

SABR

19th CENTURY COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

- February 1988 -

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A FOUNDING MEMBER: S A B R

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STAGNO COLLECTION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION BOX SCORES

I have finally received this collection, and now we must begin to generate data from it. Michael Stagno has collected newspaper accounts and box scores from all but one or two of the official games played for the National Association championship in the five years of its existence, 1871 thru 1875.

This was professional baseball's first league, and SABR has purchased this research in order to compile more complete historical and statistical records for it. It is hoped that we can be accurate and complete enough to have the statistics included in the main sections of the 1991 edition of the Macmillan Encyclopedia. To accomplish this, we need volunteers to analyze the box scores and game accounts in the Stagno collection and to search for further accounts. Lloyd Johnson also hopes that we can produce a box-score book covering the entire history of the National Association.

On the back of this sheet are examples of the types of resources we are working with. These examples are from three of the more outstanding games in NA history:

- 1) - newspaper account of a grand slam home run hit by Boston's Charlie Gould on September 4, 1871
- 2) - newspaper account of professional baseball's first no-hitter, hurled by Joe Borden (playing under the name "Josephs") on July 28, 1875
- 3) - a portion of Henry Chadwick's scoresheet from June 18, 1874, when the Mutuels trounced the Chicago White Stockings, 38-1, and a box score generated from that scoresheet giving modern-day statistics

Of course, not all 1083 championship games were as noteworthy, nor were they so completely covered by the newspapers and scorekeepers. We have paly-by-play accounts of just over half of the total games and good box scores and accounts of about one-quarter more. That leaves nearly 300 games that must be either "rediscovered" in other newspapers or must have certain statistics estimated using the statistical data available from other games. The statistics hardest to find are runs-batted-in, strikeouts, errors, and stolen bases, all of which are hoped for by Macmillan.

Many of Stagno's copies from microfilm are of poor quality, so we need people who can make new copies of them, particularly of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia newspapers. We also need researchers to look for additional game accounts in their areas. Washington and Baltimore seem to have the most gaps in accounts, as do many of the more obscure cities such as Elizabeth, Dover, Middletown, etc. Richard Topp (Chicago) and Richard Puff (Troy) have already volunteered to begin work in their areas, but many more researchers are needed.

If you want to contribute your time and energy to this project, please drop me a line soon. If you can look for new newspaper accounts, I can send you a list of dates of games in particular cities. If you want to make up modern-day box scores from the accounts, I can send you copies of any legible accounts in the collection and a listing of further accounts that you might try to get better copies of on your own. Our committee's budget will pay copying and mailing costs if you can get receipts to verify the expenses.

Hopefully we can a good start on this project and have something to show to the Macmillan people by the time of the Minneapolis convention in July.

suited in their white uniforms to the... The result of the third inning was similar to that of those preceding it, Tracy scoring the run for the White Stockings. The Red Stockings got three men on bases in the next inning, and Barrows to the bat to send them home, but struck a "fly" to Wood, and left them all on bases. The White Stockings got one base in their fourth inning, and were then retired. Harry Wright now broke the ice for the Reds, and got the first run. He was followed by George Wright, the runs being scored amid the wildest excitement and enthusiasm. Dave Birdsall, McVey, and Spaulding now filled the bases, and Gould took the bat. He hit vigorously to left field, knocking the ball far over the fence, outside the line of foul balls, and sent them all home, putting a home run to his own credit.

The scene was now one of the wildest excitement, the Boston people cheering again and again. The Red Stockings were then retired, having scored six runs. The Whites went out in one-two-three order, and the score was 6 to 3 in favor of the Red Stockings. Neither club scored a run in the sixth inning, and the dose was again administered in the seventh, the score still standing 6 to 3. The Chicago out-throwers now felt despondent, their lucky inning, the seventh, having passed without a run being added to the score. The eighth went by with the score at the same figures, and the Reds were again retired in the ninth inning without a run, and the Whites followed suit. Cheers long and loud rent the air at the finish of the game, and the Bostonians received many congratulations on their success. The game was exceedingly well umpired, the umpire frequently following the striker two-thirds of the way from the plate to the first base. Considerable money was pending on the result, and some heavy bets were made. The result of each inning was telegraphed from the ball ground to Chicago, and the game excited a lively interest in the latter city. Following is the score:

WHITE STOCKINGS. R. H. E. TB.				RED STOCKINGS. R. H. E. TB.			
McVey, 1st b.....	0	0	0	G. Wright, s.....	1	0	0
Wood, 2d b.....	1	1	1	Barnes, 2d b.....	0	0	0
Tracy, 1 f.....	1	2	2	Birdsall, r f.....	0	0	0
Duffy, s. s.....	0	0	0	McVey.....	0	0	0
Simmons, r f.....	0	1	0				
Foley, c f.....							
Plunkett.....							

Mutual Base Ball

TIME WHEN "PLAY" WAS CALLED.	PLAYED AT.....
P. M.	CLINTON
BATSMEN.	
5 Hisham	6 F
4 Addison	7 B
3 Start	8 E
2 Mathews	9 E
1 Hatfield	10 E
4 Nelson	11 E
2 Burdock	12 E
3 Remsen	13 E
6 Carey	14 E
38	8
Total Runs each Inning.	0
Grand Total each Inning.	0

Chicago	ab	r	h	bb	po	a	e
Force, ss-p3	4	0	0	0	0	1	3
Meyerle, 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	3
Malone, c	4	0	0	0	0	1	3
Devlin, 1b	3	0	1	1	0	1	0
Tracy, 1f	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
Hines, cf-ss3	3	0	0	0	0	2	3
Peters, 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	4
Glenn, rf-cf3	3	0	0	0	0	1	2
Collins, p-rf3	3	0	0	0	2	2	0
	30	1	2	1	0	8	27

Thursday, June 18, 1874, at the Union Grounds, Brooklyn									
Chicago					Mutual				
Force, ss-p3	ab	r	h	bb	po	a	e		
Meyerle, 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	3		
Malone, c	4	0	0	0	0	1	3		
Devlin, 1b	3	0	1	1	0	1	0		
Tracy, 1f	3	0	0	0	0	1	4		
Hines, cf-ss3	3	0	0	0	0	2	3		
Peters, 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	4		
Glenn, rf-cf3	3	0	0	0	0	1	2		
Collins, p-rf3	3	0	0	0	2	2	0		
	30	1	2	1	0	8	27	16	20
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Mutuals	8	1	5	3	5	8	5	2	1
	ip	h	r	ex	bb	so	wp		
Collins	2*	12	14	2	1	0	7		
Force	7	22	24	12	0	0	0		
Mathews	9	2	1	1	0	8	0		
* faced five batters in 3rd									
PB- Malone 5, Higham									

Chicago	ab	r	h	bb	po	a	e
Force, ss-p3	8	5	5	2	0	0	5
Allison, rf-c5	7	4	4	2	1	0	7
Start, 1b	8	6	5	7	0	0	4
Mathews, p	8	3	3	2	0	0	1
Hatfield, lf	9	5	3	1	0	0	3
Nelson, 2b	8	4	3	1	0	0	1
Burdock, 3b	8	2	2	2	0	0	3
Remsen, cf	8	3	3	3	0	0	3
Carey, ss	8	6	6	3	0	0	0
	72	38	34	22	1	0	27

LOB- Chicago 2, Mutuals 8  
BE- Chicago 3, Mutuals 16  
2B- Higham, Hatfield 2  
3B- Allison, Start, Remsen 2, Carey  
HR- Burdock, Carey, Start 2  
SB- Hatfield, Burdock, Carey  
CS- Burdock, Allison, Higham  
Time- 2:35 Attendance- 1500  
Umpire- Bechtel

# PHILADELPHIA VS. CHICAGO

## AN UNPARALLELED GAME YESTERDAY

### THE CHICAGOES BLANKED.

"JOSEPH'S" EFFECTIVE PITCHING.

#### A SPLENDID FIELDING CONTEST

One of the most remarkable games on record, and one standing without precedent, was played on Wednesday, July 23rd, between the Philadelphia and Chicago clubs. Not remarkable from the fact that the Chicagoes failed to make a run, but noticeably so because they failed to score a single base hit during the entire game.

It is somewhat strange that the Chicago club always figure in contests that become remarkable by the number of innings or the smallness of the scored runs.

The attendance was small, but had the match-going public known that such a fine contest would take place, it is doubtful whether the accommodations would have been sufficient for the attendance.

Of course all the honor of this contest falls on "Josephs," the amateur pitcher, and the only one who can say an opposing club made no hits on him.

His pitching was magnificent, swift and effective, and the rapid and peculiar delivery was kept up all through the game.

When the Chicagoes went to the bat for the ninth time the excitement was intense, and when the last man went out those present gave vent to their pent-up excitement by rising and cheering.

The Philadelphia played a beautiful game, and the entire nine played in harmony and as one man, and the errors committed, fortunately for them, did not have any influence on the score.

Another marked feature of the game was the number of brilliant plays made by the fielders in taking flies, which, as a general rule, would have counted for two and three base hits.

Snyder caught splendidly and backed up "Josephs" swift pitching in a fine manner, so that he escaped without an error through the game is saying enough to form some idea of his playing.

Murran at first played a very nice game, and the errors charged to him were of no important magnitude.

McVey, at second base, played a brilliant game, making some fine stops and catches.

Meyerle, at third, and Palmer, at short, were all that could be desired in these

## SPALDING GUIDE REPRINTS

Committee member Ralph Horton has reprinted the Spalding Base Ball Guides for 1884, 1885, & 1886. These fascinating guides are reproduced in their entirety, including the original averages, editorial content, and advertisements and make a wonderful addition to any 19th Century baseball library. Single volumes are available for \$14.95 each (plus \$2.00 postage & handling) from:

Horton Publishing  
P.O.Box 29234  
St. Louis, MO 63126

All three can be purchased for \$41.95 plus \$2.00 postage & handling. Ralph assures me that he ships each order within 24 hours of receiving it.

## CONNIE MACK BIOGRAPHY

The only umpire ever to eject Connie Mack from a game was Hank O'Day, a former batterymate of Connie's. The incident took place in New York on September 6, 1895, and Mack's objections that day were so strong that a \$100 fine was levied against him and the police had to be called before he left the field.

If you know of any anecdotes or little-known facts concerning Mack or any of the players or teams he was associated with, NORMAN MACHT would like to hear from you. Norman is working on a biography of baseball's grand old man. His address is:

Norman Macht  
P.O. Box 265  
Thompson, CT 06277

## 19th CENTURY STARS Project

Mark Rucker reports that most of the biographies have been received, and the editing is well underway. If you signed up to do a bio of a player but have not submitted it yet, please apprise Mark of the status of your work. He and John Thorn continue to head this project, despite the announcement in the recent SABR Bulletin to the contrary.

## "BASEBALL HISTORY" Magazine Article

The winter edition of "Baseball History" Magazine contains two articles of particular interest to 19th century historians, both written by SABR members. One, entitled "Hit 'er Up Again, Boston!" by Bill Felber, deals with the climactic Boston-Baltimore series in 1897. The other, "Sweeney of San Francisco" by Joel Franks, examines the life and career of Charley Sweeney. There is also an article by Adie Suehsdorf about Walter Johnson's semi-pro career in California and Idaho. The magazine is published by the Meckler Corporation, 11 Ferry Lane West, Westport, CT 06880. The cover price is \$6.00.

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## QUIZ

Last newsletter's quiz, with its innocuously worded trick questions, elicited only a few responses, none of which had completely correct answers. John Miller of Albuquerque, who answered the first three questions correctly and got partial credit on the last two, is the winner and will receive a copy of Dodger Classics. The correct answers were:

1 - In what month was the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs founded?

ANSWER - February, 1876

2 - What clubs were charter members of the league?

ANSWER - Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati, Boston, Hartford, Mutual, and Athletic (not "New York and Philadelphia" for the last two)

3 - In what month was the 1876 schedule published?

ANSWER - No schedule was ever adopted or published for 1876. The clubs merely agreed to play ten games with each opposing club. It was only after the Mutuals and Athletics failed to complete their playing obligations at the end of the season that the necessity of a pre-arranged schedule was perceived. So baseball's first league-wide schedule was not adopted until 1877.

4 - Give the order of finish in the official standings

ANSWER -

	<u>Club</u>	<u>Games Won</u>
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1st-	Chicago	52
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2nd-	Hartford	47
------	----------	----

3rd-	St. Louis	45
------	-----------	----

4th-	Boston	39
------	--------	----

5th-	Louisville	30
------	------------	----

6th-	Mutual	21
------	--------	----

7th-	Athletic	14
------	----------	----

8th-	Cincinnati	9
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Note that Hartford finished second, not St. Louis as listed in the encyclopedias. National League standings were determined by games won, not by percentage, until 1884. (The American Association introduced percentage as the basis of standings in 1882).

5 - How many called balls gave the batter his base on balls in 1876?

ANSWER - THREE called balls - Rule IV, Sec. 7 stated, "All balls delivered to the bat which are not over the home base and at the height called for by the batsman shall be considered unfair balls, and every third ball so delivered must be called. When "Three Balls" have been called, the striker shall take first base..."

So, although it took nine unfair balls ("balls" by today's definition), only three of these were called balls, and it took three called balls for a walk.

## NEW QUIZ

For this quiz, EVERY MEMBER submitting a correct list of answers will receive a copy of Dodger Classics, 1883-1983. There is only one real trick question this time.

Having dealt with the beginning of the National League in the last quiz, this quiz will deal with the origin of the American League and with its predecessor, the Western League headed by Ban Johnson. All questions refer to the Western League 1894-1899.

1 - What four cities were in the Western League for all six years (1894-99) and are currently in the American League?

2 - What ballpark site was first used by the Western League and is now the site of an American League stadium?

3 - What city won the most Western League pennants between 1894 and 1899, inclusive?

4 - What Western League batting champion also won a National League batting title?

5 - What Western League batting champion also won an American League batting title?

Send your answers to Bob Tiemann, 4518 Wichita Av., St. Louis, MO 63110

## SOME NATIONAL ASSOCIATION "FIRSTS"

- First Game - May 4, 1871, at Hamilton Field, Fort Wayne, Indiana  
Kekionga of Fort Wayne beat Forest City of Cleveland, 2-0
- First Shutout - Bobby Mathews of the Kekiongas pitched this first shutout, allowing 4 hits. There were only three other shutouts during the 1871 season, and Mathews and the Kekiongas lost all three.
- First Batter & first hit - Cleveland lead off hitter Jim "Deacon" White opened the game with a two-base hit.
- First out & Double Play - The second batter, Gene Kimball, flied out to second baseman Tom Carey, who beat White to the base for an unassisted double play.
- First Strikeout- In the top of the second, Art Allison struck out but reached first base safely when the ball was not held by catcher Bill Lennon.
- First Stolen Base- Moments later, Allison was caught off first base but escaped the rundown and reached second base safely.
- First Single - Fort Wayne's Jim Foran got a one-base hit with two out in the bottom of the first inning off of Cleveland pitcher Al Pratt.
- First Run - Bill Lennon of the Kekiongas scored it in the second inning. He doubled to open the inning and came home on a single by Joe McDermott.
- First Walk - Wally Goldsmith of the Kekiongas drew it in the fourth inning.
- First Fielding Error - Fort Wayne shortstop Goldsmith muffed White's liner in the sixth inning
- First Pinch-hitter - May 5, 1871, at Washington - Frank Norton batted in place of the injured Doug Allison in the seventh inning for the Olympics, He struck out in his only at bat, and then made an error in his only fielding chance.
- First triple - Boston's Harry Schafer hit it in that May 5th game in the ninth inning off of Asa Brainard, the Olympics' pitcher.
- First Home Run - Ezra Sutton of Forest City of Cleveland hit it on May 8, 1871, at Chicago in the fourth inning with Al Pratt on base. The blow went over left fielder Mart King's head. Two at bats later, Sutton hit the second NA home run, this one through "the failure of Foley (cf) to hold the ball. George Zettlein was the Chicago pitcher.

Stagno's figures show that Ed Pinkham, pictured here without his mustache, led the National Association in drawing bases on balls in 1871.

