

SPORTS

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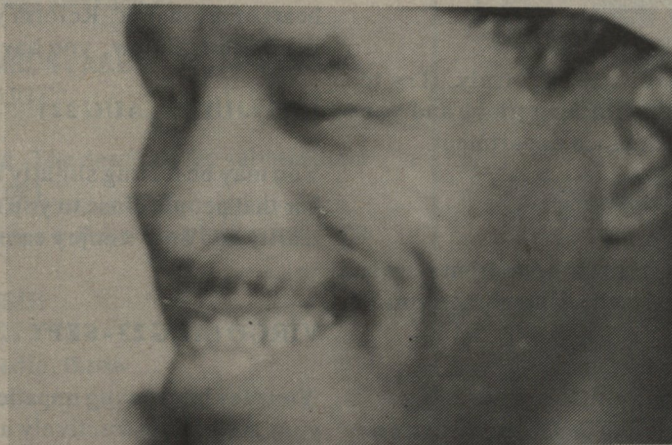
Although this is a hockey column and I am above all a hockey fan I should take a paragraph or two to write about Canada's latest champions, baseball's Toronto Blue Jays. This weekend, the biggest party in the world was in Toronto to celebrate the first-ever Canadian World Series champions. Saturday night, the Jays finally chopped down the hopes of the Atlanta Braves and Braves' fans with a 4 - 3 extra-innings win in Atlanta. Jane Fonda's prayers could not help the Braves past forty-one year old Jay Dave Winfield's eleventh-inning double which scored two runs.

Post-game interviews with several Blue Jays, including Juan Guzman and Joe Carter, were very impressive. The boys wanted to go "home" (to Canada) that night to help their loyal fan celebrate. They were very appreciative of the Canadian fans. Toronto catcher Pat Borders was named the Series MVP to the delight of American journalists; they punned on Borders and the Canada/U.S. border more times than they spoke of the Braves' chop-chop.

Hmmmm. The Argonauts won the Grey Cup last season; the Blue Jays just won the World Series. Does this mean that Maple Leaf fans should start dusting off their caps and wearing them in public again? Is this Toronto's year to celebrate?

The UPEI hockey Panthers' season is off to a less-than-wonderful start. The team played its first two home games, numbers three and four of the season, this past weekend. Friday night the Panthers lost 9-4 to the Dalhousie Tigers in front of a good crowd. The game was slow due to many penalties and boring hockey. (I'm sorry guys, but I've seen better hockey played

between the tow horses in my back yard.) Sunday's game was sheer excitement as the Panthers fought back from a 4-0 disadvantage after two periods to end with a 5-5 tie. I was amazed. One of the Panthers' problems this year will be goaltending. Both Scott and Jamie Blanchard are playing in the last year of AUAA eligibility; coach Billy MacMillan has no choice but to play rookie Kevin MacDougall once in a while. If MacMillan opted for the double-Blanchard option, he would be left next season with no experienced goaltenders. Playing MacDougall now is a good move if he can catch on to high-scoring AUAA play early. As fans, we have to help MacDougall's confidence at a performance level and give him the time he may need to adjust.



I took the week off with regards to NHL hockey. I was very surprised when I checked the standings this

morning. Here are the top two teams of each division as of October 26: Adams, Boston and Montreal; Norris, Toronto and Minnesota; Patrick, Pittsburgh and the Rangers; Smythe, Los Angeles and Calgary. The top two teams overall are Pittsburgh and Boston.

When the Bruins finally signed their '92 draft pick Dmitri Kwartalnov, Boston fans applauded the move. Kwartalnov has since rewarded Harry Sinden with his play; in eight games, Kwartalnov has scored eight goals. He is becoming the goal-scorer the Bruins need in Cam Neely's absence.

Next Panther home action is November seventh against St. Mary's. Let's get a good group there to show them we're behind them. See you there. ■