

True sports

By Jamie Bradburn

We've raised the Stanley Cup 14 times, earned 16 Grey Cups and won the World Series twice. Here are some highlights from nearly a century and a half of thrills, heartbreak, milestones and oddities in Toronto sports.

Toronto Maple Leafs

1927: Conn Smythe buys the flailing St. Patricks and renames the team. "The Maple Leaf," he observed, "was the badge of courage." The team fulfilled that promise, winning 11 Stanley Cups over the next 40 years (the prior three wins occurred under previous team names).

1933: The NHL's first (unofficial) all-star game, held at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens, raises \$20,909 to benefit injured star Ace Bailey. The first official annual NHL All-Star Game was also held there in 1947.

1951: Bill Barilko scores the Stanley Cup winning goal, then dies in a plane crash four months later. The Leafs don't win another championship until 1962, the same year Barilko's remains are found.

1964: Despite a fractured ankle, Bob Baun scores the winning overtime goal in Game 6 of the Cup final. Baun joked, "It was the best break I ever had."

1999: The Leafs say goodbye to the aging Maple Leaf Gardens and drop the puck at a brand-new venue—The Air Canada Centre—in a game versus the Montreal Canadiens.

2014: *Forbes* declares the Leafs the most valuable team in the NHL (and 26th overall in the world) at \$1.15 billion US.

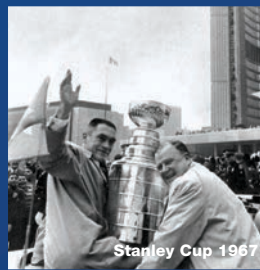


QUICK STOP

Want to pick up a jersey or a hat to support your favourite Toronto team? Stop by **Real Sports Apparel** inside The Air Canada Centre for Maple Leafs, Raptors, TFC and Marlies licensed gear. If you're a baseball fan, hit the **Jays Shop** at Rogers Centre.



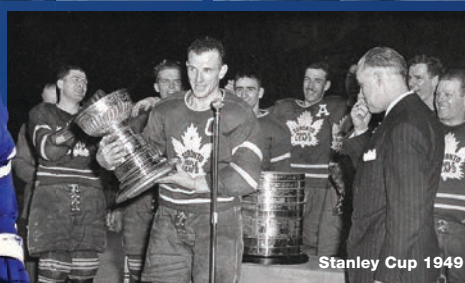
Maple Leaf Square



Stanley Cup 1967



Mats Sundin



Stanley Cup 1949



Joe Barnes 1983

Toronto Argonauts

1873: The Argonaut Rowing Club forms a football team to keep members busy after rowing season.

1914: Defeating the University of Toronto, the Argos win their first of 16 Grey Cups.

1950: Bad weather turns Varsity Stadium into a bog for the Grey Cup. The Argos triumph 13-0 over the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in a match dubbed "The Mud Bowl."

1980: Willie Wood becomes the CFL's first black head coach.

1983: A late fourth-quarter touchdown toss by backup quarterback Joe Barnes nets the Argos their first Grey Cup in 31 years.

1989: American import Michael Clemons earns the nickname "Pinball" for his knack for bouncing off would-be tacklers, beginning an association with the team that has lasted more than 25 years.

2012: The 100th Grey Cup game is played at Rogers Centre in Toronto. The Argos defeat the Calgary Stampeders to win their 16th Grey Cup title.



Grey Cup 2012



Michael "Pinball" Clemons

Photography: Lucas Oleniuk (Grey Cup), Mark Spowart (Toronto Maple Leafs), Katie Thebeau (Maple Leaf Square)