



1989 TEAMS



1953 Lethbridge All-Star Tigers Baseball Team

LETHBRIDGE ALL-STAR TIGERS

BASEBALL
The late Leon "Pop" Walker was a builder and motivator of championship minor league teams. His Tigers, entering the Lethbridge Sports Hall of Fame this year, won the City championship for years running, and the Lethbridge All-Star Tigers, with Walker at the helm, took the Pony League Canadian Title in 1955. A dream came true for the All-Star Tigers and Walker in 1953, when they became the first Canadian Little League team to go to the Little League World Series in Chicago. Walker was known as a man of high standards, able to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment in the boys he coached. He spent a lot of his own money and countless hours making team trips a reality and the players were always ready to give their best shot.

1953 Lethbridge All-Star Tigers Baseball Team

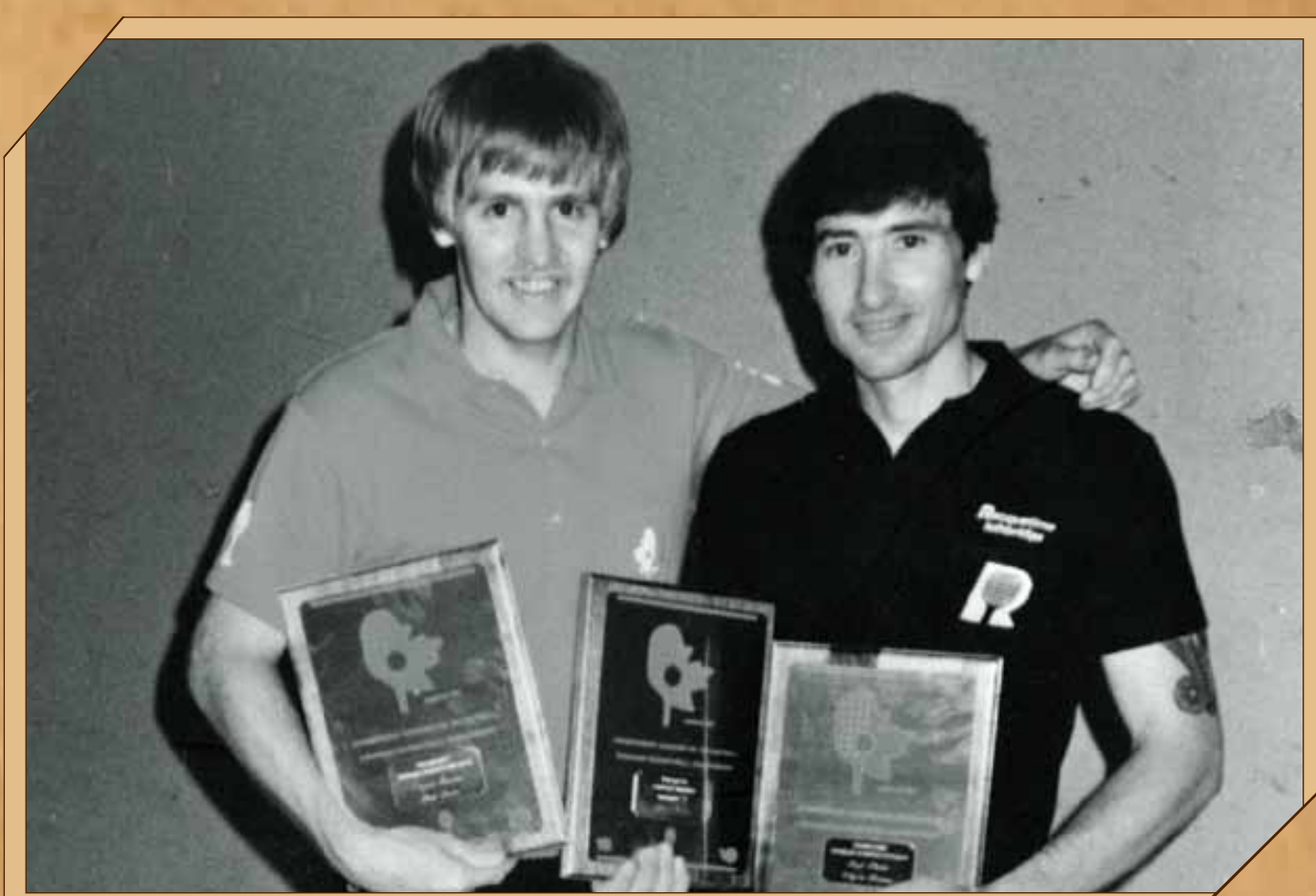
Back Row (L-R): Les Paton (A&V Coach), Cam Dewley, Roger Terry, Roger Harman, Bob Pennington, Leon "Pop" Walker (Coach).
Middle Row (L-R): Truman Williams, Doug Walker, Don Snodden, Warren Mills, John Nugent.
Front Row (L-R): Don Hughes, Ev Nowlin, Bob Fekete, Jack Macintosh, Keith Hemshoff.



1955 Lethbridge All-Star Tigers Baseball Team

1955 Lethbridge All-Star Tigers Baseball Team

Back Row (L-R): Ev Nowlin, Bernie Sparkes, Don Hughes, Roy Shimok, Clarence Condie.
Middle Row (L-R): Leon "Pop" Walker (Coach), Chuck Harens, Doug Walker, Don Snodden, Bob Fekete, Keith Hemshoff, Bill Kennedy (A&V Coach).
Front Row (L-R): Billy Kennedy, Ken Melvin, Roger Terry, Truman Williams, Rick Steadman.

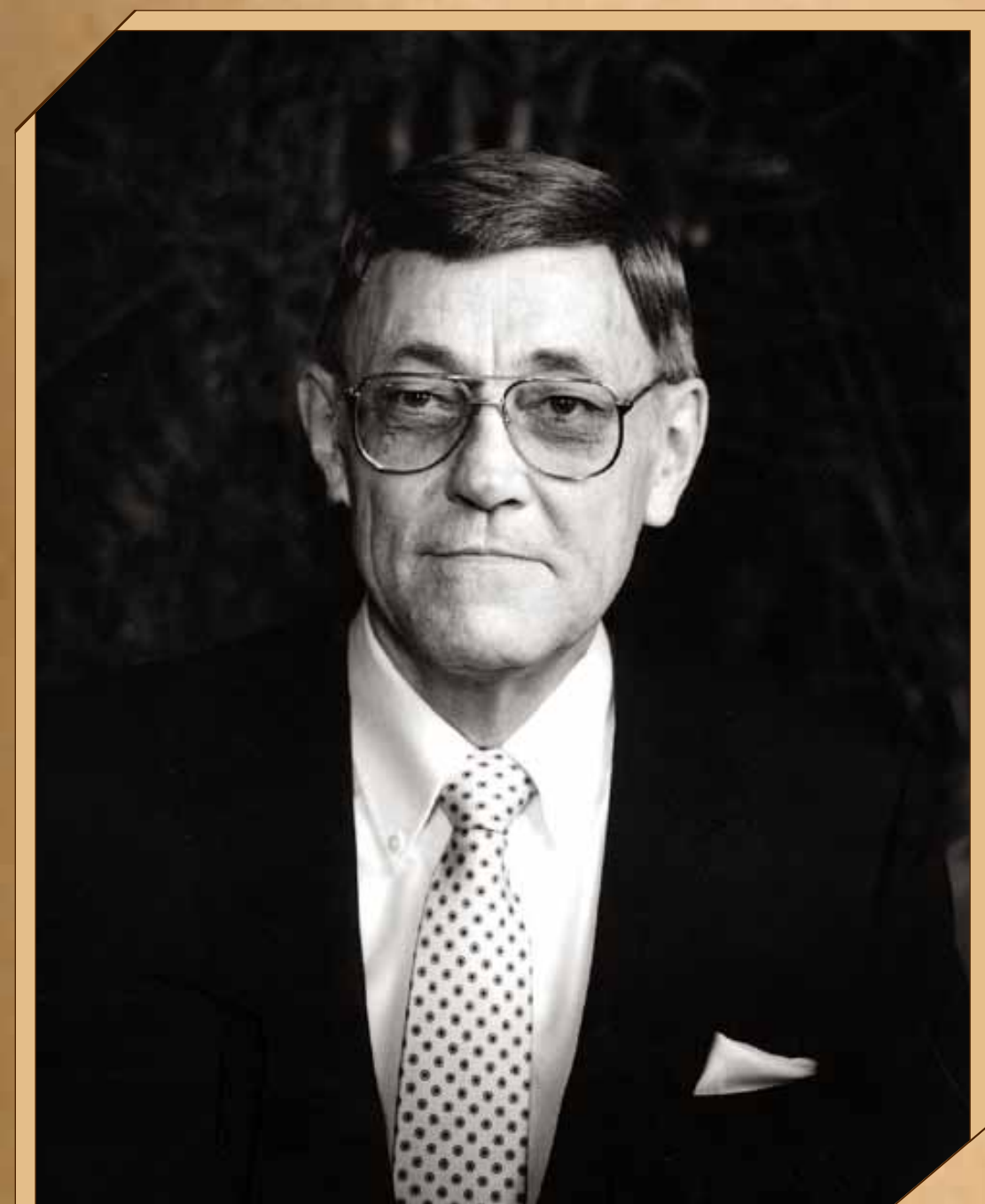


WAYNE BOWES & BOB DAKIN
RACQUETBALL

Dominating hardly begins to describe the racquetball talents of Wayne Bowes and Bob Dakin. As individuals Bowes and Dakin racked up impressive credentials. Bowes was a five-time Canadian Open champion, while Dakin has a Canadian Senior Men's title to his credit. But as a threesome they were awesome. Between the years of 1974 and 1980 Bowes and Dakin won 11 Canadian Open Men's Doubles titles and Alberta crowns. Their string of victories began in 1974 and remained intact until 1982. They won again in 1984 and 1985. Their record of nine straight titles and 11 in 13 years has never been threatened and likely never will be. In the course of their success the team also won countless provincial and regional tournaments. In a sport where a number of intangibles are necessary to reach success, Bowes and Dakin combined conditioning, individual skills, strategy, and teamwork to dominate the Canadian scene.

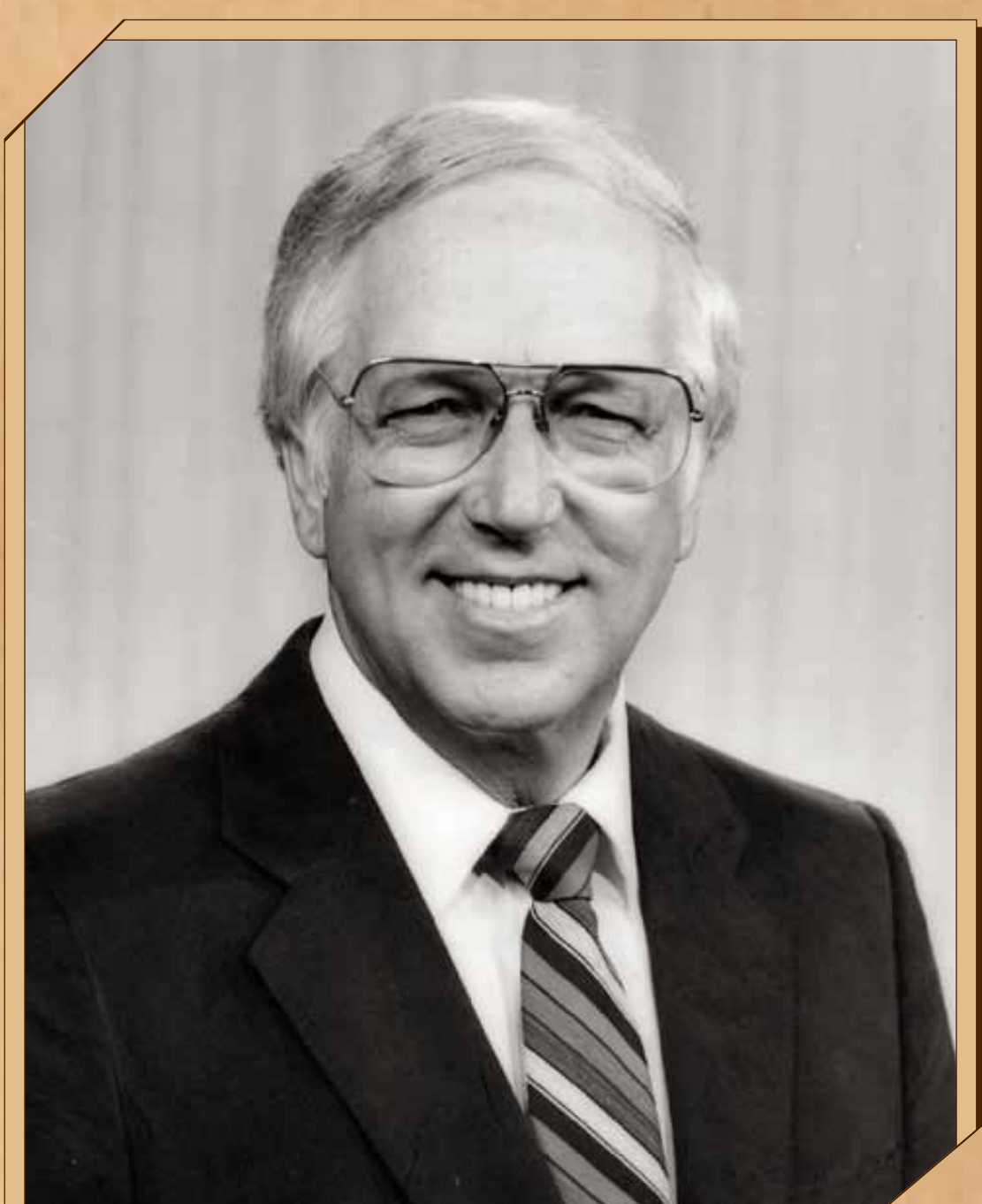


1989 SPECIAL



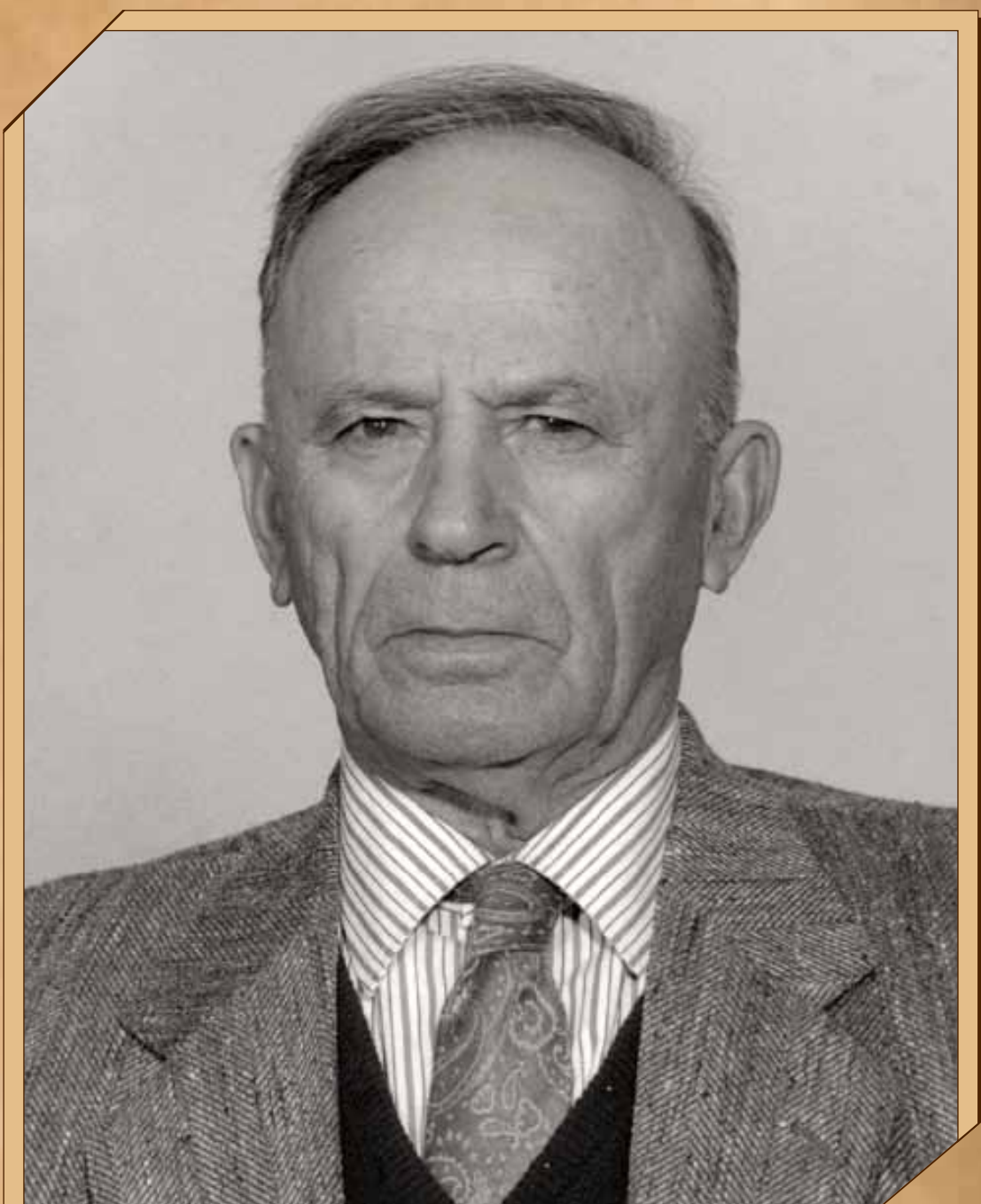
DON PILLING
SPECIAL AWARD

Few southern Albertans promoted minor sports to the degree Don Pilling did in his nearly four decades in newspaper, radio, and television. Pilling, a charter member of the Lethbridge Sports Hall of Fame, was founder of the Lethbridge Little League Baseball Association. He was also an original organizer of the Women's Sportsman's Dinners, Besides promoting amateur sport, Pilling also competed in track and field and football. At one time he held the Alberta and Canadian record for the 100 yard dash. As a football player, Pilling totted with the Shaugnessy Cadillacs and the Lethbridge Dodgers. Playing first base for the Dodgers, Pilling helped the team reach the Western Canadian finals in 1946. He was instrumental in helping the Cadillacs reach the Canadian finals in 1952. It was as Sports Editor of the Lethbridge Herald (and later as Managing Editor) that Pilling was able to contribute his expertise to amateur sport in Lethbridge and Southern Alberta.



AL MCCANN
SPECIAL AWARD

Southern Albertans have followed McCann's colourful years in a career launched here about 27 years ago. He was born in Lethbridge and attended school in Cardale. Participating on high school teams in all sports earned McCann into a steady performer. He excelled in basketball and football. He pitched for the Shaugnessy Cadillacs in the era that was the rise of another Sports Hall of Famer, Ed Foychuk, and helped the Cadillacs win the Alberta Football title. McCann joined CIOC Radio in 1952, becoming a sports announcer in 1955 and he moved into television when the station extended into that medium. McCann, and sports fans of the area, recall the multi-sport football-casualty and seeing Al most days or nights in the Civic Centre, Adams, or Henderson Parks. A move to Edmonton in 1963 put him into the national national coverage with the CTV network - on the spot for football, boxing, Olympics, hockey, and golf. McCann has covered Edmonton Oilers and Edmonton Eskimos games, 26 Grey Cup games, many Stanley Cup finals, six Olympics and other major events such as the Indy-500, Daytona 500 and PGA championships.

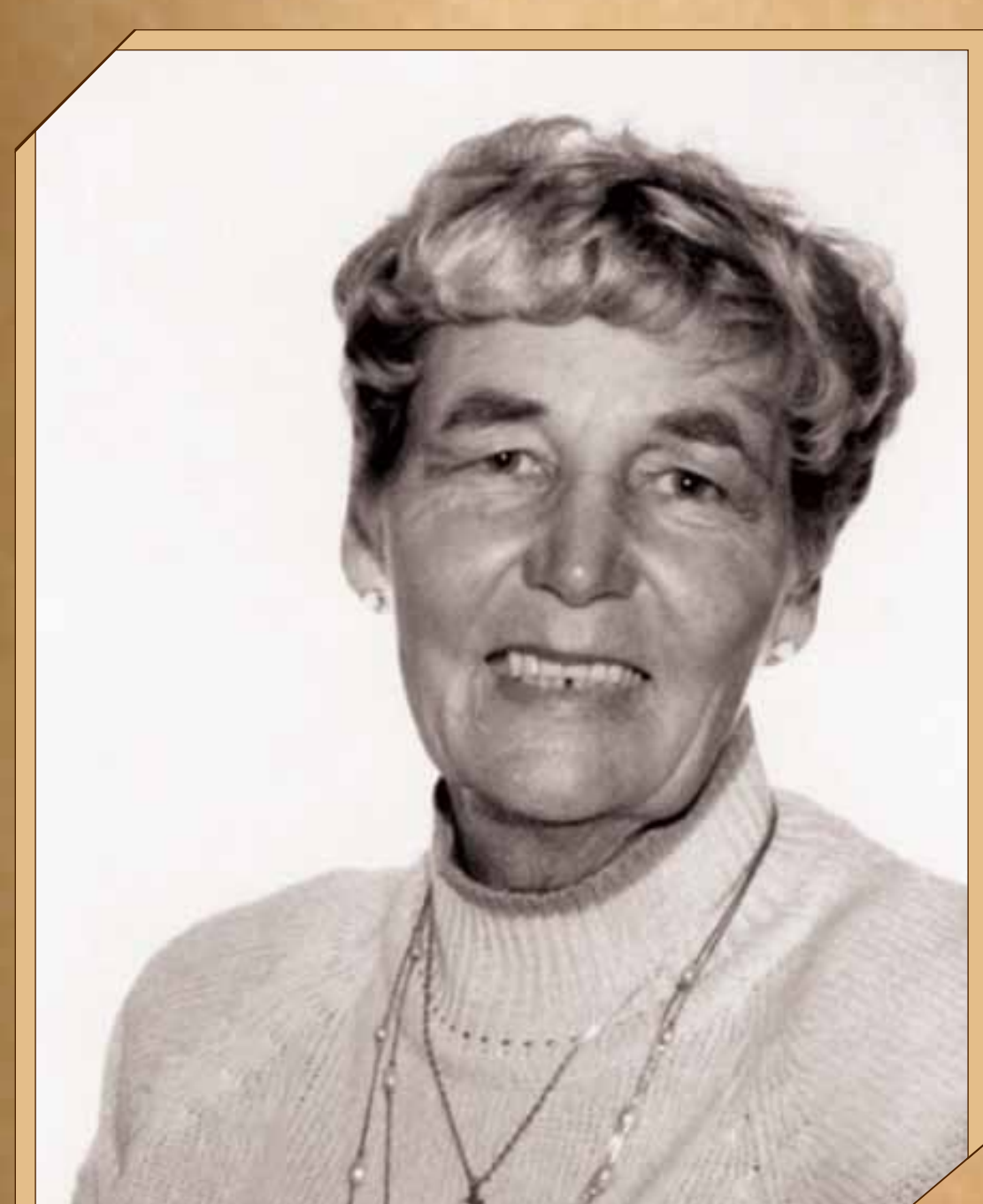


VAL MATTEOTTI
SPECIAL AWARD

A decade and more of winning teams and keen competitors signals the Val Matteotti story in Lethbridge sports history. He is one of those who realized that investments can and should be made in more than the financial field. He knows money and time spent on human resources, especially youth, pay great dividends to individuals and the community. Matteotti's dollars in at least five sports and ten different teams in Lethbridge have been substantial, more than \$50,000 in the past decade. Coupled to endless volunteer hours, with the assistance of dozens of willing and able volunteer coaches and managers, his input adds up to an impressive and long list of character and skills growth for hundreds of young men and women. Val Matteotti teams in hockey, softball, football, basketball, and soccer have also been ambassadors for Lethbridge, carrying a goodwill banner for the City across the country from British Columbia to Nova Scotia.

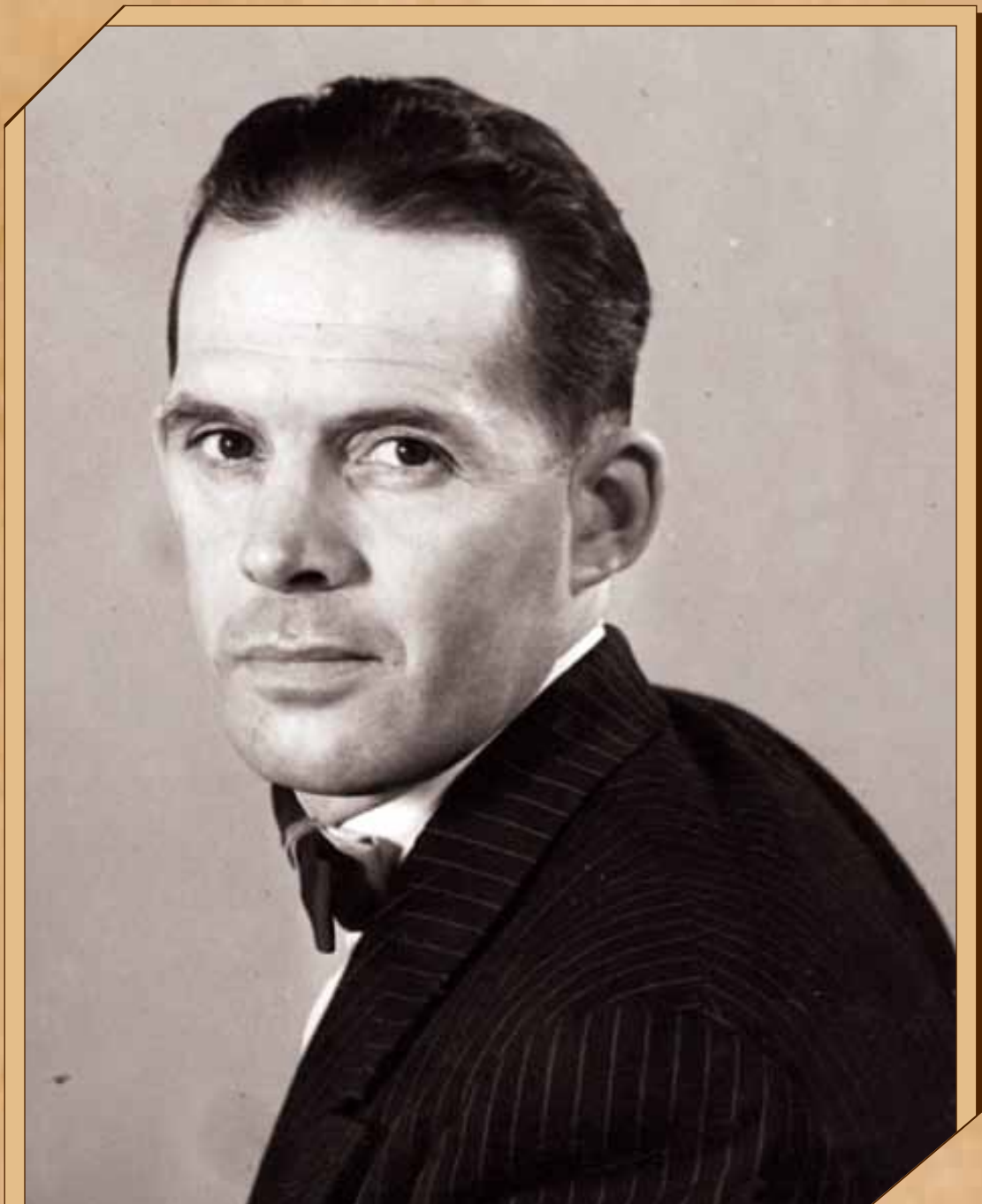


1990 BUILDERS



THELMA COUTTS
MULTI SPORTS

Thelma Coutts has been a fixture in the Lethbridge sports scene for more than 20 years. Duff's vice through the boxing ranks, under the guidance of Coach Kai Yip of the Lethbridge Boxing Club, was quick and steady. He won a gold medal at the Alberta Winter Games, and at age 15 won the gold at the Junior National Championship. She later held various positions with the Alberta Ladies' Golf Association, including vice president in 1984-85 and president in 1986-87. Coutts was also a Southern Alberta Course Rater with the A.L.G.A. from 1976-79, and a Provincial Course Rater from 1980-83. In the winter, Coutts devoted time to curling. She coached Lethbridge junior girls' curling from 1973-79 and she was a southern Alberta curling representative in 1977-78, 1978-79, and 1988-89. She also served as uniform coordinator for the Scott Tournament of Hearts, held in Lethbridge in 1987. From 1988-89, she was a member of the Alberta Sports Council advisory committee for the Sport X and Sport XI conferences.



RALPH 'LEFTY' ESPLETTER
MULTI SPORTS

Variety was the spice of life for former Lethbridge sportsman Ralph "Lefty" Espletter. Before his death in 1960 at age 43, Espletter, served as the city's recreation director for six years, and he was involved in hockey, basketball, baseball, football, broomball, and track and field. Born in Dismore, Saskatchewan on 21 December 1917, Espletter came to Lethbridge in 1947 and he was initially involved in Little League baseball. He also gave many years of service to minor hockey and he was the southern representative of the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association at the time of his death. Espletter organized the Christmas Senior Men's Basketball Tournament which was a tradition for many years. He was a driving force behind the annual Knights of Columbus Bobsled Track Meet. He also coached men's and women's football. During his stint as recreation director, Espletter developed the original rule book for broomball, which remains a popular sport in the city.

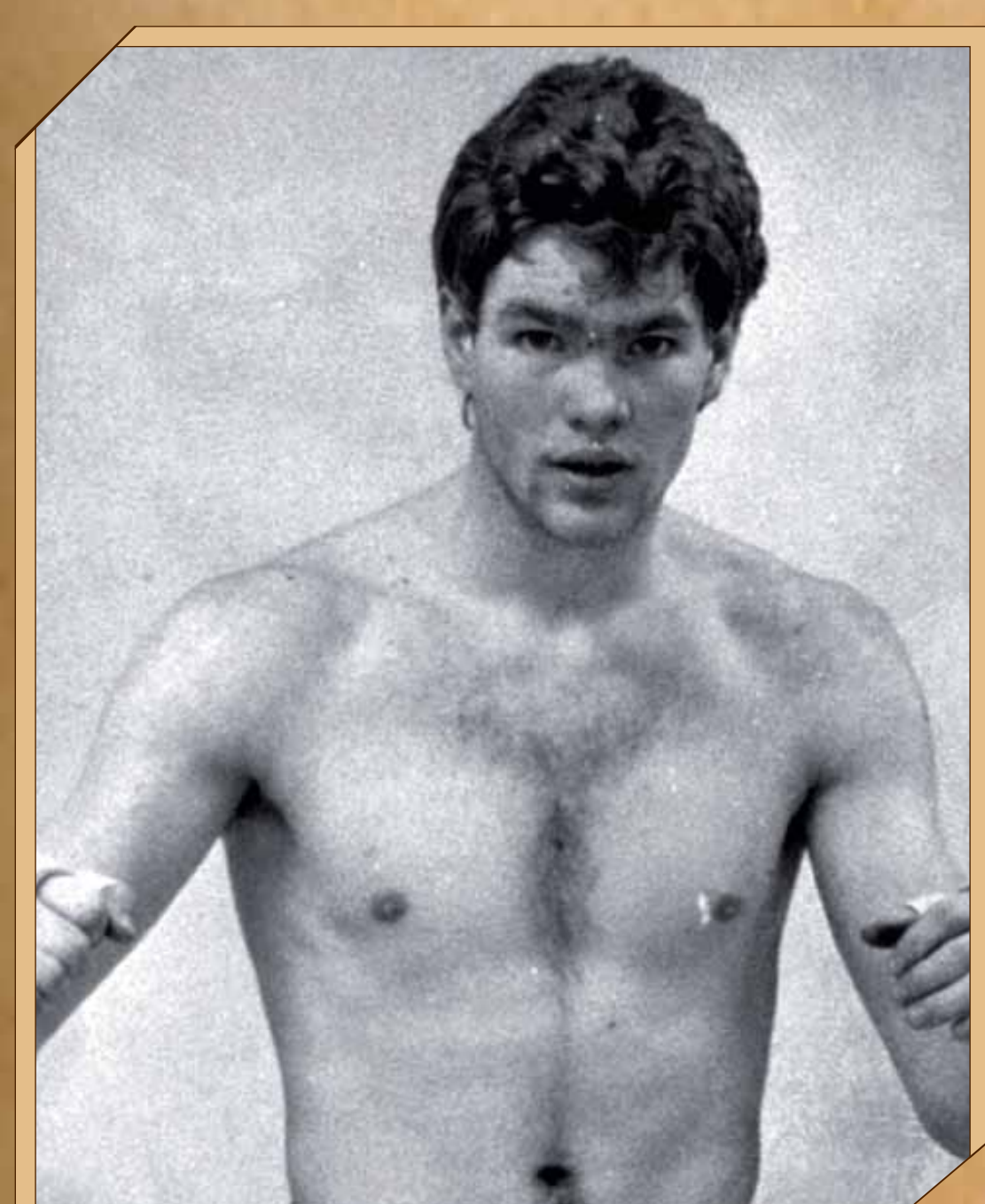


MARILYN SVEDEEN
MULTI SPORTS

Svedden has devoted countless hours to administering and coaching in a number of amateur sports in southern Alberta since 1972, when she organized women's hockey in Lethbridge. She also played a major role in founding the Lethbridge Minor Softball Association, Lethbridge Women's Softball, and Ringette. She coached the Val Matteotti Centennials to the gold medal in basketball and the girls' hockey team at provincial. Svedden served as administrative manager for the Lethbridge Minor Hockey Association for 3 1/2 years and she was the secretary of the Lethbridge Minor Football Association for three years. She was honoured as the Associated Canadian Travelles-Labatt's Sportsman of the Year in 1979.

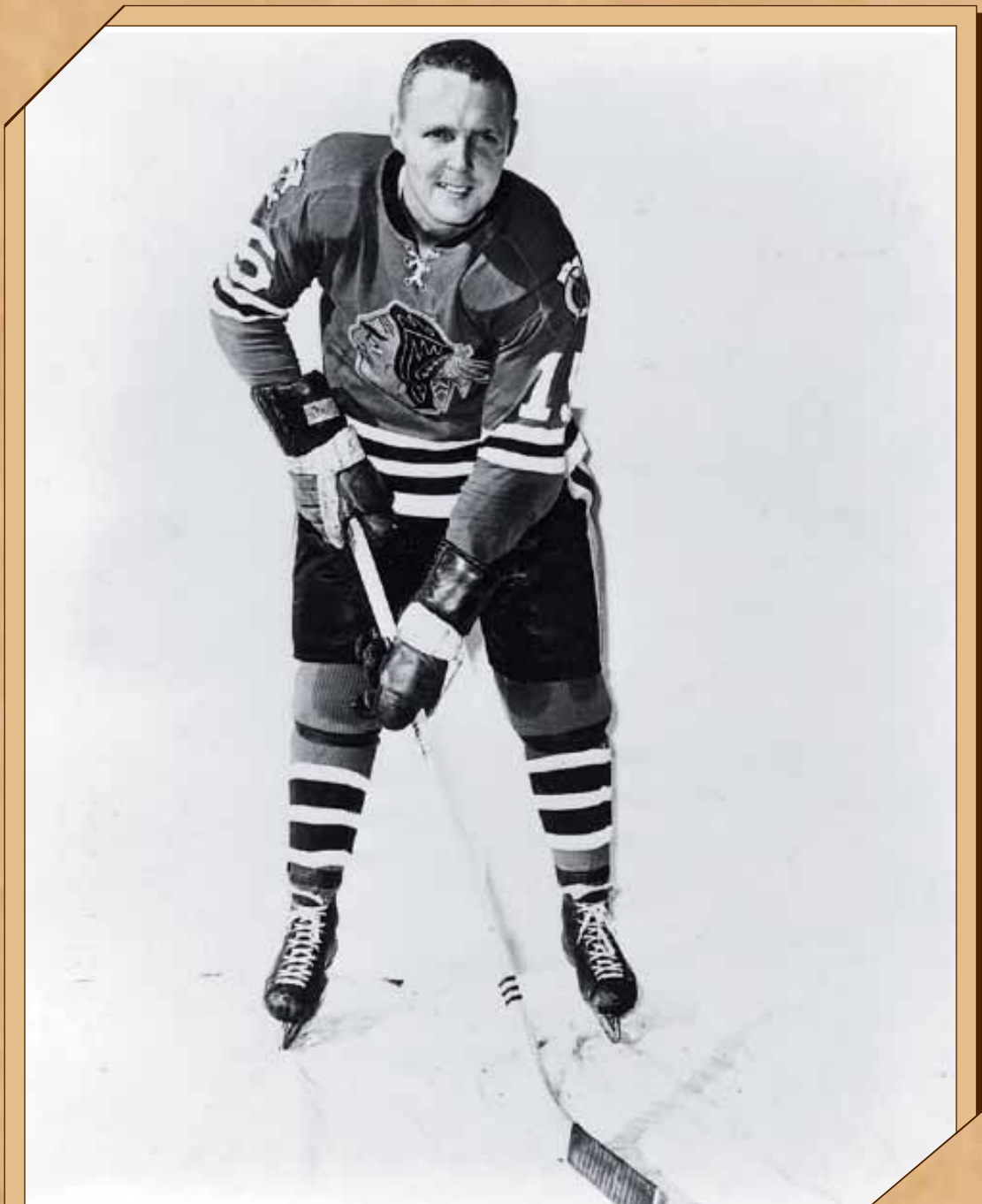


1990 ATHLETES



RICK DUFF
BOXING

Rick Duff's punching power helped to distinguish him as one of the finest boxers Lethbridge has ever produced. Duff's vice through the boxing ranks, under the guidance of Coach Kai Yip of the Lethbridge Boxing Club, was quick and steady. He won a gold medal at the Alberta Winter Games, and at age 15 won the gold at the Junior National Championship. He was an Intermediate National bronze medalist at 16, gold medal winner at Intermediate Nationals at 17, and Canadian Senior Champion at 18 and 19. On a tour of Sweden and Finland, Duff won three exhibition matches against international competitors. He reached the pinnacle of his boxing career in 1954 when he represented Canada at the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Duff also came as a hockey goaltender, helping his Lethbridge Native Sons to the Central Alberta Junior Hockey League Championship in 1985-86.



AUTY ERICKSON
HOCKEY

Auty Raymond (Aut) Erickson is one of the numerous outstanding hockey players Lethbridge has produced. Born 25 January 1938, Erickson was big for his age as a youngster and he often played hockey with players much older than himself. A stick boy at one time with the Lethbridge Native Sons, Erickson later played for the Junior hockey club during the team's final two seasons, 1954-55 and 1955-56. Erickson went on to Prince Albert in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League before beginning his professional career with Saskatoon in the old Western Hockey League. After stints with St. Paul and Calgary in the W.H.L., Erickson made it to the big time with the National Hockey League's Boston Bruins in 1959-60. Erickson played in 226 games in seven N.H.L. seasons, seeing action with the Chicago, Toronto, and Oakland organizations along the way. The tall, 188 pound defenceman collected seven goals and 24 assists. His most productive season was in 1967-68 with the Oakland Stars when he scored four goals and 11 assists in 65 games.



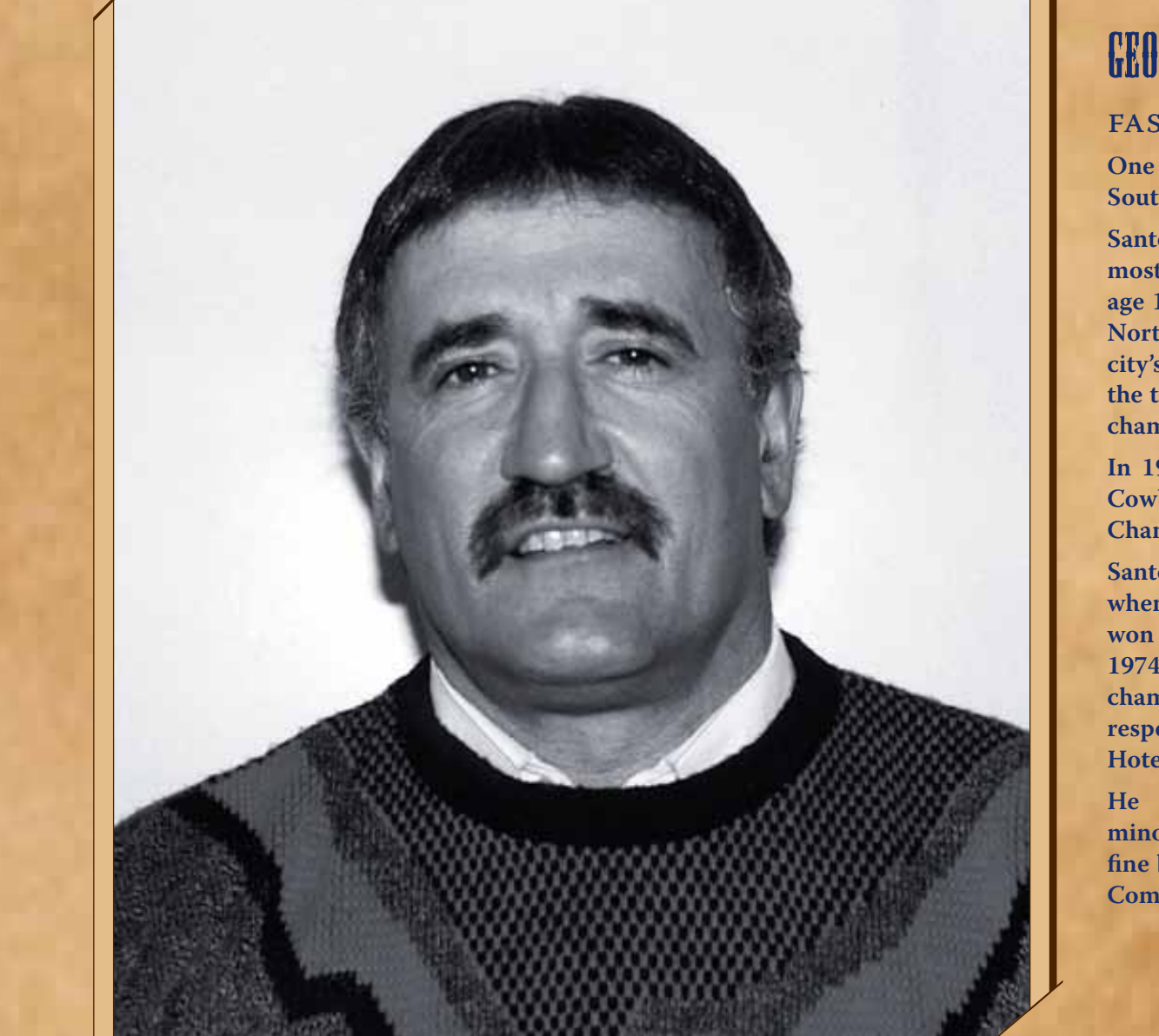
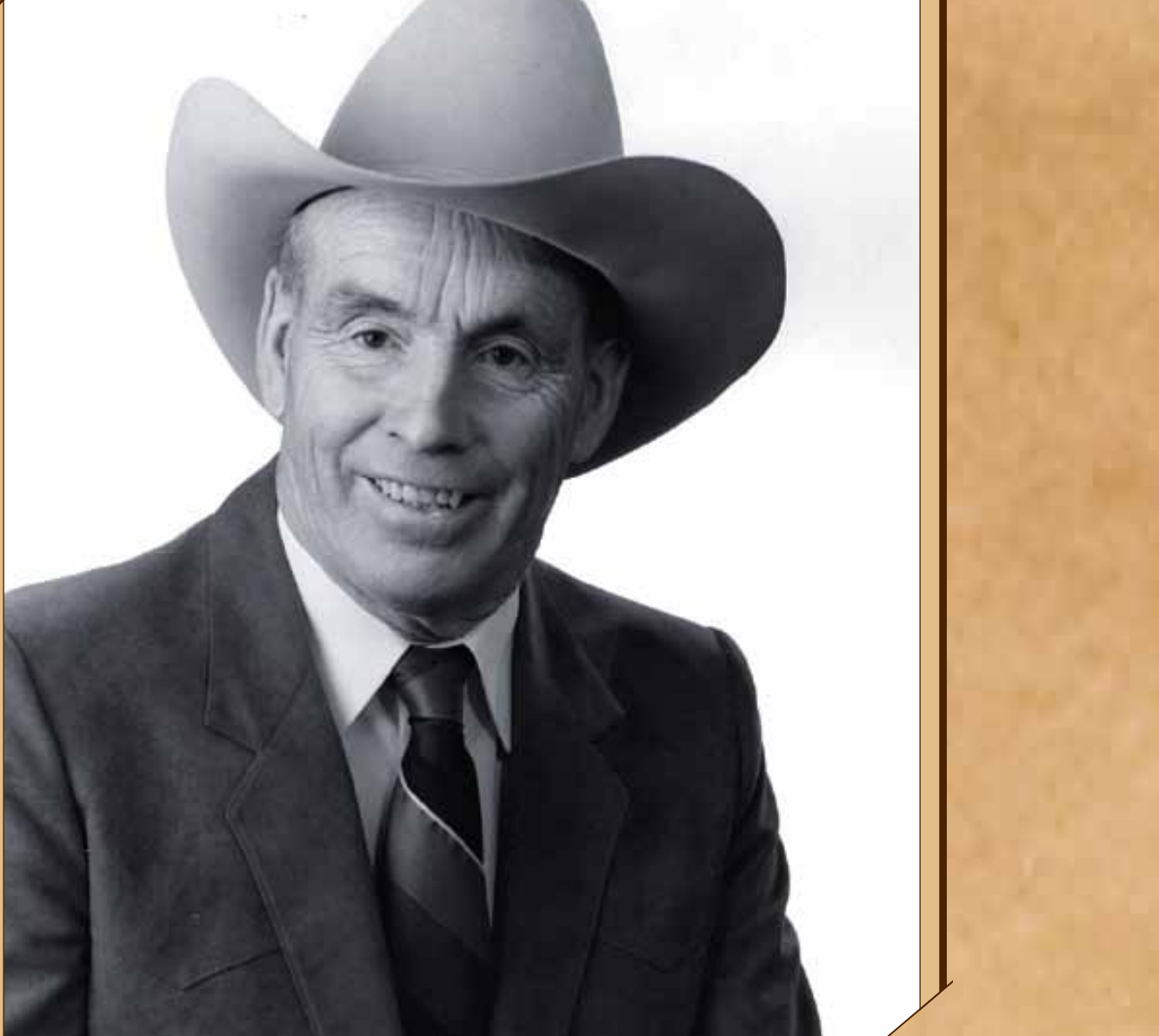
TIM FLUK
RACQUETBALL

Lethbridge has produced a number of outstanding racquetball players, and one of the best was Tim Fluk. Fluk was especially active in this sport from 1971 to the early 1980s, winning numerous local, provincial, and national tournaments. In 1971, he teamed with Wayne Bowes, to win the Canadian Open Doubles title and the National Men's Doubles crown. He captured the Western Canadian Senior Singles Championship in 1975, and the same year he was second in the Western Canadian Open Singles and the Alberta Open Singles events. Fluk claimed Canadian Senior Singles crowns in 1977 and 1979 and teamed with Logan Tait to win Canadian Senior Doubles titles in 1974, 1978, 1980, and 1981. Also an accomplished golfer, Fluk at one time had a four handicap, and he played badminton before becoming involved in racquetball. In addition, he played hockey in his early years.

HAROLD MANDEVILLE

RODEO

Few individuals have accomplished as much in the sport of rodeo as Harold Mandeville. The Lethbridge cowboy won eight major Canadian titles from 1946 to 1960. During that period, he also placed in the top five in steer wrestling, deerskin, horserack bronc riding, bull riding, and calf roping on nine other occasions. He won the steer wrestling/deerskin crown in 1946, 1947, 1952, 1957, and 1960 and he took the all-around title in 1965. He also won horserack, broncos in 1947 and he took the calf roping crown in 1960. In 1951, Mandeville was the Canadian all-around champion at the Calgary Stampede. He is a former Canadian Rodeo Cowboy of the Year and he is a member of the Canadian Rodeo Hall of Fame. Mandeville and his wife, Pearl, also brought the rodeo world to town newspaper, the Rodeo News, which was started in 1964. Born July 7, 1923, at Marysville, Mandeville grew up in the Lethbridge area.



GEORGE SANTONI

FASTBALL

One of the best known names in football in Southern Alberta is George Santoni. Santoni has been involved in football for almost 30 years in Lethbridge, beginning at age 5 as a pitcher for the Lethbridge Junior North Stars. The North Stars played in the city's Mayor Men's League. Santoni helped the team win three straight provincial Junior Championships from 1962-1964. In 1965, the team became the Dallas Hood Cowboys and captured the Senior Provincial Championship. Santoni remained a key member of the team when, known as the Lethbridge Miners, they won the Alberta Senior A Championships in 1974 and 1976, advancing to the Canadian Championships in Victoria and Niagara Falls, respectively. In 1979, Santoni pitched York Hotel to the Senior B provincial title. He also coached clubs for Lethbridge minor football. In addition, Santoni was a fine basketball player, playing for Lethbridge Community College from 1962-1965.



Fleetwood School 1915
Girls Baseball Team

Photo Courtesy of The Galt Museum & Archives