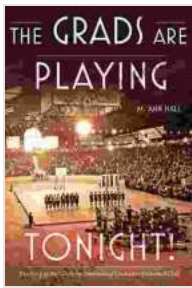


# Unveiling the Legacy of the Edmonton Commercial Graduates Basketball Club

In the vibrant tapestry of Edmonton's history, the Edmonton Commercial Graduates Basketball Club (ECG) stands as a beacon of athletic achievement and community pride. From their humble beginnings in the early 20th century to their dominance on the court, the ECG left an indelible mark on the sport of basketball.



## The Grads Are Playing Tonight!: The Story of the Edmonton Commercial Graduates Basketball Club

by M. Ann Hall

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 5347 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 384 pages
Lending	: Enabled
Paperback	: 248 pages
Item Weight	: 13.1 ounces
Dimensions	: 6 x 0.62 x 9 inches



This article embarks on a journey through the ECG's rich legacy, exploring their triumphs, their impact on the community, and the enduring spirit that continues to inspire generations.

## **Origins and Early Years**

The ECG emerged in 1914 at the heart of Edmonton's vibrant Black community. As a product of the Commercial Graduates Association, the club served as a social hub for African-Canadian youth, providing opportunities for recreation and personal growth.

With limited resources and few dedicated facilities, the early ECG teams honed their skills on makeshift courts in parks and community centers. Their determination and resilience laid the foundation for their future successes.

## **Dominance on the Court**

In the 1930s and 1940s, the ECG emerged as a basketball powerhouse. Led by legendary players such as George "King" Stewart, Bingo Coleman, and Benny McPherson, the team dominated local and regional competitions.

Their fast-paced, high-scoring style of play captivated audiences, earning them the nickname "The Black Bombers." The ECG became a symbol of athletic prowess and brought pride to the African-Canadian community.

## **Impact on the Community**

Beyond the basketball court, the ECG played a pivotal role in the social and cultural life of Edmonton's Black community. The team provided a sense of unity and belonging, fostering a shared identity and instilling values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and self-reliance.

The ECG also served as a platform for social activism. They used their public prominence to advocate for equal rights and opportunities for

African-Canadians.

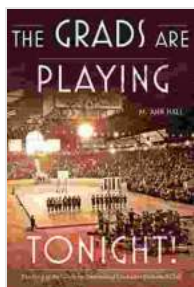
## Recognition and Legacy

The ECG's achievements and impact were widely recognized. In 1981, the team was inducted into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame. Their legacy continues to inspire young athletes and community leaders to this day.

In 2023, the book "The Story of the Edmonton Commercial Graduates Basketball Club" was published, chronicling the club's remarkable journey. The book provides an in-depth account of their triumphs, challenges, and the enduring impact they left on the city of Edmonton.

The Edmonton Commercial Graduates Basketball Club is more than just a basketball team. It is a symbol of resilience, community, and the power of sport to transform lives. Their legacy continues to inspire generations, reminding us of the importance of pursuing our dreams and making a difference in the world.

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to the ECG and the many other African-Canadian pioneers who have shaped our society. Their stories are a testament to the indomitable spirit of human achievement.



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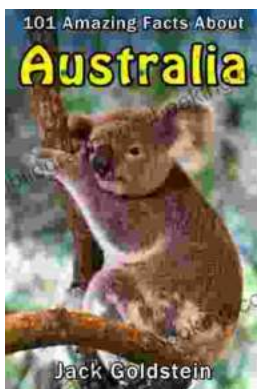
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