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Will lowly Orioles ever win again?/G2

SPORTS



Huskies' runners dominate race/G5

Ballard will name Stellick 'acting' GM

By Mill Dunneil Toronto Star
Herold Ballard, whose 85th birthday will be celebrated with a huge charity dinner in July, admits he is on a youth kick but denies he will name 39-year-old Gord Stellick general manager of his lowly Toronto Maple Leafs. The job has been vacant since Feb. 7, when Ballard fired Gerry McNamara while the club was on a road trip.

Stellick probably doesn't know it yet but he will be named acting general manager at a meeting which will be held in the directors' room, Maple Leaf Gardens Thursday, Ballard emphasizes, however, that Stellick will not be offered a contract as general manager.

"I have a lot of confidence in Stellick," Ballard said, "but I still want to survey the field of possible candidates for the job. The people at Thursday's meeting will be (John) Brophy, who definitely stays as coach, Stellick, the coaching staff and a few others."

Since McNamara was fired, his duties have been shared by a troika consisting of Brophy, Stellick, who was McNamara's assistant, and Dick Duff, a former Leafs player, now a scout.

Cherry, now a hard-hitting television commentator. "I begged Scotty (Bowman) to join us when he left Montreal for Buffalo (1979) but he wasn't interested," Ballard recalled. "I'm not interested in hiring him now. How could anybody start that story about him being a serious candidate?"

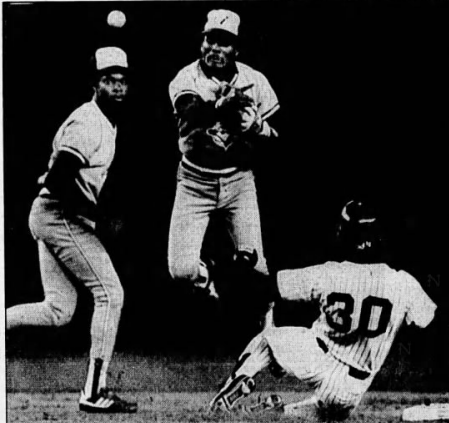
Jays kayo Yankees in round two

Triumph has Toronto thinking sweep

By Dave Perkins Toronto Star
NEW YORK — John Cerutti went and created a nice problem for Toronto Blue Jays last night. Tom Henke merely avoided a big one.

Cerutti pitched 6½ excellent innings as Blue Jays won their second in a row over New York Yankees, 3-2, before 24,046 chilled fans in another good, exciting game.

Henke provided 1½ innings of relief for his fifth save, second in two nights. He preserved Cerutti's first win by escaping a bases-loaded, crucial eighth inning, allowing only one run and that on a sacrifice



Leaping Manny: The Blue Jays keystone combination was like clockwork on this fourth-inning double dip at Yankee Stadium last night. Shortstop Tony Fernandez, left, flipped the ball to second baseman Manny Lee, who beat Yankee veteran Willie Randolph to the bag and fired it to first in time.

Blue Jays super fan creates vivid picture in paint by numbers

You'd like to know how much George Bell was paid last year for each hit delivered to his lofty estate as the American League's most valuable player? Call a cop. Don't call the Blue Jays.



With Dave Stieb the most highly paid pitcher per inning — excluding of course, Bill Casidini, who's got more than a million bucks for not pitching any innings. I call a cop. Don't call the Blue Jays.

There is one special cop to call. He's Ted Watson, with 25 years of law enforcement behind him at Midland. He knows more about the Blue Jays than they know about themselves. None of it is indictable unless you are one of those who contend Casidini and his agent could be tried for grand larceny.

"Bell collected \$6,853.11 per hit," Watson will advise. The information coming readily from beneath his hat — or helmet, depending on the circumstances.

He may have to check his half-inch thick, hand-drawn-bound diary of the 1987 Blue Jays for the price of Stieb's top per inning.

His wife suffers
Watson wouldn't want to be called a nut. Anyway, it wouldn't be advisable. Call him a baseball nut and he can live with it. And so can you. He is part of the phenomenon that has developed throughout this province since Labatt's, Howard Webster and the Blue Jays' favorite bank touched off a fever in a snowstorm. There are hundreds of thousands of baseball nuts around. Watson's type of the virus turned out to be statistics.

After 22 hours of mind-numbing survey, Watson came up with this finding: There had been 249,723 games of big league baseball played up to that point. Since it takes two teams to make a game, there had been 499,446 opportunities for 10 homers by one club. Only the Blue Jays had done it. Watson thought it was worth an entire page in his book.

Unfortunately for him, baseball already has more statistics than an Exhibition Stadium has chinchillas. Baseball doesn't need any more statistics. So Watson hasn't been able to put a sales tag on his services. He doesn't mean disappointment, but it doesn't mean despair.

It's costly and time-consuming. He recalls on April 14 last year the Blue Jays' broadcast was delayed because the hockey teams were still alive and breath-

Oilers poised to sweep after licking Flames

By Frank Orr Toronto Star

EDMONTON — Edmonton Oilers' opportunistic sniping, backed by the solid goaltending of Grant Fuhr, has shoved Calgary Flames to the brink of summer.

The Oilers' 4-2 victory over the Flames at Northlands Coliseum here last night was their third consecutive triumph in the Smythe Division final of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

The game featured an assortment of cheap-shot fouls as the clubs reverted to their chippy approach of a 1986 series won by the Flames.

Oilers 4, Flames 2

Hakan Loob and Joe Nieuwendyk had the Flames goals.

Injuries and the need for a much talent as possible in the lineup led to the Flames making several changes.

Defencemen Al MacInnis (groin injury) and Paul Reinhart, who has back problems, didn't play. Their replacements were youngsters Dana Murzyn and Brian Glynn.

Tardif upsets top seed in national tennis event

CALGARY (CP) — Third-seeded Marc Andre Tardif of Quebec City outplayed top-seeded Jamie Lachner of London, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 yesterday to earn berth in the boys' final of the Chipwick Junior Nationals under-12 outdoor tennis championships.

The 13-year-old son of former professional hockey star Marc Tardif surprised Lachner, the 1986 Canadian under-12 outdoor champion, by serving hard and using a deep two-handed backhand to keep his opponent in the backcourt.

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