

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

STAN COCKERTON TO RETIRE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AFTER 39-YEAR CAREER

TORONTO, ON – July 22nd, 2021 – It is with heartfelt gratitude that the Ontario Lacrosse Association (OLA) announces the official retirement of Executive Director Stan Cockerton. Stan has served as the Executive Director of the OLA since 1986, after first launching his career in amateur sport in 1982 as the OLA Program Director, before being promoted to OLA Technical Director and eventually to the position of Executive Director.

During his 39-year tenure, the last 35 as Executive Director, Stan has played a critical role in overseeing the growth of the OLA membership from 3,700 participants in the early 1980's to over 40,000 prior to the Pandemic, and ensuring a sustainable financial position for the OLA during his tenure. At the beginning of his career, playing opportunities were mostly limited to box lacrosse; neither the OMFLA nor the OWFL had been founded at that time. As well, outside of a small number of well-established historical associations, box lacrosse had remained relatively niche since its origins in the 1930's. Stan's passion for both box and field lacrosse soon translated into playing opportunities in all three sectors throughout Ontario. Since those early days, the sport has grown to over 66 minor box lacrosse associations, 39 minor and men's field associations and 20 women's field associations, participating in 13 leagues which provide players, coaches and officials at all age and skill levels with a place to fall in love with lacrosse. Stan has always advocated for a focus on development opportunities to increase the number of players who had access to the sport. He has also overseen and supported high-performance efforts for the reintroduction of lacrosse to the Ontario Summer Games (in 1992) and the Canada Summer Games (now scheduled for 2022). Throughout his years, he has proudly watched as players, coaches, officials and administrators passed through the OLA and advanced on to successful opportunities with Lacrosse Canada's National Championships, Team Ontario, USport (formerly CIAU), OUA, CUFLA and NCAA, professional lacrosse leagues, as well as a variety of careers for which their lacrosse skills and experiences have formed a positive foundation.

Throughout his involvement, he has remained a pillar of strength as the consistent representative of the OLA to our governing body, Lacrosse Canada (formerly the Canadian Lacrosse Association). "I would like to personally congratulate Stan on his retirement as the Executive Director of the OLA, and on behalf of the Lacrosse Canada membership, I offer my sincere thanks for his efforts in growing and developing lacrosse both at home and at the national level across Canada," said Jane Clapham, Executive Director of Lacrosse Canada. "His dedication and commitment to lacrosse is without a doubt his lasting legacy. We wish Stan all the best."

"The Ontario Lacrosse Association cannot thank Stan enough for the dedication, passion, motivation and enthusiastic leadership he has given to the sport over the past 40 years. He will be greatly missed by our staff, Board of Governors, members and partners alike," said Jim Bomhof, President of the Ontario Lacrosse Association. "We are excited for him to be able to spend more time with his family and grandchildren. Congratulations Stan, and on behalf of the membership, thank you for your service to the sport at every level."

"It has been a privilege and pleasure for the staff and I to work for Stan throughout our careers," said Ron MacSpadyen, Program Director of the Ontario Lacrosse Association. "There are only a handful of Canadian sport leaders who have successful track records as athletes-volunteers-administrators, and Stan is in that unique company. His was a legacy contribution to sport so few ever make. While we will greatly miss his leadership, we wish Stan all the best in retirement".

Best wishes, cherished memories and photographs can be shared with Stan via stan@ontariolacrosse.com. Read on for more details of Stan's involvement in the sport of lacrosse on the following pages.

Stan Cockerton has a far-reaching career in the sport that spans from his playing days in the OLA to his time with World Lacrosse. In order to properly summarize his accomplishments, his lacrosse involvement is separated into Player, Administrator and Legacy categories on the following pages.

As a Player at Home and Abroad:

Stan sought a career in amateur sport administration following his playing career. He picked up his first lacrosse stick at the age of 12, and, as an all-star box player for Oshawa with gifted athletic abilities, his playing style was an immediate threat to his opponent's goaltenders. As a Junior "A" player, Stan ranked 5th in All-Time Goals with 319 goals for the Gaels, and was named Most Valuable Player in Junior "A" in 1975 and 1976, as well as being named Major Series Lacrosse's Rookie of the Year in 1977.

Stan's international career began in 1976 as a three-time member of Team Canada's field lacrosse program (1978, 1982 and 1990), leading Team Canada to a World Championship gold medal in 1978 by scoring six goals and tallying three assists, including the game-winning goal in the 17-16 overtime win against the United States. The 1978 World Lacrosse Championships were a watershed moment for the sport throughout Canada, which acted as a springboard for excitement and energy to kickstart the growth of field lacrosse throughout Ontario upon Cockerton's return to Ontario. The Goal, most famously recreated in print by Friends of Lacrosse (see page 5), sealed the first defeat of the United States in modern-era international competition, and solidified Cockerton's place in the history books as a hero to Canada's National Game. Footage of this 1978 World Lacrosse Championship game can be seen in this [Youtube Video](#), including Cockerton's game winning overtime goal at the 20:30 mark. At the time, he was named "Player of the World" (see page 7).

Stan played collegiately for North Carolina State University in the United States, where he was a four-time All-American selection and still ranks among the all-time NCAA leaders in total Goals Scored (193), Points (280), Points Per Game (6.36), Goals Per Game (4.39) a record that still stands 41 years later. He was a two-time Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Most Valuable Player and was selected to the ACC's 50th Anniversary Team in 2003. US Lacrosse Magazine profiled Cockerton's [1977 standout performance](#) as part of their ongoing "The Vault" series on May 21, 2020, which originally appeared as a cover story in April of 1979.

Cockerton's accomplishments as a player have been recognized through his inductions into the [Oshawa Sports Hall of Fame](#) (1990), [Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame](#) (1997, Inaugural Class), [Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame](#) (2003), [USA Lacrosse Hall of Fame](#) (2014), and [North Carolina State Hall of Fame](#) (2016).

Former teammates reached out to share their fondest playing memories, as well as their best wishes.

"They always speak of The Goal. And Stan had a lot of goals, but that goal is one that I'll never forget for as long as I live. We all had a front-row seat to watch it unfold, this young kid who came back from college in North Carolina and stepped up on the international stage to win it for Canada. People need to know how good he was. Throughout that whole tournament, he was Gretzky-like: his awareness, his confidence, his shooting ability and his leadership. Congratulations Stan on this next chapter in your life, and thank you for your involvement and passion. Your mark on the game is eternal." (John Grant Sr, Team Canada 1978 teammate)

"I first saw Stan play in 1975. I was scouting the Gaels, and I had been told about how this kid could score. When it came time to select the '78 roster, he was our natural choice for starting attackman. Nobody could score like him, especially under pressure, in OT of the gold medal game. That's who Stan is, a person who rises under pressure. It was a privilege to coach him, and I doubt there will ever be another scorer like him. Since 1978, Stan has been my life long friend. I am proud of his career both on and off the playing surface, and I want to thank him for everything he's done for lacrosse, and wish him well." (Bobby Allan, Team Canada 1978 coach)



As an International Ambassador, World Lacrosse:

Following his retirement from playing, Cockerton's passion for the sport saw him serve as Vice President of the International Lacrosse Federation (which became the Federation of International Lacrosse, and is now World Lacrosse) from 2003-2010, and then as President from 2010-2017. World Lacrosse now boasts 70 member-National Governing Bodies from around the world, and the sport continues to grow in popularity through the sanctioning of five World Championships.

Having also been an instrumental member of the FIL/World Lacrosse Olympic Vision Committee, Cockerton's contributions to the game internationally have helped shape the aspiration to return the sport of lacrosse to the Olympic games. Often described as the chairperson of the committee which brought the game "95 yards toward its goal," Stan was proud to witness the [most historic moment for lacrosse](#): the official recognition of the sport by the International Olympic Committee on July 20th, 2021. He was honoured with the [Lester B. Pearson Award](#) in 2011 by Lacrosse Canada for his outstanding contributions to the sport, as well as the [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) in 2018 by World Lacrosse for his international growth and development efforts.

A number of notable members of the World Lacrosse Community extended their congratulations.

"World Lacrosse (known at the time as the Federation of International Lacrosse) presented Stan Cockerton with its highest award of Lifetime Achiever in 2018, in recognition of his significant contribution at the helm of the Federation, as VP and then President from 2008 to 2017. During that time Stan was instrumental in the development of both the Federation and in advancing the aim of getting lacrosse back into the Olympics. His contribution cannot be overstated." (Sue Redfern, World Lacrosse President)

"Stan is unique in the international lacrosse world for being the only person to have scored the winning goal in a World Championship (1978 for Canada against the USA), for bringing stability to the Canadian representation at the International Federation, and for having been a Vice President of the International Lacrosse Federation (ILF), and Vice President and then President of the Federation of International Lacrosse, (now World Lacrosse). During Stan's presidency, he provided outstanding leadership in resolving major issues, foremost being the Iroquois Nationals attendance at the 2010 World Championship with the subsequent "Blue Division" concerns at the 2014 Championship, the very late withdrawal of the original host for the 2018 Championship and seeking alternate arrangements; and major successes with the IOC Recognition, and the growth in membership. Stan is the man." (Ron Balls, Former World Lacrosse Secretary General)

"Stan Cockerton is a true pioneer in the world of international lacrosse. His vision, leadership and positive direction have had a tremendous impact on the growth of the game." (Bob DeMarco, World Lacrosse Development Director)

"Through his contributions as a player, administrator and leader, Stan Cockerton has made a lasting and positive difference for the sport he loves. The growth that lacrosse continues to enjoy around the world today is a reflection of Stan's vision and his commitment to expand opportunities for participation for young people everywhere. The sport of lacrosse would not be where it is today were it not for the leadership and vision of Stan Cockerton." (Jim Scherr, World Lacrosse Chief Executive Officer)

"Stan's positive impact on the sport over the decades, within Canada and throughout the world, is unsurpassed. He's a servant leader whose extraordinary character, humility, and selflessness have always defined him. I've been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with him on many initiatives over the years, I'm grateful for our longstanding friendship, and I wish him all the best in the chapters of life to come." (Steve Stenersen, USA Lacrosse CEO and World Lacrosse Vice President)



On Stan's Legacy:

The Cockerton Cup (World Lacrosse):

As an enduring symbol of excellence in international box lacrosse, the Cockerton Cup is awarded to the team that captures the World Lacrosse Box Championship, an event held on a quadrennial basis in various locations throughout the world. The trophy is named in honour of Stan Cockerton, one of the most historically accomplished lacrosse players and an off-floor leader whose contributions to the growth of lacrosse have benefited generations of players around the globe, and who was instrumental in organizing the first event, which was held in Ontario in 2003. The most recent World Lacrosse Box Championship took place in 2019, in Langley, BC. Team Canada is currently undefeated through all competition.

The Stan Cockerton Award (Ontario Minor Field Lacrosse League):

In recognition of Stan Cockerton's goal-scoring abilities, this award is presented to the Graduating U17 Offensive OLA Player competing in the Ontario Minor Field Lacrosse League who demonstrates high proficiency in field lacrosse as well as sportsmanship. The award was established in 2000, the same year as the formalization of the OMFLL, and has been awarded annually since then. Notable previous recipients include Austin Shanks, Cam Milligan, Tanner Thomson, Jeff Teat, Justin Sykes, and most recently Will Sheehan (Oakville Hawks, 2019).

The Heritage Cup & Brogden Cup (International Invitational Competitions):

Stan Cockerton is a co-founder of both the Heritage Cup (an international invitational box lacrosse event played between Team Canada, Team USA and Team Iroquois), and the Brogden Cup (which is currently an international invitational male and female field lacrosse youth competition featuring United States players selected from tryouts from the National Lacrosse Classic and Canadian players representing the Ontario Lacrosse Association).

Oshawa Blue Knights Minor Field Lacrosse Club (Ontario Lacrosse Association):

Stan Cockerton is a co-founder of the Oshawa Blue Knights Field Lacrosse Club, one of Canada's most successful field lacrosse clubs.





Friends of Lacrosse commemorate this print to the occasion of Stan Cockerton's winning goal scored in double overtime Saturday July 8th 1978, Canada 17-USA 16.

262/1000

GB Allan

Aussies Down England in Consolation 19-9



Australia exploded midway through the second period from a 5-4 deficit, scoring 13 of the next 14 goals to smother England 19-9 in the consolation game Friday.

The English trailed the Aussies in the first quarter as Paul Lynch scored three

times. Mick Murphy and Dave Duxbury hit the twine for England to make it a close 4-2.

Australia 19, England 9

Australia 4 3 8 4-19
England..... 2 3 1 3-9
Goals: Aus—Cann 7, Lynch 4, Butkiewicz 2, Daly

Australia

| Position | No. | Name | Ht. | Wt. | Age | State |
|----------|-----|------------------------------|------------|-----|-----|-----------------|
| DEFENSE | 2 | R. TATLOW | 6' 0" | 183 | 30 | Victoria |
| CENTRE | 3 | *W. HOBBS | 5' 11" | 182 | 24 | South Australia |
| ATTACK | 4 | P. CANN | 5' 10 1/2" | 186 | 26 | West Australia |
| " | 5 | B. SMITH | 5' 9" | 161 | 23 | Victoria |
| DEFENSE | 6 | *G. GARNSWORTHY (Co-Captain) | 5' 9 1/2" | 190 | 27 | Victoria |
| MIDFIELD | 7 | *G. FOX | 5' 11" | 192 | 22 | Victoria |
| " | 8 | R. DUTHY (Co-Captain) | 5' 9 1/2" | 158 | 24 | South Australia |
| " | 9 | R. FLETT | 6' 1 1/2" | 163 | 22 | South Australia |
| CENTRE | 10 | J. BUTKIEWICZ | 6' 0" | 182 | 26 | Victoria |
| GOAL | 11 | E. JONES | 6' 0" | 187 | 21 | South Australia |
| MIDFIELD | 12 | *N. SPECK | 6' 0" | 196 | 27 | South Australia |
| " | 13 | D. JOY | 6' 3" | 198 | 22 | Victoria |
| " | 14 | D. WRIGHT | 6' 1 1/2" | 161 | 22 | South Australia |
| DEFENSE | 15 | G. JOHNSON | 5' 9" | 174 | 20 | South Australia |
| ATTACK | 16 | P. LYNCH | 6' 3" | 210 | 21 | South Australia |
| " | 17 | *K. DALY | 6' 1 1/2" | 189 | 29 | Victoria |
| DEFENSE | 18 | A. BOWER | 5' 9 1/2" | 172 | 23 | Victoria |
| MIDFIELD | 19 | T. HARDY | 6' 0 1/2" | 186 | 28 | Victoria |
| GOAL | 20 | R. WALTON | 5' 10" | 154 | 26 | Victoria |
| MIDFIELD | 21 | S. ELLIS | 6' 3" | 196 | 23 | Victoria |
| " | 22 | J. KENEDY | 6' 0" | 154 | 21 | West Australia |
| ATTACK | 23 | J. BALLARINE | 5' 10" | 187 | 26 | West Australia |
| CENTRE | 24 | R. TURNBULL | 6' 0 1/2" | 187 | 28 | West Australia |

(*1974 World Championship Team)
Manager: A. F. CHIRON (Victoria) Assistant Manager: G. E. GATLEY (South Australia)
Coach: J. W. CARTER (South Australia)
Assistant Coaches: F. J. POAT (West Australia) A. J. INGLIS (Victoria)
Colours: Green and yellow shorts shirts



2, Hobbs, Duthy, Kenedy, Fox; Eng—Smith 2, Murphy 2, Duxbury 2, Roberts, B. Robinson, Atkinson
Assists: Aus—Butkiewicz 2, Daly 2, Lynch, Hobbs, Duthy, Kenedy, Ellis, Smith; Eng—Smith, Murphy, Duxbury, Roberts, Rice
Saves: Aus—Jones 5; Eng—Wilcock 20, Mitchell 12
Shots: Aus—77; Eng—23
Faceoffs: Aus—25; Eng—7
Ground Balls: Aus—56; Eng—51
Clears: Aus—18/25; Eng—5/23

Canada Wins World Championship With 17-16 Win Over USA



The Canadians shocked everyone, especially the USA team, as Stan Cockerton scored the decisive goal for Canada with less than one minute to go in the second overtime period, giving Canada a 17-16 victory to capture the 1978 World Lacrosse Championship.

America reached the final by beating all three of the other countries, while Canada was 2-1, the loss being a humiliating 28-4 slaughter only five days earlier to the Americans.

As in any killing of a giant like the USA team was before the final, it was a spectacular team effort by the Canadians with many heroes.

The Yanks opened the game as if they were to repeat their earlier conquest of Canada, as Bill Marino rifled home a shot 15 seconds into the game on a face off fast break.

But Canada's John Grant scored one of the most crucial goals of the day, knotting the score at 1-1 and making it impossible for America to score the first fourteen goals of this game as they did on Monday.

With America holding a 3-2 lead, six different Canadians scored unanswered goals, stunning the Yanks with an 8-3 first quarter lead. The U.S. regrouped and tallied six straight (three from Bruce Arena) to re-take the lead, 9-8, late in the second quarter. Canada closed the half with Cockerton and Mike French putting them back in the lead, 10-9.

Cockerton opened the second half with two unassisted goals as Canada again threatened to take control. The Yanks

wouldn't have it, however, as they outscored Canada 5-1 through the rest of the quarter to maintain a 14-13 advantage.

After Cockerton leveled the score at fourteen, Tom Postel and Bill Marino put the U.S. up 16-14 and set the stage for controversy.

"That" Goal

Jim Wasson broke loose to U.S. goalie Rick Blick's left, pump faked, then blazed a shot at the goal. After a pile up on the ball in front of the cage, Blick scooped up the ball with an apparent save.

Referee Don Reymont of Australia called it a goal, bringing outrage by the U.S. team (defenseman Mike Waldvogel overturned the goal in protest). The U.S. Claim was that the ball hit the pipe, caromed out, and never entered the goal. No one besides Reymont has called it in the cage to date, while many (players and spectators alike) claim they saw it hit the pipe and never go in.

With the score 16-15, Cockerton made it deuce on a feed from Grant and it was overtime for the first final in the history of the World Championships.

As throughout this final, Canadian goaltender Bob Flintoff and his defensive supporting cast showed tremendous improvement from their first two games. Flintoff making saves (21) and starting precision clears (22 of 27).

Cockerton put his winning tally in the goal for Canada's fifth extra-man score of the day after a scoreless first overtime period. The underdog (Canada) supporting crowd of 3,512 roared in approval as they sensed the kill of the undefeated Champions.

When U.S. face off man Craig Jaeger pulled up on the ensuing face off in protest of what he felt was an unfair movement by the Canadian before the whistle, Referee Reymont ruled Jaeger out of line, awarded the ball to Canada and sealed the game.

"We are the Champions of the World" sang the jubilant Canadians. "We're Number One."

"We were all over the loose balls," raved mid-fielder Dave Huntley. "Our defense had a fantastic game. It sure felt great to beat Richie (Moran) twice in one year after losing to him five straight (Huntley plays for the Johns Hopkins team which just snapped Cornell's 42 game winning streak, 5 over Hopkins, to win the U.S. University Division Title). I never thought it could happen."

"After losing 28-4," began attack star Cockerton, "we were unsure about winning, but when we saw how the English almost won, especially on hustle, we believed we could win."

Canadian Captain and former Cornell star Mike French was full of praise for both teams: "I felt that at any time they could've exploded on us like before, but we kept on digging for the ground balls and settling it on attack.

"I credit our coaches for helping us learn, really, a new game (from their native box lacrosse). We played much better today.

"If I had lost this game," continued French, "I would not have felt bad. They're a great team. No people in the world I feel closer to than some of those guys. Richie Moran is like another father to me."

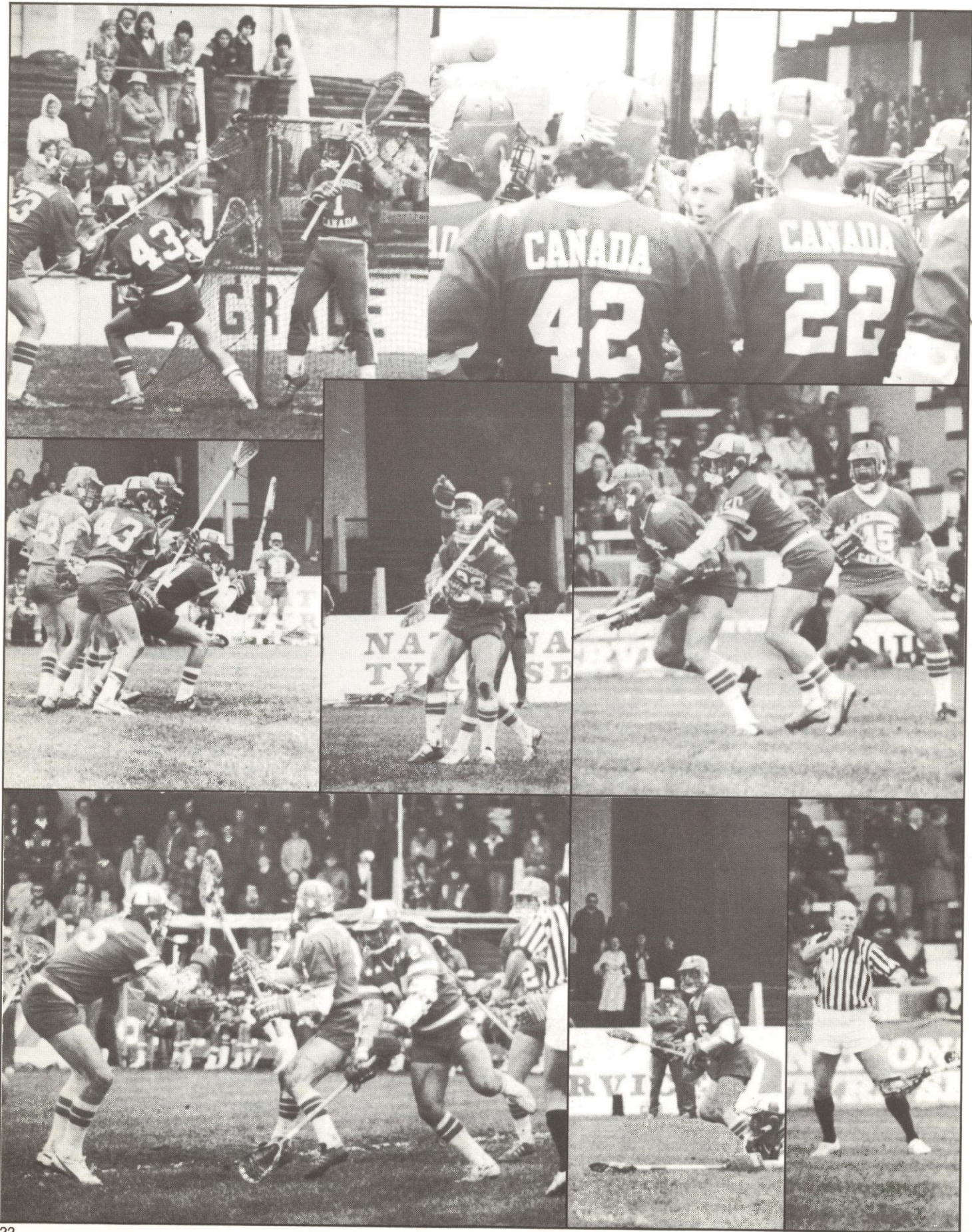
Moran was disappointed after the loss, deploring his team's "horrendous shot selection and faltering extra-man (3 for 10) team."

And a contented English lacrosse fan enthused with his friends and spoke for the world outside America: "I'm 'appy someone beat those bloody Yanks!"

Canada 17, USA 16

USA 4 5 5 2 0 0-16
Canada 8 2 3 3 0 1-17
Goals: U.S.—Arena 3, Griebbe 3, Henrickson 2, B. Marino 2, McEaney 2, Jaeger, P. Marino, Radebaugh, Poste; Can—Cockerton 6, Calder 2, Grant 2, Wasson 2, French, Burke, Dyrante, Huntley, Moradian
Assists: U.S.—Jaeger 3, Postel 2, DeSimone, P. Marino; Can—Cockerton 3, French 3, Grant 2, Dyrante, Huntley
Saves: U.S.—Blick 6, MacKesy 5; Can—Flintoff 21
Shots: U.S.—62; Can—41
Faceoffs: U.S.—24; Can—15
Groundballs: U.S.—34; Can—52
Clears: U.S.—13/21; Can—22/27

THRILLING OVERTIME VICTORY



CONGRATULATIONS TEAM CANADA

Exciting and Appropriate

How exciting and indeed appropriate it is that Canada now wears the title of World Lacrosse Champion. It is an honour tirelessly fought for and well deserved.

Please pass on my heartiest congratulations to each and every member of Team Canada Lacrosse on their gold medal victory over the United States team in England.

I am confident that we will continue to enjoy many competitive successes in lacrosse.

Iona Campagnolo
Minister of State
Fitness and Amateur Sport

Team Effort

On behalf of the President of the National Indian Brotherhood, we wish to extend our congratulations to the Canadian Field Lacrosse team as winners of the World Lacrosse Championship held recently in England.

The determination and team effort of the players were certainly contributing factors to a well-deserved win.

Alex Garrow
Sports and Recreation

How a World Champion Was Determined

The 1978 World Championship of Lacrosse was decided in two parts.

First, each team played each entrant once for a total of 3 games. Point earnings were two for a win, none for a loss. Ties were to be settled in overtime or sudden death. The standings were determined by points, with a tie being resolved by goal differences.

The Playoff between the first two teams in the standings determined the World Champion, while the third and fourth place teams played a consolation game.

The standings and game results of the 1978 World Championship were this:

| Team | W | L | GF | GA | PTS |
|-----------|---|---|----|----|-----|
| USA | 3 | 0 | 62 | 32 | 6 |
| Canada | 2 | 1 | 41 | 56 | 4 |
| Australia | 1 | 2 | 46 | 48 | 2 |
| England | 0 | 3 | 36 | 49 | 0 |

Results

Sat. July 1
USA 22, Australia 17
Canada 21, England 15

Mon. July 3
USA 28, Canada 4
Australia 16, England 10

Wed. July 5
Canada 16, Australia 13
USA 12, England 11

Consolation, Fri. July 7
Australia 19, England 9

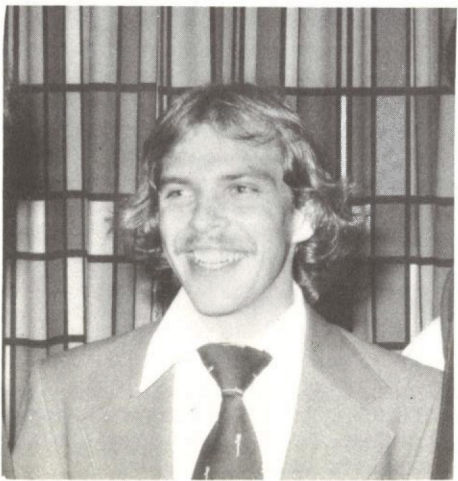
Championship Final
Sat. July 8
Canada 17, USA 16 (ot)

Championship Awards:
Best and Fairest Player:
Mike French (Canada)
Best Defense Player:

Steve Bevington (England)
Best Midfield Player:
John Butkiewicz (Australia)
Best Attack Player:
Peter Cann (Australia)
Best Goalkeeper:
Bob Flintoff (Canada)

LEADING SCORERS

| | | | | |
|------------|-----|----|----|----|
| Cockerton | Can | 18 | 9 | 27 |
| Cann | Aus | 23 | 2 | 25 |
| McEaney | USA | 12 | 11 | 23 |
| French | Can | 6 | 15 | 21 |
| Kenedy | Aus | 3 | 11 | 14 |
| Smith | Eng | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| Postel | USA | 6 | 7 | 13 |
| Darcangelo | USA | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| Roberts | Eng | 10 | 2 | 12 |
| Smith | Aus | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| Lynch | Aus | 7 | 5 | 12 |
| Jaeger | USA | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Arena | USA | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Daly | Aus | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Long | USA | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Marino, B | USA | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Duxbury | Eng | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Butkiewicz | Aus | 6 | 2 | 8 |



Player of the World

In the Crease's
Stan Cockerton

Cockerton was the leading scorer in the games, scored the tying and winning goals in the final, but won none of the individual awards. In the Crease honors Stan Cockerton.

PRESENTATION TO CANADA'S SPORTS HALL OF FAME



BOB
ALLAN
Coach

STAN
COCKERTON

TOM
WEST

BOB
FLINTOFF

HARRY
RED
FOSTER

MARSHALL
SPENCE



DOUG BUDDEN
Chairman Sport Ontario

TOM WEST
Curator Canada Sports Hall of Fame



BILL PRENTICE
Director Sport Ontario

STAN COCKERTON
Player of the World

He was ahead of his time

The Toronto Sun, Thursday July 27, 1978
By BARBARA MAHER
Staff Writer

Marshall Spence won't waste his time saying "I told you so."

Even though the past president of the Ontario Lacrosse Association has every

he said during a ceremony at the Sports Hall of Fame to honor the 1978 champions. "There are a lot of people I'd like to say 'I told you so' to, but I don't feel that it would accomplish anything.

"They also said funding wasn't available, but I proved that it was. We got assistance from the federal government Canadian game. But Canada is the only country that plays box lacrosse.



BRUCE PRENTICE
Executive Director Ontario Lacrosse Assoc.

HARRY RED FOSTER
Chairman Hall of Fame

MARSHALL SPENCE
Chairman Field Project

right to be smug, it just isn't his style to gloat over personal victories.

So these days, Spence is resisting the temptation to boast that he was the first to express confidence in a Canadian team's chances at the world field lacrosse championships.

Instead, he basks in the satisfaction that his beliefs have been vindicated. A 17-16 Canadian victory over the favored Americans July 8 in the championship final is proof Spence knew what he was talking about.

"Not too many people believed we could do it, but we came back and won,"

"I'd rather be constructive than destructive."

Back in October, when Spence first heard that Lacrosse Canada wouldn't be entering a squad in the championships, he was outraged. He didn't agree that Canadians should confine themselves to box lacrosse, nor did he buy the excuse that there wasn't enough money to send a team to Stockport, England where the tournament was being held.

"I don't think the right people—those with enough foresight—were in charge. They felt we shouldn't be playing field lacrosse because box lacrosse is the

and we applied for a grant from the province. We raised the rest of the money through Wintario and corporate sponsors."

Luckily, Spence was able to convince a few others that his beliefs were justified—namely coach Bob Allan, general manager Ron Wicks and a team full of eager, talented young players. Together, they proved they weren't aiming for the impossible.

And yesterday—as they presented team pictures, jerseys, sticks and helmets to Sports Hall of Fame curator Rom West—there was an ever-so-slight hint of smugness on their faces.