

# The Men And Moments That Made The Toronto Blue Jays The Big 50



## Big 50: Toronto Blue Jays: The Men and Moments that Made the Toronto Blue Jays (The Big 50) by Wolfgang Ziegler

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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The Toronto Blue Jays have been a part of Canada's sporting landscape for 50 years. In that time, they have had some amazing moments and players. This book tells the stories of the men and moments that made the Blue Jays the team they are today.

## The Early Years

The Blue Jays were founded in 1977 as an expansion team. They played their first game on April 7, 1977, against the Chicago White Sox. The Blue Jays lost that game 11-4, but they would go on to have a successful season, finishing with a record of 91-71. The Blue Jays were led by a young star named George Bell, who won the American League Rookie of the Year Award.

The Blue Jays continued to be a competitive team in the 1980s. They won their first division title in 1985, and they made their first World Series appearance in 1989. The Blue Jays lost the World Series to the Oakland Athletics, but they had established themselves as one of the top teams in baseball.

### **The 1990s: The Dynasty Years**

The Blue Jays won their first World Series in 1992. They defeated the Atlanta Braves in four games, and they became the first Canadian team to win a major professional sports championship. The Blue Jays were led by a core of young stars, including Joe Carter, Roberto Alomar, and John Olerud.

The Blue Jays won their second World Series in 1993. They defeated the Philadelphia Phillies in six games. The Blue Jays were again led by Carter, Alomar, and Olerud, as well as a young pitcher named Pat Hentgen.

The Blue Jays continued to be a competitive team in the late 1990s. They won the American League East Division title in 1998, but they lost to the New York Yankees in the American League Championship Series.

### **The 2000s: A New Era**

The Blue Jays struggled in the early 2000s. They did not have a winning record from 2000 to 2004. The Blue Jays began to rebuild in 2005, and they made a strong run in the 2006 season. They won the American League East Division title, but they lost to the Detroit Tigers in the American League Championship Series.

The Blue Jays continued to be a competitive team in the late 2000s. They won the American League East Division title in 2009, but they lost to the Texas Rangers in the American League Championship Series.

### **The 2010s: A New Generation**

The Blue Jays began a new era in 2010 with a young core of players. They won the American League East Division title in 2015, and they made their first World Series appearance since 1993. The Blue Jays lost the World Series to the Kansas City Royals, but they had established themselves as one of the top teams in baseball.

The Blue Jays continued to be a competitive team in the late 2010s. They won the American League East Division title in 2016, but they lost to the Cleveland Indians in the American League Championship Series.

### **The Present**

The Blue Jays are currently in a rebuilding phase. They have not had a winning record since 2016. The Blue Jays are hoping to build a new contending team around a young core of players.

### **The Men And Moments**

The Toronto Blue Jays have had many great players and moments over the years. Here are some of the most memorable:

- George Bell: Bell was the Blue Jays' first star player. He won the American League Rookie of the Year Award in 1979, and he was a three-time All-Star.

- Joe Carter: Carter was the Blue Jays' most famous player. He hit a two-run homerun in the ninth inning of Game 6 of the 1993 World Series to win the championship.
- Roberto Alomar: Alomar was a five-time All-Star and two-time Gold Glove winner. He was one of the best all-around players in baseball in the 1990s.
- John Olerud: Olerud was a three-time All-Star and two-time Gold Glove winner. He was one of the best first baseman in baseball in the 1990s.
- Roy Halladay: Halladay was a two-time Cy Young Award winner. He was one of the best pitchers in baseball in the 2000s.

The Toronto Blue Jays have been through a lot in their 50 years. They have had their ups and downs, but they have always been a part of the Canadian sporting landscape. The Blue Jays are hoping to build on their success in recent years and bring another championship to Toronto.

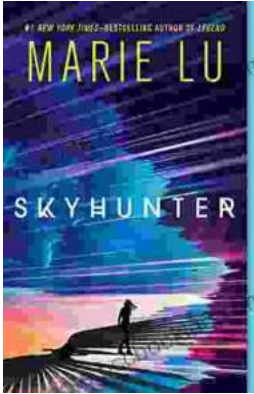


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