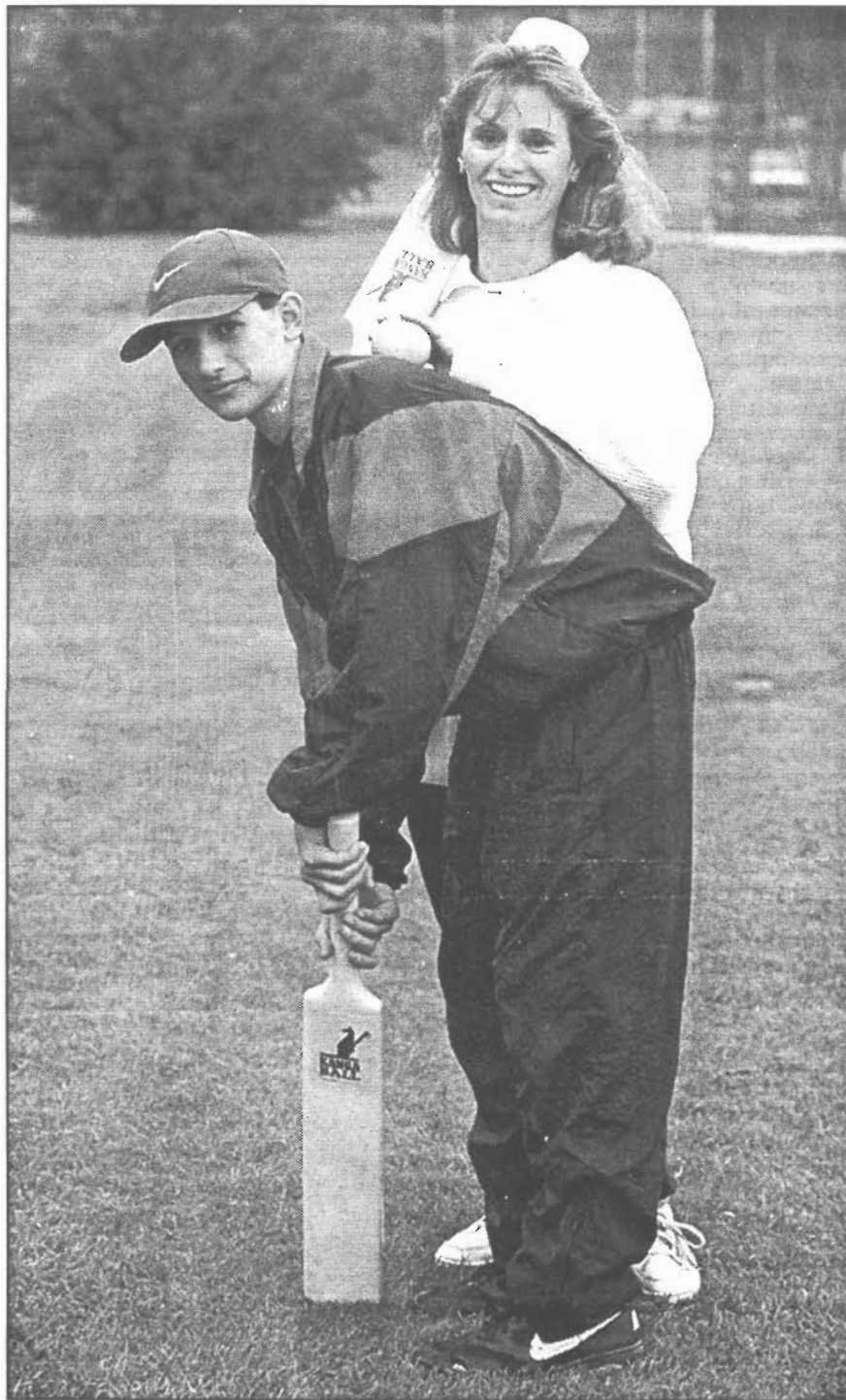


CRICKET PLAN FOR SCHOOLS, YOUTH & WOMEN



Courtesy The Journal

The Canadian Cricket Association

Consists of Provinces.

Alberta.
British Columbia
Manitoba
New Brunswick
Nova Scotia
Ontario
Quebec
Saskatchewan.

The Alberta Cricket Association.

Consists of.

Edmonton & District Cricket League 11 Clubs
Calgary & District Cricket League 7 Clubs.

ASCA

Alberta Schools Cricket Association,

was formed in 1995, and represents the Junior/Youth of the Edmonton & District Cricket League, current member schools Beaumont Composite High School, J. Percy Page High School & Avalon Junior High.

We envision many more members added to our Association, from Edmonton Calgary & rest of Alberta.

Objectives of ASCA.

(As per By Laws).

ASCA shall endeavour to:

- (a) promote the playing of both **Cricket** and **Kanga Ball** in schools across the province of Alberta.
- (b) provide all registered school cricketers the opportunity to play competitive cricket.
- (c) facilitate intra- and inter provincial schools competitions.
- (d) enter a team called **ASCA** club, in the E&DCL competition each year.

Development of Junior Participation.

The following programmes and competitions are planned for the future.

Kanga Ball	Cricket Festival	
Cricket	U14	11-14yrs.
Cricket	U 19	15-19yrs
Cricket	U25	20-25yrs.

June 96. refer to article titled...."It's just not cricket, what!...
Life-section, The Edmonton Journal, June 29, 1996

It's just not cricket, what!

Check it out, Edmonton,
here comes kanga ball

courtesy The Journal

Plan of Action.

Kanga Ball.

Kanga Cricket originated in Australia and now played in most schools. The same game is played in the United Kingdom called Kwik Cricket.

There has been enthusiastic response from leaders and participants concerning this game.

Kanga Cricket is a modified form of the regular game Cricket.

Fun for all who play.

Continuous action for all participants.

Flexible to suit time and area.

Kanga Cricket can be played by any age, boys and girls, men and women. During Summer & Winter.

Kanga Ball in Progress.



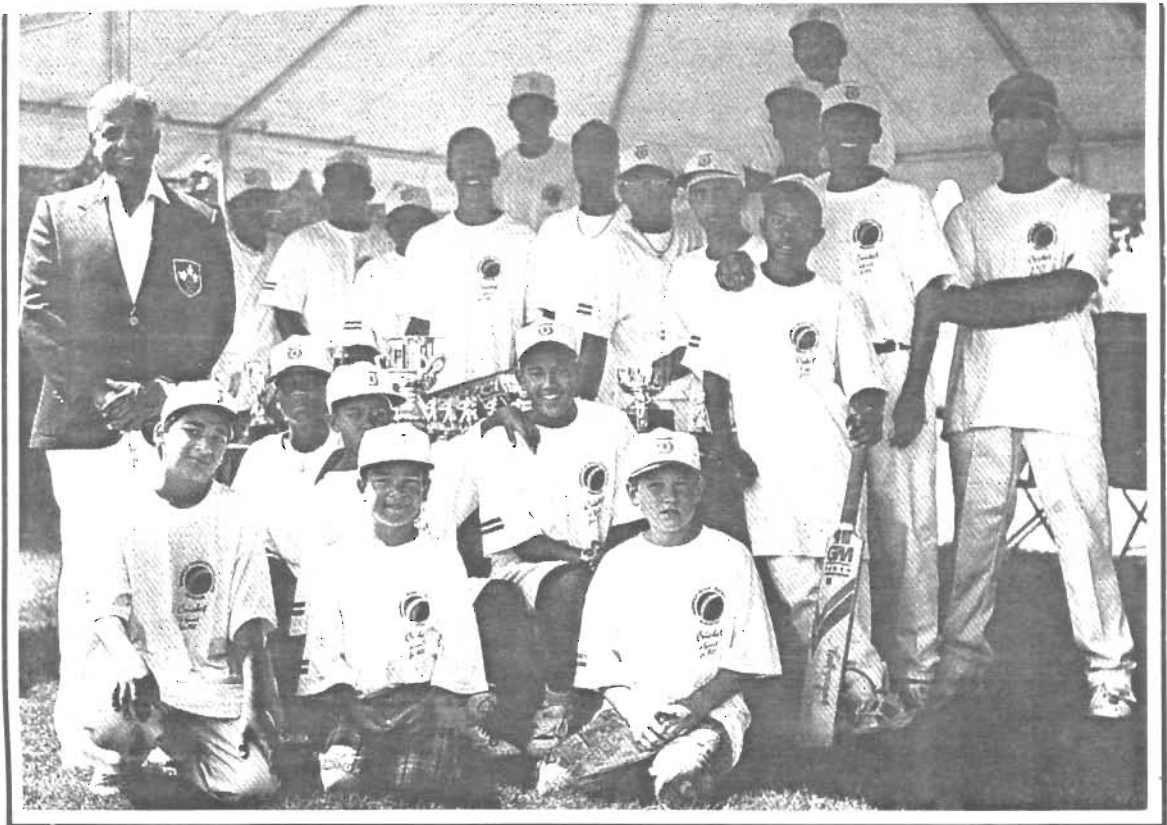
Juniors at GISAS 95.



Juniors at GISAS 95.



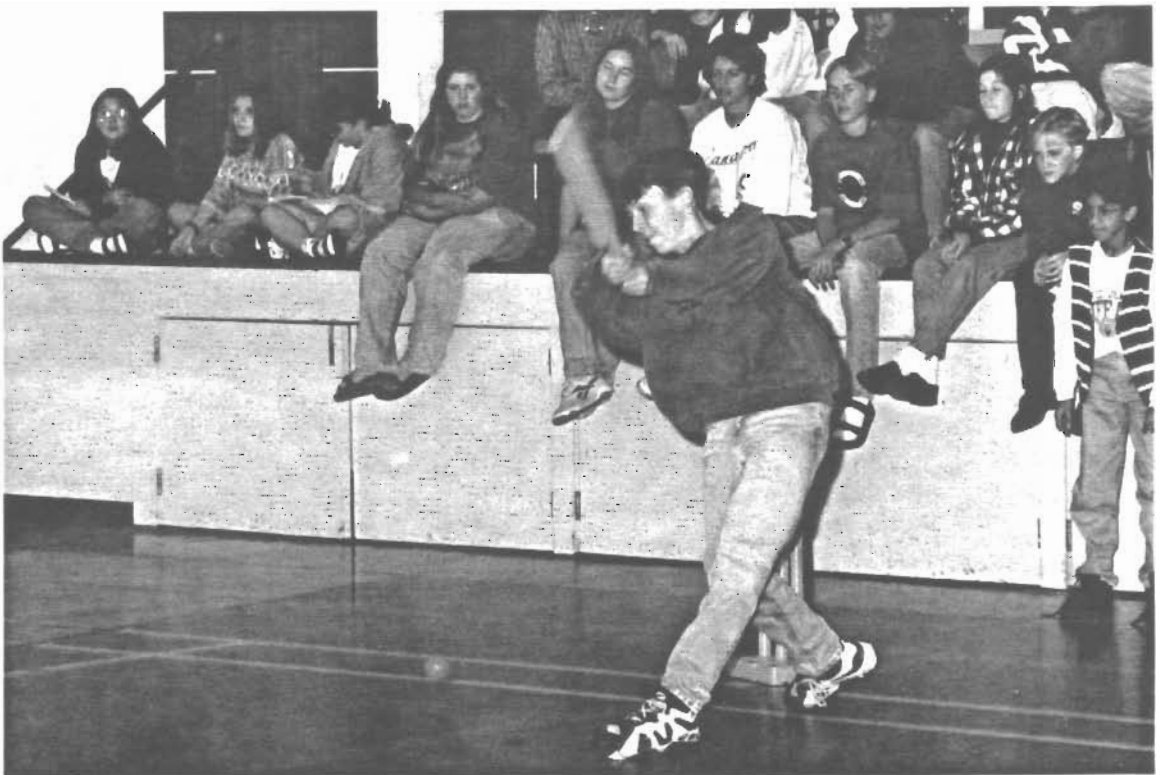
Juniors at GISAS 95.



Juniors at GISAS 94 Victoria Park.



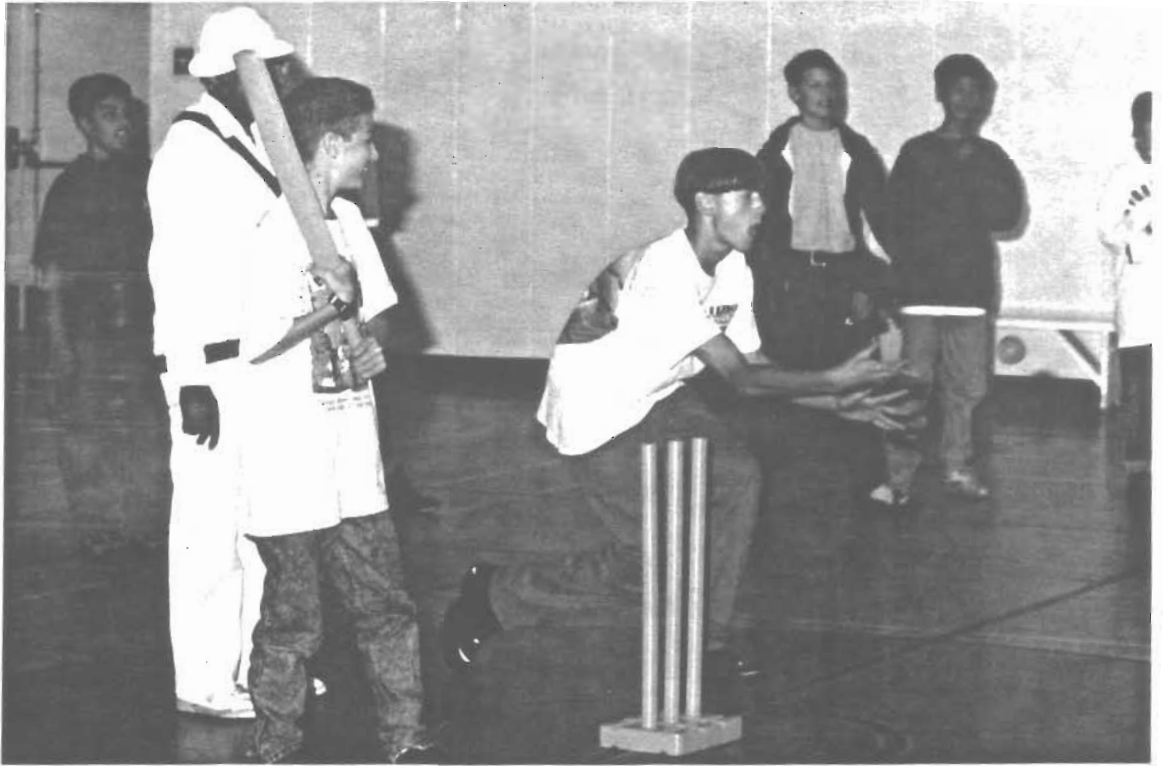
Juniors at Avalon Junior High



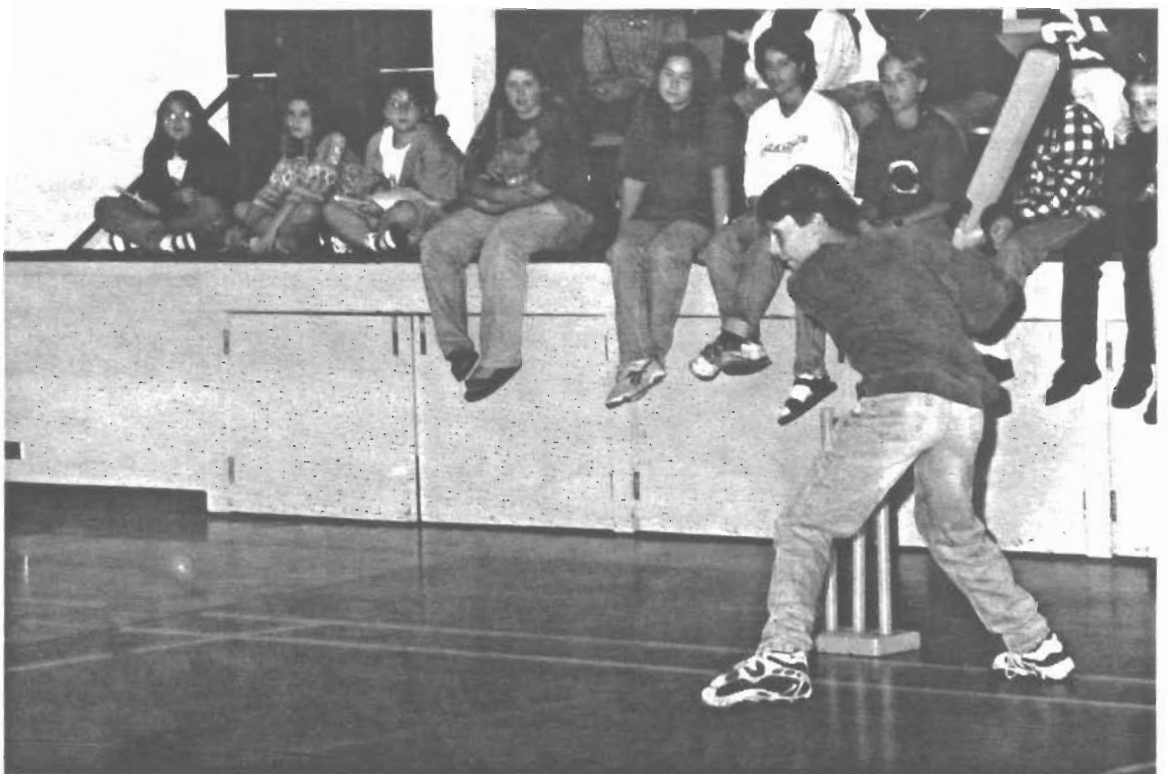


Juniors at Avalon Junior High





Juniors at Avalon Junior High.



Cricket Seminar teacher's institute Leduc Alberta.



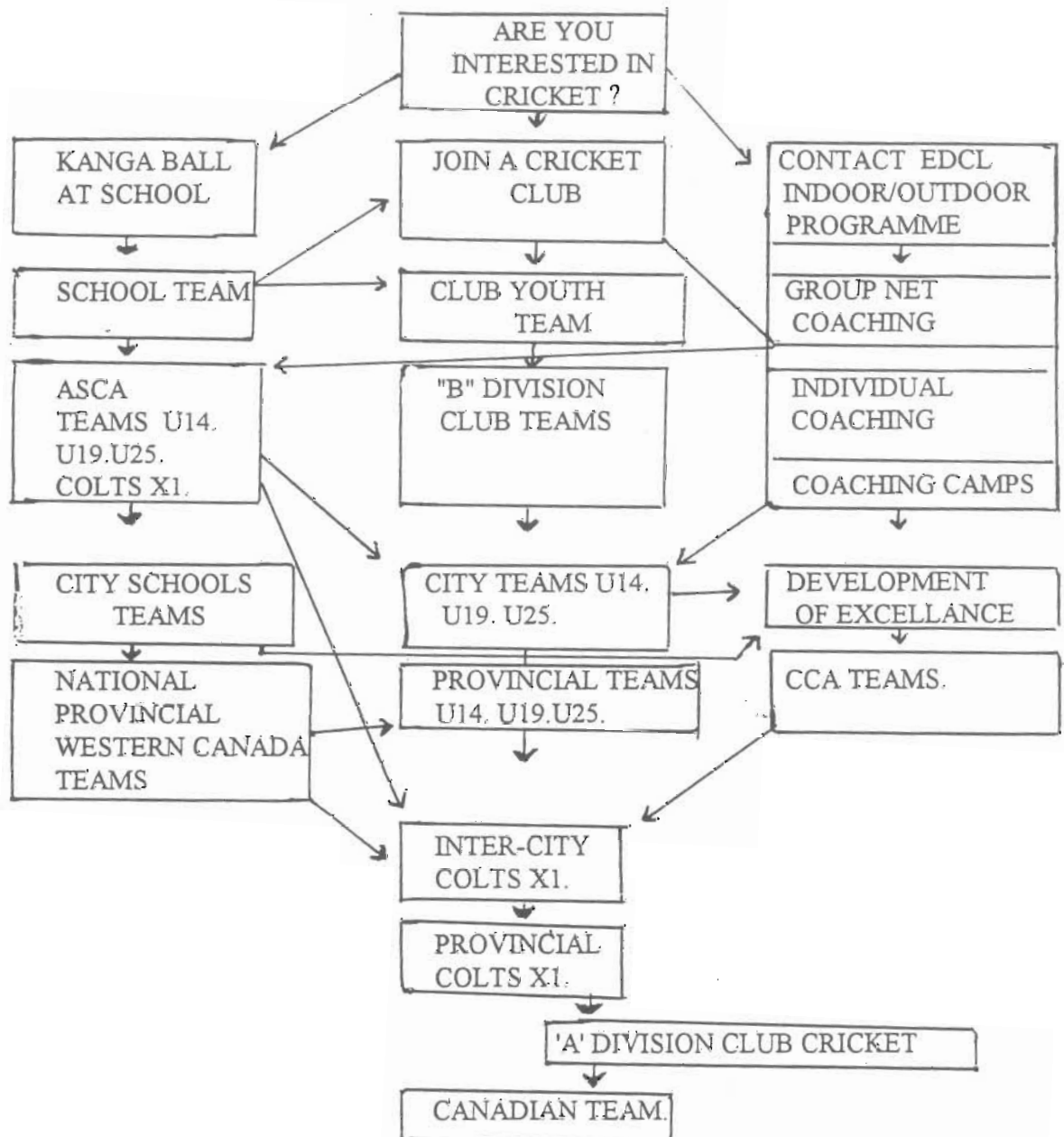
teacher's at session in Cricket at Corinthia Park School Gym Leduc Alberta.





Taking the Right Steps.

Cricket is played for fun and enjoyment but the following chart shows the way of progressing to the CANADIAN team.



information adapted from The NCA.



Juniors at Indoor Cricket Centre.

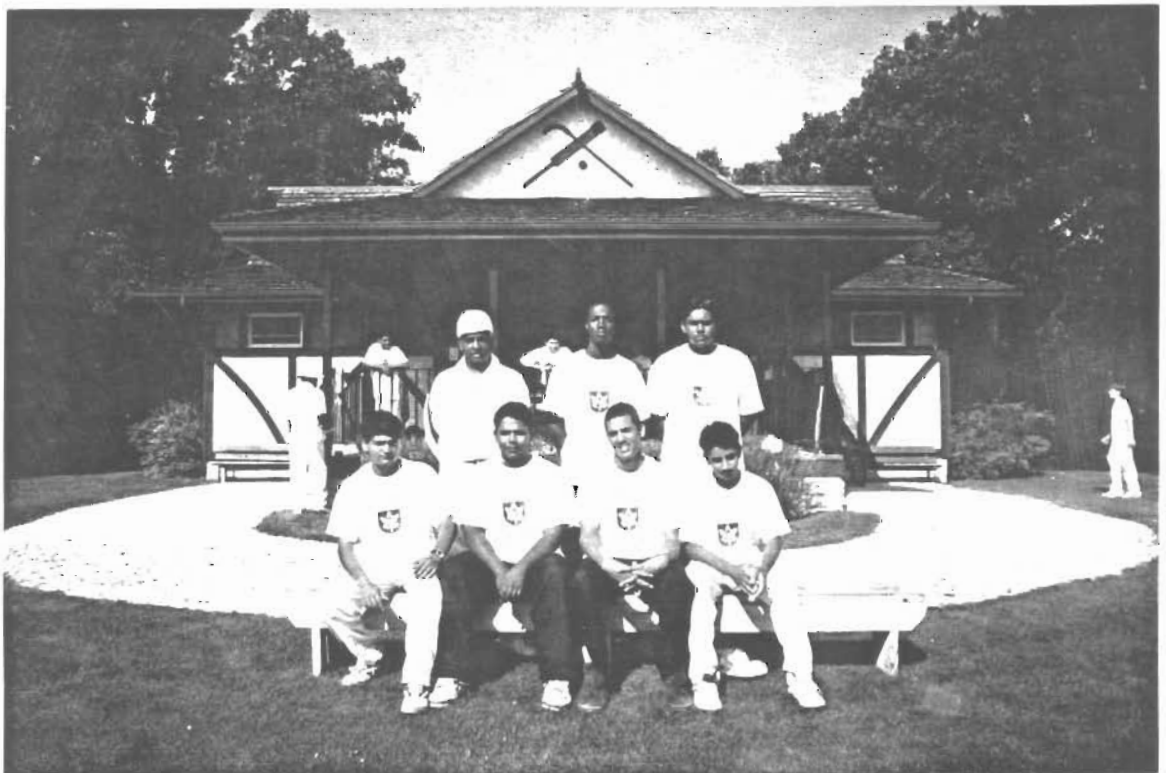
Provincial Camps & Tournaments.



U18 Camp Winnipeg 1994.



U18 Camp British Columbia 1995.



Alberta Team U18 Winnipeg 1994.



Alberta Team U18 British Columbia 1995.

Inter-City U25.



Inter-City Champions 1995.



Sir Garfield Sobers in Edmonton in October 1994 with Juniors & Canadian Player Steve Dutchin.



**ASCA Cricket Club
1996.**

**Alberta Schools Cricket Association Combined Schools Team to play in the
Edmonton & District Cricket League "B" Division Tournament.**

Coaching

Conducted by,

Christie Marathalingam

born in Sri Lanka



The Coach at NCA Lord's Cricket Grounds England.

**Certified by the NCCP.CCA.NCA.
member of the Cricket Society of England.
member of the Association of Cricket Coaches England.
Cricket Coaching Co-ordinator Alberta.
Selector Edmonton & District Cricket League**



Coaching Award Course 1992 Red Ruth Cornwall England.



Senior Coaching Award 1994 Red Ruth Cornwall England



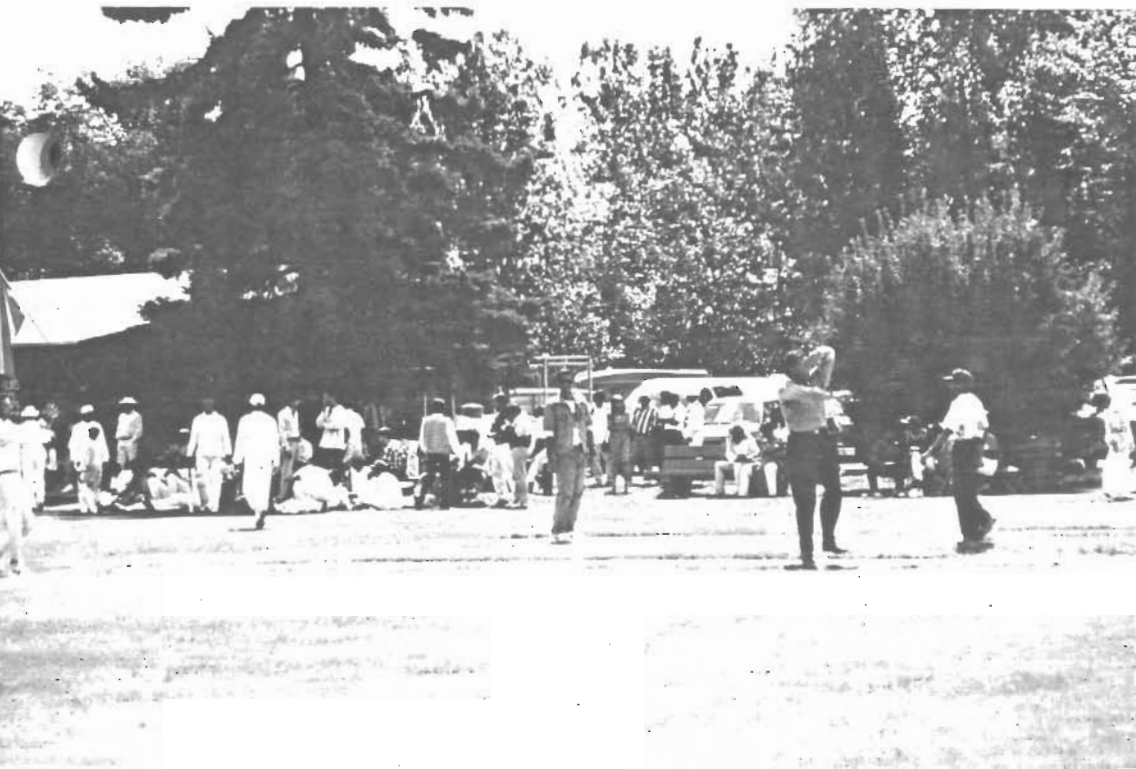
Damien Persaud. selected to Captain the U18 WESTERN CANADA TEAM to play in the **Junior Canada Cup U18** in Toronto.

also selected to play for the Senior Team Edmonton City Team. 1996

Mansoor Choudhary Calgary .selected to play for the U18 WESTERN CANADA TEAM at **Junior Canada Cup** in Toronto.



Adeel Hassan. MOST OUTSTANDING JUNIOR GISAS 95.



Cricket at Victoria Park River Valley Road GISAS 95.

CRICKET IN EDMONTON OVER 100 yrs old.



Adeel Hussan shows fine form as wicketkeeper

Ed Kaiser, *The Journal*
looks on

Courtesy *The Journal*

"So many promising young players have been identified that they now have their own team — the Alberta Schools Cricket Association (ASCA) team — and are now starting to defeat established club sides."

Practising with the kanga ball crew last week at Victoria Park was Adeel Hussan, from M.E. LaZerte high school, who has been selected to play for Canada's Under-15 team

at an international tournament in England this August.

"I grew up in Karachi and have been playing cricket since I was six or seven," he says. "We lived in apartments that had a car parking compound in the centre. That was our pitch."

He adds: "Cricket is a lifestyle for many there. Its stars are as well known as hockey players here, and they are always written up in the newspapers."

CORPORATE ACCESS NUMBER

50656530



SOCIETIES ACT

**CERTIFICATE
OF
INCORPORATION**

ALBERTA SCHOOLS CRICKET ASSOCIATION

WAS INCORPORATED IN ALBERTA ON JUNE 6, 1995.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A Heeler".

Registrar of Corporations



Black Gold Regional Division #18

Corinthia Park School

127 Corinthia Drive, Leduc, Alberta T9E 7J2

Phone: (403) 986-8404

Fax: (403) 986-8508

Principal - K. Boschman
Assistant Principal - A. Baker

June 26, 1996

To whom it may concern,

I had the pleasure of attending and chairing a Cricket Seminar taught by Chris Marathalingham on our Spring Institute Day for the Black Gold Regional School Division on April 22, 1996.

I found the seminar to be both informative and very enjoyable as Chris introduced the components of the game. His expertise and enthusiasm encouraged a number of us to consider the incorporation of Cricket into our curriculum. He also served as a very positive ambassador of the sport, which was appreciated by all attendees.

I would recommend Chris as a guest lecturer to anyone who might be wanting to learn more about the game.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Berg", written over a light-colored rectangular background.

Mike Berg,
Teacher



AVALON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
5425 - 114 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6H 3M1
Telephone: 434-8402

Christie Marathalingam
Cricket Coaching Coordinator Alberta
17225 - 60 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6M 1E9

September 22nd, 1995

Dear Chris:

On behalf of the students and staff of Avalon Junior High we would like to sincerely thank you for your time and effort in introducing cricket to the school.

The demonstration match on the 6th of September involving the students was a very popular event with the gymnasium packed with spectators, many of whom were eager to get involved as well.

The 6 outdoor education classes and 6 all-girl PE classes benefited from your further work with their skills. This together with the support of teachers, Joe Ludwig, Eric Thibeault, and Judy Summers instructing on the rules of the game served to provide the student with a good understanding of the game.

Your enthusiastic presentation and friendly manner ensured the students were keen participants over the two weeks you spent visiting and teaching lessons at the school. Your reliability was also much appreciated, especially by the teachers.

The success of the work done with the students was demonstrated by the interest shown by a number of students wishing to be further involved in the game.

As a result of your instruction, the school has the intention to join the Alberta School's Cricket Association and be involved in future tournaments. Your offer of continued support to help develop a team from Avalon is most welcome.

Once again, thanks from all of us.

Sincerely,

Julie Logan
P.E. Teacher

Norm Diemert
Principal



Margaret Lyall

PD Chair, Greater Black Gold Teachers' Local #8

Corinthia Park School, 127 Corinthia Drive, Leduc, Alberta. T9E 7J2
School phone 986-8404; School fax 986-8508; Home phone 986-1909

May 23, 1996

Christie Marathalingham

17225-60 ave.
Edmonton T6M 1E9


Dear Sir:

I would like to thank you for participating in our teachers' institute last month. Your session on cricket was much appreciated, and was a good introduction to the sport.

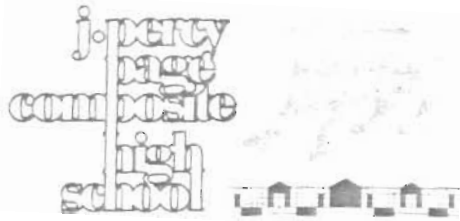
I have duplicated the cricket information you sent, and distributed it to the teachers who were pre-registered in your session.

Thanks again,

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE
Christie



Thank-you for
helping to make
Greater Black
Gold Teachers'
Institute a
success.



J. Percy Page Composite High School

2707 MILLWOODS ROAD N.W.
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6K 3Z3

462-3322
Fax 462-7803

Dear Chris:

19 January, 1995

As you requested in our recent telephone conversation, I have prepared this short note to indicate our interest in participating in the proposed junior cricket league that you are attempting to establish. I hope that this will be sufficient to meet your requirements. It is difficult to tell how many of our students will respond to this opportunity to compete. The game is not a popular one with Canada's youth - largely because it is unknown to them. This project of yours is an attempt to address this in the Edmonton area, of course.

I have spoken to several students who have expressed some interest in learning more of your plans. J. Percy Page has students from many different cultural backgrounds. We have a significant number of students who are familiar with the game. Your visits to my physical education 30 classes last year was a good start in exposing our student body to the game. As you know, we have included the sport in both our physical education 20 and 30 programs as a result of the success of those sessions. We look forward to your return this spring to continue with this process of introduction. After our exams are completed on 1 February, I will call a meeting of all those students in our school who would be interested in participating. I shall provide you with a list of names and telephone numbers of all students who attend this meeting.

Finally, Chris, allow me to wish you all success in the formation of the junior league. It will be my pleasure to act as a facilitator in this project. Although I would probably enjoy becoming more involved, my prior teaching, administering, and coaching commitments prevent this. Again, best of luck Chris.

Yours in education,


Cal Jensen



August 22, 1995

AB Cricket Association
Chris Marathalingam
17225 60 Ave
Edmonton, AB
T6M 1E9

Dear Chris,

I would like to thank you for all the time and effort that you have put into doing the ten cricket sessions for my program entitled Just For The Fun Of It during the summer months.

The program participants really enjoyed learning the skills as well as the sport. You did a wonderful job of presenting the sport and teaching it to the groups of children. You were able to break it down into very understandable skills that made it easy for them to pick up on the game.

Again thank you for all the time, effort, and dedication that you put into doing the sessions they were great. It is agencies such as yourself that make our programs a success and worthwhile.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Pacheco". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lee Pacheco
Just For The Fun Of It
Coordinator

July 26, 1994

To Whom It May Concern:

Chris Marathalingam of the Alberta Cricket Association presented the fundamentals of cricket to a Parks and Recreation, Northeast District, Sports Camp on July 21 at 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Chris's session was held at Kilkenny Community League. Twenty children participated. The purpose of the Sports Camp was to introduce a variety of sports to kids (aged 8-12) in a non-competitive atmosphere.

His expertise and enthusiasm provided for an exciting and informative sports session. The children enjoyed their introduction to cricket immensely.

If you have any questions please contact me at 428-5817.

Sincerely,



Sheryl Hoo
Recreation Technician III
Northeast District

SH/sv



DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

ECOLE SECONDAIRE BEAUMONT COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL

5417-43 Avenue, Beaumont, Alberta

T4X 1K1

Phone: 929-6282

Fax: 929-8083



January 16, 1995

Chris Marathalingam,
Alberta Junior Coaching Coordinator

Dear Chris,

I am writing to request entry into the junior cricket league. In the past two years, we have had you present the game to our phys. ed. 20 students and are now going to try to field a team for play this spring. Our students have enjoyed the game during phys. ed. class, hopefully their interest will continue.

I have enclosed a list of students who have been exposed to the game in phys. ed. 20 the past two years from which we hope to draw our team. I will be the school contact for this program.

Sincerely,

Alan A. Brenneis
Phys Ed 20 Instructor



Mail Bag 500, Stony Plain, Alberta T0E 2G0

963-3535

February 28, 1994

Mr. Chris Marathalingam
Alberta Cricket Association
3408-106 Street
Edmonton, AB
T6J 1A4

Dear Mr. Marathalingam:

Thank you for your participation in our school's Physical Education program as an instructor for cricket.

Your assistance was appreciated by students and the Physical Education staff. The enthusiasm you exhibited towards cricket and the instruction you provided were valuable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest Clintberg". The signature is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Ernest Clintberg
Principal

EC/tly

c* Eric Mahabir

July 22, 1994

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope your children have enjoyed SPORTS SPECTACULAR this week!

The ALBERTA CRICKET ASSOCIATION coach, Chris Marathalingam, was very impressed with the enthusiasm and budding young talent that the children showed. As a result he has invited ALL of the children who participated in SPORTS SPECTACULAR to play in an exhibition match at the upcoming **Cricket Festival on July 31, 1994!**

The Cricket Festival will consist of senior cricket matches, demonstrations; there will be music, dancing, and food! It is held at **Victoria Park** on River Valley Road. The exhibition matches that the children are invited to play in are at two time slots :

12:00 noon - 12:30 pm

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm.

However, the children are welcome to come down for the entire day! *All participants will receive a FREE T-shirt AND a cap. In addition, the Edmonton Journal will be on hand for media coverage!*

If your children would like to participate in this Festival, please call Chris at 487-9638 and leave a message on his answering machine indicating the name of the child and which time slot (or both!) he/she would like to play in!

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 428-5817 since Chris will be in Winnipeg for cricket until July 30, 1994. We hope to see you out!

Sincerely,



Sheryl Hoo
Rec Tech III
Parks and Recreation, NE District

It's just not cricket, what!

Check it out, Edmonton, here comes kanga ball

NICK LEES
Journal Life Writer

Edmonton

The sun still shone on the British Empire in the days when demure young girls cut cucumber sandwiches for macho cricket players taking a batting break.

Today, the girls are bowling the batsmen out and getting high fives from teammates.

A good example took place in Victoria Park last week when 14-year-old Anita Vishnu bowled three batsmen out in as many balls.

She then proceeded to show her prowess with a bat, repeatedly driving the ball through fielders and stacking up runs.

"Times have changed quickly and many keen cricket-playing countries now have very competent women's cricket teams," says Chris Marathalingam, a driving force in the Edmonton Cricket League.

"Locally, the ranks of young cricketers is expanding quickly. And we are seeing a good number of young females turning out to play."

(Vishnu, by the way, a student at Dan Knott junior high school, says her ambition is to play alongside her elder brother on the Liberty Cricket Club team.)

There are two reasons why the game is expanding quickly in the Edmonton area. One is Marathalingam. The second is kanga ball.

Marathalingam, 55, who played first-class cricket in his native Sri Lanka, journeyed to the green fields of England four years ago to obtain National Cricket Association coaching credentials at the senior level.

One of the tools he now uses in his ministries to spread a game that's been around since the 13th century is kanga ball, an easy-to-play version of cricket developed in Australia.

Rather than using an expensive willow bat and a hard, leather-encased ball, kanga ball uses bats and a ball made of plastic. (Wickets, two bats and two balls can be ordered for \$170.)

"The game, sometimes known as kwick cricket, has become popular in a number of countries, and exhibition games are played at breaks during top matches in England," says Marathalingam.

"The beauty of kanga ball is that you don't need a great deal of skill to play and yet you can have a lot of fun. Just about any number of players can take part."

The coach has been instrumental in having cricket included in the curriculum at J. Percy Page and Beaumont high schools and at Avalon junior high. He also recently coached 25 teachers in Leduc, and in future all schools in the community will be able to play.

In the winter, Marathalingam teaches kanga ball indoors to interested youngsters from many schools around the city. The city's parks and recreation people also direct him to community leagues interested in having kindergarten children learn to play kanga ball.

"Kanga ball helps those between the ages of 10 and 18 get into the real game," says the coach, a former president of Greenfields Cricket Club.

"So many promising young players have been identified that they now have their own team — the Alberta Schools Cricket Association (ASCA) team — and are now starting to defeat established club sides."

Practising with the kanga ball crew last week at Victoria Park was Adeel Hussain, from M.E. LaZerte high school, who has been selected to play for Canada's Under-15 team

CRICKET ACTION

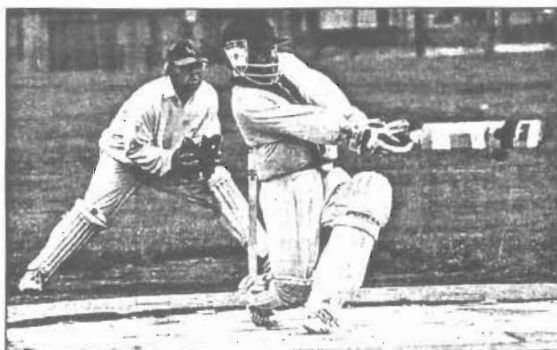
Edmonton is host to the Western Canadian Cricket Championships this weekend, with the best teams from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C. competing for the John Ross Robertson Cup.

Alberta (represented by Edmonton's Gujarat Cricket Club) plays Saskatchewan, at Victoria Park, today starting 11 a.m.

B.C. and Manitoba meet in Mill Woods (28th Avenue and 86th Street) also at 11 a.m.

Winners play Sunday in Victoria Park, starting at 10 a.m.

Information about kanga ball



Adeel Hussain shows fine form as wicketkeeper

Ed Kaiser, The Journal looks on



Lynda Coley and her son Ian play kanga ball, also called kwick cricket, using inexpensive and lightweight plastic bats and balls.



Anita Vishnu on her way to dismissing three batsmen in a row

Ed Kaiser, The Journal

at an international tournament in England this August.

"I grew up in Karachi and have been playing cricket since I was six or seven," he says. "We lived in apartments that had a car parking compound in the centre. That was our pitch."

He adds: "Cricket is a lifestyle for many there. Its stars are as well known as hockey players here, and they are always written up to the newspapers."

Selected as an alternate on the

same team is Salman Choudhary, who came to Canada from Pakistan with his family five years ago.

"Cricket in Pakistan is like hockey here," says the Jasper Place high school student. "It has a tradition. Sometimes some 100,000 spectators will turn out to watch a game."

Adds Choudhary: "Most of my friends don't play, but I sense a growing interest in the game. I'm always being asked how it is played."

Marathalingam says Hussain and

Choudhary judge the speed of a ball well and show skill in directing it through a gap between fielders. But he adds that the youngsters are also good bowlers and can use the seam of the ball to move it in either direction. (Hussain recently took four wickets for 23 runs against league opponents, while Choudhary took an amazing five wickets for 13 runs.)

Another female on the kanga ball pitch last week was Lynda Coley, who was playing alongside her 15-year-old son Ian.

"You could say cricket was in our blood," says Coley, who married a fellow physiotherapist. "My husband Eric is from Lancashire and I'm from Yorkshire, two big cricket-playing rivals. That has caused some good-natured rivalry."

Coley says her husband played cricket for his village team, she played at college and they are glad Ian is being given an opportunity to learn the game.

"We played cricket with him when he was small and he's probably the only kid in Alberta who got a cricket bat for Christmas last year," she says.

"He's sometimes out playing cricket from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. and comes home and says he enjoyed it. That says a lot for the game."

Marathalingam's chest puffs out

Canada's national sport?

✓ The game originated in England in the 13th century and was carried around the globe by troops, ships' crews and settlers.

✓ Cricket was Canada's national sport before Confederation.

✓ There are 14 teams in the Edmonton area.

✓ Cricket is the grand-daddy of baseball, but instead of running around bases, batsmen run between two sets of wickets set 20 metres apart.

✓ A team is made up of 11 players and each team takes its turn to bat. Most games last one day, but Test Matches between countries, when both teams bat twice, can last for five or six days.

✓ Batting: When one batsman is out, that player is replaced by a teammate until 10 are out. One batsman always remains not out.

✓ Fielding: The fielding team has a bowler, a wicketkeeper and nine fielders. A captain sets his field with the bowler, deciding on where the ball is most likely to be hit.

✓ Bowling: To be delivered fairly, a ball must be propelled without bending the elbow. A bowler can take any number of steps in the run up and the ball usually bounces once before reaching the batsman.

✓ Length and direction are important. Finger spin, swerve, alteration of pace and flight, the path of the ball and the manner it is delivered are used to try to deceive the batsman as to how the ball will pitch.

The batsman faces six balls (called an over) from one end and then from the other.

✓ Scoring: Most runs are scored by running between the wickets, but they can also be scored when a batsman hits the ball out of the field. If it bounces on the way out, four runs are automatically scored. If it goes out on the fly, it is six runs. Infringements and errors can also earn runs.

✓ A batsman is declared out if: 1. the bowler successfully hits the wickets with the ball;

2. a fielder catches a ball on the fly;

3. the batsman breaks the wicket (knocks the balls off the top of the wicket) with the bat, clothing or any part of the body;

4. the batsman tries to score and the fielders touch the wicket with the ball before the batsman crosses the popping crease (similar to an out in baseball);

5. the batsman uses the body to prevent the ball from hitting the wicket;

6. the batsman steps outside the crease and the fielders touch the wicket with the ball (like being caught off base in baseball).

and he smiles broadly when asked about the merits of the game.

"Cricket is a skilful, healthy game that helps develop character through discipline and fair play," he says. "The world needs people with more of those traits."

BATTING AROUND



Sean Connor *The Journal*

A MIGHTY SWING — Angelo Fernando, 13, is concentration personified as he sharpens his batting skills at a junior coaching program at the Victoria Park Cricket Grounds Saturday

And . . .

The Edmonton and District Cricket League junior coaching program for all juniors (ages 12-17) will be held this Saturday at Victoria Park from 10 a.m. to noon.

Cricket takes to gym indoors

Such countries as England, Australia, the West Indies and India have had it their way for too long, says cricket coach C h r i s Marathalingam, who last week took steps to put Canada up there with the cricket giants.

The coach launched the Indoor Cricket Centre at Winifred Stewart Campus Gym in Westmount and plans to teach the subtleties of the game to youths of both sexes aged between 12 and 25.

"Some will certainly make the provincial level and hopefully some will go on to help make Canada a cricket force to be reckoned with in international test matches," says Marathalingam, who has English coaching qualifications and is Alberta's cricket coaching co-ordinator.

Find it strange that cricket is being played in snowy, sub-zero Canada?

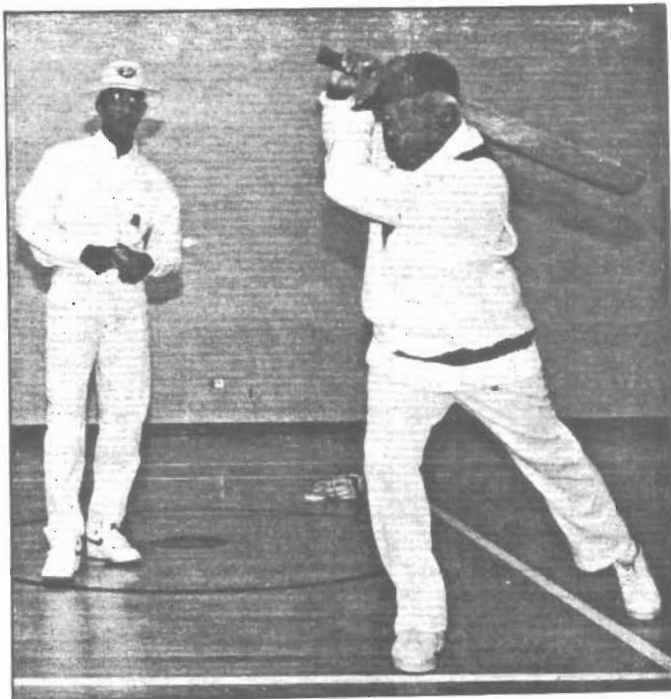
"You have to remember our roots," says Marathalingam. "Cricket was the national sport of Canada before Confederation and the first test match ever was played between Canada and the U.S. in the 1800s."



Batsman David Redoy hits out while Fahad Choudray stands ready.

'Howzat':

Cricketer hopes to bring the sport of cucumber and watercress sandwiches (no crusts) into the classroom



Rick MacWilliam *The Journal*

Chris Marathalingam shows Kumar Sinnadural how to handle a bat

NICK LEES
Journal Staff Writer

Edmonton

"Howzat?"

This call can be heard in every corner of the world where the Union Jack has flown when men in white take to the field to play cricket.

"Cricket attracts spectators to small village greens or to 100,000-capacity stadiums," says local aficionado Chris Marathalingam. "And I have plans this summer that I hope will eventually lead to everyone in Edmonton knowing what 'Howzat' means."

"Howzat" sounds like one word, but is actually a three-letter phrase: "How is that?"

It's an appeal to an umpire by cricketers who believe a batsman would have been bowled out had he not put a leg in front of the wickets he is defending and blocked the ball.

Marathalingam, 54, recently journeyed to the United Kingdom to become a National Cricket Association of England coach and believes many local youngsters would enjoy a chance of learning a game with origins dating back to the 13th century.

It was carried around the globe by troops, ships' crews and settlers. Many in Edmonton's cricket community learned the game in their native land.

"Cricket is a skilful, healthy game that helps develop character through discipline and fair play,"

says the cricketer. "It has its following in parts of British Columbia and Ontario, but I believe it has a future here.

"I plan to contact sports teachers in high schools and ask them if they would like the opportunity of showing their students what the game is about."

Marathalingam, who played first-class cricket in his native Sri Lanka and is president of Edmonton's Greenfield Cricket Club, says many in the Edmonton cricket community have offered their services and some equipment.

"There are many good local players," says the cricketer, who also played first-class rugby and boxed. "I believe some would have gone on to play for their countries had they not taken the opportunity of coming to Canada.

"They are keen to see the game prosper. At present there are 10 clubs in the Edmonton area turning out 14 teams."

Marathalingam says he knows he will have a tough time promoting cricket in a country that offers so many outdoor activities in the summer.

"But I think it will help to point out that cricket is the Granddaddy of baseball," he says. "The wickets became a plate and runners now travel between the bases rather than wickets."

Like a pitcher, a skilled bowler can vary the speed of his delivery and make the ball move in either direction, while a batsman must judge the speed and direction of a ball and know how to turn in through a gap in the field.

thing

Marathalingam, who runs a janitorial company, says he doesn't see Edmonton winters as a problem and notes that indoor, six-a-side tournaments are popular in some cricket-playing countries.

"It's fantastic to watch a youngster's eyes light up when a skill is mastered. I hope to make others as crazy about cricket as I am."

For coaching information and details of Edmonton's cricket clubs, call Marathalingam at 487-9638. Junior cricket sponsors are also being sought.

Player hopes cricket catches on in schools

Popular English game never quite caught on in Canada

Its players are referred to as bowlers, wicket keepers and batsmen.

Terry Skidnuk
City Life Reporter

One game can last up to five days and several hundred runs are often scored.

Fights and brawls between opposing teams are unheard of and players even drink tea together during intermissions.

It's cricket, one of the most popular sports in the British Commonwealth. Yet, in Canada, it really never caught on.

But Edmonton's Chris Maradhlingam, 51, a first-class cricket player, is hoping to change all of that.

"Cricket is such a lovely game," said Maradhlingam, who grew up playing the sport in Sri Lanka. "It requires a lot of coordination and good motor skills."

Maradhlingam hopes Edmonton schools will eventually adopt the sport into the regular physical education curriculum. He knows that won't be easy, but he's up to the challenge.

Two weeks ago, he started the first cricket coaching school in

Alberta. Every Friday he instructs a group of kids aged 10 to 19 about the techniques and strategies of the game.

"Not all students get a chance to play hockey or football but now there's a new sport those children can play - cricket," said Maradhlingam.

Steve Fisher said his son Nicolas is one who never took a big interest in hockey or football.

"He's always been interested in the obscure sports," said Fisher.

Nicolas was sold on cricket from the moment Maradhlingam visited his school and gave a lesson about the game.

He, too, would like to see schools play the sport more often.

"We just touched on it in a couple of gym classes," said the 14-year-old. "I think if students encouraged it more in schools we'd play it more."

Don Zabloski, a physical education consultant with Edmonton public schools, said there are so many sports within the school system that are established and popular that it will be difficult to incorporate cricket into the curriculum.

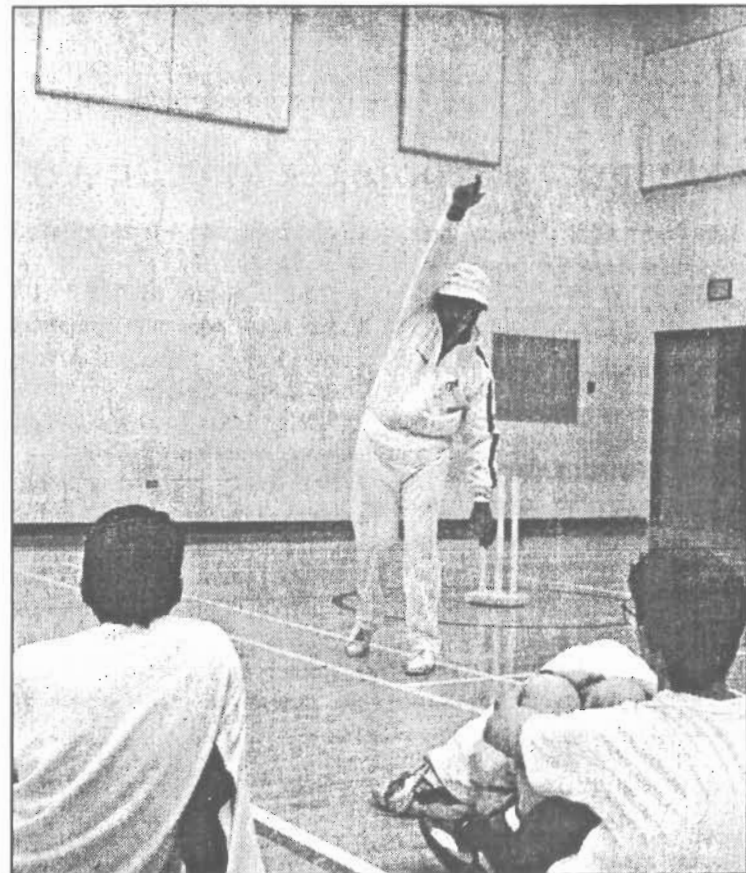
"Cricket is so new that I'm not sure the overall interest is there," said Zabloski. "We don't have many school teachers versed in cricket or who know the rules."

Maradhlingam hopes the Greenfield cricket coaching school will help garnish a new interest.

"You have to start with young children and get them excited about the game," he said. "That is how players will develop and the sport will grow from there."

Chris Maradhlingam demonstrates some cricket moves to players.

City Life Photo



Cricket bats smoke inside despite the cold outside

Staff gym in the basement of a hospital substitutes as a practice pitch in the absence of greens

NICK LEES

Winter Beat Writer

Edmonton

Sipping their tea and munching watercress sandwiches, the English would probably say: "It just isn't cricket."

But Edmonton's Steve Dutchin might rightly reply: "What else can I do?"

Guyana-born Dutchin has been selected to represent Canada at cricket next week when the game's world cup preliminaries are held in Kenya.

And he has found a novel way to practise when the temperatures are sub-zero and no green sod is to be spotted this side of the Rockies.

"I have my friends bowl to me every day in the staff gym in the basement of the University Hospital," said Dutchin, 30, a hospital's pension officer.

"Cricket's all about hand-eye coordination and I hope to be on form when we play Kenya, Namibia, Singapore and Israel in round-robin competition."

Chris Marathalingham, a coach qualified by the National Cricket Association of England who teaches the game locally, says many Edmontonians have no idea how popular the game is worldwide.

"Cricket has spread far beyond the bounds of where the Union Jack once flew," said Marathalingham. "Teams from such countries as Holland, the U.S. and Denmark now play in world competition."

"The game attracts spectators to small village greens or to

OLD MAN WINTER



NICK LEES

The Winter Beat

"The game attracts spectators to small village greens or to 100,000-capacity stadiums. Stars are as well known as Wayne Gretzky or Joe Montana."

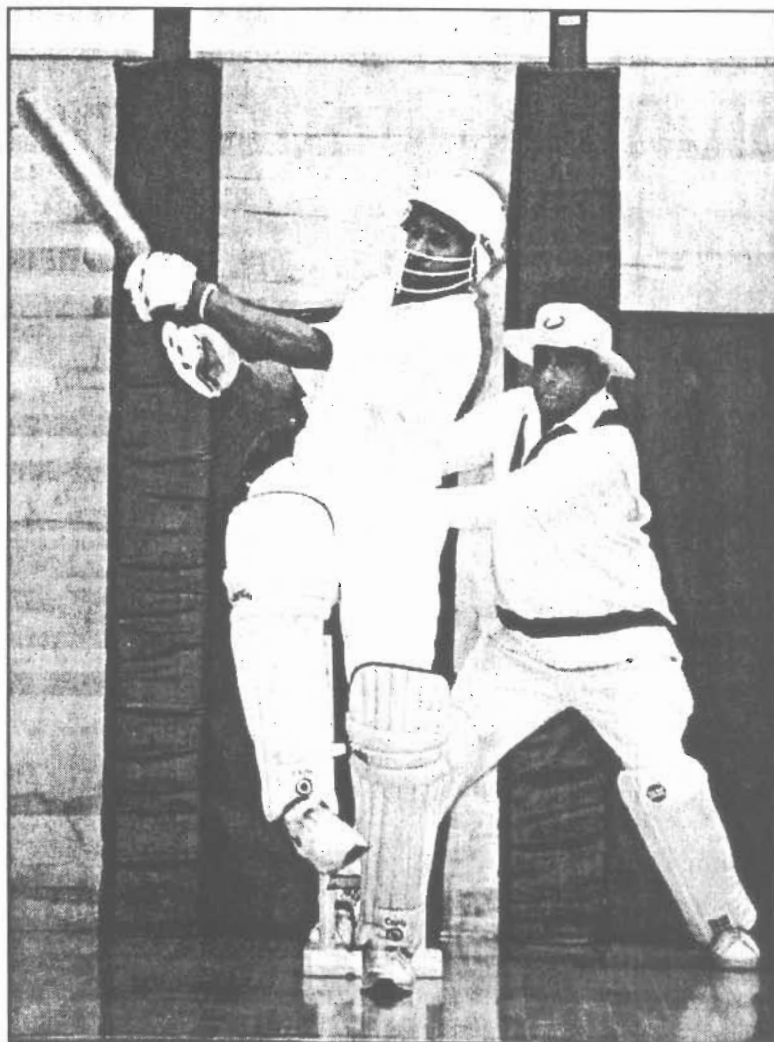
— **Chris Marathalingham, cricket coach**

100,000-capacity stadiums. Stars are as well known as Wayne Gretzky or Joe Montana."

Alvin Kallicharran and Clive Lloyd are household names in Guyana, where Dutchin looked for pickup games in the streets when he was five years old.

Becoming a Canadian landed immigrant in 1984, Dutchin joined the Victoria Cricket Club and last year helped it win the city championship. He also helped the Under-25 Alberta team win an inter-provincial championship.

Last season, the left-hander scored an average of 63.44 runs each game to win the city-wide



Brad Sankey *The Journal*

Batsman Steve Dutchin gets in a little indoor practice in preparation for preliminaries in Kenya next week

trophy for the highest batting aggregate.

He was "not out" in several

games, meaning he wasn't dismissed.

"Steve's both a good batsmen

and bowler," says Trinidad-born Geewan Chattargoon, another Victoria player. "He's also a great fielder. Batsmen don't want to take a chance and run when they see the ball headed towards him."

Cricket is a 13th century English game that was carried around the globe by troops, ships, crews and settlers and has been played in Edmonton for more than 100 years. Ten local clubs now turn out 14 teams.

"It's the international aspect of the game I enjoy," says Dutchin. "No matter where I have travelled, I have always met people who speak the language of cricket."

Cricket is the granddaddy of baseball, says its followers. The wickets became a plate and baseball players travel between bases rather than wickets.

"A skilled bowler can vary the speed of his delivery and make the ball move in either direction," said Marathalingham. "A batsman must judge the speed and direction of a ball and know how to turn it through a gap in the field."

The game is usually played with a very hard ball — dense cork encased in leather — but the Australians have created a soft ball for indoor play.

"String is used in the centre, which makes it lighter," said Dutchin. "It's exactly what I need when I hit shots hard off the hospital walls."

Dutchin's wife Monique, a distant relative of Rocket Richard's, switched her allegiance from ice to turf after meeting Dutchin.

"She's very supportive and comes to all the games," he says. "You certainly couldn't call her a cricket widow."

The Patel Family - Now blossomed into a Champion Team Looking forward to be Canada's Best!

Achievements:

B division Cricket Champions, Edmonton
A division Cricket Champions, Edmonton
Inter-city Champions, Alberta
Western Canada Champions, 1996

The Patels, who call their team the Gujarat Cricket Club, scored 240 runs for six wickets to defeat the opposing Antilles side, all out for 147 runs.

"They certainly knew what they were doing to score 240 runs," says Antilles team member Glen Mattocks, 41, a Jamaican-born design draughtsman who grew up in London.

"Our team isn't as closely knit," says Mattocks' teammate Robert Lewis, 50, a welder originally from Tobago. "Most of our players come from the West Indies and we have two from Pakistan."

Over the years, cricket, England's national summer sport, has been spread around the globe by troops, ships' crews and settlers; many of Edmonton's players were taught the game by fathers and uncles in their native lands.

Stories by NICK LEEBS
Journal Staff Writer

Edmonton

It was a little confusing for the opposition score keeper. "What's the name of the new batsman?" he asked during a cricket game at Victoria Park this week.

"Patel," was the answer. "But wasn't that the name of the last four batsmen?" "Yes," was the reply. "This is a Patel family team."

There are so many Patels playing cricket in the Edmonton area that last year they decided to form a team.

"We are all from the Gujarat area, about 200 kilometres north of Bombay," says Harshad Patel, 26, an electrical designer brought to Alberta in 1972 by his pipefitter father.

"We are all loosely inter-related. Patel is a common family name in India, the way Smith is in western countries."

CRICKET ACTION

Edmonton is host to the Western Canadian Cricket Championships this weekend, with the best teams from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C. competing for the John Ross Robertson Cup.

Alberta (represented by Edmonton's Gujarat Cricket Club) plays Saskatchewan, at Victoria Park, today starting 11 a.m.

Googleys? Stumps? Leg bye?

Silly mid-on, googleys and no balls. Welcome to the world of cricket.

It will all seem confusing, especially when you learn that games can last six days and some players are never out.

But if you understand the sport's origins, and similarity to baseball, it is straight forward.

Basically, batsmen try to score runs by hitting into the field, but instead of running around bases, they run between two wickets set 20 metres apart.

Cricket has been around since the 13th century. It evolved from country lads bowling (or pitching) at a tree stump or at the hurdle gate into a sheep pen. Another lad defended the target with a bat fashioned from a tree branch.

This target evolved into a three-stump wicket, across which are two loose balls. The bowler, who became the pitcher in baseball, delivers the ball with a straight-arm motion and tries to knock the balls off.

"Cricket has been around since the 13th century," says Chris Marathalingam, of the Edmonton Cricket League. "There are places in the world where crowds of 100,000 watch test games and revere the stars."

"Perhaps it's time interested youngsters were given the chance to learn a game of great skill. After all, cricket is the father of baseball."

Marathalingam will travel to England this summer for an advanced coaching clinic and later, with other cricket enthusiasts, will offer his services to local schools.

"We believe the game has great growth potential in Edmonton," he says. "The game flourishes in such places as Ontario and British Columbia."

There are 10 clubs in the Edmonton area and together they turn out 14 teams that play at Victoria and Coronation parks, Mill Woods Recreation Park and at the St. Albert rugby grounds. A pitch at Winterburn is on the drawing board.

There isn't a store selling cricket gear in Edmonton, so most players send away to Toronto to get pads (about \$55.) batting gloves (\$30.) wicket keeper's gloves (\$60) and a willow bat (about \$220.)

"It's hard to explain the fascination of the game," says machinist Jivan Patel, Harshad's 52-year-old uncle who plays on the Patel team.

"It takes skill to judge the speed and path of a ball and know how to direct it through a gap in the field. Equally, a good bowler can vary the speed of his delivery and make the ball move in either direction."

Dupty Gujral, 22, a roofer and one of two friends on the Gujarati team who is not a Patel, is more direct. "I love to bat," he says.

"There's a lot of satisfaction in playing well and making a lot of runs."

This was not his day. He was caught behind the wicket before he could score.

The Game

A team is made up of 11 people. Each team take its turn to bat. Cricket grounds range in size from small village greens to the Melbourne Cricket Grounds (more than nine acres).

Most games last one day and see both sides bat once, called an *innings* (always plural.) Test matches between countries can last five or six days, both teams batting twice.

Batting: When one batsman is out, he is replaced by a teammate until 10 are out. One batsman always remains *not out*.

Fielding: The fielding team has a bowler, a wicketkeeper and nine fielders. A captain sets his field with the bowler, deciding on where a ball is most likely to be hit. *Silly mid-on* is the position almost in front of the batsman on the right hand side.

Bowling: To be delivered fairly, a ball must be propelled without bending the elbow. A bowler can take any number of steps he likes in his run up and the ball usually bounces once before reaching the batsman.

Length and direction are important. Spin, swerve, alteration of pace of flight, the path of the ball and the manner it is delivered are used to try and deceive the batsman as to how the ball will pitch.

The batsman faces six balls (an over) from one end and then from the other.

Scoring: Most runs are scored by running between the wickets, but they can also be scored when a batsmen hits the



One can go out, actually

If the bowler succeeds, the batsman is dismissed (out). He is also dismissed if:

- He hits the ball and is caught by a fielder;

- If he touches the

ball out of the field. If it bounces on the way out it is automatically four runs. If it goes out on the fly, it is six runs.

Bowlers may also give the opposition runs, called *extras*. Extras are scored on *byes*, *leg byes*, *wide balls* and *no balls*.

A *bye* is a run scored from a ball that passes between the batsman and the wicket and lets the batsman score (change ends) before it is returned.

A *leg bye* is a run scored where a ball strikes the batsman anywhere but on the hand and lets the batsman score.

A run is also scored if the bowler delivers the ball outside the three-metre-wide bowling crease (*wide balls*).

If a bowler throws a ball or doesn't have his front foot behind the bowling crease when he bowls, it is ruled a *no ball*.

- If he hits the ball a second time, except to keep it from hitting the wicket;

- If he *breaks the wicket* (knocks the balls off) with his bat, clothing or any part of his body;

- If he stops the ball with his body to prevent it hitting the wicket (called *Leg Before Wicket* or *LBW*);

- Prevents or willfully prevents a fielder catching a ball;

- Tries to score and the wicket is broken before he crosses the popping crease (similar to an out in baseball);

- He steps outside his crease when not trying to run and the wicket is broken by the wicket keeper with the ball in his hand (like being caught off base, this is called *stumping*.)

Mahinda Wijesinghe on SRI LANKA's school dependence

IN SRI Lanka schools provide the nursery for national cricket. Due to the wide media coverage of school cricket, youngsters take to the game in droves, and the tradition of school cricket is sacred to the average Sri Lankan. The country boasts an annual encounter between Royal and St Thomas' College dating back to 1877, the year Test cricket was born, although the official series began two years later and continues to date, making it, after the fixture between Prince Alfred College and St Peter's in Adelaide, the oldest, uninterrupted annual cricket match in the world. Not even Eton v Harrow nor Gentlemen v Players have an unbroken run of 112 years. Presently, the Royal-Thomian - as the match is commonly known - is played over three days at a Test venue and is one of the most important dates in the island's social calendar.

The standard of national cricket in Sri Lanka at a given time gives a true index of the quality of school cricket in the immediately preceding era, today's Test players being invariably the stars in the schools' cricket firmament of yesterday. As the President of the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association, Warden Neville de Alwis of St Thomas' College commented: 'School cricket continues to be the cradle of our national cricket scene. The holding of tournaments has led to tremendous enthusiasm among schoolboys as well as the cricket-loving public. It is true to say that unless school cricket is developed, cricket at higher levels cannot be improved.'

It is not uncommon for talented schoolboys to step directly into the national side before participating in the intermediate stage of club cricket. Recently deposed Sri Lanka skipper, Arjuna Ranatunga

made his Test debut while still at his alma mater, Ananda College, Colombo. Muttiah Muralitharan, the dusky off-spinner from St Anthony's in Kandy, now 19, who toured England with the national side last year, was selected the Schoolboy Cricketer of 1991.

School cricket tournaments conducted at four age groups of Under-19, 17, 15 and 13 continue through the academic year. Over a hundred teams spanning the entire country, except of course from the troubled north and east, participate. This year, the Under-15 group attracted no fewer than 135 teams! As B.S. Perera, the General Secretary of the SLSCA stated: 'The primary object of the Association is to encourage as many schools as possible to participate. As long as schools conform to the requirements of the tournaments, we welcome them. It is a tiring task evaluating, collating, recording and co-ordi-

The Cricketer, April 1992 37

Good example.

Sri Lanka World Cricket Champions 1996.

nating the statistics and information resulting from this gigantic operation, but it gives us enormous satisfaction to ensure that all boys get an opportunity to play cricket.'

However, there is a great disparity in the facilities available for the boys in big schools in the city and the smaller schools in the country. Yet, these smaller and less affluent schools struggle on. Equipment, travelling expenses and umpires fees are quite often subsidised by parents of the

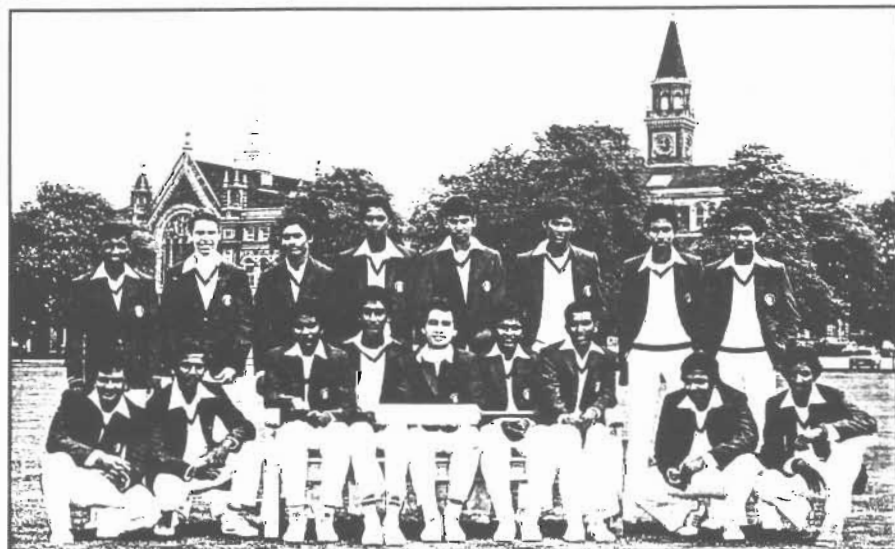
cricketers. The prospect of a Test cap may not be in the minds of all with the attendant social and economic benefits - but playing for the first team brings with it better prospects of employment.

In the past 20 years, school cricket has widened and grown in stature. Exchange tours with neighbouring India and Pakistan, not to mention those with England and Australia, have shown that local standards are definitely up with the best or better. The schools tournaments,

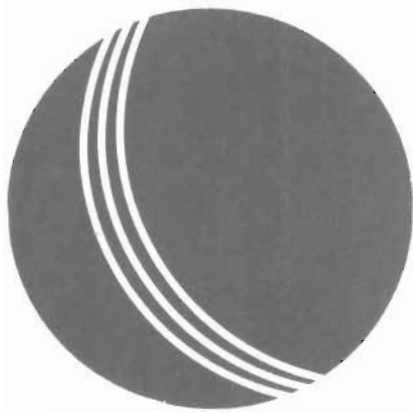
financed largely by sponsors, are conducted by a dedicated bank of honorary officials who perform this gargantuan task while being teachers in their respective schools. Conducting a tournament of four different levels for nearly 500 teams amongst razor-keen schoolboys, over-zealous coaches and worried parents, is no easy task. The Under-13, 15 and 17 age groups are one-day games while the Under-19 matches are two-day. Thankfully, limited-overs matches are not now being played.

Though outstanding schoolboys have stepped straight into the Test team, there is a complex problem facing the average schoolboy cricketer when he leaves school. In general clubs do not have professional coaches who can guide and coach a youngster during this all-important phase. It is not easy to go straight into the first team in the club. So, it is in the second or the third team that the youngster may lose the edge for the game. Sri Lanka is losing too many cricketers at this stage.

The discipline required to play cricket has definitely improved the overall character and outlook of the average schoolboy. Schools like Royal and St Thomas', which have a tradition of over 100 years of continuous cricket, have produced a long list of outstanding citizens, including five of the nine Prime Ministers since Independence in 1948 and the country's first Executive President. Needless to say, of that five, four played cricket for their first elevens at school.



The highly successful Sri Lankan Schools team which toured England in 1981 contained, amongst others, future Test cricketers Rumesh Ratnayake, Arjuna Ranatunga, who made his Test debut whilst still at school, Aravinda de Silva and Graeme Labrooy.



Cricket a Sport for All

Summary

In summarising the **Alberta Schools Cricket Association's** four year Cricket Plan 1996-2000, emphasizes a number of important requirements.

*** Financial Support from Sponsors.**

*** Donations for**

Equipment. Uniforms. Indoor Cricket Centre. Indoor Matting. Bowling Machine. Sponsoring of Competitions. Proficiency Awards. Medals & Certificates. Inter-City, Provincial, Canadian Tournaments Travel & Accommodation. Coaching.

The **Alberta Schools Cricket Association** encourages you to play a role in its growth by monetary or assistance in providing the cost of the above items.



Contact.

Christie Marathalingam
Cricket Coaching Co-ordinator Alberta.

ALBERTA SCHOOLS FOUNDED IN 1995 **CRICKET ASSOCIATION**