in 1950 while St. John's All-stars won the first Provincial Senior Women's Championship in 1977.

Holy Cross is the only Newfoundland and Labrador team to win a National Club Championship - the National Challenge Cup in 1988 .

Alf Breen and his three sons, Bill, John and Bobby, have all been inducted into the Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Hall of Fame.

90,185 spectators watched the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup final between the U.S. and China at the Rose Bowl. It remains the largest crowd in history to watch a women's sporting event.

(709) 576-0601  
[www.nlsa.ca](http://www.nlsa.ca)



## 2006 Labrador Soccer Cup

The 24th Annual Molson / Bentley's Labrador Soccer Cup for Men and Women will take place from June 1-4 at the Broomfield Memorial Arena in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Home of an indoor program that has more than six hundred children from ages 3-18 participating; the Labrador Cup is the biggest annual sporting event in Labrador. Teams attend from all over Labrador and a committee is now in place to prepare for the 25th Anniversary Event in June of 2007. For more information, contact Trevor Paine at 896-7251 (w) or 896-3065 (h).

## Meet The Members

### ALFRED BREEN

Inducted in 1989

Alf Breen was one of the most talented and successful soccer players to ever perform at the Ayre Athletic Grounds. The exceptional center half was effective both offensively and defensively and often controlled the middle of the pitch with impressive skill. The perennial all-star's career spanned 20 years, from 1944 to 1963.

Alf was a key factor for the talented Holy Cross club that dominated St. John's soccer for seven seasons. From 1950 to 1956, he played a major role in Holy Cross emerging as city champions. His contribution to Holy Cross and the club's success was highlighted by his selection as the league's Most Valuable Player for the 1962 season, several years after the Holy Cross team that he captained won a city title. With provincial championship play just emerging, Alf earned a

reputation as an extraordinary soccer talent as he battled teams from the Burin Peninsula, especially St. Lawrence and Grand Bank, and Corner Brook. He was a member of the Holy Cross squad that won the first Provincial Senior Men's Championship in 1950. Alf was named to many all-star teams for exhibitions against teams from visiting British and Canadian ships and from St. Pierre and Miquelon. Not surprisingly, he was consistently one of the best performers for St. John's.

### CLEM "JUNIOR" EDWARDS

Inducted in 2001

Clem "Junior" Edwards has amassed a soccer career that can only be defined as extraordinary. He has won an amazing 50 championships as a player or coach. His 39-year involvement with soccer has had a tremendous impact on the sport in this province.

At the age of 15, Junior earned a spot on the powerful 1968 St. Lawrence Laurentians. In addition to winning five individual awards along the way, he played a valuable role in the ten provincial titles that St. Lawrence won during the 1970's to be selected as the "Provincial Team of the Decade". On six occasions Junior played in the National Challenge Cup competition with two silver medals to his credit as well as an Eastern Canadian Championship. He was selected to the 1970 Provincial All-Stars for the National Championships. Moreover, he was captain of the 1973 Canada Summer Games Team and earned MVP designation with the provincial minor team that played at Expo 67. Impressively, Junior was selected for

a tryout for the 1974 Canadian National Team, training and playing with the club in Bermuda. Since completing his senior playing career, mid-fielder Edwards has been a member of ten St. Lawrence teams that have won provincial masters championships.

Junior actually started coaching at the local St. Lawrence minor level in 1969 at the age of 16 and it was in 1980 that he began a 22-year provincial coaching career. His coaching was extremely important in the eight Provincial Senior Championships that the Laurentians won under his leadership during the 1990's and the latest Challenge Cup title in 2002.

Junior Edwards is a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Hall of Fame, the Burin Peninsula Soccer Hall of Fame and the St. Lawrence Soccer Hall of Fame.

- Dee Murphy

## You Be the Ref

**Question:** An attacker shoots on net, but as she strikes the ball her shoe comes off. The goalkeeper is forced to dodge the shoe but also fails to stop the shot from entering the goal. Should you allow the goal to stand?

**Answer:** No, the goal should not stand. A foul is an unfair or unsafe action committed by a player against an opponent or the opposing team, on the field of play, while the ball is in play. Although the loss of the shoe



was accidental, it was also careless. A careless act of striking (or attempting to strike) toward an opponent is punishable by a direct free kick for the opponent's team. Although the shooter wanted to play the ball when she kicked it and did not hit the goalkeeper with her shoe, she has still committed a foul. The restart is a direct free kick for the goalkeeper's team from the place where the shoe struck the goalkeeper (bearing in mind the special circumstances described in Law 8).

## Who Are We?

### The Board of Directors

The Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association administers soccer in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is dedicated to promoting the growth and development of soccer at all levels. In partnership with its members, the Association is committed to providing leadership and good governance for our sport. The NLSA is governed by a volunteer board, consisting of an executive of seven, supported by ten directors, representing all the regions of the Province.

#### 2006 NLSA Board of Directors

##### Executive:

President - Doug Redmond  
Past President - *Vacant*  
VP (Men's) - Kevin Pittman  
VP (Women's) - Connie Mercer  
VP (Youth) - Judi Kelloway  
Secretary - Gerry Gulliver  
Treasurer - George Battock

##### Regional Directors:

St. John's - Bob Antle  
Mount Pearl - Walt Mavin  
CBS - Calvin Randell  
Avalon - Jeff Clancey  
Burin Peninsula - Newman Bartlett  
Central - Chris Murley  
Western - Troy Turner  
Labrador East - Trevor Paine  
Labrador West - Don Stoddart  
St. Pierre & Miquelon - TBA

Director of Officials - Martin Batterson

### The Technical Committee

The NLSA Technical Committee offers technical support and assistance to all regions of the province. It is directly responsible for the eight Provincial teams and their respective staff. The Tech Committee is also responsible for offering coaching courses and upgrade opportunities for individuals across the Province who wish to further their soccer credentials.

#### 2006 NLSA Technical Committee

Trevor Paine - Chairperson  
Dragan Mirkovic - NLSA Technical Director  
Brian Walsh - NLSA Business Manager  
Jeff Babstock  
Scotts Betts  
Connie Mercer  
Judi Kelloway  
Tony Mullett  
Todd Mercer  
Martin Batterson

**Trivia Answers:**  
1. St. Lawrence Lauretians, 9  
2. Honduras  
3. Wils Mollo  
4. 4th

## Soccer Trivia

1. Who holds the record for the most consecutive Provincial Challenge Cup Championships? How many did the team win in a row?
2. Which country did Canada defeat in St. John's in 1985 to qualify for the 1986 FIFA World Cup?
3. Who was named the Male Soccer Player of the Decade for the 1970's?
4. What place did Canada finish at the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup held in the U.S.?

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