

A relaxed Gaston takes Toronto to top

By The Associated Press

TORONTO — Manager Cito Gaston's relaxed manner is working wonders in the clubhouse and on the field.

Since he replaced Jimmy Williams, the Toronto Blue Jays have jumped from last place to first in the American League East.

Gaston has certainly made changes. He's allowed the starters to pitch through more jams; used two or fewer relievers in most games; moved George Bell from cleanup to No. 3 and gave Mookie Wilson the center-field job, at least on artificial turf.

But the most important contributions are less visible.

"He's got the respect of the players where I don't think Jimmy ever did," said utility player Tom Lawless, who played for Whitey Herzog in St. Louis for four years.

"That's why you see the difference in the players. A manager's got to be liked or he's not going to get the

players to play for him. Cito does it through communication, day in and day out," Lawless said.

When Toronto Vice President Pat Gillick finally got around to hiring his "non-candidate" fulltime May 31, catcher Ernie Whitt recommended that Gaston "kick some butt."

Fans advocated screaming, yelling and benching. The 6'4" Gaston, all gentle and laid back on the surface but tough as nails underneath, would have none of it. It's not his style.

"I believe in talking to people," Gaston said. "I don't believe in screaming. My Mom always said, 'Treat people the way you want to be treated. If you scream at someone, he'd walk away.'"

Lloyd Moseby, happy despite losing his job to Wilson, says Gaston doesn't need to shout to get his point across.

When rookie Junior Felix got too cocky in early June, Gaston had a quiet chat with him. When a bewildered Jim Acker came to Toronto in a trade last week, Gaston waited until after everybody cleared the club-

house — around midnight — and then spoke to him.

Tour the clubhouse talking about Gaston and the words that come back are the same — respect and communication.

"Cito lets you go out and play," third baseman Kelly Gruber said. "He accepts you for the player that you are."

About 100 games into his managerial career, Gaston's headquarters in the high-tech clubhouse still looks like a rent-an-office. There are no photographs of movie stars, no trophies, no pictures, nothing on his desk but the day's stats.

Gaston, 45, spent 10 years playing for the San Diego Padres, Atlanta Braves and Pittsburgh Pirates before accepting Hank Aaron's invitation to become a roving hitting instructor for Atlanta.

He's learned a couple things in his travels. One is not to count on a secure job.

He made the All-Star team as a second-year player with San Diego in 1970, but slipped to .228 in 1971. He was injured in 1972 and never played fulltime again.

Council charges racism in PIAA

By ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH — PIAA executive director Russell T. Werner has offered to meet with a Pittsburgh civil rights group that has accused the state high school athletic regulatory agency of racism.

The Pittsburgh Area Religion and Race Council, a 25-member group involved in civil rights issues for 20 years, charged in a nine-page booklet that the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association traditionally has ignored minority issues.

According to the group, whose members are from various races and religions, the PIAA:

- Has never had a black professional on its executive staff and its policy-making, 21-member Board of Control has only one black member and one woman.
- Refused to conduct a survey to determine how many black coaches and game officials are employed statewide.
- Has made little effort to bring the Philadelphia city schools into

membership, thus denying the crowning of true state champions.

The civil rights group asked: "How could there be a real national championship in sports if a state like California or New York did not participate? How can there be a real Pennsylvania high school championship when the largest school district, Philadelphia, is not participating?"

■ Schedules state championships in almost all sports in rural, central locations — such as Hershey and Shippensburg — and rarely holds them in urban locations, such as Pittsburgh.

"It always seems as if the PIAA sends the (Pittsburgh) City schools, for whatever reason, out in the county for playoff games in basketball," said Howard Bullard, Allderdice High's boys' basketball coach. "It's as if they're trying to get rid of us."

Werner told *The Pittsburgh Press* he "didn't want to get into a dialogue in the media," but is willing to sit and discuss any concerns of the civil rights group.

"I'm still waiting for their reply," he said.

Finally, Scharr at helm of Syracuse offense

By WILLIAM KATES
AP Sports Writer

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — For a change, Bill Scharr doesn't have to compete with anyone for the starting quarterback job at Syracuse.

"I recognize the job is mine now, but I still have to go out on the field and prove I can be a winner, can make Syracuse a winner," the 6-foot-1 junior said.

Last year, Scharr found himself

locked in a battle with senior Todd Philcox for the starting job. It was a fight he lost, partly by default. Troubled by a sore back, a sore arm and a sore attitude, Scharr skipped out of preseason camp for a couple of days, almost ensuring Philcox the job.

"That was a long time ago, both in terms of time and my maturity. Actually, it was a learning experience," Scharr said.

He says the episode taught him how

to relax and, strangely enough, rejuvenated his confidence. The changes have not gone unnoticed.

"I think he had to learn the magnitude and the performance and intensity level and the preparation level he had to have to be the quarterback here. He now knows that," Syracuse coach Dick MacPherson said.

Nevertheless, Scharr's impact is unpredictable as 13th-ranked Syracuse prepares for its season opener on Sept. 9

at Temple. Yet he is a critical factor.

"The keys to our success are the quarterback, the defensive backfield and the specialists," said MacPherson.

If Scharr's high school career is an indication of what he's capable of in the college ranks, the Orangemen could be bowl-bound again this season. He holds the New York state high school career touch-down passing mark of 73, set in his three-year career at Canandaigua Academy.

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