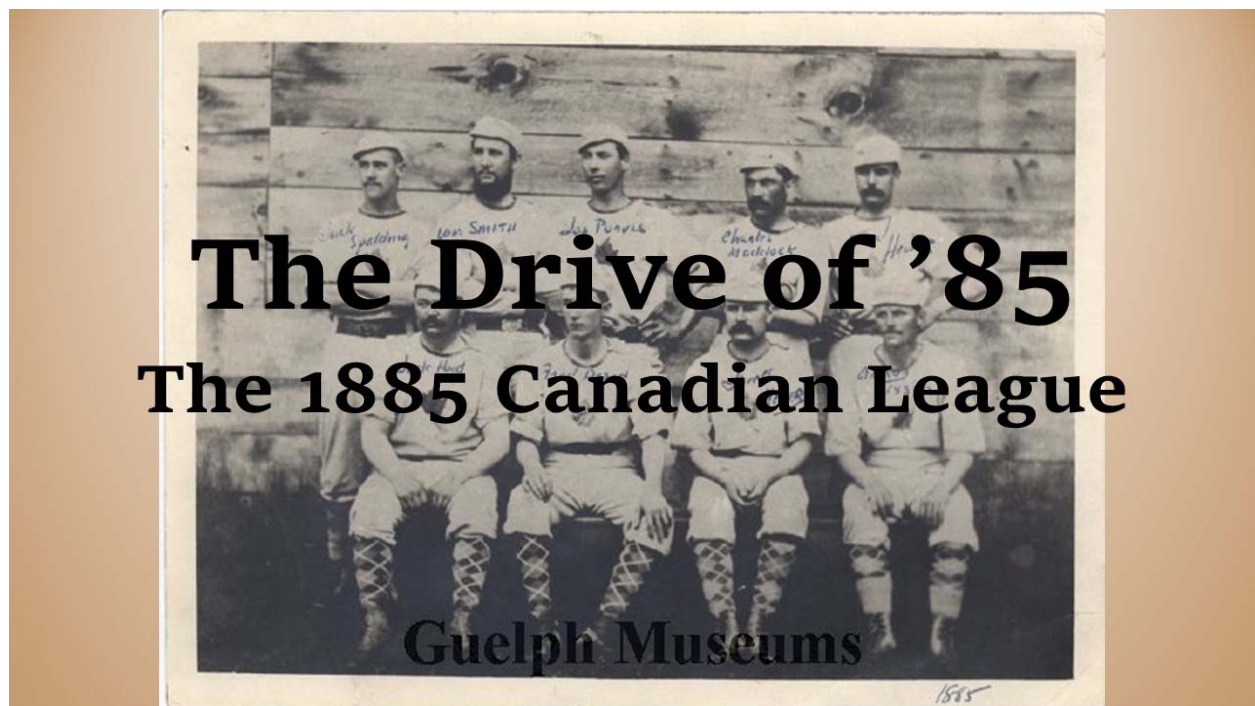




We all remember the Blue Jays pennant drive of 1985, but there was another drive of '85 100 years earlier. Let's go back, and ensure ourselves that a Canadian team will win...



Despite its labelling, the image above actually depicts the 1883 Guelph team. One can invent a connection between the 1985 Blue Jays and the 1885 Canadian League, in that one of the league's umpires was a George Bell.

Canadian League Quiz

DO YOU KNOW...?

- 1) who was League president?
- 2) how many teams there were?
- 3) which current ML team was named 'because' of a Canadian League Player?

We'll learn the answers to these questions in the course of this presentation.

Before 1885, various "leagues" or "associations" did exist in Canada, but each was short-lived, as seen below. Teams of the 1876 Canadian Association, for

Drive of '85 - 1885 Canadian League

1876-1884 - Precursors

1876 Canadian Association

1876 Canadian Association

THE OFFICIAL RULES
—OF THE—
Canadian Association
—OF—
BASE BALL PLAYERS.
1876.
PRICE, - - - 10 CENTS.

The ONLY BOOK PUBLISHED that contains the

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD.

CLUB.	Teamsh.	Maple Leaf.	Toronto.	Standard.	St. Lawrence.	Gloucester.	Total played
Teamsh.	..	4	3	12	12	11	11
Maple Leaf...	0	..	4	..	4	10	14
Toronto ..	0	0	..	12	..	12	11
Standard ..	0	0	12	..	0	12	9
St. Lawrence	0	0	0	1	..	1	7
Total Lost ..	0	4	9	7	6

Bryce Canadian Baseball Guide 1877

1880 Canadian Association

Base Ball Convention.

Formation of a Canadian Base Ball Association.

The base ball convention called by the secretary of the Maple Leafs met at the Royal hotel on Friday afternoon. The following delegates were present :—

W. H. Millman moved, seconded by W. Cunningham, that the proposed association be called the Canadian Amateur Association of base ball players.

Messrs. Lavin and Wilcox objected to the word "amateur," and moved in amendment that it be struck out.

The amendment was lost, the only persons voting for it being the mover and seconder.

Guelph Mercury, May 22 1880

No regular schedule; no standings to be found.
5 teams: Galt, Guelph (2), Toronto, Woodstock

1884 Western Ontario League

WESTERN ONTARIO LEAGUE GAMES.

	Won.	Lost.
Clippers (Hamilton).....	2	0
Baysides (Hamilton).....	2	0
Imperials (Petrolia).....	2	1
Woodstocks (Woodstock).....	2	1
Londons (London).....	2	1
Beavers (Guelph).....	0	1
Alerts (London).....	0	3
Atlantics (London).....	0	3
Primroses (Hamilton).....	0	0

Hamilton Spectator, Jul 03 1884

Here is the standing of the league :

	Won.	Lost.
Clippers (Hamilton).....	9	0
Londons (London).....	6	2
Baysides (Hamilton).....	3	3
Woodstocks (Woodstock).....	2	4
Imperials (Petrolia).....	2	4
Maple Leafs (Guelph).....	1	4
Primroses (Hamilton).....	1	6

Petrolia Imperial, Sep 05 1884

example, played between 7 and 14 games only (although more were played on an exhibition basis). The 1880 Canadian Association was a strictly amateur league for which no standings were kept. And the 1884 Western Ontario League was similarly amateur, with teams playing between 6 and 9 games only.

On April 15th 1885 a meeting was called at Royal Hotel in Hamilton where “delegates assembled from the different base ball clubs for the purpose of framing a Canadian League code of rules for their guidance for the coming season.” The meeting was instigated by Guelph’s George Sleeman. (As an aside, Sleeman Mansion in Guelph is now a gentleman’s entertainment venue.)

Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League

Apr 15 – League is formed



GEORGE SLEEMAN
1841-1926

- former pitcher for Guelph
- brewer & later Guelph Mayor
- inducted in Canadian Baseball HoF in 1999 as builder

THE BASE BALL SEASON.

Formation of a Canadian League.

HAMILTON, 'April 15.—“The largest representation that ever attended a league meeting in Canada,” was the remark made by President Sleeman as he entered the parlour of the Royal Hotel, Hamilton, where the delegates assembled from the different base ball clubs for the purpose of framing a Canadian league [code of rules for their guidance for the coming season.

When the meeting was called to order at 3 [sharp by Mr. Sleeman the following delegates had assembled:—Messrs. Sleeman and Jas. Taylor, of the Maple Leafs, Guelph; W. Jeffers and Galloway, Toronto; Jas. Thompson, Woodstock; S. Thompson and J. Hennigan, of the Primroses, Hamilton; J. Lynch, Baysides, Hamilton; Chapman and Geise, Athletics, Hamilton; Webster and McFeigan, Galt. There was much wonder and regret expressed on account of London not being represented.

THE NEW LEAGUE.

All the clubs represented, of course, desired to enter the League, but all did not wish all the others in with them. A committee was appointed to fix the League membership. The committee was composed of one delegate from each club. Each club was voted on in succession with the following result:

	For.	Ag'ts.
Toronto.....	6	2
Primrose.....	5	2
Woodstock.....	7	1
Maple Leaf.....	8	0
Clippers.....	6	3
Galt.....	3	0
Bayside.....	3	4
Athletic.....	4	4
London.....	4	4

Guelph Mercury, Apr 16

Delegates from eight teams were present: Toronto, the Primroses of Hamilton, Woodstock, Guelph Maple Leafs, the Clippers of Hamilton, Galt, the Baysides of Hamilton, and the Athletics of Hamilton. London was interested but not present. A vote determined that the League’s teams would be Toronto, the Primroses, the Clippers, Guelph and Woodstock; London was accepted as a provisional entry. Five hours later a league constitution was adopted, and the name Canadian Baseball League chosen, as moved by James Henigan of the Primroses.

A few days later London applied, and were accepted. However, the Woodstock club withdrew, finding itself unable to raise the \$35 guarantee

Apr 19-May 13 – London, Woodstock, Toronto...

The clubs forming the Canadian league are generally pleased that the London club has applied for admission into the league. There is no doubt but that the application will be favorably received. The Woodstock club will be benefited to a certain extent by having so good a club for a near neighbor as clubs from the east will be able to play the Woodstocks and Londons while on one trip.

Hamilton Spectator, Apr 20

The secretary of the Canadian league has received official notice of the disbandment of the Torontos.

Hamilton Spectator, May 11

Mr. Thompson, of the Woodstocks, has written stating that he has been advised by the club to notify the league that the Woodstocks could not see it in their power to give the \$25 guarantee required by the constitution and would therefore withdraw from the league.

Guelph Mercury, Apr 27

The collapse of the Toronto baseball club was caused by the accumulation of too much money in the treasury. The amount to the credit of the club at the close of last season was a little over \$300. At the end

Hamilton Spectator, May 13

required for membership. As well, on May 11, the Toronto club disbanded, citing the odd reason of “too much money in the treasury”. As of May 13th, then, the League consisted of four teams: Guelph, Primroses, Clippers and London.

The first on-field action of the 1885 season was an exhibition game in Guelph on April 25th between the host Maple Leafs and the non-league Live Oaks

Apr 25 – 1st exhibition game

The first baseball game of the season took place on the Maple Leaf grounds on Saturday last between the Leafs and a nine of the Live Oaks. The Leafs presented Taylor and Dillon, better known as the Speedside battery, and the Oaks had for their battery Fred Hough and James Henry. Owing to the cold weather the game was not up to the standard of either nine, although some excellent play was made. The score at the close of the game was 12 to 5 in favor of the Leafs. The Leafs throughout the game put out six men of the Oaks each innings.

Guelph Mercury, Apr 27

club. An interesting feature of this exhibition was that the underdog Live Oaks were allowed six outs during each turn at bat.

The League season opened on May 16th in dramatic fashion, and with the commensurate dramatic media coverage: "The greatest baseball match ever played in Canada..." according to the *Hamilton Times*. 1,000 people attended, and witnessed a match between the host Clippers and the visiting Maple Leafs of

Drive of '85 - 1885 Canadian League

May 16 - Season opens

SPORTING NOTES.

The Greatest Baseball Match Ever Played in Canada.

AUSPICIOUS OPENING FOR THE LEAGUE.

The greatest baseball match ever played in Canada was that on Saturday afternoon at Dundurn Park. The Maple Leafs came down from Guelph with President Bleeman at their head and big John Henderson at their back. They came with a reputation extending back into the old times as one of the best baseball clubs in Canada, and they were determined that they would keep up the reputation of their club and their city in the new Canadian League. The game was great in more ways than one. It was an exhibition of magnificent ball playing by both teams at a time when excitement was at the highest notch, and when a slight error on either side would have decided it. Moreover, it was the longest drawn-out game ever played in Canada. The Leafs got in their first run

Hamilton Times, May 18

The new Toronto club has applied for admission to the League.

MAPLE LEAFS.

	A.	B.	R.	H.	T.	E.	O.	A.	E.
Furves	7	0	2	1	18	0	4		
Dyson	7	0	2	2	1	0	7		
Maddock	7	1	1	1	3	4	1		
E. Hewer	7	0	0	0	2	0	0		
Cockman	7	1	1	1	0	2	2		
J. Hewer	7	1	2	3	5	7	2		
Baker	7	0	1	1	4	0	1		
Dillon	7	0	3	3	1	0	0		
Atkinson	6	1	1	1	18	0	1		
Total	62	4	12	13	62	17	17		

CLIPPERS.

	A.	B.	R.	H.	T.	E.	O.	A.	E.
Andrus	7	0	1	1	0	4	2		
Wilson	7	0	1	1	0	1	2		
Byers	7	0	2	2	0	0	0		
F. Wood	7	0	0	0	17	1	7		
P. Wood	7	0	0	0	4	16	12		
Chamberlain	6	0	0	0	3	0	1		
Unsworth	6	1	1	1	0	1	4		
Metra	6	1	1	1	8	4	0		
Plano	6	1	1	1	0	1	0		
Total	63	3	7	7	40	32	30		

Scores by Innings.

Inning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Maple Leafs	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4					
Clippers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3					

First base on called balls—Maple Leafs, 11.
Clippers, 5.
First base on other errors—Maple Leafs, 3.
Clippers, 6.
Passed balls—Wood, 5; Furves, 3.
Wild pitches—Wood, 1.
Double plays—Metra, J. Hewer to Maddock, J. Hewer to Atkinson.
Struck out—Clippers, 5; Andrus, Wilson, F. Wood, Chamberlain. Maple Leafs off Wood, 12; off Chamberlain 1; Maddock vs. E. Hewer vs. Cockman 4; J. Hewer 2; Dillon, Atkinson 2.
Left on base—Clippers 14; Leafs 13.
Two base hits—J. Hewer.
Runs earned—One.
Time of game—3 hours.
Attendance—1,000.
Umpire—J. E. Thompson, of Woodstock.

Hamilton Times, May 18

Guelph. Guelph's Andrew Dillon singled in Thomas Cockman in the top of the 14th inning for the winning run, as the Maple Leafs defeated the Clippers 4-3. The game featured 16 walks (a result of new pitching rules), 13 innings pitched by Clippers pitcher Pete Wood and a 14-inning complete game by his Guelph counterpart Fred Dyson, 0 earned runs, 1 extra-base hit (a double), and 30 errors.

Notice as well (above the box score) that the new Toronto club applied for admission to the League (shortly before May 18th). With new management, and

May 21 – Toronto (re-)joins

Official notice is hereby given that the application of the new Toronto baseball club to be admitted into the Canadian league has been received by the committee.

Hamilton Spectator, May 21

after a successful drive for subscriptions for shares in a new club, the Toronto application was accepted. By late May, then, the 1885 Canadian League membership looked like this:

1885 CANADIAN LEAGUE

CLUB	MANAGER(S)	BALLPARK
Guelph Maple Leafs	George Sleeman, James Hewer (~Aug 12-)	Maple Leaf Grounds
Hamilton Clippers	William Stroud	Dundurn Park
Hamilton Primroses	James Henigan	cricket grounds
London Cockneys	Fred Goldsmith, Joe Quest (Sep 22-)	Exhibition Grounds
Toronto Torontos	Harrison Spence	Jarvis St. lacrosse grounds



HEWER

• Guelph Mayor 1897-98 •



STROUD

• also bartender of Dundurn Park



HENIGAN

• player, umpire, men's furnishing store owner



GOLDSMITH

• curveball inventor? • 20-game winner X4



SPENCE

• mgr 1888 Indianapolis Hoosiers (NL)

The London and Toronto teams were rarely referred to as the Cockneys or Torontos, but usually by their city name alone. A note about Primrose manager Henigan: he had a close call in 1901 when he was thrown off his bike, and a car

came within a foot of hitting him. He survived, only to be killed a week later when he biked into an electric car.

With the season now fully underway, a number of noteworthy games were played. The June 24th Toronto/Clippers match, for example, featured the Canadian League debut of Bill “Cannonball” Stemmyer, who had played with Toledo earlier in the season until that club disbanded. And quite a debut it was: a no-hitter, as shown in this box score.

Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League

Jun 24 – Stemmyer debuts with Toronto

THEIR WINGS CLIPPED.

HAMILTON'S PET BALL PLAYERS BEATEN BY TORONTO.

Six to Four the Score—Woodbine Shooting Tournament—Race Between Five Double Sculls—League Games—General Notes of Sports.

The one great feature of the Toronto, Clipper match on the Jarvis street ground, yesterday afternoon was the magnificent pitching of Stemmyer, who played for the first time with the home nine. It pleased Hamilton people to speak of him as “Stemwinder;” the experience of their pet players yesterday was that he is a “Ballwinder.” His pitching was a

Toronto World, Jun 25

TORONTO.									
A.B.	R.	H.	T.B.	P.O.	A.	E.			
Bald, A.B.	5	1	2	2	0	5	2		
O'Rourke, P.	5	0	3	0	0	0	0		
Smith, S.	5	2	2	2	8	1	0		
Wacklin, 1b.	4	2	1	1	10	0	0		
Wade, 1f.	4	1	1	1	1	0	1		
Spence, 2b.	3	0	0	0	2	0	0		
Shaffer, cf.	3	0	1	1	0	0	0		
Stemmyer, P.	4	0	0	0	0	11	4		
McKinley, 3b.	4	0	0	0	0	2	1		
Total	27	6	7	7	27	21	14		

CLIPPERS.									
A.B.	R.	H.	T.B.	P.O.	A.	E.			
Andrus, A.B.	2	2	0	0	0	0	3		
Rainey, 3b.	4	0	0	0	0	1	0		
E. Chamberlin, p.	4	0	0	0	0	9	3		
Moore, S.	4	0	0	0	8	0	2		
McGee, S.	3	0	0	0	5	0	0		
Myers, cf.	4	0	0	0	0	0	2		
Shapleton, 1b.	4	0	0	0	9	0	0		
Wilson, 2b.	3	2	0	0	3	0	0		
Flann, 1f.	3	0	0	0	2	0	1		
Total	30	4	0	0	27	16	11		

SCORE BY INNINGS.

Inning	Toronto	Clippers
1	0	1
2	0	0
3	0	0
4	0	0
5	0	0
6	0	0
7	0	0
8	0	0
9	0	0
Total	0	0

Earned runs—Toronto 1, Clippers 0. First base on errors—Toronto 4, Clippers 2. Struck out—Toronto 6, Shaffer, Wacklin, McKinley (4); Clippers 6, Myers (3), Chamberlin, Moore, Shapleton, Wilson. Left on bases—Toronto 6, Clippers 3. Passed balls—Smith 4, Moore 1. Wild pitches—Chamberlin 1. Umpire—Crowfoot, Toronto. Time of game—2 hours, 10 minutes. Attendance—1,500.

Hamilton Times, Jun 25

.035—Stemmyer, Pitcher, Boston.

BILL “CANNONBALL” STEMMYER
1865-1945

- 22-18 with 1886 Boston Beaneaters (NL)
- saves leader in 1887

GOODWIN & CO., NEW YORK.

The July 1st London/Toronto match saw the Torontos score 19 runs, the League’s highest output by one team. The game in Toronto was witnessed by 5,000 fans, “the largest attendance at any match for years”. That no team scored more runs in a game all year underscores that the season was not marked by great offensive displays. As the calendar turned to July, the Clippers held a slim lead over Toronto and London.

The Canadian League strived for legitimacy by adopting and enforcing rules, not just of the game, but also of fair play; this included the agreement to not sign players under contract by other teams. This agreement was subject to much debate and interpretation, however, and caused many issues for teams and players, some of whom would end up suspended or blacklisted.

Jul 01 – Most runs by one team

TORONTO-LONDON.
We could go to work and invent a million excuses for the defeat of the Londoners yesterday. We shall not try to invent one. It is only necessary to look at the score to see how it occurred. Glance at the columns of base hits and total bases and the whole tale is told. Anybody who wishes to go deeper into the matter can do so, and if they do they will discover that there was not a great difference between the teams in point of play. Toronto won by batting—nothing more. We give the full score :

London Advertiser, Jul 02

CLUB	W	L	GB
Clippers	7	3	-
Torontos	6	3	.5
Londons	5	3	1
Maple Leafs	3	7	4
Primroses	3	8	4.5

Londons..... 2 0 0 0 1 1 0 0-5
Torontos..... 5 0 2 7 4 0 1 0 *-19

Base hits—Londons 7, Torontos 19.
Errors—Londons 12, Torontos 12.
Passed balls—Smith 2, Thompson 1.
Base on called balls—Londons 3, Torontos 3.
Struck out—Londons 9, Torontos 3.
Earned runs—Torontos 2.
Left on base—Torontos 4, Londons 5.
Wild pitches—Knight 2.
Umpire—Gillies, London.

There were about 5,000 persons present, being the largest attendance at any match for years.

Hamilton Spectator, Jul 02

The League's first major 'scandal' involved former major leaguer George Washington Bradley, no stranger to controversy. Sleeman signed Bradley to play with Guelph, and was ready to pitch him in a game against London. London

Jul 09 & 11 – Forfeits (ineligible player)

THE CANADIAN LEAGUE.
NO GAME IN GUELPH—TORONTOS OBJECT TO BRADLEY — UMPIRE DECLARES GAME FOR GUELPH.

Special to The Mail.

GUELPH, July 11.—As was expected there was no game here to-day between the Maple Leafs and Torontos. Manager Spence and his team arrived in the city this morning. They came to play ball, providing the home team did not put Geo. Bradley on their team. Manager Sleeman interviewed Manager Spence, but the interview resulted only in an understanding that Toronto would not go on the field against Bradley. A telegram, of which the following is a copy, was produced by the president of the Maple Leafs:—

" PITTSBURG, Pa., July 10.

" To G. Sleeman :
" Bradley is not expelled, simply ineligible to clubs of national agreement associated.
(Signed) " H. D. McKNIGHT,
" President American Association."

Mr. Spence, on seeing this message, contended that the Canadian League had adopted the constitution of the National League, and consequently that the suspended players of one organization were ineligible to play in the other. In this he is clearly wrong. The very existence of a Canadian constitution shows the absurdity of his contention. When the teams appeared on the field this afternoon the usual ceremony was performed. Umpire Goldsmith called "Play," but the visitors refused to respond. The umpire then declared the game 9 to 0 in favour of the Leafs. He also gave Mr. Sleeman his

Toronto Daily Mail, Jul 13



GEORGE WASHINGTON BRADLEY
1852-1931

- pitched 1st NL no-hitter (1876)
- 45-19 with 1876 St. Louis
- played in NA, NL, AA, UA
- blacklisted after 1884 UA

FINAL RULING:
The forfeited games were later replayed.

George Washington Bradley was entertained to a farewell banquet at Guelph on Saturday, was presented with \$40 and a gold ring, and then took the midnight train for home. *The Detroit Journal*

London Free Press, Aug 12

Geo. Bradley has accepted a position in a grocery store in Newport, Ky.

London Free Press, Sep 03

noticed his presence and objected on the grounds that Bradley was an ineligible player; London refused to play, causing the umpire to call the game in favour of

Guelph. Many meetings (and newspaper articles) later, it was decided that the forfeited games (three of them) were to be replayed. But Bradley never did actually pitch in a Canadian League game. He was a popular fellow, being given a farewell banquet a month later. A month after that he was given a new position, in a grocery store in Newport, Kentucky.

The London/Guelph match of July 25th featured a triple play by the Maple Leafs, and an unusual one at that. Note from the box score that it was a 2-5-4

Drive of '85 - 1885 Canadian League

Jul 25 - Triple-play by Maple Leafs

Only two 2-5-4 triple plays have occurred in the Major Leagues (1882 AA).

eight runs. The features of the last half of the third innings was a triple play by the Leafs. The three bases were full and a fourth Londoner went to bat. He struck three times, ran for first base, and the other three runners declared out. In

Guelph Mercury, Jul 27

In 1887, the dropped third strike rule was amended; a runner on first base disallows the play.

LONDON.									
A.B.	R.	H.	E.	T.B.	P.O.	A.	E.		
Thompson, c.....	4	2	1	1	4	1	0		
Dunn, 2 b.....	2	2	1	1	2	0	0		
Smith, 3 b.....	3	2	1	2	0	0	0		
Knight c.f.....	4	2	2	4	0	2	0		
Seward, p.....	4	2	2	3	0	0	0		
Connors, 1 f.....	3	1	2	4	0	0	0		
Campau, 1 b.....	4	0	0	0	15	0	0		
Pelouse, r f.....	4	0	1	3	0	0	1		
Quinn, s.s.....	3	1	0	0	0	1	1		
Totals.....	30	12	10	18	21	30	6		

MAPLE LEAFS.									
A.B.	R.	H.	E.	T.B.	P.O.	A.	E.		
Maddock, 2 b.....	4	2	3	3	2	0	2		
Wright, 3 b.....	4	1	1	2	5	2	2		
Atkinson, 1 b.....	4	0	1	1	4	1	0		
Dyson, r.f.....	4	0	1	0	0	0	1		
Purvis, c.....	4	1	0	0	0	0	1		
Fitzgerald, p.....	3	1	0	0	0	0	1		
Bickers, 1 f.....	2	1	0	0	1	1	0		
Dillon, c.f.....	3	1	1	1	1	0	0		
Cockman, s.s.....	3	0	0	0	0	3	1		
Totals.....	30	8	6	7	21	17	13		

London..... 0 0 4 0 0 3 5-12
Maple Leafs..... 0 0 8 0 0 0 0-8
Balls called off Seward 45; off Fitzgerald, 86;
off Knight, 12.
Strikes called off Seward, 22; off Fitzgerald, 30; off Knight, 9.
Struck out—London, 6; Maple Leaf, 3.
Earned runs—London, 5.
Bases on balls—London, 6; Maple Leaf, 8.
Left on base—London, 2.

Triple play—Purvis, Wright, Maddock, 1.

1. Seward, 1.
Wild pitches—Seward, 1; Fitzgerald, 1.
Umpire—W. W. Jeffers, Toronto.
Scorer—C. G. Moorhead, London.

London Free Press, Jul 27

triple play. There have been only two such triple plays in major league history, both in the American Association of 1882; the reason for the rarity is that an 1887 rule change rendered this particular sequence no longer possible.

League standings at the end of July show London with a slim lead over the

Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League

Aug 01 – Londons in the lead

CLUB	W	L	GB
Londons	18	6	-
Clippers	14	6	2
Torontos	10	9	5.5
Primroses	5	15	11
Maple Leafs	3	14	11.5

Clippers, with the Primroses and Guelph likely crying “Wait ‘til next year!”.

A game of August 28th in Toronto was protested under a strange sequence of events, as can be seen below. The *Toronto World* report terms the match a

Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League

Aug 28 – Protest...

Umpire interference on play at home.
Four calls were either reversed or
made under duress.
Play was called after 7 innings and protested.
Not counted, then counted in standings.



ELTON 'ICEBOX' CHAMBERLAIN
1867-1929

- 157 Major League wins
- 32-15 with 1889 St. Louis Browns
- later blacklisted by Clippers for alleged 'crooked play'

play. It was a disgraceful exhibition of intimidation on the one side and weakness on the other that it is to be hoped will never be seen on a Toronto ball field again.

Clippers	a.b.	r.	b.h.	t.b.	p.o.	a.	e.
Rainey, 3b.....	3	0	1	1	0	0	0
Andrus, ss.....	3	1	1	1	1	0	1
Moore, c.....	3	0	2	2	6	3	3
Chamberlain, p.....	4	0	0	0	0	10	3
Collins, 2b.....	4	0	0	0	2	3	2
Croghan, lf.....	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Stapleton, 1b.....	3	0	0	0	9	0	0
Hunter, c.f.....	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Wilson, r.f.....	3	1	1	1	1	0	0
Totals.....	30	2	5	5	21	16	9
Torontos	a.b.	r.	b.h.	t.b.	p.o.	a.	e.
O'Rourke, r.f.....	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Warner, lf.....	3	0	0	0	1	1	0
Smith, c.....	3	0	0	0	9	2	2
Shutler, cf.....	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
Manning, s.....	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Stemmyer, p.....	3	0	0	0	0	10	6
Donald, 3b.....	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
Kavanagh, 1b.....	3	0	0	0	8	0	0
Macklin, 2b.....	2	0	0	0	1	4	0
Totals.....	24	1	0	0	23	18	8

First base on called balls, off Stemmyer 4, Chamberlain 2. Wild pitch, Stemmyer 1, Chamberlain 1. Passed balls, Smith 1, Moore 1. Struck out, off Stemmyer 9, Chamberlain 6. Umpire, Jas. Bain, of Hamilton.

Toronto World, Aug 29

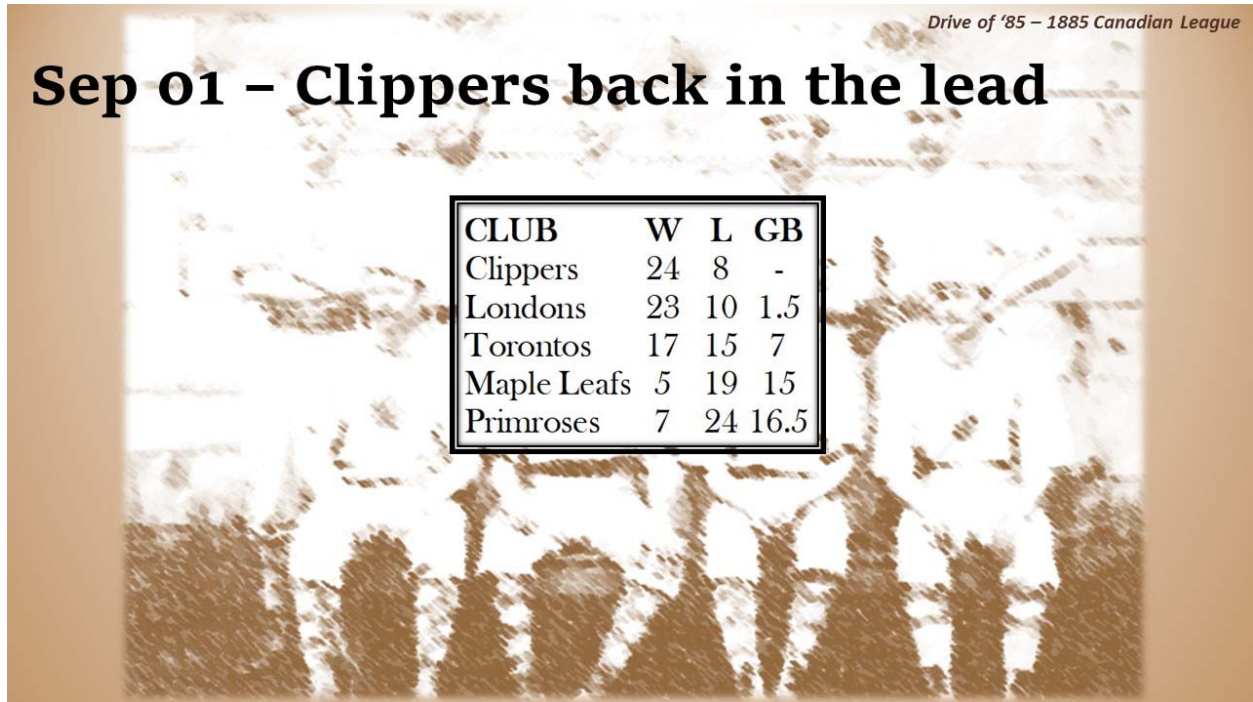
“disgraceful exhibition of intimidation on the one side and weakness on the other”. Overshadowed by the goings-on was a stellar pitching performance by the Clippers’ Elton “Ice Box” Chamberlain, who held the Torontos hitless. Chamberlain would later accumulate 157 major league wins in the American Association and National League. Alleging “crooked play”, the Clippers blacklisted him later in the season, although he never really missed any action.

The end of August saw the Clippers regain the League lead in what had

Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League

Sep 01 – Clippers back in the lead

CLUB	W	L	GB
Clippers	24	8	-
Londons	23	10	1.5
Torontos	17	15	7
Maple Leafs	5	19	15
Primroses	7	24	16.5




become a two-team race with London.

The season's second no-hitter was turned in on September 3rd by Guelph's Dennis Fitzgerald, who defeated the Torontos 3-1 in Toronto in a game in which the victorious Maple Leafs managed only two hits themselves. Fitzgerald, who

Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League

Sep 03 – No-hitter



DENNIS S. FITZGERALD
1865-1936

- offered a 'situation' with Buffalo NL in Sep, but preferred to remain in Guelph
- played 2 G with 1890 Philadelphia Athletics (AA)

	A.B.	R.	B.H.	T.B.	P.O.	A.	E.
Maddock, 2 b.....	4	0	0	0	2	4	0
Wright, c f.....	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
Bieder, r f.....	4	1	0	0	0	1	2
Madden, s s.....	3	0	0	0	1	1	2
Atkinson, 1 b.....	3	1	1	1	11	0	1
Fitzgerald, p.....	3	0	0	0	0	11	6
E. Hewer, 1 f.....	3	0	0	0	2	0	0
Dillon, c.....	3	0	1	1	8	0	1
J. Hewer, 3 b.....	2	0	0	0	2	4	0
Totals.....	27	3	2	2	27	30	10

	A.B.	R.	B.H.	T.B.	P.O.	A.	E.
O'Rourke, r f.....	3	1	0	0	1	0	0
Warner, 1 f.....	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
Smith, c.....	4	0	0	0	10	2	1
Shaffer, c f.....	3	0	0	0	0	0	1
Manning, s s.....	4	0	0	0	3	2	0
Stummeyer, p.....	4	0	0	0	0	11	4
Donald, 3 b.....	2	0	0	0	1	1	1
Kavanagh, 1 b.....	4	0	0	0	5	1	0
Mackin, 2 b.....	3	0	0	0	3	1	2
Totals.....	31	1	0	0	24	18	9

Toronto Daily Mail, Sep 04

later played in the major league American Association, was offered a "situation" later that month by the Buffalo club of the National League; the "situation" likely referred to a paid job in Buffalo in return for his ball-playing services.

Another blacklisting occurred on September 18th, as second baseman Louis Bierbauer agreed to play for London, while having just signed a contract with Guelph that paid him \$75 a month, plus board. The signing caused hard feelings, coming on the heels of the Bradley incident in July. Bierbauer played in the Players' League in 1890, but after it collapsed, he was scooped up by the Pittsburgh Alleghenys in a surprise move; the press took great pleasure in calling the Pittsburgh team a bunch of 'pirates' for their actions.

Sep 18 – Blacklisted



LOUIS BIERBAUER
1865-1926

- Played on Primroses, Guelph & London
- Pittsburgh Pirates' nickname coined after they claimed him

BIERBAUER BLACKLISTED.
GUELPH, Sept. 18.—A player named Bierbauer, recently released by the Primroses, has been acting crooked with the Leafs, and to-night was blacklisted by the management. Bierbauer, it would appear, was secured by the Maple Leafs' management for \$75 a month and his board. He was in Hamilton on Thursday. The Londons were there, too. In an evil hour the Primrose catcher agreed to go to the Forest City, and he went. The manager of the Maple Leaf to-night showed your correspondent the agreement which Bierbauer signed, of which the following is a copy: "I agree to play with the Maple Leafs, of Guelph, for \$75 a month and board. (Signed) L. Bierbauer. Hamilton, Sept. 17." In the event of the Londons presenting this player in their game with the Leafs to-morrow the Guelphs will refuse to play. Much indignation is felt here that a club like the Londons, which was so strict over the Bradley business, should encourage a player in our own league to break his contract.—[Toronto Mail.

London Advertiser, Sep 18

As the season's end approached, both the Toronto and Guelph teams disbanded on September 30th, although the status of the Maple Leafs was

Sep 30 – Teams Disband...

Toronto disbands Sep 30

THE TORONTO CLUB PUTS UP ITS SHUTTERS.
On Wednesday night, having added one more to its already long list of defeats, the Toronto Baseball Club wound up its career for the season in a blaze of diamonds, if not of glory. Sheffield

Globe & Mail, Oct 02

Guelph disbands Sep 30

THIS being the last day of grace in the base ball season, the Maple Leaf club will disband, and the directors have written to the League Secretary to that effect. The London club have offered great inducements to the Leafs to play three games this week, and have been answered in the negative.

Guelph Mercury, Sep 30

Guelph 'plays out' season (?)

The management of the Maple Leaf Club has decided to play out the balance of the season. So says a Guelph paper. Isn't it rather late in the year to arrive at such a decision. At least the determination is now very easy of fulfilment.

Toronto Daily Mail, Oct 02

ambiguous. In any event, Guelph played no more games after September 30th, whether any were scheduled or not.

The season ended, not with a bang, but with a whimper. Some sources say the League disbanded, and did not complete its season; however, nowhere did I

Drive of '85 - 1885 Canadian League

Oct 01 - Season Ends

CANADIAN LEAGUE GAMES A FARCE.
HAMILTON, Oct. 1.—The Clippers and Primroses played two games at Dundurn park to-day. The whole affair was a perfect farce, the Primroses putting a team into the field that any boys' club in the city could beat. Consequently the few people who foolishly paid an entrance fee were disgusted with the play. The Clippers played Hendricks and Hunter as a battery, while the Primroses had Nicol, Bennett, and Mickey Jones as pitchers, and Jones and Barnfather catchers. It was a sickening exhibition of alleged baseball. Score, first game—Clippers, 16; Primroses, 3. Second game—Clippers, 13; Primroses, 7.

Toronto Daily Mail, Oct 02

FINAL STANDINGS

CLUB	W	L	GB
Clippers	34	10	-
Londons	27	12	4.5
Torontos	24	20	10
Maple Leafs	8	28	22
Primroses	8	31	23.5

notice any indication that schedules were not completed, and October 1st was the intended end of the season. The final standings show the Clippers besting London by 4½ games to win the pennant. The London team challenged the Clippers' claim

Drive of '85 - 1885 Canadian League

Oct 19 - Pennant Awarded

THE PENNANT.
The Championship Trophy Presented to the Baseball Champions.
That \$40 banner of silk for the possession of which five Canadian teams of baseball players have striven since early summer, was presented formally to the winners—the Clippers—at the drill shed last night. The affair did not draw as large a crowd as some of the best matches did, but the audience was large, representing a large portion of the admirers of the Clippers and lovers of a good game of ball, honestly contested. A concert by the Thirteenth battalion band completed the programme. On the completion of the

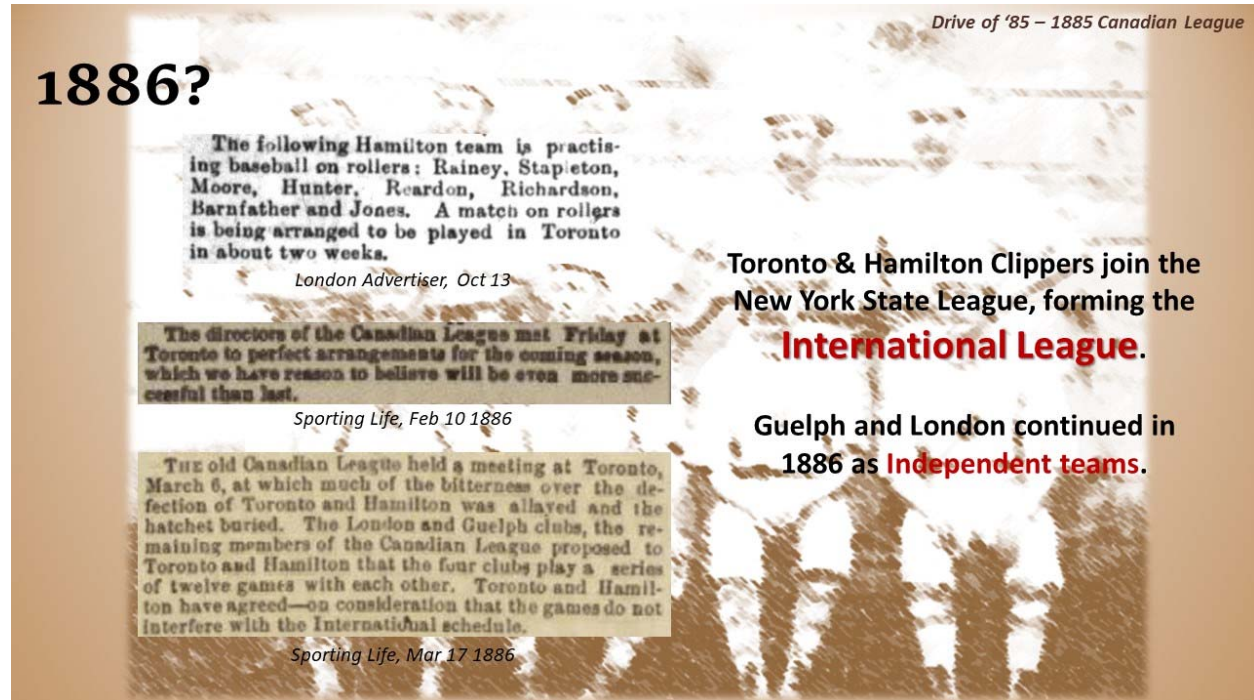
Hamilton Spectator, Oct 20



1885 Hamilton Clippers

to the title, but to no avail, and on October 19th the Clippers were officially awarded the League championship.

We know now that the Canadian League did not continue beyond 1885. But that was not for lack of trying, as there was much activity after season's end. Up



Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League

1886?

The following Hamilton team is practising baseball on rollers: Rainey, Stapleton, Moore, Hunter, Reardon, Richardson, Barnfather and Jones. A match on rollers is being arranged to be played in Toronto in about two weeks.
London Advertiser, Oct 13

The directors of the Canadian League met Friday at Toronto to perfect arrangements for the coming season, which we have reason to believe will be even more successful than last.
Sporting Life, Feb 10 1886

The old Canadian League held a meeting at Toronto, March 6, at which much of the bitterness over the defection of Toronto and Hamilton was allayed and the hatchet buried. The London and Guelph clubs, the remaining members of the Canadian League proposed to Toronto and Hamilton that the four clubs play a series of twelve games with each other. Toronto and Hamilton have agreed—on consideration that the games do not interfere with the International schedule.
Sporting Life, Mar 17 1886

Toronto & Hamilton Clippers join the New York State League, forming the **International League**.

Guelph and London continued in 1886 as **Independent teams**.

until February or so, plans were to go ahead in 1886. Then at some point around March, Toronto and Hamilton followed through on earlier speculation that they

might join the New York State League. And what of the players?

Drive of '85 - 1885 Canadian League

‘Where are they now?’

PLAYERS, POST-1885

Many Canadian Leaguers continued to play after 1885. During and after their playing days... some of the more common **occupations** of the ballplayers included:

Machinist, moulder, clerk, saloon/hotel proprietor, carpenter, printer, grocer, umpire, railroad employee..

Notable post-baseball careers:

Wiman Andrus: physician
Chub Collins: Mayor of Dundas (1901-02)
James Hewer: Mayor of Guelph (1897-98)
Ted Hewer: organ maker
Jack Horner: scout for Detroit (AL)
Samuel Paling: photographer
Louis Pelouze & William Smith: jeweler
Arthur Pope: stockbroker
Edward Seward: fire warden
Thomas Wardell: lawyer
Jimmy Wilson: inventor
Fred Wood: dentist, tax accountant
Jeff Wood: dentist
Peter Wood: physician

Pitcher Jack Horner, who later became a scout for the Detroit Tigers, slipped on his way into Turkish baths in 1910; he fell and broke his skull. 36 of the League’s players also played in the major leagues before, during or after the 1885 season.

Drive of '85 - 1885 Canadian League

LEAGUE STATS

of games: 101
 # of players: 98 (+2: Sam Reid & Bradley)
 # of major leaguers: 36 (+1: Bradley)

Largest Attendance: 20000 - Sep 14
Toronto vs. Detroit (NL)

for him. It is sufficient to say that the police didn't even begin to do their duty. Some work was done by Deputy Chief Stewart who emitted several shrill shrieks and rapped several shins with his stick, as is his custom when dealing with a crowd. Not one less than 20,000 saw that ball match. But

Longest Game: 3:15 Aug 16 (15 innings)

MAPLE LEAF									
	A.B.	R.	H.	E.	T.B.	P.H.	A.	E.	
MacLachlan	7	2	7	2	1	2	4	0	1
Wright	5	1	1	1	2	0	4	0	1
Adams	5	1	1	1	1	0	4	0	1
Fairbank	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pringle	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cliff	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairbank	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	30	4	11	11	11	11	30	11	11

MAJOR LEAGUERS:

Debut <1885: 16 (+1: Bradley)
 Debut 1885: 4
 Debut >1885: 16

PLAYERS BY MAJOR LEAGUE:

NL: 24
 AA: 23
 UA: 2 (Shoup, Moore, +Bradley)
 PL: 2 (Bierbauer, Rainey)

LEADERS

Most ML games: 1385 - Bierbauer
Most ML teams: (9 - Bradley); 7 - Quest
Most MLs: (4 - Bradley); 3 - Quest, Bierbauer, Shoup

Of these, Louis Bierbauer played the most games (1,385).

The individual statistical leaders are given below. Batting categories were dominated by the Clippers' John Rainey, who later would hit the first home run in

Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League

LEAGUE LEADERS (Raja/Howard)

* Major Leaguers

HITTING

Runs: 58 Rainey*

Hits: 66 Rainey*

HR: 5 Stapleton

AVG: .405 Rainey*

Lowest AVG: .099 McKinley


PITCHING

Wins: 24 Knight*

Losses: 10 Stemmyer*


Win %: 1.000 Hendricks (10-0)

Strikeouts: 189 Chamberlain* (217 IP)



JOHN RAINEY
1864-1912

- played with Hamilton from '85-88
- 1 of 2 Cdn Leaguers to play in Players' League



JOHN 'KID' HENDRICKS
1865-1902

city. No one knew him but to like him. He had no bad habits and in his early youth was a base ball pitcher of considerable celebrity. He played a number of games in Terre Haute and then became a professional with various clubs in the country with much success until his pitching arm gave out and he had to retire. It was while he was playing professional ball that he saved the life of a young lady in a distant city. She had fallen into the water and was drowning, when John Hendrich, at the risk of his own life, jumped in and saved her. This heroic feat brought on an illness of fever and, he had to return

CH S SUICIDE
ENDS HIS
DERANGED
Is Shocked Beyond Measure by the Fearful Act.
OCCURRED AT 5TH AND MAIN


Terre Haute Evening Gazette Mar 01 1902

the Players' League. Joe Knight and "Ice Box" Chamberlain excelled on the mound. Leading won-lost percentage pitcher John "Kid" Hendricks later made news by rescuing a drowning woman from a river.



Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League

PLAYERS – MAJOR LEAGUERS

0-9 GAMES (13):

- 0 - Harrison Spence (136G NL Mgr)
- 1 - Wiman Andrus (NL '85) 
- Edward Kent (AA '84)
- Louis Pelouze (NL '86) 
- William Pfann (NL '94) 
- 2 - Dennis Fitzgerald (AA '90)
- Jack Horner (NL '94)
- Bill Hunter (AA '84) 
- 3 - Mickey Jones (AA '90) 
- William Nelson (AA '84)
- 6 - Tip O'Neill (AA '87) 
- 9 - O.R. Casey (NL '82) 
- Stephen Dunn (UA '84) 

10-99 GAMES (12):





- 10 - Frank Smith (AA '84) 
- 13 - Fred Wood (NL '84-85) 
- 14 - John Shoup (NL, AA, UA '79,'82,'84)
- 25 - Tug Thompson (AA '82,'84) 
- 31 - Peter Wood (NL '85,'89) 
- 35 - Jerry Moore (UA, NL, '84-85) 
- 43 - W.A. Reid (AA '83-84) 
- 59 - John Rainey (NL, PL '87-90)
- 61 - Cannonball Stemmyer (NL, AA '85-88)
- 83 - Michael Morrison (AA '87-90)
- 85 - Thomas O'Rourke (NL, AA '87-90)
- 97 - Chub Collins (NL, AA '84-85) 

The 36 players who appeared in the major leagues are summarized above. Harrison Spence did not appear in any games as a player, but did manage the Indianapolis National League team for the entire 1888 season. The Tip O'Neill is not THAT Tip O'Neill. O. R. Casey (originally thought to be Dennis Casey, who ironically was thought to be signed by the Clippers, but was not) was a "mountainous" member of the Primroses, to the extent they had a tough time finding a uniform to fit him; he was later cited by some as the inspiration behind **Casey at the Bat** (as was Dennis Casey).

9 of the 36 played over 100 games in the majors. Joe Knight is the only

Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League

PLAYERS – MAJOR LEAGUERS (100+ G)





	<p>Can Lg: 24 G (Gue OF) ML: 101 G - OF '90 Syracuse (AA) '90 Cleveland (NL)</p> <p>WILLIAM 'RASTY' WRIGHT Post BB: brokerage business</p>		<p>Can Lg: 42 G (Tor OF) ML: 146 G – OF/C '88 Detroit (NL) '90 Rochester (AA)</p> <p>TED SCHEFFLER Post BB: post office clerk</p>
	<p>Can Lg: 36 G (Lon P/OF) ML: 133 G – P/OF '84 Philadelphia (NL) - P '90 Cincinnati (NL) - OF</p> <p>JONAH 'JOE' KNIGHT Post BB: carpenter</p>		<p>Can Lg: 35 G (Lon 1B/OF) ML: 147 G - OF '88 Detroit (NL) '90 St. Louis (AA) '90 St. Louis (AA) MGR 42G '94 Washington (NL)</p> <p>CHARLES 'COUNT' CAMPAU Post BB: mgr, race track judge...</p>

Canadian of these nine. Count Campau later became a manager, unsurprisingly given the moustache. Elton Chamberlain (below) played for six different teams in

his 332-game major league career.

Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League


PLAYERS – MAJOR LEAGUERS (100+ G)

	<p>Can Lg: 4 G (Clip OF/C) ML: 160 G – C/OF '79-82 Cleveland (NL) '83 Buffalo (NL)</p> <p>MICHAEL 'DOC' KENNEDY Post BB: traveling salesman (cigar factory)</p>		<p>Can Lg: 37 G (Clip P) ML: 332 G – P/OF '86-88 Louisville (AA); '88-90 St. Louis (AA) '90 Columbus (AA); 91 Philadelphia (AA) '92-94 Cincinnati (NL); '96 Cleveland (NL)</p> <p>ELTON 'ICE BOX' CHAMBERLAIN Post BB: unknown</p>
	<p>Can Lg: 15 G (Tor SS) ML: 200 G – 2B/SS '82 Providence (NL) '83-85 Baltimore (AA) '85 Providence (NL)</p> <p>TIMOTHY MANNING Post BB: grocery clerk</p>		<p>Can Lg: 7 G (Lon SS) ML: 596 G – 2B/SS '78 Indianapolis (NL); '79-82 Chicago (NL) '83 Detroit (NL); '83-84 St. Louis (AA) '84 Pittsburgh (AA); '85 Detroit (NL) '86 Philadelphia (AA)</p> <p>JOSEPH 'JOE' QUEST Post BB: court clerk</p>

But the award for most major league games played by a player from the 1885 Canadian League goes to second baseman Lou Bierbauer, as mentioned earlier. Bierbauer, who later became a night watchman, played 1,385 major

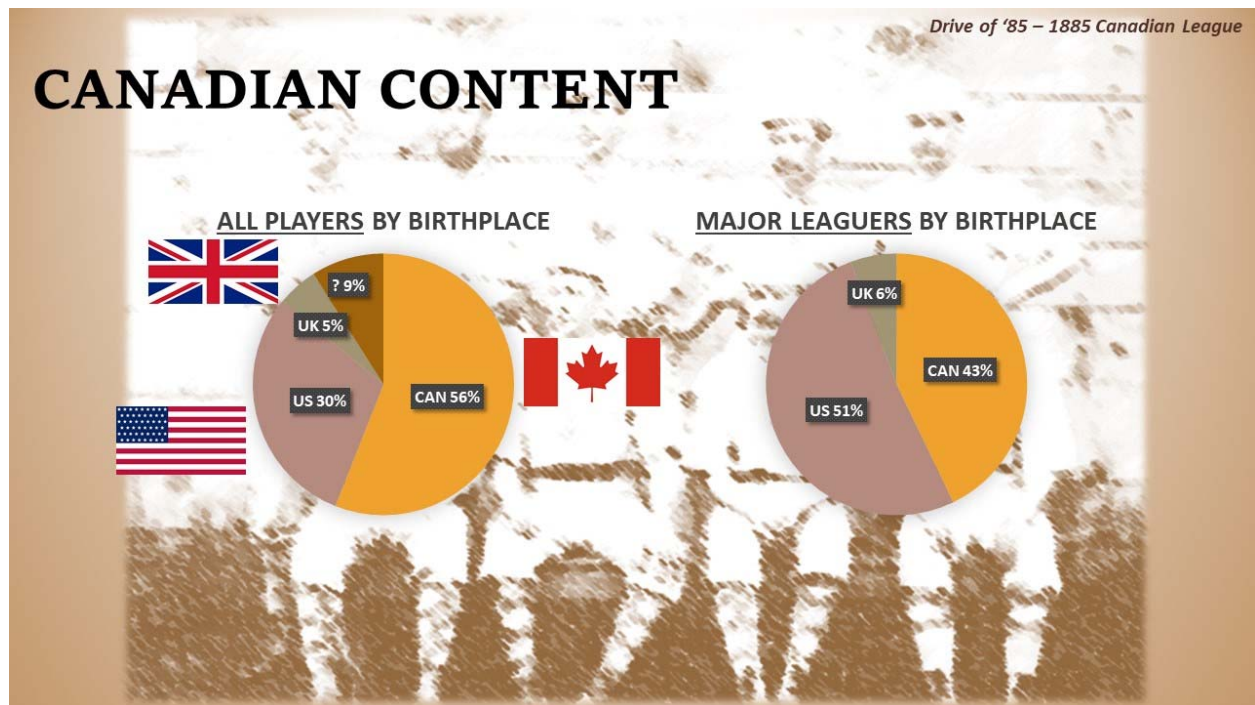
Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League

PLAYERS – MAJOR LEAGUERS (100+ G)

	<p>Can Lg: 26 G (Prims/Lon/Gue 2B/3B/C) ML: 1385 G – 2B '86-89 Philadelphia (AA) '90 Brooklyn (PL) '91-96 Pittsburgh (NL) '97-98 St. Louis (NL)</p> <p>LOUIS W. BIERBAUER Post BB: moulder/night watchman</p>
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league games for four teams in three leagues over a 13-year career.

Finally, a question that I had: How truly Canadian was the League? Of all League players, roughly two thirds were non-American: Canadian, British subjects considered Canadian, or unknown. The majority of the unknowns were likely Canadian, for two reasons. First, the signing of a known American player from a place such as Erie or Cleveland would have been noted in the press. Also, most of the unknowns played only a few games, and were therefore likely local.



Of the players who also played in the major leagues, more were American, not surprisingly. The better players would have been sought after from Canada, but also from such nearby cities as Detroit, Buffalo, Erie, Cleveland and Toledo.

As a footnote, here are the umpires who presided over Canadian League games in 1885. Note the presence of George Bell of Toronto!

UMPIRES	<i>Drive of '85 – 1885 Canadian League</i>			
	UMPIRE	FROM	# GAMES	NOTES
	Fred Goldsmith	London	20	Ex-Tecumseh / Major-Leaguer
	William W. Jeffers	Toronto	15	Ex-Toronto Clipper
	Fred Dyson	Guelph	8	Ex-Maple Leaf
	J.E. Thompson	Woodstock	8	Ex-Woodstock Active
	W.L. Crowfoot	Toronto	7	
	Bain	Hamilton	7	
	Thomas Gillean	London	6	Ex-Tecumseh
	McLean	London	6	Ex-Tecumseh
	John Flynn	Hamilton	6	
	George Bell	Toronto	4	
	J. O'Hara	Hamilton	4	
	William S. Smith	Guelph	4	Ex-Maple Leaf
	Charles Maddock	Guelph	3	Current Guelph player
	Jack Horner		1	Current Toronto player
	Tindall/Tindell		1	
	Josh Wayper		1	Ex-Maple Leaf
	James Henigan	Hamilton	0	Current Hamilton Mgr; on list

Martin Lacoste
November 2017