

1976 — John Candelaria became the first Pirate pitcher in 69 years to throw a no-hitter in Pittsburgh by beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-0.

SPORT



MARTY YORK

Gruber weaves weird tales

THE Blue Jays' stronghold on top spot in the American League East presents a real dilemma for Toronto fans.

Traditionally, Jay Junkies spend their Septembers worrying about how their heroes will squander their championship chances.

But no race means a change of pace. Doom and gloom need not be feared this year. Traditional second-guessing will be pointless. Why, it's liable to get boring.

So Jay Junkies could spend this September reading a book. And, coincidentally enough, there's one coming out in three weeks that should draw their interest.

The book belongs to Jay third baseman Kelly Gruber, though it is co-written by Kevin Boland of Toronto, and it might not contain the sort of drivel we frequently are subjected to in baseball biographies.

In fact, this book, called *At Home On Third*, might just strike us as downright weird.

For instance, the first chapter will outline what Gruber calls "an out-of-body experience" that he claims he had in the winter of 1983.

Scary stuff. "No joke," Boland said yesterday. "It happened to him in Colombia. He was there playing winter ball, and he was in bed after midnight."

"All of a sudden, he started to feel something coming over him. He said he could literally hear his heart beating. And he said he could see the pounding of his heart above him, as if it were on a hospital monitor. He said he could feel the blood going through his veins. He was totally at one with himself."

"He said it was the weirdest feeling he ever had in his life, by far. And, what's even more weird is that he found out afterward that, at that very moment, his grandmother died in Texas."

Six years ago, Boland co-authored a book with Jay pitcher Dave Stieb. It sold about 50,000 copies.

The Gruber book should be more successful for two reasons. First, it will be out at a time when the Jays are all the rage in Toronto and many parts of Canada. Second, Boland said, Gruber was far more open than Stieb.

"Stieb was very careful," Boland said. "Gruber is far more revealing."

In the book, Gruber is critical of former Toronto teammates Junior Felix, Damaso Garcia and George Bell. He writes about a fight he almost had with Garcia during a pre-game warmup, and he questions the degree of Bell's dedication.

At the same time, however, he also suggested "the Jays would be cakewalking to the World Series this season" if they had kept Bell instead of allowing him to jump as a free agent to the Chicago Cubs.

Another story in the book describes somewhat of an odd meeting Gruber had with Jay vice-president Pat Gillick and ex-manager Jimmy Williams.

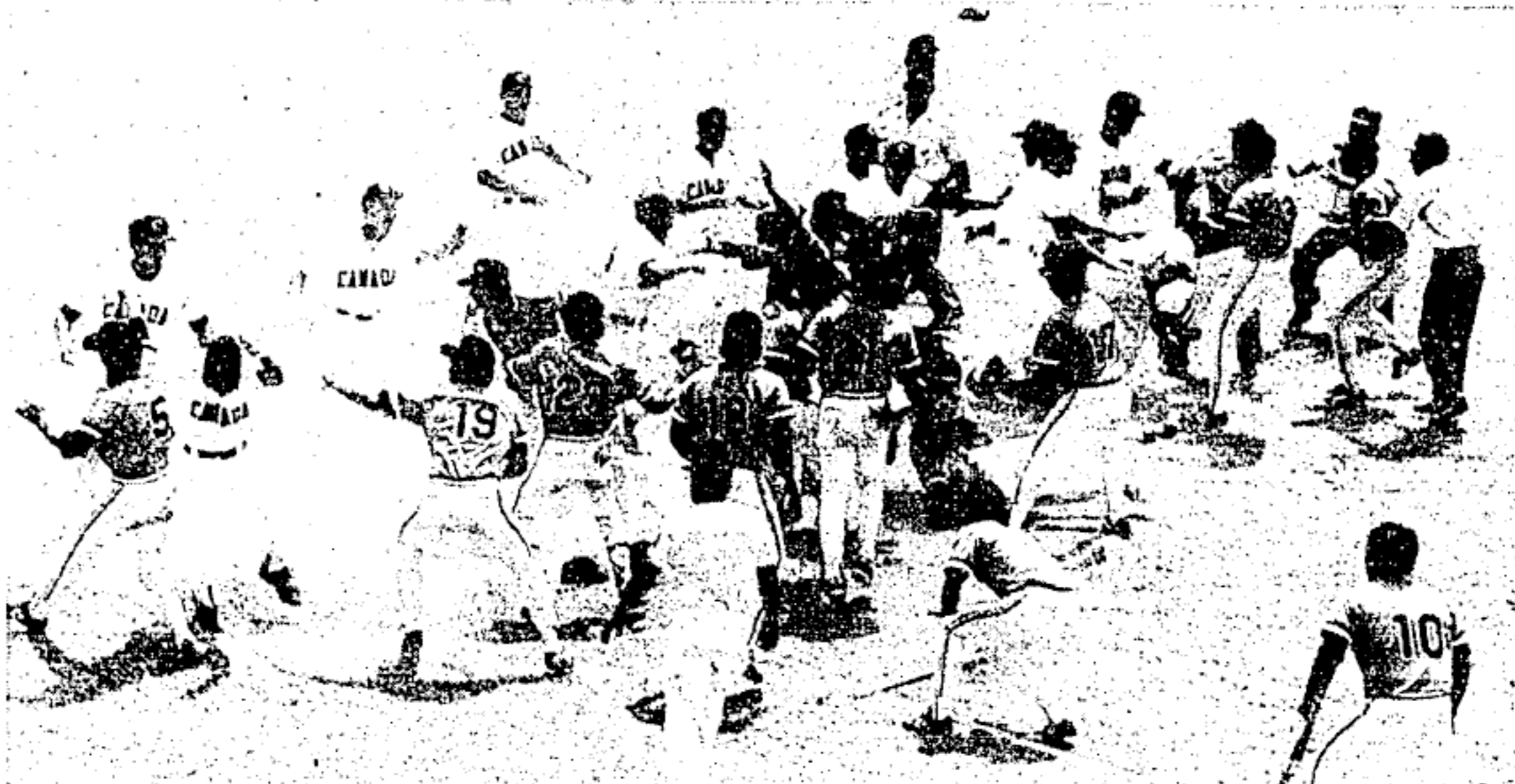
That took place in the winter of 1987, Boland said. "Kelly said they came to visit him in Texas and he took them out to a restaurant. Then they asked him if he really liked baseball or was it just a pastime for him?"

"Well, he said he was surprised that they would be asking him such stupid questions. He was so upset that he couldn't even eat his fajitas, which are his favourite food."

"But, in retrospect, he thinks the meeting was maybe designed to light a fire under him. And it may have worked."

Altogether, there will be 250 pages worth of Kelly Gruber stories in the book. Gruber and Boland split a \$50,000 advance from the publisher, Penguin Books Canada Ltd.

To read their prose, consumers will have to pay about \$28. It might just be worth the cost, if for no other reason than to get through the meaningless period of September.



PAN AM FISTICUFFS — No, this isn't a hockey game, it's yesterday's Pan American baseball game between Canada in the white trunks and Mexico in the two-tone uniforms. The fight sent both coaches to a Havana hospital. Mexico was awarded a 7-5 win. (CHARLES TASNADI/Associated Press)

Starting pitching just not enough

Effort of Candiotti, Gullickson forgotten in marathon Jay game

BY NEIL A. CAMPBELL
Sport Reporter

TORONTO — Bill Gullickson of the Detroit Tigers might have felt a bit sorry for himself last night. He shut out the Toronto Blue Jays for more than seven innings, but it didn't do him much good because his teammates could not scratch a run off Jay starter Tom Candiotti.

It is obviously frustrating for a pitcher when he keeps the opposition off the scoreboard and does not receive any support. But some pitchers have more cause to complain than others.

Gullickson, for example, has been one of the best-supported pitchers in baseball this season. Before last night, the Tigers had scored an average of 6.17 runs during Gullickson's starts. That is second-best in the major leagues and perhaps the main reason why the former Montreal Expo has 14 wins and just six losses. The Oakland Athletics have scored an average of 6.26 runs for Dave Stewart this season.

BLUE JAYS LAST NIGHT

Detroit 4, Toronto 0
WP: Paul Gibson (5-5)
LP: Tom Henke (0-1)

Synopsis:

It took a homer from Mark Salas, his first of the season, to break a 0-0 deadlock that lasted more than five hours. Tom Henke was brilliant during the early part of his relief stint but weakened noticeably before giving up the Salas blast, which was followed by a mammoth shot from Mickey Tettleton.

Tonight:

Boston (Joe Hesketh 5-2) at Toronto (David Wells 12-6) 7:35 p.m.

At the other end of the spectrum are pitchers such as Candiotti, who never seem to get a break from their

offensive mates. Before last night Candiotti was supported with an average of just 3.18 runs in 15 games with the Cleveland Indians and seven with Toronto. After last night, Candiotti became the worst supported pitcher in the American League.

The least-supported pitcher in baseball is Mark Gardner of the Montreal Expos, who has received just 2.59 runs in his starts.

Candiotti's outing last night was one of his best as a Blue Jay. He was a bit wild early. Indeed, in the first inning he retired the first two batters and then loaded the bases with two walks and a passed ball on a strike-out pitch to Cecil Fielder. He escaped that jam, though, and tied a Blue Jay record by striking out a dozen batters before he went to the showers after seven innings. Apparently, the Blue Jay coaching staff thought that the 129 pitches thrown by Candiotti constituted a full night's work.

Candiotti has said on several oc-

casions that he would rather have a tight defence behind him than a powerful offence.

He was supported by some marvellous defence last night. Indeed, had Joe Carter not made a spectacular catch in the second inning, Carter and the Jays would have been losers. The Tigers had runners on first and second base with two out, and Lou Whitaker cracked a ball to right-centre field. Carter made a splendid diving, backhanded catch that saved one run and possibly two.

But the Jays just cannot seem to score a run lately. Granted, they are not going to light up the scoreboard. They are supposed to be a team that scratches out a run, however, and they have not even been doing that lately. Take the first inning, for example. Devon White led off the game with a double. The next batter, Roberto Alomar, should have moved him over to third base, where he could have scored on either a groundout or a fly ball. White did not move an inch, though, as the Jays thrice grounded out.

Maple Leafs set sail with familiar captains

BY DAVID NAYLOR
Sport Reporter

TORONTO — The Toronto Maple Leafs yesterday introduced a new captain and brought back an old one.

Wendel Clark becomes Toronto's 16th captain after signing a one-year contract plus an option year with the National Hockey League club. Clark, a feisty winger, was chosen by Toronto as the first pick over all in the 1985 entry draft.

Former Leaf captain Darryl Sittler announced Clark's captaincy just moments after he had been introduced by general manager Cliff Fletcher as the club's new special consultant. Sittler, who played with the Leafs from 1970 until being traded to Philadelphia in January of 1982, will work part-time, consulting on matters of hockey, public relations, marketing and alumni.

Though terms of Clark's deal were not released, his contract is reported to make him the highest paid Leaf in history, with an annual salary in excess of \$500,000. His best year was 1986-87 when he had a career-high 37 goals and 23 assists. Last season



Wendel Clark: Captain (RANDY YELDOCCI/The Globe and Mail)

he played in 63 games and scored 18 goals and 16 assists.

Clark said that, despite the short

term of the contract, he never had doubts about staying in Toronto.

"I prefer the shorter term and they were willing to go with it," Clark said. "I'm only 24 so there's lots of room for more. I expect to play for a long time so that's what I want."

Though Clark missed 17 games last season, none of the injuries that kept him out of action were related to the back problems that sidelined him for more than half of each of the previous three seasons.

"I think too much has been made about his back," said Toronto coach Tom Watt. "We have confidence in him for the captain has to be respected by his teammates as well as opponents. I feel Wendel will be a popular choice with the fans. I think they see him as a fellow who gives all he's got."

The Leafs' previous captain was Rob Ramage, who was taken by the Minnesota North Stars in the expansion draft in May.

The deal puts Clark in a position where he can again be a free agent after the '92-93 season. "In today's marketplace I'm sure that players will be wanting short-term con-

tracts, but that's not an issue with me," Fletcher said.

Sittler, who signed a one-year deal, said his role with the Leafs depends on what happens this season.

"I think he's going to be a great addition to the organization," Fletcher said. "With some of the younger players he may help out in a small role, but I'm looking at it from a more general point of view. Anytime you want to build an organization you need quality people."

Sittler, who will continue to live with his wife and three children near Buffalo in Amherst, N.Y., said he wanted a position in hockey that would still allow him to spend time with his family.

"People are tired of the Leafs doing so poorly for so long," Sittler said. "A lot of people say 'Darryl, get back in the organization.' But the reason I'm involved is I feel I have a lot to contribute and at age 40 it's an opportunity to learn and grow in the business."

Sittler did not rule out a future in hockey management but said he is currently unwilling to make the time commitment for that type of job.

For Cup, for country, for the love of the game

FOR most of us, there's a dividing line between what we do for a living and what we are.

A few get lucky and are paid for pursuing their passions, find self-definition and expression and the grocery money all in the same place. But that's the exception: usually, to some degree or another, a job's a job.

So imagine for a moment that you are a well-paid maker of widgets enjoying a well-earned vacation from that pursuit, and then pretend that you are asked to make some widgets in your free time — albeit in the company of the greatest widget makers on the planet.

You would be representing your country, you would earn some pocket change in the process, but you would also be risking your ability to make widgets again. (Insurance optional, at your own expense).

That's really the deal for the National Hockey League players now working like dogs at Maple Leaf Gardens, competing for a place on



STEPHEN BRUNT

this year's Canada Cup squad and appearing to have a reasonably good time in the process.

The story here isn't the handful who chose not to attend, but the 56 who are here, and why.

This isn't a religious obligation, after all. It's an Alan Eagleson-born commercial enterprise that uses the thin thread of Canadian nationalism to peddle tickets (\$30 a pop for the prime seats at last night's intersquad game, without Wayne Gretzky and Eric Lindros in uniform) and is sponsored by a brewery.

If you want really high-minded stuff, look elsewhere, and look how

professional athletes react. Michael Jordan says he's going to play golf rather than represent the United States in next year's Olympics. Lots of baseball players have opted out of the All-Star Game — which carries with it all that quasi-mystical reverence for tradition — with feeble excuses.

Put it in that context, and it's not such a heinous crime for Raymond Bourque to decide he's had his fill of international hockey, for Stephane Richer to want to spend some time with his mom, for free agents to take the entirely sensible step of protecting their future by refusing to play.

What's harder to figure are the motives of some who accepted the invitation. Gretzky, wealthy Californian, Canadian Football League team owner, family man: he's got lots of other things to do, he doesn't really need another personal milestone or another championship, he vowed the last time there was a Canada Cup that it would be his last.

Or, at the other end of the spec-

trum, consider Wendel Clark. In 1987, he had a fine camp, yet was cut from the squad, which, if he's like most of his brethren, has to have been the first time he was cut from any hockey team in his life.

This time, he wasn't among the first players chosen. The call came the Saturday before camp opened, while he was watching television. Without the no-shows, he'd still be there sitting on his couch.

Clark has spent the off-season haggling over a new contract with the Toronto Maple Leafs. He has chronic back problems that at times have threatened to end his career.

His chances of making the Canada Cup team this year appear extremely slim, but you'd never know it watching him go into the corners.

"When your career is done," he said after an intense practice the other day, "10 years later, this is what you'll remember."

For Gretzky, for Clark, for the rest, it's not about patriotism, especially now that the tournament lacks the Them and Us dynamic that used

LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS

Cal Ripken of the Baltimore Orioles, who was having the best season of his career until the all-star break, has hit only .236 since then, through Wednesday. His average dropped to .320 from .348 in that stretch.



SPORT IN BRIEF

Baseball yesterday

- Tigers 4, Blue Jays 0
- White Sox 4, Yankees 1
- Brewers 6, Orioles 4
- Dodgers 6, Reds 4
- Phillies 11, Cubs 1
- Mets 4, Pirates 3
- Giants 8, Braves 1
- Padres 5, Astros 3

Football last night

- Rough Riders 41, Bombers 31

Lightning kills again

The game went on at the PGA golf championship tournament despite the second tragic lightning-caused death of a spectator. Ian Woosnam and Kenny Knox slipped into a tie for the first-round lead yesterday before a thunderstorm ripped the Crooked Stick course near Carmel, Ind., and, in an eerie replay of the tragedy during the U.S. Open at Hazeltine, claimed the life of a spectator. Thomas Weaver, 39, was struck and killed by lightning during the 1 hour 46 minute storm delay. Dave Barr of Richmond, B.C., opened with a three-over-par 75.

Baugh tied for lead

Laura Baugh, seeking her first victory in 17 years on the LPGA tour before she leaves to have her fourth child, tied for the first-round lead yesterday in the \$450,000 Stratton Mountain Classic in Vermont. Baugh and last week's winner, Deb Richard, matched strokes in the same threesome for four-under-par 68s, and Rosie Jones came in moments later with the same score. Baugh is three months pregnant and has husband Bobby Cole as her caddy. Tina Purtzer of Montreal and Barb Bunkowsky of Burlington, Ont., were only three strokes behind the leaders at 71. Jennifer Wyatt of Vancouver shot 72. Lisa Walters of Prince Rupert, B.C., shot 73. Karin Mundinger of Toronto and Dawn Coe of Cowichan Lake, B.C., were at 76. Gail Graham of Kelowna, B.C., and Christa Teno of Tecumseh, Ont., shot 77 and Nancy Harvey of Swift Current, Sask., shot 81.

Canada beats Canada

A crowd of more than 9,500 saw Team Red beat Team White at Maple Leaf Gardens last night in Team Canada's first intra-squad game. Steve Thomas assisted goals by Joe Nieuwendyk and Adam Oates to lead Team Red. After four days of practicing, Keenan split his 56-man Canada Cup roster into three teams for three intra-squad games. The second is tonight in Ottawa; the third is Sunday in Hamilton.

TV TODAY

Baseball: Boston Red Sox at Toronto Blue Jays, CTV, 7:30 p.m.; Montreal Expos at Philadelphia Phillies, Radio Canada, 7:30 p.m. Football: Toronto Argonauts at Saskatchewan Roughriders, TSN, 9:30 p.m. Tennis: Player's Ltd. Challenge, TSN, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.