

UPSET SPECIALS

Carey Price and Canada will have to worry about what a long shot can do in a short tournament. **S2**



SPORTS



RICHARD LAUTENS/TORONTO STAR

Blue Jays catcher Russell Martin strikes out in the fourth inning, two innings before hitting a two-run homer off Tampa starter Drew Smyly. That was all the Jays' offence could muster.

Blue Jays miss another opportunity

BRENDAN KENNEDY
SPORTS REPORTER

Blue Jays manager John Gibbons admitted before Tuesday's game that he's not so different from the rest of the jittery masses this time of year. He watches the out-of-town scoreboard like everybody else, rising and falling with the good and bad news. "I'm looking all year long, but you really start locking in now because so much matters," he said. "It's basically staring right at you."

Heading into Tuesday's games, the American League East was more bunched up than it has ever been in the wild-card era as four teams opened the day within five games of the division lead. Not to mention the seven-team race for the two wild-card spots, one of which is currently held by the Jays.

> RAYS
> BLUE JAYS

6
2

38,338, which put the Jays — who lead the American League in attendance this season — over the 3-million mark in total attendance for the first time since 1993.

If Gibbons was watching the scoreboard he would have noticed Baltimore leading Boston as the Jays made their final out, so it looked as if it would be a missed opportunity for his club to gain ground on the first-place Red Sox. The Orioles won 6-3 and joined Toronto two games back of Boston.

With Josh Donaldson on the bench for the second straight game nursing a sore

hip, the offence continued to struggle, managing just a pair of runs thanks to a two-run homer by Russell Martin, who snapped an 0-for-17 slump with a no-doubter into the second deck to draw within one of the Rays' lead.

Toronto managed just five hits in 5²/₃ innings off Rays starter Drew Smyly, who entered the game with a 5.05 ERA.

Gibbons said Donaldson "jarred" his right hip on Sunday when he stepped on first base after running out a ground ball.

JAYS continued on S4

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>>SPORTS

Five moments: Gretzky to Lemieux tops the list of tournament highlights

BILL BEACON
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Canada Cup and World Cup of Hockey have been held seven times between 1976 and 2004, with Canada winning five times. Here are five memorable moments from the tournaments:

1987: MARIO SCORES

Canada won the best-of-three final 2-1 over the Soviet Union, with all three games ending in 6-5 scores. The Soviets won the first game on Alexander Semak's overtime goal and they forced extra time in Game 2 when Valeri Kamensky scored with 1:04 left in the third period. Wayne Gretzky fed Mario Lemieux for the OT winner. The Soviets took a 3-0 lead eight minutes into the deciding game, but it was tied 5-5 with 1:26 left in the third when Gretzky dropped a pass to Lemieux on a rush and Le Magnifique scored one of the most memorable goals in Canadian history. It was

Lemieux's 11th goal and Gretzky's 21st point in nine tournament games.

1981: SOVIET BLOWOUT

Fears that Soviet hockey was overtaking, Canada imploded with an 8-1 loss in the one-game Canada Cup final. A squad led by the Vladimir Krutov-Igor Larionov-Sergei Makarov line thoroughly trashed a Canadian team led by Guy Lafleur, Gilbert Perreault and a young Gretzky. Vladislav Tretiak turned back 12 Canadian shots in the first period and, after Larionov answered Clark Gilles' goal in the second, the rout was on. Canada managed only four third-period shots while the Soviets beat Mike Liut four times. The loss prompted Canada to start thinking about fixing the way it played and managed the game. 2004: LECAVALIER TRIUMPHS Vincent Lecavalier had just won a Stanley Cup with Tampa Bay, but he

only made Canada's team because Steve Yzerman was injured. The lanky centre ended up as tournament MVP, scoring in overtime to beat the Czech Republic in the semifinals. He then helped a young Canadian squad top Finland 3-2 in a one-game final. It was the last top-level hockey for a while, as the NHL then locked out its players for the 2004-05 season. 1996: HULL CONTROVERSY The United States had been a second-tier hockey power until it produced a golden generation in the 1980s and early 1990s with stars like Mike Modano, Pat LaFontaine and Brian Leetch. They announced their arrival with a 5-3 win over Canada in round-robin play, then met Canada again in the best-of-three final. Canada won the opener 4-3 in OT, but goalie Mike Richter stood on his head in a 5-2 win in Game 2 in Montreal. Canada led 2-1 in the deciding game

before Brett Hull deflected Leetch's point shot past Curtis Joseph to tie it in the third. It appeared Hull's stick was too high, but it was reviewed and it counted. And Tony Amonte added the winner 43 seconds later in what would be another 5-2 U.S. win. 1976: ORR'S LAST HURRAH Bobby Orr hobbled into the inaugural Canada Cup on bad knees and ended up playing brilliantly at both ends of the ice to earn tournament MVP honours. Canada ended a six-year boycott of IIHF-sponsor events (Olympics and world championships) when the Canada Cup was formed to allow the best pros to face "amateurs" from the East Bloc. However, it was not the mighty Soviets that would give the Canadians a scare, but Czechoslovakia, which stoned them 1-0 in round-robin play behind bearlike goalie Vladimir Dzurilla. Canada blew him out 6-0 in Game 1



SCOTT MACDONALD/THE CANADIAN PRESS
Wayne Gretzky, left, and Mario Lemieux combined to beat the Soviets in the 1987 Canada Cup.

of the best-of-three final, but Dzurilla was a wall again in Game 2 until Bill Barber tied the game with four minutes left in the third and Darryl Sittler got him to bite on a fake and then scored from a short angle for the OT winner to claim the title.



SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Carey Price, right, will start Canada's final pre-World Cup game Wednesday and is likely to be the team's No. 1 goalie in the tournament.

Short time could mean big upsets

Carey Price in line to be Canada's starting goalie after playing second exhibition

KEVIN MCGRAN
SPORTS REPORTER

PITTSBURGH—John Tavares knows anything can happen in a short international tournament like the World Cup of Hockey. "If you look at our last Olympics, everyone talks about how well we played that tournament and really had control in every game we played, but that Latvian game was a tight game," Tavares said. "We had 50 shots and we only won 2-1. "It just goes to show how important each and every game is . . . You have to keep mistakes at a minimum when you're only playing three round-robin games and one semifinal. It's such a short tournament, you have to be on top of your game right from the get-go." As far as international hockey events go, the World Cup is incred-

ibly short. Teams at the Olympics or world tournaments have six or seven games, typically, before the playoffs. In the World Cup, three round-robin games might not provide enough time for the favourites, like Canada and the United States, to catch their stride. "There (are) no games you can take off, especially when you only have three games to prove yourself and to move on," Canadian winger Corey Perry said. "You've got to be ready right from the puck drop." Three games might allow such long shots as the Czech Republic and Europe to post an upset or two. "There's a much larger chance for an upset in this format," Europe coach Ralph Krueger said. "I'm familiar with this kind of pressure right off the hop, and the dangers of this as a favourite and the opportunities for the perceived underdogs." Every minute takes on importance. Goals for and against matter. So too does the extra point teams can earn by forcing overtime. The playoff

spots could be decided by tiebreakers, which will follow NHL rules. "You have to focus on every step and not allow any slip-ups," Krueger said. "It's a lot of fun." Canada continued its preparations Tuesday in Pittsburgh, where coach Mike Babcock announced Carey Price would get his second start in three exhibition games. Price will face Russia on Wednesday night in the final tune-up for both teams before the event starts on Sept. 17. Claude Giroux, Jake Muzzin and Braden Holtby will be the Canadian scratches. "It's our last opportunity to prepare," Babcock said. "We all know when the tournament starts, but you want to be getting better each and every day, so it should be a fun day." Price, who is in line to be Canada's No. 1 goalie, agreed mistakes could be the difference between winning and going home early. "That's sports in general," Price said. "It always seems to come down to the guy who makes a mistake, or

the guy who makes a great play. That's the identity of sport." While others waxed poetic about the history of the Canada-Russia rivalry, Babcock remained focused on the task at hand, working to prevent his team from making mistakes that could give the underdogs a chance. "It could be about goaltending, it could be about specialty teams, it could be about detail, which it normally is," Babcock said. "It could be all those every time. What thing is it going to be? I don't know. This is what I do know: When you prepare real hard, and you get better every day, and you can get your team to be all-in every day, usually you become just about unstoppable. That's our plan." But other teams will be out to stop Canada. "Starts are going to be very important," said Leafs forward Milan Michalek, who is playing with the Czech team. "There can be some surprises in such a short tournament."

Polak is Czechs' heart and soul

KEVIN MCGRAN
SPORTS REPORTER

PITTSBURGH—Defenceman Roman Polak pretty much knew the day Maple Leafs GM Lou Lamoriello traded him to San Jose that he would be back in Toronto this fall. "That was kind of the deal when I was leaving Toronto, that I was going to come back," Polak said Tuesday after the Czech national team's practice. "We were talking about it when Lou was trading me. We had a meeting, Lou was saying he wants me back and he was going to call me in the summer." Polak, who was dealt at the trade deadline, saw that come to fruition in July when he rejoined the Maple Leafs, his top choice as an unrestricted free agent. He wants to be a part of the program being built under coach Mike Babcock. "The system we have (in Toronto), the young guys . . . I was part of that in St. Louis," Polak said. "We were rebuilding when I was younger, and we turned into a great team, every year in the playoffs. "I want to come and do the same thing in Toronto, to be part of something . . . with the young guys, great skilled young guys. We can be on the same page, under Babcock, we can be a very good team." The rugged defenceman went to the Stanley Cup final with the Sharks in the spring, only to lose to the Pittsburgh Penguins. Now he is in Pittsburgh again as part of the Czech national team, which will face North America in the final tune-up for both teams for the World Cup of Hockey. "He's our heart and soul," Czech general manager Martin Rucinsky said. "He plays hard, blocks shots. He's a difficult player to play against. With our situation in Czech hockey, he was an easy choice for our team." While Polak was part of San Jose's bottom pairing of defencemen, he will have a bigger role in this best-on-best tournament. The Czechs have lost Radko Gudas to injury and have brought a couple of KHL players who are not used to North America's smaller ice surface. "I was looking forward to playing with Gudas, because we play the same game," Polak said. "It can be easier if you have the same type of guy . . . He got injured. It's more pressure on me. The Czechs are 1-1 after a pair of pre-tournament games against Russia. Still, they look like underdogs with Europe in Group A, where Canada and the United States are believed to be the most likely to reach the semifinals. "We understand our position and our spot," Rucinsky said. "We understand we are underdogs. That's fine with us. I remember years when we were underdogs, and we won the tournament, we won the world championship, we won the Olympics. And some tournaments when everybody looked at us as a big favourite and it was a disaster. "The game is played on the ice, not on paper. When you put the best team that you can possibly put together, we're confident in it. We just have to stick together and see what happens."

Canada's greybeard has plenty left

JONAS SIEGEL
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mario Lemieux was the unofficial greybeard of Team Canada when the last World Cup of Hockey was played a dozen years ago. This time around, the role falls to Joe Thornton, the 37-year-old who played alongside Lemieux in 2004 and actually has an outsized grey beard. The Canadians didn't bring Thornton to Toronto just for his wisdom though, but for talents that have withstood the test of time. Despite being one of the oldest players in the NHL last season, Thornton finished fourth in league scoring, compiling 82 points in 82 games for the San Jose Sharks. He added another 21 points in 24 playoff games, reaching his first-ever Stanley Cup final.

Armstrong says Thornton is still one of the best passers in hockey, and indeed his 63 assists last season were only topped by Ottawa Senators captain Erik Karlsson. Thornton, for that matter, is the runaway leader in assists since he entered the league in 1997. Second-place Jaromir Jagr has 212 fewer helpers. Thornton also has the most points (1,341) of any player in that span, more than 100 points up on Jagr. Team Canada general manager Doug Armstrong was intrigued by how San Jose employed Thornton last season, mostly on the wing alongside captain Joe Pavelski. That freed the long-time centre from having to labour at both ends of the ice and exposed Canada, brimming with natural centres, to how it could use Thornton at the World Cup.

A plodding skater who didn't crack the 2014 Olympic squad in Sochi, Thornton also seemed a better fit for the NHL-sized rink in Toronto, though Armstrong said his inclusion was based on performance, not the ice surface. Thornton, who last represented Canada at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, hadn't given much thought to cracking the World Cup roster before getting the invitation from Armstrong this past summer. "It was just one of those things where you just kind of play, don't think about it and then you get chosen," said Thornton. It could be the last time the St. Thomas, Ont., native wears red and white on the international stage, though he's hinted at playing a good while longer. He's already won



Joe Thornton has more points and assists than any NHL player since entering the league in 1997.

Olympic (2010) and world junior gold (1997), as well as the crown at that 2004 World Cup, one of two players returning for Canada. Thornton recalls that '04 squad fondly. The group went undefeated and included Lemieux as well as other future Hall of Famers Scott Niedermayer, Martin Brodeur and Joe Sakic. Thornton, 25 at the time, set up two of three goals in Canada's 3-2 win over Finland in the final. The Canadians hope he's still got that magic. "I've still got another 10 years (left)," said a grinning Thornton, "so maybe the next World Cup, I'll play in it, too."

Canadians back on the beach after breakup

Bansley beats Pavan to earn spot in Toronto stop of world beach volleyball tour

LAURA ARMSTRONG
SPORTS REPORTER

As a beach volleyball player during the Olympics in Rio, the sport's Mecca, Canadian Sam Schachter felt like a superstar.

"It was totally a special moment for us, to be embraced by the city and the country as well as we were," the Richmond Hill native said. "I felt so well received there."

It's not a feeling beach volleyball athletes are always used to at home. But with the beauty and atmosphere at Copacabana beach providing some of the most memorable scenes from this summer's Games, those who represented Canada are hoping some of the popularity will translate back home, starting with this week's FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour stop at Toronto's Polson Pier.

The free tournament, which runs through Sunday, features a dozen of the world's best teams in the final tour event of the season.

Schachter and partner Josh Binstock will compete on the men's side, as will fellow Canadian Olympians Ben Saxton and Chaim Schalk.

On the women's side, Canada is represented by Jamie Broder and Kristina Valjas, as well as Heather Bansley and Brandie Wilkerson.

Valjas, 29, is a Toronto native, but has never played in an international tournament in her hometown.

She is excited to show off the city she "loves and is so proud of" to her competitors, who she also considers friends after spending so much time together on tour.

"The No. 1 question I get from my family and friends is, 'Where can I watch you, why isn't it on TV?' Now that it's actually here and people can watch it live, so soon after the Olympics, the stands will be full, I think," she said.

While the growth of the sport is a collective goal for the players here, the tournament didn't kick off without its share of controversy.

The first game of the event, held Tuesday evening, was a one-off play-



STEVE RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR

Tuesday's one-off playoff between two Canadian teams pitted former Rio teammates Sarah Pavan, right, and Heather Bansley against each other.

off between two of Canada's Rio contenders, former teammates Sarah Pavan and Bansley.

It was the first time the pair has found themselves on opposite sides of the court since breaking up their four-year partnership in the wake of an unsuccessful Olympics. The medal hopefuls were knocked out of contention in the quarter-finals by eventual winners Germany.

That loss was the main reason for the team's split, though both told the

tournament's website last week that a collision between them during their round of 16 win over fellow Canadians Jamie Broder and Kristina Valjas, which injured Pavan, accelerated the split.

Pavan and Bansley both had a claim to the wild-card spot they were awarded for this week's event; Tuesday night's match determined which would go forward in that place.

Ultimately, it was Bansley and Wilkerson that came out on top, beating

Pavan and Melissa Humana-Paredes in straight sets.

While a split might seem unusual to outsiders — and players admit it is unusual to break up with one event left in the season — Schachter said breakups are not uncommon in the sport.

Like a romantic relationship, there are guidelines to a beach volleyball breakup. Part ways in person. Don't start playing with a new partner behind your existing partner's back.

Even when handled perfectly, it's never an easy situation to navigate, Schachter said.

But as players get older and start competing professionally, travelling the world with lots on the line — this tournament's payout is \$100,000 (U.S.), the largest in the sport — he believes everyone understands it comes down to a job, nothing personal. "It's tough to separate it sometimes but I think we're all pretty good at doing that."



GONZALO FUENTES/REUTERS

Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez scores the tying goal in the 78th minute against Paris Saint-Germain. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Messi hat trick leads Barca rout of Celtic

GRAHAM DUNBAR
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENEVA—Lionel Messi's first goal of the Champions League season took three minutes. Edinson Cavani needed just 44 seconds for Paris Saint-Germain. Manchester City never got the chance to start, with its match against Borussia Moenchengladbach washed out.

GROUP A

PSG 1, Arsenal 1: Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez scored in the 78th minute against the run of the play when he fired home a rebound from 10 metres after PSG keeper Alphonse Areola parried Alex Iwobi's powerful shot.

Ludogorets 1, Basel 1: Ludogorets scored freely on the road in three qualifying rounds, but was limited to Jonathan Cafu's 45th goal to finish a twisting run. Basel levelled in the 79th when Renato Steffen took advantage of a goalkeeping error.

GROUP B

Napoli 2, Dynamo Kyiv 1: Napoli took early control of the group with a come-from-behind win at Dynamo Kyiv, which had Serhiy Sydorchuk sent off in the 68th minute.

Poland forward Arkadiusz Milik twice scored with headers in the first half, the second in stoppage time, to

cancel out Denys Garmash's 26th-minute opener for Dynamo.

Benfica 1, Besiktas 1: Benfica was held 1-1 at home by Besiktas when one of its own players scored late for the visitors. Playing against his parent club while on loan to the Turkish champion, midfielder Talisca scored with a curling free kick in stoppage time.

GROUP C

Barcelona 7 Celtic 0: In a record-setting night at Camp Nou, Barcelona's trio of stars teamed up to out-class Celtic. Lionel Messi's hat trick included two goals in the first half-hour, while Neymar struck with a free kick and set up four goals and Luis Suarez had two goals against the new team of his former Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers.

GROUP D

Bayern Munich 5 Rostov 0: Bayern Munich showed Champions League debutant Rostov what life is like among the big boys of Europe. Germany's great defensive prospect Joshua Kimmich scored twice and Juan Bernat finished the rout.

Atletico Madrid 1 PSV Eindhoven 0: In a rematch of a Round-of-16 encounter last season, Atletico Madrid won in the Netherlands.

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>>SPORTS



RICHARD LAUTENS/TORONTO STAR

Jays outfielder Melvin Upton Jr. stretches to take a hit away from Tampa Bay’s Nick Franklin in the fifth inning. The Rays scored three runs in the inning.

Estrada searches for right ‘stuff’

Decline in fastball velocity
one sign right-hander may be
trying to pitch through injury

BRENDAN KENNEDY
SPORTS REPORTER

After serving as arguably the top rotation in the American League through the season’s first half, the Blue Jays’ starting staff has looked more wobbly of late. No pitcher reflects their recent inconsistency more than Marco Estrada, who after being named to his first all-star team in July has struggled to replicate his first-half success.

Estrada had a 2.93 ERA before the all-star break, leading the majors with a stingy .172 opponent’s batting average. In nine starts since then he has a 5.32 ERA, while hitters are tagging him to the tune of a .285 average. His four worst starts have come in his last five outings.

A finesse pitcher who relies on maintaining the “feel” of his change-up and curveball — while precisely locating his fastball — Estrada was clearly the most adversely affected by the team employing a six-man

rotation last month. He has been far more successful this season when pitching on regular rest.

But that doesn’t explain all of his recent struggles. Earlier this month he was pitching on regular rest when he allowed five runs over five innings against the Tampa Bay Rays, whom he is set to face again Wednesday afternoon — on regular rest — as the Jays play a matinee game before heading out west for a weeklong swing through Anaheim and Seattle.

But beyond the relative effects of more or less rest, there may be more cause for concern regarding the 32-year-old right-hander, who was arguably the Jays’ best pitcher in the post-season last year.

Mike Sonne, an ergonomist by trade and baseball analyst by hobby, developed a statistical metric to measure a pitcher’s “stuff” — the phrase most often used to describe a pitcher’s combination of velocity and movement.

Sonne crunches publicly available pitch data to calculate “stuff” by looking at the interaction between a pitcher’s peak velocity, the horizontal and vertical break of their pitches,

their ability to change speeds and the separation between their secondary pitches and their fastball.

In essence, he is trying to quantify the degree of difficulty an individual pitcher’s arsenal presents to an opposing hitter. Aaron Sanchez, for instance, has the best “stuff” on the Jays’ staff primarily because he combines a high-velocity fastball with a nosediving curveball. It doesn’t hurt that Sanchez’s fastball also has great movement.

The bad news for Estrada is that Sonne’s stats show a dramatic decline in his “stuff” beginning in mid-June.

“What we saw with Estrada was kind of the telltale sign of a pitcher who has suffered an injury or is fighting through an injury,” Sonne said in a phone interview.

Estrada has spent two stints on the disabled list this season due to a recurring back injury and has complained at times this season of not being 100 per cent.

“His velocity has decreased by a full mile per hour over the course of the season. At the same time his breaking-pitch velocity has actually gone

up,” Sonne said.

The decreased separation between his pitches has made it easier on opposing hitters by shrinking the margins for which they have to be responsible at the plate.

The decline in his “stuff” has also coincided with a decrease in his curveball usage, but that may have been due to a lack of feel for the pitch during his starts on extra rest.

In addition, Mike Petriello of MLB.com recently pointed out a sharp decline in the spin rate of Estrada’s fastball, which may make it easier for opposing hitters to recognize the pitch. The high spin rate of Estrada’s fastball is part of what makes it hard to distinguish from his changeup, which is 10 m.p.h. slower.

“Now those hitters who at one time were having a hard time deciphering whether it was a rising fastball coming towards them or a changeup — and you’re getting a lot of those really silly swings and misses — now they’re able to cue into what’s coming a little bit faster,” Sonne said.

“When you’re only throwing about 88 miles an hour, those guys are able to really sit on it and crush the ball.”

Offence offers little support

JAYS from S1

“We’ll take it day by day,” Gibbons said. “Hopefully he’s okay to go tomorrow.”

It’s a shame Marcus Stroman’s teammates couldn’t do more to help him out on Tuesday, because he did his part. The 24-year-old right-hander’s only blemish was a three-run homer to the usually light-hitting Alexei Ramirez, which proved to be the game-winning blast.

Otherwise Stroman allowed just two other hits in his six innings, while earning nine ground-ball outs. He did walk four batters on Tuesday, one of which came around to score. But he did a good job of containing the Rays.

Meanwhile, the Jays’ offence had its chances, notably in the seventh when Edwin Encarnacion struck out with the bases loaded. But Tuesday marked the seventh time in the last 11 games that they failed to score more than three runs.

They had some lousy batted-ball luck early in the game.

In the first three innings, they hit into outs on three occasions on balls with exit velocities of 99.7 m.p.h. or harder, including a 109.6 m.p.h. rocket by Jose Bautista.

Batted balls of a similar profile more often than not land for hits, and in Bautista’s case, shots of his trajectory land for hits more than nine out of 10 times. Such is baseball.

The Rays extended their lead against the Jays’ bullpen when Steven Souza Jr. — who came a couple feet shy of a go-ahead home run in the ninth inning on Monday night — took rookie right-hander Joe Biagini deep.

Biagini, the Rule 5 pick who has been a revelation in much of this, his first big-league season, appears to be running into a wall in the season’s final month.

The 25-year-old, who has never pitched into September in his professional career, gave up his first home run of the season on Sept. 3. He has allowed two more in three outings since then.

The Jays, who have lost three straight series, will now try not to lose a fourth in Wednesday’s matinee rubber match against the Rays.



Marcus Stroman limited Tampa Bay to four hits in six innings, but one was Alexei Ramirez’s three-run homer.

Porcello’s 20th win deserves more acclaim

GABE LACQUES
USA TODAY

In the midst of a crucial three-game weekend series in Toronto, Boston Red Sox starter Rick Porcello reached a milestone once revered, and now greeted almost with a collective shrug: He won his 20th game.

It marked a startling turnaround for a pitcher who lost 15 games while pitching to a 4.92 ERA in his first season with Boston. Yet, in this era of baseball enlightenment, Porcello’s accomplishment is greeted with snickers almost as quickly as backslaps.

And for good reason. Pitching wins were overvalued for decades, viewed as the ultimate measure of the man rather than what they are: Largely a result of factors beyond a pitcher’s control. Porcello himself should know this: He gets more support — 6.97 runs per start from the vaunted Red Sox lineup — than any pitcher in baseball.

So while we are the wiser — and our Cy Young Awards more properly distributed — for putting pitching wins in perspective while relying on new metrics such as Fielding Independent Pitching (a stat that measures a pitcher’s performance independent of what his defence does), the starting pitcher environment in 2016 suggests we might want to give Porcello’s accomplishment a longer look.

In short: American League starting pitchers are three weeks away from contributing less to their clubs than any season in recorded history.

Through 142 games, AL starters are pitching an average of 5.7 innings per

start, the lowest total since at least 1930, when Baseball-Reference’s invaluable bank of data begins. Given how clubs such as Tampa Bay have taken to limiting some starters’ exposure to less than three trips through opponents’ batting orders, this number shouldn’t come as too much of a surprise.

But that tactic is accompanied by a confluence of other factors — be it a rash of Tommy John surgeries in recent years, the lure of bullpens stocked with power arms, perhaps the manner in which pitchers are developed — to make the workhorse an endangered species.

Porcello is one of just 11 American League pitchers on pace to pitch at least 200 innings, long the plateau viewed by starters as the threshold for reliability and durability.

That number, too, is at an all-time low, and could shrink for the first time into single digits if a few starters on playoff teams miss their final outings to align for the post-season.

As recently as 2011, AL starters averaged 6.1 innings per start, and 19 of them topped the 200-inning mark. Perhaps a 7-per-cent drop in innings pitched and a 42-per-cent drop in the number of 200-inning pitchers doesn’t seem like a calamity.

But consider this: Leaguewide, teams are asking their relievers to absorb one more out a game than they did five years ago. That adds up to 54 more innings handed to bullpens already overworked and staffed with suboptimal options. Little wonder, then, that teams like the New York Yankees — who will have just



CHRIS O’MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston’s Rick Porcello is one of just 11 American League pitchers on pace to pitch at least 200 innings.

one starter, Masahiro Tanaka, pitch more than 175 innings — keep their relievers on a constant shuttle between the big club and the minor leagues.

The Yankees trail Boston by five games in the AL East (after Monday’s action), and the Red Sox are fortunate: David Price (205.2) and Porcello (193.2) rank first and fifth, respectively, in AL innings pitched and are on pace to pitch more than 220 innings. Perhaps not coincidentally, Red Sox relievers have pitched the fewest innings (407.2) in the AL, limiting the exposure of a group that ranks seventh in the league in ERA and eighth in WHIP.

Given the paucity of durable starters and Porcello’s respectable rate stats — a 1.02 WHIP, 3.21 ERA, 3.46 FIP and an AL-best 5.55 strikeout-walk ratio — you’d think he’d be viewed kindly by the Cadillac of modern metrics.

Not exactly. Porcello ranks eighth among AL

starters with 4.6 Wins Above Replacement, which isn’t a total injustice. Starters who have combined both dominance and durability — such as AL WAR leader Corey Kluber and 200-inning, 216-strikeout man Justin Verlander — rightfully rank higher than Porcello despite his 20-3 record.

Yet, it’s also clear that WAR doesn’t fully appreciate Porcello’s gift to his team.

It ranks Detroit Tigers rookie Michael Fulmer three spots above Porcello at five Wins Above Replacement. Certainly, Fulmer has dazzled, with an AL-best 2.76 ERA and an adjusted ERA-plus of 150, good for third in the AL.

Just one problem: Fulmer, 23, has pitched just 143.2 innings, as the Tigers have wisely limited the innings for their slam-dunk AL rookie of the year.

Fulmer’s lone significant edge on Porcello is in ERA. Yet it seems almost inevitable that number would

rise with greater exposure to hitters and the fatigue that comes with more miles on his season’s odometer.

As for value? Well, ask any pitching coach the value of the 50 extra innings Porcello provided to his staff.

Now, one might ask, why should Porcello’s win total matter? At this point, we offer a mild defence of a statistic headed toward the endangered species list after years in the crosshairs of cable TV shouters and advanced metrics denizens.

While it’s wonderful to isolate performance, the game still remains a mano a mano competition, its basic goal to merely be better than the other guy on a given night — over 162 nights. The Red Sox were better than their opponents on 22 of the 29 nights Porcello took the ball, due in no small part to the fact he held teams to three runs or less on 21 of those occasions, and two runs or less in 13 starts. That matters a little bit.

Sure, nobody wants to go back to the bad old days of 1990, when Bob Welch ran away with the Cy Young Award thanks to a gaudy 27-win total. Never mind that Roger Clemens struck out 105 more batters, was a run better in ERA, held a 10.6 to 3 WAR edge and an absurd disparity in FIP (2.18 to 4.19).

He led the AL in the latter three categories while Welch finished sixth, 20th and 32nd, respectively. Yet, with FIP and WAR just a glimmer in Bill James’ eyes at that time, Welch received 15 first-place votes to Clemens’ eight.

Clemens’ season plays well in any era. But Porcello’s stands up particularly well in this one, where durability is the exception.

Sure, we’re not implying he’s the Cy Young favourite. Rather, we implore Porcello to enjoy his feat — and for everyone else to appreciate that it has perhaps a bit more value than you’d think.

> OBITUARY **ELLEN BURKA**

Figure skating legend was ‘tough as nails’

Burka coached in six Olympics, trained likes of Cranston, Stojko, Chan

PETER GOFFIN
STAFF REPORTER

Ellen Burka encouraged creativity on ice, asking her skaters to find a connection with their music, all while demanding technical excellence. The celebrated Canadian figure skating coach died Monday at the age of 95.

Burka coached in six Olympic Games — the last one in Albertville, France in 1992 — over a career that spanned six decades, and trained a roster of Olympic and world championship skaters that included Toller Cranston, Dorothy Hamill, Patrick Chan and Tracey Wainman.

She would continue coaching until the age of 93, and was remembered by the figure skating world as an in-

novator who brought unprecedented creativity to her sport.

“She was one of the first coaches to take a figure skater, Toller Cranston, and let him be free with movement when nobody else was, and it started a whole new trend,” said her daughter Petra Burka, who won the 1964 Olympic bronze medal and 1965 world championship under her mother’s tutelage.

“She was a very strong lady and expected perfection from everyone,” Petra told the Star. “She was tough, tough as nails.”

Cranston, who died in 2015, is remembered as a highly innovative and expressive skater, known for his artistic work on and off the ice, a sensibility encouraged by Burka.

“I truly believe there would not have been a Toller Cranston without Ellen Burka,” choreographer Sandra Bezic told The Canadian Press. “She saw what he had when few others did

and took him under her wing and nurtured him in the best way possible. He became what he became because she instilled discipline in him that he didn’t have and direction and focus and yet allowed him to be him.

“Those two, hand in hand, couldn’t have happened any other way.”

That tough coaching edge took some time to develop, though. Burka found her daughter’s competitions a challenge to watch: “She used to hide around the corner and not be there.”

Over time, Burka developed into a confident coach who brought an artistic sensibility to her work. Elvis Stojko, the three-time world champion and two-time Olympic silver medalist, trained under Burka from age nine to 15. He recalled her music-focused approach to skating.

“Even when I was a kid growing up, working with her in my formative years, it was really imperative, it was



RICK MADONIK/TORONTO STAR
Legendary figure skating coach Ellen Burka, right, couldn’t watch daughter Petra, left, in competition.

all about connecting with the music,” Stojko said. “She loved music, she loved that marriage of the two, that self-expression. That really came out in the work that she did and the skaters she worked with.”

Born in the Netherlands to a Jewish family, Burka saw her parents loaded

onto a train and shipped to their deaths during the Holocaust. Burka ended up in what is now the Czech Republic at Theresienstadt concentration camp, where she met her future husband, Jan Burka.

After the war, Burka won two Dutch national skating championships before she, Jan and their two daughters emigrated to Toronto. When Burka and her husband divorced, she turned to coaching to pay the bills, Petra said.

“My mother had a great influence on the lives of all her skaters,” said her daughter Astra Burka. “She was a life coach, she wasn’t just a skating coach.”

In a statement Tuesday, Skate Canada called Burka “one of the world’s most respected coaches and choreographers.”

She was awarded the Order of Canada in 1978, and inducted into Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame in 1996.

Broncos play hard, not dirty, team says

Helmet-to-helmet hits on QB have some critics suggesting Denver D has crossed the line

ARNIE STAPLETON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENGLEWOOD, COLO.—Nasty, hard-hitting, wicked. Sure. But dirty? No way, say the Denver Broncos.

“I just don’t think that’s what we are,” linebacker Todd Davis said. “We’re not malicious. We don’t intentionally go to hurt anybody. We just play hard. We play physical.”

What about all those helmet-to-helmet hits on Cam Newton?

“Just because we hit Cam in the head a couple of times, that doesn’t make us dirty,” insisted linebacker Brandon Marshall, who had one of four helmet-to-helmet hits on Carolina’s big quarterback in the Broncos’ 21-20 win over the Panthers on Thursday night.

The brutality of the game sparked debates over league safety, sideline concussion protocol, the ability of the NFL MVP to survive, much less continue to thrive, as a read-option QB and yes, whether Denver’s devastating defence crossed the line from dominant to dirty.

Although none of the helmet hits on Newton resulted in penalty yardage and none got him checked for a concussion, Marshall said he’s expecting a FedEx letter in his locker Wednesday informing him of a hefty fine.



JOE MAHONEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton lies on the turf after a roughing the passer penalty on Denver Broncos free safety Darian Stewart last week.

Safety Darian Stewart, whose helmet-to-helmet hit left Newton motionless on the ground in the game’s final minute, is bracing for such a letter, too. His hit drew a flag but it was negated by intentional grounding.

The other helmet-to-helmet hits came from Super Bowl MVP Von Miller and cornerback Bradley Roby, who was fined \$24,309 for his illegal hit on Rams receiver Duke Williams in an Aug. 27 exhibition game — a sizable forfeiture given that NFL veterans make \$1,900 a week in the preseason.

Marshall said what he considers a

dirty play is “stepping on somebody’s ankle at the bottom of a pile, twisting somebody around, something like that. We just play hard. We hit hard. We play fast . . . It’s the speed of the game. We’re a malicious group, but we’re not dirty.”

Marshall said the word dirty should only be used when a team deliberately breaks the rules.

“Yeah, dirty is intentional,” Marshall said. “One time I was in college man and I made a tackle and I saw a player from Utah State run around the pile. I’m on the ground still. He ran around the pile, he grabbed my ankle, stepped on it and twisted it.

That’s dirty. We don’t do stuff like that.”

Marshall said he meant to hit Newton hard but not in the head, and Stewart said he thought he led with his shoulder on his big hit.

If fined, Stewart said, “I’m definitely going to appeal. I didn’t think it was that type of play.”

Broncos coach Gary Kubiak also dismissed the notion of his defence being dirty, saying, “We play hard. We’re going to continue to play hard.”

Kubiak called Newton the league’s best player and said when he leaves the pocket, “you better tackle him

like a (running) back.”

Marshall said other teams will be hitting Newton the same way, too, because he’s like a defensive end barrelling down on defenders and the only way for a smaller safety or linebacker to bring him down is to go high or low.

Denver defensive end Derek Wolfe said the league should be looking at the Panthers’ O-linemen for their dirty play. He told Bleacher Report the Panthers were “cutting out legs, grabbing the facemask, grabbing our pads, tackling our legs . . . they just let these offensive linemen get away with murder.”

> CFL THIS WEEK

Willy or no Willy, Bombers adding new wrinkles for Argos

CURTIS RUSH
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The Blue Bombers don’t have to worry about Drew Willy coming back to haunt them this week — on the field, that is.

The Toronto Argonauts will sit their new trade acquisition Saturday in Winnipeg (2 p.m., TSN) and start Dan LeFevre against the Blue Bombers. But Willy will be a valuable asset in the study room and on the sidelines, helping the Argos (5-6) exploit the soft spots in his old team.

That’s why Winnipeg head coach Mike O’Shea is going to add some new plays this week to throw Willy off.

“Drew is a very smart player,” O’Shea said Tuesday. “He knows us well. I’m drawing up wrinkles right now. But I really think Drew’s focus will be on Toronto’s playbook.”

The Bombers (7-4) acquired Toronto defensive back T.J. Heath and Montreal quarterback Kevin Glenn in separate deals Sunday.

Heath was one of the league’s top performers last week, when he had a game-high seven tackles and two picks in his last game with the Argos. He is tied for the league lead in interceptions (five) with Bombers’ Maurice Leggett.

O’Shea said Heath, a first-year CFL player, has a veteran’s presence. The

product of Jacksonville State is 29 and has had a number of NFL stops.

The Bombers’ willingness to trade Willy was further indication of how highly they regard Matt Nichols, who took over the starting job.

“When you win games and you take care of the football, there’s a positivity that success brings,” O’Shea said. “The team is feeling upbeat.”

Bombers GM Kyle Walters said Nichols, who has a quicker release and makes his reads faster than Willy, was a better fit with offensive coordinator Paul LaPolice and what he wanted to accomplish.

“Certain guys click with certain coordinators a little bit better than others,” Walters told reporters Monday. “It’s not uncommon.”

Since installing Nichols as No. 1, the Bombers have won six straight games. And the confidence has spread to the defence, ranked second in the league behind Calgary.

Turnovers are often the difference between winning and losing, and Winnipeg has had the edge in those all-important battles. They lead the CFL in takeover ratio with a plus-23.

WEEK 13 SCHEDULE

Montreal (3-8) at Hamilton (5-6), Friday, 7 p.m.

The Alouettes seem to be disintegrating and that plays right into the

Fighting Als: Quarterback Cato gets in shouting match with his receivers

THE CANADIAN PRESS
MONTREAL—A season in which just about everything has gone wrong for the Montreal Alouettes took another turn Tuesday when new starting quarterback Rakeem Cato had a meltdown on the field during practice.

The second-year quarterback was led off the field by special teams co-ordinator Kavis Reed after losing

his temper and shouting at Kenny Stafford and Duron Carter about what he called a lack of respect from the veteran receivers.

The incident came in the first practice after veteran quarterback Kevin Glenn was traded to Winnipeg on Sunday, leaving the starting job to Cato.

“It’s about respect,” a still-seething Cato said after he was brought back

to speak to the media by Reed. “I may not know you from a can of paint, but I’m going to respect you every day.

“That’s how I feel about life. I’m not going to just take BS from anybody. I just want to be treated as a man. Nothing less.”

Neither Cato nor the receivers would say exactly caused him to lose his cool late in the two-hour workout at Hebert Park.

hands of the Tiger-Cats, who struggled in losing to Toronto on Sunday. Hamilton QB Zach Collaros threw two interceptions and his completion percentage was a dreary 56.4 per cent, despite Terrence Toliver and Chad Owens each getting more than 100 yards receiving. Montreal’s defence, led by linebacker Bear Woods, is still among the best in the league. They need to be again.

Ottawa (5-4-1) at Calgary (9-1-1), Saturday, 5 p.m.

Ottawa has been the only team other than the B.C. Lions to put a blemish on Calgary’s record, having tied the Stampeders 26-26 on July 8. In that game, Trevor Harris and Bo Levi

Mitchell were neck-and-neck in an aerial show. Harris rolled up 396 yards and Mitchell threw for 368.

Edmonton (5-6) at Saskatchewan (1-10), Sunday, 4:30 p.m.

Edmonton, last year’s Grey Cup champion, is in danger of missing the playoffs. Mike Reilly has been beaten up physically, and perhaps mentally, in the last two losses to Calgary. The Riders have been playing better of late, especially the connection of Darian Durant and wide receiver Naaman Roosevelt. Roosevelt has gone over 100 yards receiving in two of his last three games. The Eskimos won both previous meetings, 39-36 and 33-25.

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>>SPORTS

Russian hackers release stars’ info, WADA says

REBECCA R. RUIZ
NEW YORK TIMES

Russian computer hackers penetrated the World Anti-Doping Agency’s athlete database and publicly revealed private medical information about three of the United States’ most famous athletes.

The hackers published documents this week showing that Serena Williams, Venus Williams and Simone Biles received medical exemptions to use banned drugs.

The anti-doping agency confirmed the authenticity of the documents in a statement Tuesday, attributing the

hack to a Russian cyberespionage group called Tsar Team, also known as Fancy Bear.

“WADA deeply regrets this situation and is very conscious of the threat that it represents to athletes whose confidential information has been divulged through this criminal act,” Olivier Niggli, WADA’s director general, said Tuesday.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency said the athletes in question had sought the requisite approvals to take typically prohibited substances, and that none of the drug positives constituted a violation.



Hackers revealed Serena Williams was among those with medical exemptions for banned drugs.

Athletes with particular medical conditions may apply for special permission to take banned substances; the list of such prohibited drugs is updated each year.

In 2016, meldonium — a heart medication that improves blood flow — was added to that list, resulting in

drug violations for several Russian athletes, including tennis star Maria Sharapova.

Sharapova was barred from competition for two years. She appealed that decision at an arbitration hearing in New York this month, and awaits a verdict in October.

The records published this week show that at the Rio Games, Biles — the 19-year-old gymnast who took home four gold medals — tested positive for a substance that is on the banned list.

The International Tennis Federation confirmed that exceptions were

granted for Serena and Venus Williams to take substances included on that list, certifying the organization had approved them.

“In each of the situations, the athlete has done everything right in adhering to the global rules for obtaining permission to use a needed medication,” said Travis T. Tygart, president of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

“It’s unthinkable that in the Olympic movement, hackers would illegally obtain confidential medical information in an attempt to smear athletes to make it look as if they have done something wrong.”

GOLDEN PARALYMPIAN

France’s Marie-Amelie Le Fur wins the 400-metre final



ATSUSHI TOMURA/GETTY IMAGES

Marie-Amelie Le Fur celebrates winning the 400 metres, T44 final — three days after winning a gold medal in the long jump.

Wheelchair hoop dreams dashed

First Paralympics in 30 years without Canada taking home a top-three finish in the sport

LORI EWING
THE CANADIAN PRESS

RIO DE JANEIRO—One by one, they wheeled off the court, fighting back tears in a losing battle.

Canada’s women’s wheelchair basketball players had their dreams of a Paralympic medal dashed — again — with a 78-60 quarter-final loss to the Netherlands on Tuesday.

And now Canada, once so thoroughly dominant in the global wheelchair game, will leave the Paralympics without a medal in the event for the first time in nearly 30 years.

“It’s not a good feeling. It happened, the same thing in London (in 2012) ... It’s just a pretty awful feeling,” said Cindy Ouellet, pausing to gulp back tears. “Sorry.”

The 27-year-old from Quebec City scored 20 points, while Janet McLachlan of North Vancouver, B.C., added 18 to lead the defending world champions, who trailed just 19-18 after the first quarter, but went into the dressing room trailing 42-29 at half-time, a deficit they would never quite make up. The Canadian women will play China to decide fifth place on Friday.

Canada’s men’s team, who watched on with gloomy faces, fared no better in Rio. The defending Paralympic champions went 0-5 in the prelimi-

nary round, and will face Algeria for 11th place on Wednesday morning.

The results are a big blow to a program that hasn’t gone without a Paralympic medal since 1988 in Seoul. Since the women won their first of three straight Paralympic gold medals in 1992, they’ve boasted six titles between the two teams.

The rest of the world, said women’s coach Bill Johnson, has simply caught up.

“I think back to my first Games in 2004, and on the women’s side there were two (teams, figuratively), there was Canada and the U.S., and that was it,” Johnson said. “The growth has been incredible the last few years, and it means that we have to keep working to keep up with the rest of the world, and that’s what sport is all about.”

The growth is both a blessing and curse for Canada. McLachlan said she wouldn’t want it any other way.

“I came from able-bodied sport where the competition was always really high, and that is, I think, what I love about sport,” said McLachlan, who won two Canadian university titles with the University of Victoria before suffering a devastating knee injury playing rugby.

The Canadian women also boast four straight world titles, between 1994 and 2006, and are coming off a victory at the 2014 world tournament in Toronto.

They would pull to within seven points in the third quarter Tuesday



Canadian captain Cindy Ouellet had 20 points in Tuesday’s quarter-final loss to the Netherlands.

at Rio Olympic Arena, but a Dutch buzzer-beater to end the period gave the Netherlands a 60-49 advantage heading into the fourth.

Ouellet, who was diagnosed with bone cancer at the age of 12 that left her with no feeling or movement in her left leg, wheeled painfully to the sideline as the clock ticked down. She’d dislocated her knee.

McLachlan said there were positives to take away from the loss.

“I honestly do feel like we left everything on the court, and it’s actually the most important thing. If we had

regrets, then we could hang our heads,” McLachlan said. “But to lose on a day to a better team, it happens. It’s sports, and it’s why we play this, because if we just won all the time, it wouldn’t be as exciting, it wouldn’t be as interesting and it wouldn’t mean as much.

“Yes, it’s crushing today. But we’ll take the time, we’ll shed a few tears I think, and ... we’ll regroup for the next Games.”

The players gathered at their bench after the cruel final buzzer sounded for ‘high fives and ‘good job’ and ‘head up,’ ” said McLachlan, who plays in a pro wheelchair league in Germany. “Still words of encouragement.”

“This is such a great group of girls and everyone has been so positive. It would be so easy after a loss like that to hang our heads and point fingers, and no one is doing it, everyone is being positive, and that’s fantastic. It means so much to be part of a team like that.”

Canada went 3-1 in the preliminary round, the team’s one loss coming against Britain.

The Canadian men, led by flag-bearer David Eng, were expected to have a tough time in Rio after losing half of their roster after the London Olympics. The biggest blow was the retirement of Patrick Anderson, one of the greatest players in the history of the sport.

They won gold in three of the last four Paralympic Games.

Rivard swims to second gold

Canadian swimmer drawing comparisons to Olympian Oleksiak after third medal

LORI EWING
THE CANADIAN PRESS

RIO DI JANIERO, BRAZIL—Canadian swimmer Aurelie Rivard added another Paralympic gold medal to the collection she’s carefully stashing out of sight in her suitcase.

The 20-year-old from Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., won the 100-metre freestyle on Tuesday, her third medal of the Rio Paralympics, and second gold. Then she planned to tuck it away to savour later.

“Because even if I win, my meet is not done, I still have three races to go,” Rivard said. “So I really just want to focus as much as I can on my races and after that, I’m going to think about the medals and what I accomplished.

“Once my meet is over, this is when I’m going to start to realize this happened.”

Rivard led virtually from the moment she touched the water, finishing in 59.31 seconds — the only negative on an otherwise brilliant night for the young Canadian.

“I wanted the gold and I got it,” she said. “But I’m a little disappointed in my own performance. I own the world record (of 59.17), so of course I wanted to break my own time, wanted to improve myself.”

She edged New Zealand rival Sophie Pascoe, who touched second in 59.85 then leaned over the lane rope to wrap the Canadian in a long hug.

Rivard’s was one of two medals on the night for the swim team. Tess Routliffe of Caledon, Ont., captured a silver in the women’s 200 individual medley. Nikita Howarth of New Zealand won the gold in 2:57.29, while Routliffe, who was born with hypochondroplasia dwarfism, finished in 3:02.05.

Rivard, who was born without a left hand, claimed Canada’s first gold medal of the Games when she won the 50 freestyle in a world record time. She added a silver in the 200 individual medley two nights later.

Her Paralympic performance is reminiscent of Penny Oleksiak, the 16-year-old who won gold in the same event at last month’s Olympics, part of a four-medal performance.

“That parallel has been drawn, and I can see why,” said Carla Qualtrough, Canada’s new sport minister and a Paralympic swimming medalist. “Aurelie is a wonderful ambassador, and she’s the future.”

Table tennis player Stephanie Chan of Richmond, B.C., lost the bronze-medal match in the women’s class 7 to Seong-Ok Kim of South Korea 12-14, 11-7, 11-7, 11-8. Chan was the first Canadian to play for a medal at the modern Paralympics in table tennis.

New sports hall of fame exhibit celebrates Terry Fox the athlete

‘He was running the greatest race of all,’ younger brother says of 5,300-km marathon

DONNA SPENCER
THE CANADIAN PRESS

CALGARY—Terry Fox won no races nor set any Canadian running records. There wasn’t a frame of reference in 1980 for an above-the-knee amputee running almost a marathon daily on an artificial leg for 143 consecutive days.

But an exhibit unveiled Tuesday at Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame just days away from his namesake run would have meant a lot to Terry Fox, says younger brother Darrell.

Terry Fox saw his Marathon of Hope as much of an athletic endeavour as it was a campaign to raise money and awareness about cancer.

“Terry did not crave recognition for himself. In fact, he ran away from it,” Darrell said. “He did appreciate being recognized as an athlete.

“He thought what he did, what he

accomplished was an athletic feat, but there were no benchmarks, no standards. He wasn’t running against anyone. He was running in the greatest race of all.”

The 36th edition of the Terry Fox Run will be held in cities and towns across Canada on Sunday. About \$700 million has been raised in his name for cancer treatment and research.

Fox lost his right leg to bone cancer at the age of 18 in 1977. On April 12, 1980, he dipped his prosthetic leg in

to the ocean waters off of St. John’s, N.L., to begin his cross-Canada run home to Vancouver. He was accompanied by 17-year-old Darrell and high school buddy Doug Alward.

“We were three young guys in a stinky Ford van traversing the country one mile at a time,” Darrell recalled. “I was a sponge to what Terry was accomplishing. I was witnessing it, I was seeing the reaction of everyday Canadians on the side of the road. That’s what I experience every day now from that next generation

who are learning the story. They’re not only learning the story of Terry Fox. They’re embracing it.”

The return of cancer to his lungs halted Fox in Thunder Bay, Ont., after 5,342 kilometres. Fox died June 28, 1981, at age 22.

He was inducted into the sports hall of fame two months after his death.

The hall has devoted a room to the travelling exhibit entitled “Terry Fox: Running to the Heart of Canada” and organized by the Canadian Museum of History. It runs until Dec. 31.

> **BASKETBALL****Thunder forward gets new drug ban**

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Mitch McGary has been suspended without pay for at least 10 games for violating the terms of the league's anti-drug policy. The league announced Tuesday that the suspension will begin when the Thunder forward has finished serving a five-game drug suspension that was announced in July. After the previous suspension, McGary said in a statement that he needed to "take accountability and ensure that this does not happen again."

> **HOCKEY****Canucks sign Ruutu to PTO**

VANCOUVER—The Vancouver Canucks have signed three players to professional tryout contracts, including veteran right winger Tuomo Ruutu. Vancouver also signed centre James Sheppard and goaltender Kevin Carr. The 33-year-old Ruutu played 33 games with the Devils last season and has 148 goals, 346 points and 596 penalty minutes in 735 NHL games with Chicago, Carolina and New Jersey. He was selected ninth overall in the 2001 NHL draft by Chicago.

> **TENNIS****Nestor out of Davis Cup**

HALIFAX—A lingering injury has forced Canadian doubles star Daniel Nestor to skip this weekend's Davis Cup playoff series in Halifax. The news came as a blow to the Canadian team, which learned last week they would be without top player Milos Raonic when they face Chile. The 44-year-old Nestor says he pulled something in his calf before the U.S. Open and made the things worse by trying to play. Canada is 12th in the Davis Cup rankings while Chile sits at No. 23.

> **TENNIS****Sharapova appeal delayed**

LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND—The verdict in Maria Sharapova's appeal against a two-year ban for doping has been delayed a second time. Sharapova should find out the decision in her case against the International Tennis Federation next month, the Court of Arbitration for Sport said Tuesday. The Russian tennis star had initially hoped to get a fast-track verdict in July before the Rio Olympics. She was banned in June by the ITF after testing positive for meldonium at the Australian Open.

> **HOCKEY****O'Reilly replaces Seguin for Canada**

PITTSBURGH—Canada named Buffalo Sabres centre Ryan O'Reilly to its World Cup squad Tuesday night to replace Tyler Seguin. Seguin will miss the tournament with an undisclosed lower body injury. O'Reilly, 25, was one of only three players to win back-to-back IIHF World Championship gold with Canada in 2015 and 2016. O'Reilly also won gold with Canada at the 2008 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament. He will join the team Wednesday.

Star wire services

MLB**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

EAST DIVISION										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Boston	81	63	.563	—	—	6-4	L-1	42-31	39-32	
Toronto	77	65	.549	2	—	3-7	L-1	42-31	37-34	
Baltimore	74	70	.514	9½	5	5-5	W-2	39-33	39-35	
N.Y. Yankees	67	67	.535	4	2	8-2	W-1	44-30	33-37	
Tampa Bay	71	83	.424	20	18	3-7	W-1	35-40	26-43	
CENTRAL DIVISION										
Cleveland	83	60	.580	—	—	6-4	L-1	47-25	36-35	
Detroit	77	67	.535	6½	2	4-6	L-1	41-31	36-36	
Houston	75	70	.517	11½	4½	4-6	L-3	40-33	35-37	
Chicago W Sox	69	74	.483	14	9½	6-4	W-1	39-32	30-42	
Minnesota	54	91	.372	30	25½	4-6	W-1	29-46	25-45	
WEST DIVISION										
Texas	87	59	.596	—	—	5-5	W-2	47-22	40-37	
Seattle	76	68	.528	10	3	7-3	W-6	40-31	36-37	
Los Angeles	75	70	.517	11½	4½	4-6	L-3	40-33	35-37	
L.A. Angels	63	80	.441	22½	15½	4-6	L-1	33-36	30-44	
Oakland	62	82	.431	24	17	5-5	W-2	33-42	29-40	
Tuesday's results										
Tampa Bay 6 Toronto 2					Chicago White Sox 11 Cleveland 4					
Baltimore 6 Boston 3					L.A. Dodgers 8 N.Y. Yankees 2					
Minnesota 8 Detroit 1					Oakland 16 Kansas City 3					
N.Y. Yankees 3 L.A. Dodgers 0					Seattle 14 L.A. Angels 1					
Oakland 5 Kansas City 4					Texas 4 Houston 3 (12 innings)					
Texas 3 Houston 2					Thursday's games					
Cleveland at Chicago White Sox					Minnesota at Detroit, 1:10 p.m.					
Seattle at L.A. Angels					Cleveland at Chicago White Sox, 2:10 p.m.					
Monday's results					Tampa Bay at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.					
Toronto 3 Tampa Bay 2					N.Y. Yankees at Boston, 7:10 p.m.					
Boston 12 Baltimore 2					Oakland at Kansas City, 7:15 p.m.					
					Toronto at L.A. Angels, 10:05 p.m.					

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Team	Pitcher	Time	2016 W-L	ERA	Team Rec	W-L	Last 3 starts	W-L	ERA
Tampa Bay Toronto	Cobb Estrada 12:37p	0-0	4.09	1-1	0-0	11.0	4.09	0-8	3.68 13-12 1-0 14.1 5.65
Baltimore Boston	Gausman Porcello 7:10p	7-10	3.61	12-14	2-0	19.0	1.42	8-3	3.21 22-7 3-0 21.0 3.00
Minnesota Detroit	Duffey Sanchez 7:10p	20-11	6.13	10-13	0-3	11.0	10.03	8-13	5.69 6-18 0-1 15.2 4.60
Oakland Kansas City	Manaea Ventura 7:15p	5-9	4.40	9-11	1-2	16.1	3.31	10-10	4.26 16-12 1-1 17.1 4.15
Cleveland Chicago W Sox	Tomlin Rodon 8:10p	11-8	4.85	16-9	0-2	10.1	14.81	7-8	3.80 11-13 3-0 19.0 2.37
Texas Houston	Darvish Musgrove 8:10p	4-4	3.28	8-6	1-1	17.1	4.67	2-4	4.78 2-5 1-2 15.2 4.02
Seattle L.A. Angels	Iwakuma Skaggs 10:05p	15-11	3.96	17-12	1-2	16.0	5.40	3-3	4.13 3-6 2-0 18.0 1.50

INTERLEAGUE

L.A. Dodgers	Kershaw	11-3	1.89	14-3	1-2	16.0	3.94
N.Y. Yankees	Pineda	6-11	5.07	14-14	0-1	14.2	5.52

AMERICAN LEAGUE**RAYS 6, BLUE JAYS 2**

Team	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Forsythe 2b	5	0	1	0	2	277	
Kiermaier cf	3	0	1	0	1	247	
Longoria 3b	5	0	0	0	1	272	
Miller 1b	4	0	1	0	1	249	
Franklin if	3	0	0	1	0	282	
Dickerson dh	4	2	2	0	1	243	
Souza Jr. rf	1	3	1	3	0	239	
A.Ramirez ss	3	1	2	3	0	1	300
Wilson c	2	0	0	2	1	250	
Totals	30	6	7	5	7	8	
Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	
Travis 2b	4	0	1	0	1	305	
Bautista dh	2	1	0	0	2	227	
Encarnacion 1b	4	0	0	0	2	265	
Martin c	4	1	2	1	0	238	
Tulowitzki ss	4	0	3	0	0	261	
Upton if	4	0	1	0	1	208	
Pillar cf	4	0	1	0	0	264	
Carrera rf	4	0	1	0	0	238	
Barney 3b	2	0	1	0	0	269	
a-Navarro ph	1	0	0	0	0	158	
Goins 3b	1	0	0	0	0	188	
b-Saunders ph	1	0	0	0	0	263	
Totals	34	2	9	2	7	8	
Toronto	000	0	10	2	7	0	

a-flied out for Barney in the 7th. b-flied out for Goins in the 10th. LOB—Tampa Bay 6, Toronto 7. 2B—Dickerson (32), Carrera (9). HR—A-Ramirez (6), off Stroman; Souza Jr. (17), off Biagini; Martin (18), off Smyly. RBIs—Forsythe (49), Souza Jr. (48), A-Ramirez (24), Martin (2). 67. SB—Kiermaier (23). S—A-Ramirez. Runners left in scoring position—Tampa Bay 2 (Longoria, Franklin); Toronto 3 (Encarnacion 2, Barney). RISP—Tampa Bay 1 for 7; Toronto 0 for 2. LIDP—Longoria. GIDP—Forsythe, Dickerson, Upton, Pillar. DP—Tampa Bay 2 (A-Ramirez, Forsythe, Miller), Longoria, Forsythe, Miller; Toronto 3 (Travis, Encarnacion), (Tulowitzki, Travis, Encarnacion), (Carrera, Encarnacion).

B5080H	A6	K	H	B	S	O		
Agarwal 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	299	
Bogaerts ss	5	1	1	1	0	0	495	
Ortiz dh	5	0	1	0	0	0	317	
Betts rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	311	
H.Ramirez 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	285	
Shaw 3b	4	1	3	0	0	0	255	
Young lf	2	1	0	0	0	2	287	
Blanchy Jr cf	4	0	2	0	0	0	287	
Miller 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	167	
Travis, Encarnacion	3	1	0	0	0	0	354	
C-Leon ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0	354	
Totals	35	3	9	3	4	6		

Garton pitched to 1 batter in the 7th. Dermody pitched to 1 batter in the 9th. Loup pitched to 1 batter in the 9th. Inherited runners—scored—Eveland 1-0, Farquhar 1-0, Feldman 1-1, Loup 2-1, Tepera 2-0. HBP—Loup (Kiermaier). WP—Loup. Umpires—Home, Bill Welke; First, Stu Scheuerwater; Second, John Hirschbeck; Third, D.J. Reyburn. T—3:10. A—38,338 (49,282) at Rogers Centre.

BLUE JAYS STATISTICS

BATTING	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
Travis	340	47	104	10	46	.306
Donaldson	518	112	147	14	92	.284
Encarnacion	531	90	142	39	115	.267
Paredes	15	2	4	1	2	.267
Barney	266	34	71	4	19	.267
Pillar	484	52	128	7	48	.265
Saunders	451	69	119	23	264	.264
Tulowitzki	417	50	107	23	71	.257
Martin	395	55	94	17	65	.238
Carrera	227	40	54	5	18	.238
Bautista	360	57	82	18	58	.228
Smook	288	32	64	14	34	.222
Upton	126	17	26	4	15	.206
Lake	35	5	7	1	2	.200
Goins	176	13	33	3	12	.188
Navarro	18	1	3	0	2	.167
Thole	116	7	18	1	7	.155
Ceciliani	27	2	3	0	1	.111
Colabello	29	0	2	0	1	.069
Burns	6	2	0	0	0	.000
Dominguez	11	0	0	0	0	.000
Pompey	2	2	0	0	0	.000

PITCHING





W	L	SV	IP	SO	ERA
Goins	0	0	0	1.0	0.00
Benoit	2	0	0	1.82	18.0
Osuna	2	2	32	62.0	7.4
Biagini	4	2	1	6.00	5.25
Grill	5	3	2	36.1	5.1
Sanchez	13	2	0	17.0	14.0
Happ	18	4	0	17.0	14.9
Barnes	0	0	0	10.2	10
3.38					

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION										
	W	L	Pct	GB	WGB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Washington	86	59	.593	—	—	7-3	L-1	45-28	41-31	
N.Y. Mets	77	68	.531	9	—	8-2	W-1	38-33	39-35	
Miami	72	73	.497	14	5	4-6	W-1	36-35	36-38	
Philadelphia	64	81	.441	22	13	4-6	L-1	31-40	33-41	
Atlanta	56	89	.386	30	21	4-6	L-1	24-47	32-42	
CENTRAL DIVISION										
Chicago Cubs	92	51	.643	—	—	6-4	W-2	51-20	41-31	
St. Louis	75	68	.524	17	1	5-5	L-2	32-40	43-28	
Pittsburgh	70	73	.490	22	6	3-7	W-1	39-38	34-35	
Milwaukee	64	81	.441	29	13	5-5	L-2	39-36	25-45	
Cincinnati	62	82	.431	30½	14½	5-5	W-5	36-37	26-45	
WEST DIVISION										
L.A. Dodgers	81	63	.563	—	—	7-3	L-1	47-27	34-36	
San Francisco	77	66	.538	3½	—	5-5	L-1	38-31	39-35	
Colorado	69	75	.479	12	7½	4-6	L-1	37-35	32-40	
San Diego	60	84	.417	21	16½	4-6	W-1	33-38	27-46	
Arizona	59	84	.413	21½	17	3-7	W-1	26-46	33-38	
Thursday's results										
Cincinnati 6 Milwaukee 4					Atlanta 12 Miami 7					
Miami 7 Atlanta 5					Chicago Cubs 4 St. Louis 1					
N.Y. Mets 4 Washington 3 (10 innings)					Cincinnati 3 Milwaukee 0					
N.Y. Yankees 3 L.A. Dodgers 0					L.A. Dodgers 8 N.Y. Yankees 2					
Pittsburgh 5 Philadelphia 3					Philadelphia 6 Pittsburgh 2					
Chicago Cubs at St. Louis					San Diego 4 San Francisco 0					
Colorado at Arizona					Washington 8 N.Y. Mets 1					
Thursday's games										
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.					Pittsburgh at Chicago, 8:05 p.m.					
Milwaukee at Chicago, 8:05 p.m.					L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.					
St. Louis at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.										
Monday's results										
Atlanta 12 Colorado 9										






TODAY'S FORECAST: HIGH 22 LOW 9

Toronto downtown

Morning 8 a.m.	Afternoon 2 p.m.	Evening 7 p.m.	Overnight low
17  <p>RealFeel: 14 Clouds and a few showers</p> <p>Wind NW 12-25 km/h</p>	20  <p>RealFeel: 18 Clouds and sun</p> <p>Wind NNW 15-25 km/h</p>	18  <p>RealFeel: 16 Clear and comfortable</p> <p>Wind NNW 12-25 km/h</p>	9  <p>RealFeel: 10 Clear and cooler</p> <p>Wind N 10-20 km/h</p>

AccuWeather RealFeel® The exclusive AccuWeather composite index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors

LOCAL FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Tomorrow	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
21  <p>12 P.O.P.: 0% Pleasant</p> <p>Wind E 8-16 km/h</p>	23  <p>16 P.O.P.: 0% Nice with sunshine</p>	24  <p>17 P.O.P.: 70% Showers and thunderstorms</p>	26  <p>14 P.O.P.: 30% Clouds and sun, stray showers</p>	26  <p>15 P.O.P.: 5% Partly sunny and pleasant</p>

P.O.P.: Probability of Precipitation

Live updates at [thestar.com](https://www.thestar.com)

Asia-Pacific			
	TODAY	THUR.	FRI.
Auckland	17/12r	18/13r	19/14c
Bangkok	33/25t	34/25t	34/25t
Beijing	31/18bc	33/18s	33/18bc
Hong Kong	33/28bc	32/27c	32/27c
Jakarta	31/25t	32/24t	31/24t
Karachi	33/24s	34/26s	34/26s
Manila	31/26t	31/26t	32/26t
Mumbai	31/26sh	30/27sh	30/27r
New Delhi	34/26ps	35/26bs	36/25s
Seoul	28/18c	28/19pc	28/19c
Singapore	30/26c	31/25t	32/25pc
Sydney	23/13r	22/12pc	22/12s
Tokyo	27/23r	28/23c	26/23c
Africa, Middle East			
Amman	29/18s	30/18s	28/18s
Baghdad	42/23s	42/23s	42/24s
Beirut	30/25pc	30/25s	30/24s
Cairo	35/25s	35/24s	33/23s
Dakar	30/26pc	31/27pc	32/26c
Harare	27/10s	28/12s	30/14s
Jerusalem	27/19s	28/18s	26/17s
Joh'burg	33/11sh	26/15s	28/9s
Lagos	27/24t	28/23c	29/25c
Nairobi	26/14c	25/13pc	26/12t
Riyadh	40/22s	40/23s	40/22s
Pacific			
Nassau	32/25pc	32/25pc	32/26pc
Puerto Plata	32/24t	32/24pc	32/24pc
San Jo. Jan.	30/22s	27/20c	26/22pc
Rio de Janeiro	22/9pc	21/10c	20/7pc
S. Domingo	32/22t	32/22pc	32/22pc
San Jose	27/19t	27/19t	25/18t

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