

Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame

proudly presents

Cambridge's

Athletes of the 20th Century

Male: Normie Himes
Female: Hilda Ranscombe

“Both Normie Himes and Hilda Ranscombe were extremely talented all-round athletes and represented excellence, at the very highest levels, both on and off the playing field. As we begin the new millennium, the Cambridge Sports Hall of Fame could think of no more fitting representatives to carry the banner as Cambridge’s best athletes of the past century.”



Normie Himes



Hilda Ranscombe



RANSCOMBE

Hilda Ranscombe is the obvious choice as Cambridge's female athlete of the century. Not only is she regarded as the finest female to ever lace on skates (anywhere), but she was a gifted all-round athlete who excelled at several sports.

Indeed, she helped her women's softball team – the Preston Rivulettes – win the coveted Ontario title. Ranscombe was a champion bowler and tennis player, winning titles in both sports.

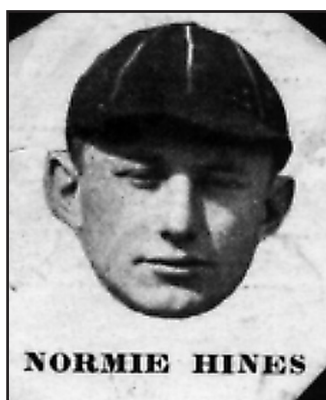
But hockey was her true love. In later years observers would say she was the Wayne Gretzky or Bobby Orr of women's hockey. She led the hockey Rivulettes to six Dominion championships, 10 Ontario titles and a won-lost record unmatched in the annals of Canadian sport. In an estimated 350 games through the decade of the 1930s, the Rivulettes were known to lose just three times.

Ranscombe, in later years, gave back to the sport as a highly successful coach.

Today her rare sweater hangs proudly on permanent display at the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto. Her sister Nellie's jersey is part of the CSHF collection.



1900 – 2000 *Celebrating a Century of Excellence*



HIMES

Normie Himes was regarded as the greatest athlete to come out of south Waterloo in the first half-century, and since then, despite the passage of 50 years, no one is more qualified than Himes as Cambridge's athlete of the century.

A talented hockey player, Himes played for the NHL's New York Americans. New York sportswriter Ed Sullivan touted the small-town Himes as one of the greatest all-round athletes of his day. He excelled as a ball player, helping the Galt Terriers win a couple of all-Ontario titles in the early 1920s.

His baseball talent was enough, wrote Sullivan, to make some big league ball clubs take a serious look. But Himes was also gifted at golf and curling, winning Ontario titles in both sports.

When Himes died – at a relatively young age, in 1959 – it was, ironically, at the Galt Country Club.

In the years since Himes was in his heyday, Cambridge has produced a wealth of other athletes who rose to the top of the sports world, including Canada's 1935 male athlete of the year in Scotty Rankine, but none were as gifted in so many sports as Himes.

