

# National pastime now international

Thursday, October 9, 1985 O&E

(S-85, No. 11A)O17A

NOW THAT the Tigers have failed to win their second American League pennant in a row and qualify for baseball's World Series, it may be a long time — even years — before we see them in such a high place again.

A check of the records shows the Tigers waited 16 years between pennants before last year's pennant. And they waited 25 years between pennants before winning the 1934 and '35 pennants.

So they will have to come back to winning ways next season — or it could be another long wait.

TO MAKE this year's conditions all the more interesting is the fact that the Toronto Blue Jays are on the way, and when they win the pennant they will be giving Canada a place in the American national pastime — the first in history.

It is true that Japan has baseball. But in the Japanese case, the players are small, and travel would be out of reach for participation in the major leagues.

So, you see, there is a big job cut out for the Tigers, and no one knows better than Sparky Anderson, the manager, that he needs plenty of changes before he can earn another World Series ring.

He knows his pitching staff is weak. So is his bench. On top of that, Lance Parrish, the catcher who is rated the best in the American League, is the victim of injuries.

IF THINGS work out and the Toronto Blue Jays get into the fall classic, they will give Canadian sports a big boost. And they will be getting even with the Red Wings for bringing hockey, a Canadian game, to Detroit in 1927.

At that time, when the Olympia Stadium was built on Grand River Avenue, there was little thought that Detroit

## the stroller W.W. Edgar

would become a centerpiece of hockey. But Jack Adams, one of the wisest of coaches in the game, brought the Wings up to the Stanley Cup — and made the Canadians like it.

More than that, the Wings became one of the best teams in hockey up to that point. They made Detroit and Michigan hockey conscious. If Toronto wins in baseball, it will be only squaring accounts.

THERE WILL be another side to it. If you check the Toronto roster, you will find that Rick Leach, whom the Tigers virtually gave away, is with the Blue Jays, and it would be ironic if he should happen to get into the game and play a worthy part.

When the Tigers traded Leach, just before a game started, he was trying out for first base and, seemingly, doing well. He was a fine fielder. But the Tigers claimed he wasn't powerful enough at the plate and let him go.

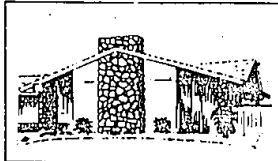
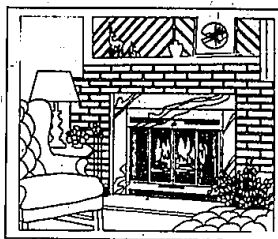
Fate plays some funny tricks. It wouldn't be at all surprising if Leach, a one-time outstanding University of Michigan football quarterback, would come through in the baseball series and give the Canadians a hold on some of the national pastime honors.

There sure would be a bit of moaning in the Tiger camp. But such things do happen. It will be interesting to see what happens while we're waiting for the Tigers to win the pennant again.

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## Cellist Frank at SC for free recital

Cellist Barton Frank will perform a free recital at Schoolcraft College at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10. It will be in room F-301 of the Forum Building on campus at 18800 Haggerty, Livonia.

Head of the cello faculty at Western Washington University, Frank is a graduate of the Curtis Institute and studied with Gregor Piatigorsky, one of the world's greatest cellists.

At 19 Frank was principal cellist with the National Symphony of Washington, D.C. Frank has performed with more than 100 major orchestras in the U.S., Canada and Mexico and also has

conducted. His instrument is a 1732 Stradivarius.

He will be accompanied by pianist Joseph Levine. The program is sponsored by a grant from the Louise Thayer Bryan Fund.

On the program are: a sonata by the 18th-century master, Corelli; a 1949 sonata by Sergei Prokofiev; Beethoven's second cello sonata; Frank's own variations on a theme of Paganini; "Meditation Hebraique" by Bloch; and themes from Rossini's "Marriage of Figaro" arranged by Castelnuovo-Tedesco.

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