

## Toronto, Detroit headed for final showdown

DETROIT (AP) — Baseball fans hooked on the drama provided by Detroit and Toronto last weekend can only hope for another injection of excitement this week.

There was no better baseball on God's green and carpeted earth than what the Tigers and Blue Jays provided in four crucial games in Toronto as they vie for the American League East title.

When they were over, the Blue Jays won three of them and held a 2½-game lead over Detroit.

The competition was so good that:

- All four games were decided by one run.
- In the last three games, the losing team was three outs away from winning.
- The team that scored first lost each game.
- Manny Lee, the replacement

for injured All-Star shortstop Tony Fernandez, made vital contributions for Toronto in all four games.

• MVP candidates George Bell and Alan Trammell had hits in every game. Each drove in two runs in the series.

Still, the Tigers needed 13 innings Sunday to salvage a 3-2 victory, keeping their hopes alive.

"It's the most pressure-packed game I've been in, from start to finish," said Detroit slugger Kirk Gibson, who hit a home run and singled home the winning run. "Emotions were up and down. I feel very relieved it's over. I feel like I've been standing for four days."

Gibson would like to get that feeling again.

The Blue Jays play three games with Milwaukee and the Tigers play four games with Baltimore before

the season-ending three-game series between the Tigers and Blue Jays in Tiger Stadium.

For the weekend in the Motor City to be meaningful, certain things must happen during the week:

• If Toronto sweeps Milwaukee, the Tigers must win three of four from Baltimore.

• If Toronto wins two of three from Milwaukee, the Tigers must win at least two of four from Baltimore.

• If Toronto wins one from Milwaukee, the Tigers must win at least one from Baltimore.

• If Toronto gets swept by Milwaukee, the Tigers will still be alive Friday, even if they get swept by Baltimore.

"Milwaukee's a very good ball club," Toronto Manager Jimmy Williams said. "We sure don't want to

get caught looking past the Brewers."

The Blue Jays and Tigers have the best records in baseball and their four games in Toronto showed that they are, indeed, as evenly matched as two such divergent clubs can be.

One major difference did emerge, however. That is: the Blue Jays have a vastly superior bullpen.

True, ace reliever Tom Henke gave up a key home run to Gibson on Sunday. But he struck Gibson out on the same pitch Thursday earning his 34th save.

But at least Toronto has an ace. Detroit has none. Willie Hernandez, who gave the Tigers their winning edge in 1984, is struggling.

If the two teams are tied after 162 games, the AL East will be decided by a one-game playoff Monday in Detroit.

## Dallas Sidekicks look ready to defend MISL title

DALLAS (AP) — Just three short months after winning the Major Indoor Soccer League championship, the Dallas Sidekicks are back on the court.

"We're pretty set heading into camp," Sidekicks Coach Gordon Jago said Monday as the team began training camp.

"We've got four roster spots open and we're just looking for someone to show something special before the season starts (Nov. 4 at Tacoma)."

Over the summer, Jago and assis-

tant Keith Weller kept busy signing and releasing players to add punch to the Sidekicks' roster.

Jago signed free-agent goalkeeper Joe Papaleo from the Tacoma Stars and free-agent forward Beto from the Los Angeles Lazers.

"Those two gave us exactly what we needed in a couple of key areas," Jago said.

"We're delighted to have them because they will only make us a stronger team and they're so young."

Beto is 22, and Papaleo is 25. With All-Star keeper Krys Sobieski and Papaleo, Dallas owns the best 1-2 keeper punch in the league, Jago said.

"We couldn't ask for a better situation at goalkeeper," Jago said.

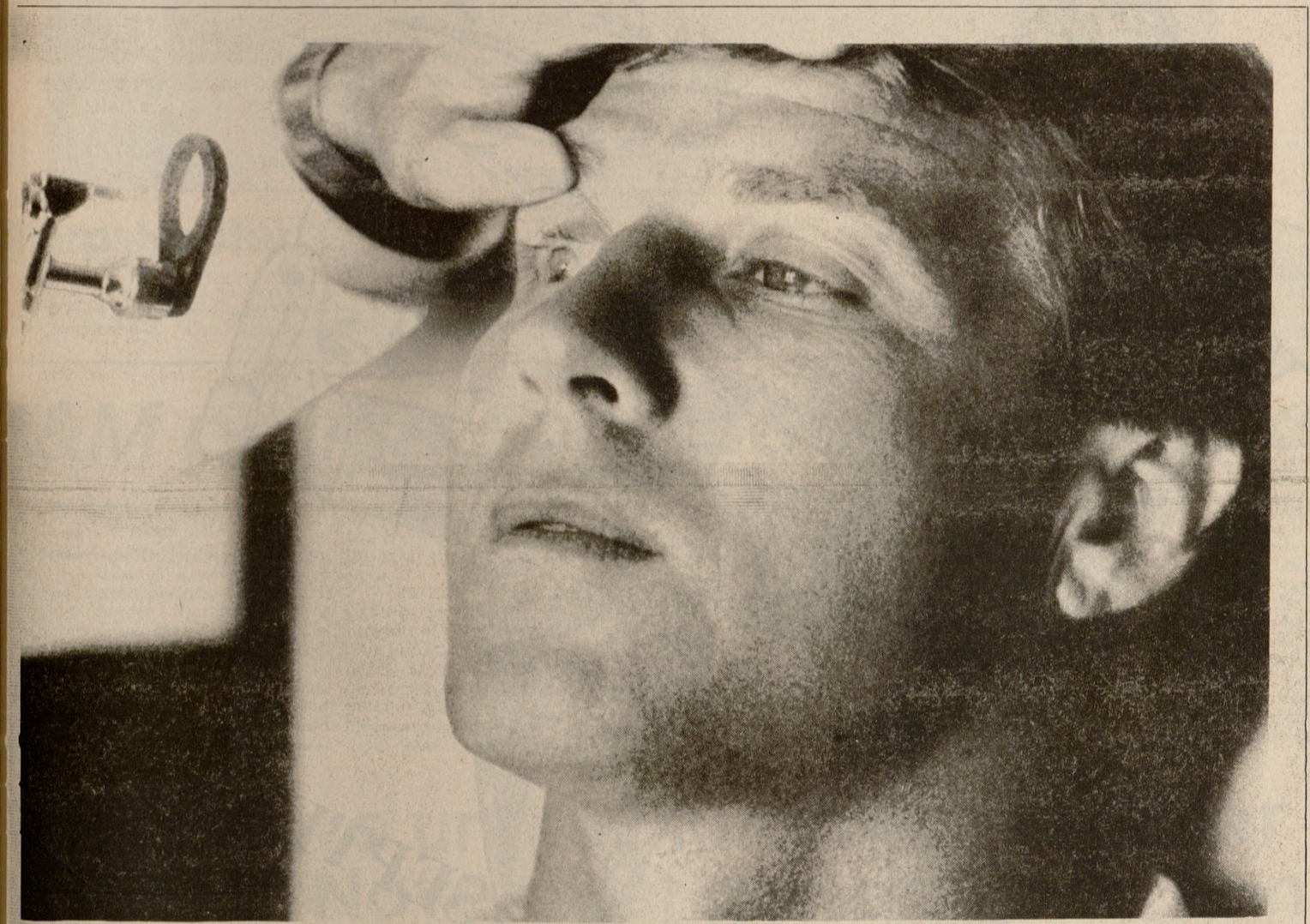
"We're in shape to have one of the league's best goalies in our nets every night."

Dallas, which has 24 players in camp, plays its first pre-season game Oct. 10 on the road against the Kansas City Comets.

The Sidekicks must be down to a 19-man active roster by Oct. 26.

The Sidekicks brought back 14 of last year's 19 roster players, returning the experienced nucleus of Tatu, the league's Most Valuable Player, playoff hero Mark Karpun and Sobieski.

Adding Beto, a proven 40-point scorer, to Tatu, Karpun and Willie Molano gives the Sidekicks plenty of scoring at forward and plenty to look forward to in the upcoming season.



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