
THE LAH-DE-DAH TIMES

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August 27-28, 2022 (but really, it's always 1867 on Walnut Grove)

Last Week on Walnut Grove

The first game played this season at Walnut Grove brought the Eclipse BBC of Northville to play the Lah-de-dahs. As the Times noted the following week, "Despite a huge crowd, and a great energy in the air, your boys in red played terribly and lost by a final tally of 13-1." On Saturday, the LDDBBC hoped to even up the score, forcing a third game in the 3-game matched. Unlike that first contest of the season, this was a tremendous contest. The boys in red jumped out with 4 in their first inning, but by the close of the second innings, the game was tied at 7-all. The score then went 10-9, 14-9, 14-13, 16-13, 16-17, 18-17, and at the close of 9 even innings, the crowd saw a score knotted at 18-18. By rule, the game continued, with the Lah-de-dahs scoring 5 in their tenth inning, and holding the Eclipse to 2, thus winning 23-20. The game was tightly contested throughout, with the Eclipse completing at least four double plays. The play of the game undoubtedly was made by the grizzled veteran *Bill Professor Jentzen*. In the Eclipse 9th inning, they had a man on the third base with the score knotted at 18. They only needed 90 feet to score the winning run. The Eclipse striker hit the ball to right field, and the Professor deftly navigated the hill as the sky ball game his way. He secured the catch and the Eclipse runner broke for home. Bill's throw was right on target and came in so quickly that the Eclipse runner stopped $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way home and tried to retreat, ending up out by tag. Without that catch and throw, the Eclipse win the game; instead, the LDD took home that day's trophy ball. The LDD play the Eclipse in Northville in September to complete the three-game series.

Sunday's LDD-Nats contest was washed out, and they will try again on Sunday.

RULES QUIZ

The game starts on time at 1:30 p.m., and the weather is beautiful. Musket is pitching for the Dahs in the seventh innings, and he has begun to tire. Doc is striking for the Nationals. After two pitches have bounced before reaching home base, Mr. Davies as umpire calls "Ball to the bat!" The next pitch is well outside, and Mr. Davies calls "One ball!" The next seven pitches are all right across home base, about waist high, which is what Doc had requested, yet he did not swing at any of them, nor did he receive a warning. Musket's next two pitches again fall short, with Mr. Davies calling "Two balls" and then "Three balls," and Doc takes his base on balls.

A vile cur among the spectators is heard to say that the fix must be in, with Mr. Davies being in the pocket of the Nationals. Cougar, the LDDBBC Captain, politely asks Mr. Davies to explain why Musket as pitcher was warned and then had balls called, while Doc failed to strike at pitches where he asked for them and yet received no warning, and no strikes called against him. Was Mr. Davies in the right in his calls? (See answer on reverse.)

This Week's Opponents

Saturday: The Cornshuckers of Canton again make their way to Walnut Grove on Sunday. The LDDBBC is quite familiar with this powerful young club, and aspire to making them say "Aw, shucks!" when the game is over.

Sunday: The Nationals and Lah-de-dahs try once more, having been rained out last week. It's always a fun time when these two familiar foes face each other.

THE MUSIC WE HEAR

Each Saturday during our base ball season, you will see the players on the field for warm-ups, and then a little before 1:00 p.m., they simply leave the field. A little while later, they come parading back, led by America's premier 19th Century brass band, The Dodworth Saxhorn Band. Playing "Hail, Columbia!", "Marching Through Georgia," or other Civil War era songs, the DSB provides an extra measure of enjoyment to our ball games every Saturday, as well as in the World Tournament and on Labor Day.

The Dodworth Saxhorn Band is modeled after the Dodworth Band of New York City, which was the premier brass band in the United States from the 1840s to the 1880s. In keeping with its living history origins, the DSB uses only brass and percussion instruments that were built in the 1800s. The antique horns are conical-bore instruments commonly called "saxhorns." These handmade saxhorns are pitched higher than modern 21st Century brass instruments and produce a uniquely mellow tone.

The instruments that often catch spectators' attention are the over-the-shoulder horns, also known as "back'ard blasters." They were designed primarily for military use. When a band marched at the head of a column of soldiers, the backward facing bells made it easier for the music to be heard, thus helping the soldiers march on the beat. The drums are also authentic to the 19th Century, and you will even hear period Zildjian cymbals imported from Turkey.

We often note that the ballists on the field are playing using the rules and customs of 1867, but not authentic equipment. The Dodworth Saxhorn Band brings an extra level of authenticity when they play music of our era on instruments of our era. If you would like

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For new ballists and spectators

Noted journalist Henry Chadwick, in his 1868 book *The Game of Base Ball: How to Learn It, How to Play It and How to Teach It*, provides detailed advice about all aspects of the game. Here he describes how to select key personnel needed for club success.

In organizing a nine it is very important that a good selection be made in choosing the captain of it. In the selection of a captain, two classes of players are to be avoided, the one including those of quick temper, without self-control, dictatorial in their manners, imperious in commanding, and too fond of having this and that done simply because it is their desire that it should be so. The other class are those easily influenced, of no determination of character, afraid of censure, and two desirous of pleasing their friends in the course they pursue, at the cost of the best interests of the club they belong to, to be desirable players for the position. Among the moral qualifications of a captain of a nine should be a manly love of fair play, and gentlemanly deportment to the extent, at least, of keeping silent when accidental errors are committed by the fielders, and also in regard to the manner in which he issues his orders to his men. His physical requisites should include the ability to occupy any position in the field creditably in case of an emergency. But especially it is necessary that the captain of the nine should be well up in all the "points" of the game, and on the watch to take advantage of the errors of the opposing nine, and especially be proof against despondency when the odds are against him in a match.

We would suggest to clubs that they consult their own interests as well as those of the fraternity at large, by securing among their members one or more specially fitted to act as umpires. To act properly in this position a player requires training and practice as well as he does to excel as a player in any particular position of the nine. In your practice games, therefore, select one or two men from your club to act regularly as umpires, and choose those, who, by their innate love of fair play, marked determination of character, and peculiar aptitude for quickly perceiving the salient points of the game, show themselves to be umpires by nature as well as by training.

No club can be properly organized for a season's campaign which does not possess a thoroughly competent scorer, and the members selected for this position should not only be noted for his courtesy of demeanor and good humor, but he should be one fond of statistical work and competent to make out a full analysis of the season's play each year.

More from *The Game of Base Ball* in future issues!

to learn more about the DSB and their history, their instruments, or their performing schedule, you can find that at www.dodworth.org. (NOTE: Much of the text for this article is from that site.)



ACCIDENT TO A BALL PLAYER. – Capt. Pat. Dewire, one of the first nine of the Excelsior B. B. C. of Jeffersonville, Ind., met with a very painful accident on the 26th ult. While walking up Spring street, his pistol fell out of his pocket, and the hammer striking the pavement the pistol exploded, one of the loads taking effect and hitting him above the knee, the ball ranging up along the thigh.

ADVICE. – Boys, don't neglect business to play ball. Business first, and pleasure afterwards.

Ball Player's Chronicle, August 8, 1867



RULES QUIZ ANSWER

Mr. Davies was indeed right. Sec. 42 of the rules notes in part "Should a striker stand at the bat without striking at good balls repeatedly pitched to him, for the apparent purpose of delaying the game, or of giving advantage to a player, the umpire, after warning him, shall call one strike, and if he persists in such action, two and three strikes" (emphasis added). Remember that neither darkness nor rain were approaching, so Doc couldn't be seen as delaying the game (a practice to slow down the game until it became impossible to play due to darkness); there were no runners on base, and so he couldn't be seen as giving advantage to a player (i.e., waiting to swing until the catcher dropped a pitch, giving a runner an easy stolen base). In other words, the striker's intention matters in determine strikes. Mr. Davies was thus justified in not warning Doc or calling strikes.

Conversely, Sec. 6 of the rules notes in part "Should the pitcher repeatedly fail to deliver to the striker fair balls, for the apparent purpose of delaying the game or for any cause, the umpire, after warning him, shall call one ball, and if the pitcher persists in such action, two and three balls; when three balls shall have been called, the striker shall take the first base" (emphasis added). The clause "or for any cause" includes lack of ability. In other words, balls can be called simply because the pitcher is not pitching well. The most frequently described reason for this was pitchers trying too hard to pitch swiftly and thus losing control. Mr. Davies was justified in warning Musket, and in calling balls – the reason for the unfair pitches was irrelevant.