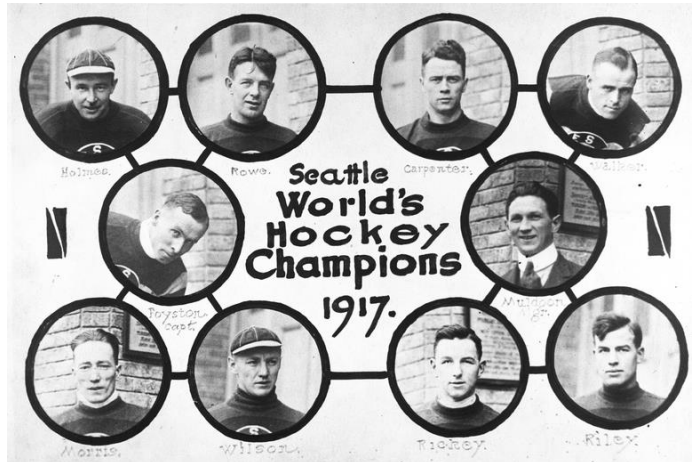


Sapper on Winning Stanley Cup Team



James Norman Riley was born in Bayfield, NB and had moved west to Calgary with his family as a boy. After playing hockey in the Alberta Senior Hockey League, he started his professional hockey career with the Pacific Coast Hockey Association's Victoria



Stanley Cup Champion Jim Riley is in the lower right corner.

Aristocrats in 1915. He joined the Seattle Metropolitans for the 1916 – 17 season. His new team was at the top of their game when he joined. They finished their season as PCHA champions having beaten the Vancouver Millionaires gaining themselves a chance at the Stanley Cup against the Montreal Canadiens. The heavily favoured Canadiens trounced the Metropolitans in the first game but Seattle came back to win the next four games and won the Stanley Cup on total scores.

Despite his being a Canadian, Jim was obligated to register for the US draft in 1917. However, fate intervened before he could be called up. Jim was also conscripted into the Canadian Army He was

in Vancouver to play in the first game of the 1917 – 1918 PCHA playoff game. Jim took his entry medical examination on the same day as the first of a two-game, total point series. The game ended in a 2 -2 tie, with Jim on rightwing, scoring Seattle's first goal. Back in Seattle, two days later, Vancouver won the title, beating Seattle on home ice one to zero. They went on to play the Toronto club who won the Cup that year. Jim returned to Vancouver a month later after having been married for three days and enlisted on 15 April 1918.

On his attestation papers, Jim had listed his occupation as a tinsmith. This likely led to his assignment to the 6th Field Company, Canadian Engineers in North Vancouver as a Sapper. He completed basic training with the BC Regiment in Vancouver and went to engineer training at Mahon Park and the Forbes Avenue Armoury, now named the Lt-Col J.P. Fell Armoury after the unit's first commanding officer, in North Vancouver. Three of Jim's older brothers were already serving overseas with Prairie regiments. Sapper Jim Riley and 48 others left for eastern Canada in May and arrived in the United Kingdom in August to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force as Corporal Riley. Spanish flu quarantines and lockdowns slowed the reinforcement flow to the front and Jim never saw action. The war ended and Acting Sergeant Riley was discharged back in Canada in July 1919. He returned to Seattle to join the Metropolitans for the 1919 – 20 season. The team had



**A/Sgt Jim Riley,
6th Fd Coy, CE**



Jim Riley playing for the Chicago Blackhawks

started the 1918 – 1919 Stanley Cup playoffs, again against Montreal, while Jim was away. Notably, the series was not completed due to the Spanish Flu epidemic that had afflicted some of the players, at least one fatally. Jim went on to play another seven seasons with Seattle. He was one of the league's top scorers and named All-Star more than once.

As well as being a very good hockey player, Jim also played baseball starting with the Pacific Coast International League's Vancouver Beavers in 1921. He was so good in his first season, that the team sold him to the St. Louis Browns for \$5,000. His first crack at the majors ended after three games, but he continued a respectable career in the minors for 11 more years including suiting up for the Washington Senators for two games in 1923. In 1926, playing for the Dallas Steers of the Texas League, he hit .329 in an impressive 626 at-bats, driving in 111 runs. The Steers beat the New Orleans Pelicans of the Southern League in the Dixie Series. It was Jim's first baseball championship, and he now had a title in each sport.

He officially left hockey in 1924 but had an eight-game stint with the NHL's Chicago Black Hawks and Detroit Cougars in the 1926 – 27 season. He was playing in the Texas League when he left baseball in 1932. The next year, he got a public relations job in San Antonio Texas where he retired. Interesting, at age 47 and by now a naturalised US citizen, Jim again registered for the draft in 1942.

Although baseball and hockey were now long in his past, Riley was still a very active golfer and was able to "shoot-his-age" into his sixties and seventies - no small feat for any golfer. He won an amateur golf title in Vancouver in the 1920s and later he won the U.S National senior division left-handed Golf Tournament in North Carolina in the 1960s.



Despite all of James Riley's sporting accomplishments, he has received little recognition during his life. He was nominated for induction into the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame in the early 2004 where he was already listed as a "Sports Pioneer" since 2000.

Finally, this year Jim will receive the recognition of his home province when he is inducted into the Hall of Fame this summer.



Jim Riley, the only person to play in both major league hockey and baseball, died on 25 May 1969, in Guadalupe, Texas, USA at the age of 74 years. He is buried at Guadalupe Valley Memorial Park in New Braunfels, TX.

From: Wikipedia, Ancestry.ca, Society for International Hockey Research and the files of Len Corben of the North Shore Outlook, 28 Feb 2013