

# Robert Osborne fonds

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University of British Columbia Archives



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# Fonds Description

**Robert Osborne fonds.** – 1912-1990.

2.45 m of textual records.

108 photographs.

2 video recordings.

## Biographical Sketch

Robert F. (Bob) Osborne was a University of British Columbia athlete, coach and a founder of UBC's School of Physical Education. He enrolled at UBC in 1930 and excelled as a student athlete in basketball and track and field. He led the 1930/31 basketball team to UBC's first national championship. In 1936 Osborne played on the Canadian Olympic basketball team that earned a silver medal in the Berlin Olympics. He taught high school at Lady Byng Secondary and coached women's varsity basketball during World War II. In 1945, Gordon Shrum appointed Osborne as Director of the School of Physical Education. He was also coach of the basketball and track and field teams. As Director of Physical Education, he implemented the degree program in Physical Education and developed a Bachelor of Recreational Education degree as well. He played an important role in the construction of War Memorial Gymnasium at UBC. In the early 1960s, he was one of the original founders of the CIAU national league for Canadian university sport. In addition, Osborne served on the executive of many regional, provincial and national sports organizations as well various organizations attached to the Olympics, British Empire/Commonwealth Games and the Pan American Games. Osborne retired in 1978 after serving 33 years as the Director of Physical Education. He received the Order of Canada in 1981. Bob Osborne's association with UBC athletics covered more than seven decades. UBC's Osborne Gymnasium is named in his honor. Osborne passed away in May 2003 at the age of 90.

## Scope and Content

The fonds consists of materials created or collected by Osborne that relate primarily to his work with the various local, provincial, national and international sports and athletic organizations throughout his career.

## Notes

File list available

Selected photographs have been digitized and included in UBC Archives' [Historical Photograph Database \(UBC 110.1\)](#).

The bulk of the materials had been previously donated to the University by Osborne and housed in the Leisure Studies Resource Room in the Auditorium Annex. The original order in which the material had been arranged has been maintained.

Contents of file 19-5 were donated by Osborne's family, via Fred Hume, in May 2014.

Files 19-6 to 19-8, photographs 29-107, and the VHS tapes were donated by David Osborne via UBC Athletics in October 2016.

## Series Descriptions

**Amateur Athletics and Sports Organizations series.** – 1948-1990.

50 cm. of textual records.

Series includes records generated by the Vancouver Field Sport Federation (1979-1982), Vancouver Parks and Recreation Board (1980-1990), B.C. Amateur Sports Council (1959, 1981-1988), Amateur Athletic Union of Canada (1948-1951), B.C. Recreation Association (1968-1980), Sports Medicine Council of Canada (1980-1983), B.C. Sports Hall of Fame (1974-1988).

**Olympic Games series.** – 1969-1988.

95 cm. of textual records.

Series includes records from the Canadian Olympic Association (1969-1983), International Olympic Academy (1969-1986), and material from various Olympic games.

**Pan-American Games and Commonwealth Games series.** – 1967-1990.

45 cm. of textual records.

Series consists of records generated by various by various organizations associated with the Pan American and Commonwealth Games (1967-1990)

**School of Physical Education and Recreation Courses, Research Materials, Correspondence series.** – 1966-1997.

55 cm. of textual records.

2 video recordings.

Series consists of a range of research materials arranged by general subjects relating to athletics (1966-1981), as well as some awards documents (1973, 1993-1997), and 2 VHS video recordings.

**Photograph series.** – 1912-1987.

108 photographs.

Series consists of 108 photographs (1948-1974) most of which feature Robert Osborne.

Selected photographs have been digitized and included in UBC Archives' [Historical Photograph Database \(UBC 110.1\)](#).

# File List

## AMATEUR ATHLETICS AND SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS SERIES

### BOX 1

#### Vancouver Field Sport Federation

- 1-1 Minutes, reports, correspondence (1979)
- 1-2 Minutes, reports, correspondence, clippings (1980)
- 1-3 Minutes, reports (1981/82)

#### Vancouver Parks and Recreation

- 1-4 Preliminary Capital Plan, 1983-1986  
Capital Plan, 1983-1986
- 1-5 Printed material (1980)
- 1-6 Brochures
- 1-7 Draft Capital Plan, 1987-1990
- 1-8 Master Plan (1982)

### BOX 2

- 2-1 "Recreation Reporter" (April 1978 – December 1980)
- 2-2 B.C. Federation of School Athletic Association – "Bulletins" (1979-1980)
- 2-3 B.C. Amateur Sports Council – Constitution and bylaws, minutes, notes, reports (1959, 1981-1988)
- 2-4 Amateur Athletic Union of Canada – Correspondence, reports, minutes, clippings (1948-1951)

### BOX 3

- 3-1 B.C. Recreation Association – Constitution, reports, correspondence (1968-1980)
- 3-2 International Council on Health, Physical Education and Recreation  
"Bulletin" (1969), "Gymnasion" (1971), Congress program (1987)
- 3-3/4 Sports Medicine Council of Canada – Minutes, reports, correspondence (1980-1983)

## BOX 4

4-1 Sports Medicine Council of Canada – Minutes, reports, correspondence (1984)

### B.C. Sports Hall of Fame

4-2 By-Laws, minutes, correspondence, printed material (1975-1979)

4-2 Correspondence, clippings, lists, printed material (1987/88)

4-3 Nominee biographical information (1974)

## OLYMPIC GAMES SERIES

### BOX 5

#### Canadian Olympic Association

5-1 Executive Committee Minutes (1969-1975)

5-2 Executive Committee Minutes (1980)

5-3 Board of Directors Minutes (1969-1973, 1979)

5-4 Quadrennial Member Meeting Minutes (1969-1973)

5-5 Special General/Annual Meeting Minutes (1969-1973)

5-6 Pan American Games Investigation Committee (1983)

5-7 Report on Athletic Support Program (1977)

[Note: for additional information COA information see 10-3/4, 11-1/5]

#### Olympic Games

5-8 Report of the Organizing Committee for the 1976 Olympic Game (1975, 1976)

### BOX 6

6-1/3 1976 Olympics – Printed material, correspondence, reports (1971-1976)

6-4 Los Angeles Olympics - Brochure

BOX 7

International Olympic Academy

7-1/4 Correspondence, reports (1969-1975)

BOX 8

8-1/3 Correspondence, reports (1976-1988)

Canadian Olympic Academy

8-4 Correspondence, reports, printed material (1979-1986)

8-5 Certificate (1987)

BOX 9

9-1 Correspondence, reports, printed material (1979-1986)

Olympic Trust

9-2/3 Correspondence, reports (1971-1975)

Young Olympians of Canada

9-4 Correspondence, printed material (1973-1977)

BOX 10

Olympic Studies

10-1 Correspondence, minutes, reports (1986-1988)

Olympic Club

10-2 Membership lists, correspondence (1973-1975)

Canadian Olympic Association

10-3 General Correspondence (1969)



10-4 General Correspondence (1970)

BOX 11

11-1 Correspondence (1971)

11-2 Correspondence, minutes (1975-1978)

11-3 Constitution and by-laws, minutes, correspondence, reports (1977)

11-4 Minutes, correspondence, reports (1979/80)

11-5 Minutes, correspondence, reports (1982/83)

PAN-AMERICAN GAMES AND COMMONWEALTH GAMES SERIES

BOX 12

Paso (Pan American Sports Organization) Odepa

12-1 "Bulletins" (1976-1978)

12-2 Constitution, reports, correspondence (1973/74)

12-3 Correspondence, reports, printed material (1975/76)

12-4 Correspondence, reports, printed material (1979/80)

BOX 13

Pan Am Games

13-1 Official Bulletins (1975, 1976, 1979)

13-2 Reports (1974)

Commonwealth Games

13-3 Correspondence, printed material (1975-1980)

Programs – 11th Commonwealth Games – Edmonton (1978)

13-4 Correspondence, printed material (1981-1984)

BOX 14

14-1 Correspondence, reports, minutes, notes (1985-1990)

## Pan American Games

- 14-2 Minutes, reports, printed material (1967)
- 14-3 General Correspondence (1970)
- 14-4 General Correspondence (1971)
- 14-5 General Correspondence (1972/73)

## BOX 15

- 15-1 General Correspondence (1974/75)
- 15-2 General Correspondence (1976-1978)

## SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION COURSES, RESEARCH MATERIAL, CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

### Sport and Fitness Program

- 15-3 Printed material, correspondence, reports (1979-1981).  
Information from Ministry of Culture and Recreation

### Fitness and Amateur Sport and Games Canada

- 15-4 "A Brief History of the Development of The Fitness and Amateur Sport Act in Canada, 1943-1961" By Gordon A.A. Olafson (1968)  
"Amateur Sports and Games in Canada" J. Howard Crocker (ca. 1969)  
Annual report (1965/66)

### CPB (Community Programs Branch) – Sports and Fitness

- 15-5 Policy guidelines, lists, etc. (1966/67)

### Value of Athletics

- 15-6 Clippings, correspondence (1960-1977)

## BOX 16

- 16-1 Government Recreation and PE
- 16-2 Sport and Politics

- 16-3 History of P.E. in B.C.
- 16-4 History of the British Empire Games
- 16-5 History of the Commonwealth Games
- 16-6 Amateur Sport

## BOX 17

### Countries

- 17-1 Australia
- 17-2 Austria
- 17-3 Bulgaria
- 17-4 China
- 17-5 Cuba
- 17-6 Czechoslovakia
- 17-7 England
- 17-8 Finland

## BOX 18

- 18-1 France
- 18-2 Greece
- 18-3 Germany

### Sports

- 18-4 A-K : Bowling, Cricket, Curling, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Ice Hockey
- 18-5 L-Z : Lacrosse, Lawn Tennis, Rowing, Sailing, Track & Field, Water Skiing, Weightlifting
- 18-6 Centennial Athletic Awards
- 18-7 "Champion" – December 1977 – August 1981
- 18-8 "Olympresse" – 1975

## BOX 19

### Miscellaneous Files

- 19-1 Olympic Games – Official Guides
- 19-2 1976 Programs
- 19-3 Clippings

- 19-4 Rick Hansen
- 19-5 Awards (UBC Sports Hall of Fame, Canadian Amateur Athletic Hall of Fame) 1973, 1993-97
- 19-6 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1936-2007
- 19-7 [Out-takes from photo album – 1983 reunion banquet slide-show tribute to Robert Osborne – see images 110.1/48 to /83] November 1983
- 19-8 [Out-takes from photo album – Big Block Club Awards Banquet and reunion of 1945-46 men’s basketball team – see images 110.1/92 to /107] March 1976

#### VHS Tapes

- 2577 Alumni Achievement and Sports Hall of Fame Dinner, 1996 [VHS]
- 2578 Alumni Achievement and Sports Hall of Fame Dinner, 1997 [VHS]

#### PHOTOGRAPH SERIES

Photographs that have been identified and/or images in which Osborne is prominent – described, digitized, and included as part of the Archives’ on-line image collection ([UBC 110.1](#)).

- /1 Robert Osborne in group photograph (1948) : 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /2 Robert Osborne and Jessie Owens at Hall of Fame banquet (197-) : 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /3 Robert Osborne lays wreath in Vernon as two unidentified men look on (195-) : 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /4 Robert Osborne and unidentified man (197-) : 24 x 19 cm. [Print]
- /5 Robert Osborne and 1931 UBC basketball team at reunion (1976) : 12 x 17 cm. [Print]
- /6 Max Howell, rugby coach (n.d.) : 12 x 9 cm. [Small Print]
- /7 Ken Winslade, UBC basketball player (n.d.) : 12 x 9 cm. [Small Print]
- /8 War Memorial Gymnasium (195-) : 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /9 Varsity grass hockey team vs. Oxford Cambridge (n.d.) : 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /10 Robert Osborne and unidentified group (198-) : 12 x 17 cm. [Print]
- /11 UBC basketball team (1948) : 18 x 22.5 cm [Print]
- /12 View of game involving UBC hockey team (n.d.) : 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /13 English rugby game – UBC vs Vancouver reps (February 5, 1955) : 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /14 View of Evergreen Inter-collegiate basketball game – UBC vs Eastern Washington College (n.d.) : 24 x 19 cm. [Print]

- /15 Rugby player, Jerc Mitchell (December 1959) : 24 x 19 cm. [Print]
- /16 UBC soccer team practice drill (n.d.) : 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /17 Badminton player Bob Johnson (n.d.) : 24 x 19 cm. [Print]
- /18 Robert Osborne leading Canadian Commonwealth Games team (1958): 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /19 View of the opening ceremony at Commonwealth Games (1958) : 19 x 24 cm. [Print]
- /20 UBC rowing crew (right) losing to University of Pennsylvania for Grand Challenge Cup at Royal Henley regatta (1955) : 22 x 35 cm. [OVR 1: University Archives storage area, Rare Books and Special Collections vault]
- /21 Robert Osborne at unidentified meeting (197-) : 12 x 20 cm. [Print]
- /22 Robert Osborne in group photograph at home of Jose Baracasa in Caracas (1971): 12 x 20 cm. [Print]
- /23 Robert Osborne in group photograph at home of Jose Baracasa in Caracas (1971): 12 x 20 cm. [Print]
- /24 Robert Osborne in group photograph in Caracas (1971) : 12 x 20 cm. [Print]
- /25 Robert Osborne in group photograph with Jose Baracasa and others (1971): 20 x 12 cm. [Print]
- /26 Robert Osborne (ca. 1971): 24 x 17 cm.
- /27 Robert Osborne in group photograph at Mexican president's palace (November 30, 1974): 19 x 24 cm.
- /28 Robert Osborne in group photograph (ca. 1974): 19 x 24 cm.
- /29 Robert Osborne, far right, with Jack Guest, Ken Farmer, Nelles Stacey, Bea and Frank Read [Melbourne Olympics?] (ca. 1956): 15 x 19 cm. [Print]
- /30 Robert Osborne and Geo. Hungerford at Canada Olympic Club award ceremony (n.d.): 25.5 x 20.5 cm. [Print]
- /31 Robert Osborne and Scotty Malcolm at Big Block banquet (3 April 1978): 25.5 x 20.5 cm. [Print]
- /32 Robert Osborne, back row far right, with 1945-46 UBC men's basketball team (1946): 22.5 x 17.5 cm. [Print]  
- Pat McGeer #7
- /33 Robert Osborne in Distinguished Alumni Award photograph, with signature (n.d.): 25.5 x 20.5 cm. [Print]
- /34-46 [Officials of the 1975 Mexico City Pan American Games] (ca. 1975): 13 B&W prints, various sizes  
- some group photographs include Robert Osborne  
- not digitized
- /47 Robert Osborne graduation photograph (1933?): 15 x 20 cm. [Print]  
- on cardboard matte backing

Removed from photo albums [see 19-7, 19-8]

- /48a,b Robert Osborne with some of his private First Nations art collection (1978?): 9 x 9 cm. [small print]  
- note on reverse: "Retirement gift – 1978"  
- "a" colour, "b" B&W
- /49 Robert Osborne posing with sign in front of the Robert F. Osborne Centre [n.d.]: 15 x 10 cm. [small print]
- /50 Three members of Thunderbird men's basketball team – Norm Watt on left (ca. 1950): 13 x 8 cm [small print]
- /51 UBC JayVees – Canadian Junior Men's Basketball Champions 1965-1966 (1966): 11.5 x 9 cm [small print]
- /52 Thunderbird Basketball [1945-46 Men's Basketball Team] (1946): 12 x 9 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /53 Sandy Robertson, captain, 1946 men's basketball team (1946): 6.5 x 12 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /54 Ole Bakken, centre, playing against Harlem Globetrotters (11 January 1946): 10 x 12 cm [small print]
- /55 Ron Weber, 1946 men's basketball team (1946): 6 x 12 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /56 Harry Kermode, 1946 men's basketball team (1946): 7 x 12 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /57 Harry Franklin, 1946 men's basketball team (1946): 9 x 10 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /58 Ritchie Nichol, 1946 men's basketball team (1946): 10 x 9 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /59 Hunk [Ralph] Henderson, 1946 men's basketball team (1946): 9 x 10 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /60 Reg Clarkson, 1946 men's basketball team (1946): 8 x 12 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /61 Hal McKenzie, 1946 men's basketball team (1946): 7 x 12 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /62 Pat McGeer, 1946 men's basketball team (1946): 6 x 12 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /63 Men's basketball team scrimmage (1946): 10 x 10 cm [small print]  
- Coach Robert Osborne, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right

- /64 UBC men's basketball team vs. Washington State (December 1945): 11.5 x 8 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /65 UBC men's basketball team vs. University of Washington (December 1945): 12.5 x 10 cm [small print]
- /66 UBC men's basketball team vs. Harlem Globetrotters – opening tip-off (11 January 1946): 12 x 9 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /67 UBC men's basketball team vs. University of Oregon (January 1946): 10 x 10.5 cm [small print]
- /68 UBC men's basketball team – manager Dick Penn, coach Robert Osborne (1946): 8 x 12 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1946 Totem yearbook
- /69 1946-47 UBC Men's Basketball Team (1947): 12 x 8 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1947 Totem yearbook
- /70 Trainer Johnny Owen, Coach Robert Osborne – UBC men's basketball (n.d.): 11 x 9 cm [small print]
- /71 1947-48 UBC Men's Basketball Team (1948): 12 x 8.5 cm [small print]  
- reprinted from 1947 Totem yearbook
- /72 Robert Osborne, baby picture (ca. 1912): 8 x 12 cm [small print]
- /73 Robert Osborne as high school basketball player (n.d.): 6 x 12 cm [small print]
- /74 Robert and Dorothy Osborne as newlyweds (n.d.): 12 x 7.5 cm [small print]
- /75 Robert Osborne as Captain in UBC C.O.T.C. during World War II (ca. 1944): 9.5 x 12 cm [small print]
- /76 Tree-planting at opening of John Owen Pavilion (1967): 12 x 9 cm [small print]  
- L-R: Harry Logan, Robert Osborne, Frank Buck, Arthur Lord, Ouvry Roberts
- /77 Canadian Olympic men's basketball team, coached by Robert Osborne (1948): 11 x 9 cm [small print]  
- Robert Osborne, back row 4<sup>th</sup> from left
- /78 Robert Osborne as Canadian Olympic chef de mission, meeting the Queen (1976): 12 x 9 cm [small print]  
- Robert Osborne, centre, wearing glasses
- /79 Robert Osborne in academic robes (1970s?): 11 x 8 cm [small print]
- /80 Robert Osborne standing in reflection pool (1970s?): 12 x 8 cm [small print]
- /81 Robert and Dorothy Osborne (1970s?): 11 x 9 cm [small print]
- /82 Opening of John Owen Pavilion (6 June 1967): 17 x 12 cm [print]  
- L-R: Harry Logan, Robert Osborne, Frank Buck, Arthur Lord, Ouvry Roberts  
- same image as #76

- /83 Robert and Dorothy Osborne (1970s?): 25 x 20 cm [print]  
- same image as #81, colour
- /84 Robert Osborne at Pan American Games Organization meeting (n.d.): 12.5 x 9 cm [small print]  
- Osborne standing, 5<sup>th</sup> from left
- /85 Robert Osborne at Pan American Games Organization meeting (n.d.): 12.5 x 9 cm [small print]  
L-R: Federico Mariscal, Robert Osborne, Dick Pound
- /90 Robert Osborne speaking with Lou Whiting of U.S. Olympic Committee at Pan American Games Organization meeting (n.d.): 12.5 x 9 cm [small print]
- /91 Robert Osborne with "Amigo", mascot of 1987 Pan American Games (ca. 1987): 12.5 x 9 cm [small print]
- /92 Big Block Club Awards Banquet – reunion of 1945-46 men's basketball team (11 March 1976): 25 x 20 cm [print]  
- L-R: ?, ?, Reg Clarkson[?], Pat McGeer, ?
- /93 Big Block Club Awards Banquet – reunion of 1945-46 men's basketball team (11 March 1976): 25 x 20 cm [print]  
- L-R: Morman Mackenzie, Reg Clarkson[?], Pat McGeer, Robert Osborne
- /94 Big Block Club Awards Banquet – reunion of 1945-46 men's basketball team (11 March 1976): 25 x 20 cm [print]
- /95 Pat McGeer at Big Block Club Awards Banquet (11 March 1976): 20 x 25 cm [print]
- /96 Norman Mackenzie at Big Block Club Awards Banquet (11 March 1976): 20 x 25 cm [print]
- /97 Big Block Club Awards Banquet – reunion of 1945-46 men's basketball team (11 March 1976): 25 x 20 cm [print]
- /98 Big Block Club Awards Banquet – reunion of 1945-46 men's basketball team (11 March 1976): 20 x 25 cm [print]
- /99 Big Block Club Awards Banquet – reunion of 1945-46 men's basketball team (11 March 1976): 25 x 20 cm [print]
- /100 Frank Gnupe at Big Block Club Awards Banquet (11 March 1976): 20 x 25 cm [print]
- /101 Big Block Club Awards Banquet – reunion of 1945-46 men's basketball team (11 March 1976): 25 x 20 cm [print]
- /102 Big Block Club Awards Banquet – reunion of 1945-46 men's basketball team (11 March 1976): 25 x 20 cm [print]  
- L-R: Norman Mackenzie, Jack Pomfret, Pat McGeer
- /103 Big Block Club Awards Banquet (11 March 1976): 20 x 25 cm [print]
- /104 Big Block Club Awards Banquet (11 March 1976): 25 x 20 cm [print]  
- L-R: ?, Jack Pomfret, Douglas Kenny



- /105 Big Block Club Awards Banquet (11 March 1976): 25 x 20 cm [print]
- /106 Arthur Lord and Harry Warren lead a cheer at Big Block Club Awards  
Banquet (11 March 1976): 25 x 20 cm [print]  
- Harry Warren far right, Arthur Lord 2<sup>nd</sup> from right
- /107 Arthur Lord and Harry Warren lead a cheer at Big Block Club Awards  
Banquet (11 March 1976): 25 x 20 cm [print]  
- Harry Warren far right, Arthur Lord 2<sup>nd</sup> from right, Robert Osborne 2<sup>nd</sup> from  
left