

SPORTS

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JOHN RICHARDSON

... they called him "Mr. Soccer"

RICHARDSON PASSES

Soccer Loses Great Friend

British Columbia soccer lost its greatest friend Sunday when John M. Richardson died at St. Vincent's Hospital after a brief illness.

Richardson was secretary of the B.C. Soccer Commission at the time of his death, and B.C.'s council member on the Dominion Football Association executive. He had been secretary of the provincial commission since its inception in 1933.

Born in Durham county, England, John Richardson came to Vancouver in 1919 and had been connected with soccer here since that time. He was 52.

HEART AILMENT

He lived in South Vancouver for many years but lived at 3678 McGill Street latterly. He had been hospitalized since Friday after battling an asthmatic condition coupled with inflammation of the lungs and chronic heart trouble for many months.

A prominent Vancouver barrister, Richardson earned his law degree at the University of Edinburgh. He had his own law office in Vancouver for 27 years.

Richardson played soccer for some years after coming to Canada, but it was as an executive that he starred. He was first associated with the Riverview Juniors in the old Junior Alliance League, later serving on the council of the B.C. Junior Football Association.

INTERESTED IN MINORS

The personable little Englishman was elected secretary of the B.C. Football Association in the mid-twenties, becoming the first—and only—secretary of the soccer commission when it was formed in 1933.

He remained interested in minor fitba' long after directing the seniors became his major task, accepting the post of honorary president of the provincial junior and juvenile association.

Soccer officials were deeply moved at the death of the man they called "Mr. Soccer." Jock

Hendry, president of the Coast League, said:

"We will be lucky if we can replace John Richardson . . . no man devoted more time to the game and I suspect he gave up a lot of business to help us. We had our committee-room battles, but we were the closest of personal friends, and saying I will miss him as a friend is an inadequate tribute."

Others felt the same way. Blackie Bengert, chairman of the commission Richardson served so honorably for so long, said soccer had no better friend than John Richardson.

He is survived by his wife, Winnifred; a daughter, Mrs. Joan Rivett; a son, Ronald, all of Vancouver; two brothers, Donald of England and Thomas H. of Vancouver; two sisters, Mrs. A. Holmes of Vancouver and Mrs. W. Williams of California, and four grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Roselawn Funeral Directors Limited.