

The Pros

A Look at Professionals by John Cairns

Sports franchises have their ups and downs, and the Toronto Blue Jays are no exception. Against the Boston Red Sox on September 7 they were impressive in deed. That one triumph, however, was their only one that week.

The two teams are far from evenly matched. The Sox pitching, although poor, is worthy of envy in Toronto. The Jays need a Ferguson Jenkins, a Luis Tiant or a Bill Campbell. Offensively, the difference is even more noticeable. Sluggers Jim Rice, 317, Careleton Fisk, 304, Rick Burleson, 297, and Carl Yastrzemski, 296 are among baseball's best. Ron Fairly, Roy Howell and Alan Ashby just haven't the same talent.

On September 7, however, Toronto was defensively brilliant, taking away base hits and making clutch double plays. By winning, the Jays hurt Boston's pennant chances, and broke an eleven game losing streak. Unfortunately they began another such string the next day. I guess baseball is so exciting because on a given day any team can prevail.

Montreal's Expos, who also lost eleven straight this season, had a mediocre week. Despite beating the Mets, Cubs and Pirates they remained well below 500. The team is however, better than its record. The sometimes powerful offence leads the league in doubles while Steve Rogers and Jackie Brown are good pitchers. The outfield of Valentine, Cromartie and Dawson, with Del Unser and Sam Mejias as able substitutes is top-notch. Reggie Jackson could have helped the team little, if any. They are a young squad with a bright future.

That the Yankees, Royals, Phillies and Dodgers will win pennants is almost obvious. I can see the Phillies and Yankees in the World Series with the hungrier Phillies emerging victorious.

Recent Canadian Football League games have gone almost as expected. The only big surprise was on September 6 when Toronto ruined Montreal's perfect record. A C.F.L. record crowd of 69,093 watched in the Olympic Stadium. They were all disappointed when the Argonauts played their best game of the season.

The key play came in the final minute of the first

half. With the tally 3-3 Montreal was trying for a major. Quarterback Joe Barnes threw into the end zone where Argo rookie Eric Harris intercepted and ran 116 yards for a touchdown. He later called the play "the greatest thrill of my life." His coach Leo Cahill no doubt, was also tickled.

In the second half the Alouettes couldn't overcome their surprise. Toronto's Lumsden continued to gain key yardage and Chuck Ealey threw a forty-seven yard strike for another score. The fans finally could cheer when Peter Dalla Riva caught his forty-third touchdown reception to set an Alouette team record. By then, however, it was too little too late, and the final score was Toronto 20, Montreal 14.

The game cost Montreal more than just two points. Joe Barnes suffered a shoulder separation and will be sidelined indefinitely. The experienced Sonny Wade however, will be a capable replacement. He should have no trouble keeping his team in first place. Ottawa, Hamilton and Toronto will follow in that order.

The Western Conference will be close. British Columbia Lions, having their best season in recent years, look good for first. Edmonton should manage second with Saskatchewan third and Winnipeg fourth. Calgary will stay comfortably in the basement.

Records just keep being broken. Loe Brock is now baseball's alltime best base stealer and Japan's Sadaharu Oh is the home run leader.

Former Expo and now Giant shortstop Tim Foli was given a suspension and fine for attacking an opposing pitcher. The unfortunate victim was a member of the Padre staff. The umpire had urged that Foli be banished for the season. "He isn't a guy who's fit to be on a baseball field," he said.

Although Detroit Tigers have lost Mark "The Bird" Fedrych to injury, their season won't be a complete loss. They have another talented rookie pitcher. This one is twenty-one year old Dave Rozema. Though not as colorful as Fedrych, his record speaks for itself at 15-7. Oddly enough, considering his age, he's a control pitcher with no real fast ball.

Remember Doyle Orange, the Argonaut thousand yard rusher

who was replaced by Anthony Davis. Now he's a Hamilton Tiger Cat. He claims to be bigger and better than ever after his short stint with the Atlanta Falcons.

N.H.L. brass and the player's association have hammered out a new multi-year agreement.

Chicago Black Hawks have given goaltender Gilles Villeneuve his release. The team wants a younger man behind veteran Tony Esposito. Mike Veisor is who they're watching.

The Canadiens have signed winger Yvan Lambert to a multi-year contract. The team has also unloaded veteran Jim Roberts to St. Louis for future considerations. Whether the deal works out will depend on what those future considerations are.

The 1979 Canada Cup may have a new look. If Alan Eagleson has his way Canadians on American teams will be able to play for either country.

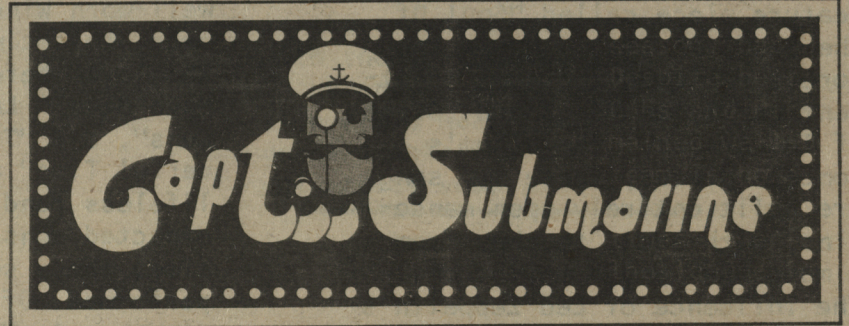
Lenny Wadkins recently won the P.G.A. championship and the World Series of Golf, but missed the cut in a tournament last weekend. Arnold Palmer was among those in contention. He celebrated his birthday with

a second round 69, but later fell back.

Bjorn Borg's aching shoulder forced him to withdraw from the Forest Hill tennis championships. After being eliminated, Wimbledon champion Virginia Wade blasted the tournament for its poor organization. Eventual winners were Chris Evert and Guillermo Vilas.

Word just came in that the Blue Jays have beaten the Yankees 19-3. WOW!! "it was just one of those games," said New York manager Billy Martin.

I have some late C.F.L. scores as well. Hamilton 25, Toronto 12. Jimmy Jones ran for two Tiger Cat touchdowns. British Columbia 33, Calgary 21. The Lions have now won four straight and are solidly in first place. Montreal 16, Ottawa 11. Although the Riders generated plenty of offence, they made too many turnovers. After a slow start, Sonny Wade completed eighteen of twenty-nine passes for 277 yards. Two of those were to Brock Aynsley for majors. Nobody can catch the Alouettes. I only wish the same was true for the Expos and Blue Jays.



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