
THE LAH-DE-DAH TIMES

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August 20-21, 2022 (but really, it's always 1867 on Walnut Grove)

Last Week on Walnut Grove

Twelve of the best vintage base teams in the Midwest came to Walnut Grove to vie for the coveted title of Champion of the World Tournament of Historic Base Ball. By Sunday afternoon, only one team remained undefeated, and claimed the laurels. The Walker Tavern Wheels of Brooklyn emerged on top for a second time by defeating the Bear Clan BBC of Flat Rock, and the Walker captain, *Jim Crazy Legs Terwilliger* lifted the beautiful Greenfield Village pottery trophy high in celebration. The Wheels looked unbeatable this tournament, defeating several teams by over 15 runs, including winning the championship match against the Bear Clan by a final tally of 25-11. The Second Class champion was the Canton Cornshuckers BBC, and the Third Class champion was your own Greenfield Village Lah-De-Dahs. The Henry Chadwick Sportsmanship Award went to the Black Flag BBC of Drovertown, who lost three of their games by one run. The Worst Beaten Clubs (aka, "the Bag of Peanuts") were delivered to the Blues BBC of Indianapolis and the Ganymedes BBC of Oregon, Illinois.

Your Lah-De-Dahs lost both matches on Saturday, 8-28 against Walker Tavern and 10-19 against the Columbus Buckeyes. The Dahs were able to rebound on Sunday, winning 17-9 against the Indianapolis Blues and 9-8 against the Black Flags BBC of Drovertown to take the Third Class Championship. In the Third Class Championship match, the Dahs and Black Flags were tied going into the sixth inning with the game ending on a time limit. Umpire *Paul Old Coot Hunkele* announced the game as a tie to the spectators, to which the spectators began to boo and hiss. Dahs' captain *Jeff Cougar Koslowski* and the Black Flags captain agreed to play extra innings to decide a winner. The match remained deadlocked in a tie for three more innings, and at the conclusion of each extra innings, the spectators shouted for the teams to continue to play. Ultimately, your Dahs were victorious after *Nate Snooker Whaley* hit a fine strike to bring in the speedy *Harry Silk Moroz* to score the winning run.

Your Nationals, captained by *Matt Mad Dog Valant*, played well on Saturday, defeating the Indianapolis Blues by 18-5 and the Columbus Capitals, 11-9. This made history for the World Tournament, as it was the first time ever the Nationals made it to the final four teams and to the First Class semifinals. The Nationals lost to the eventual champion Walker Wheel by 15-7, in a match that was back and forth until the very last inning.

The Detroit Free Press noted, on August 21, 1867, that "the best feeling has prevailed throughout the entire tournament," and the same could have been written about last weekend's 20th anniversary of the reincarnation of the 1867 World Tournament at Greenfield Village. The Dahs congratulate all of the participating clubs on their fine play and look forward to next year's tournament.

By Bobby Minnow Murkowski & Matt Mad Dog Valant

RULES QUIZ

Noodles, batting for the Nats, laces a ball into the centre field. He rounds first and heads for second, and as he approaches the base he sees the throw coming to LDD second baseman, Boomba. Noodles dives for the base in desperation, and in the ferocity of his dive the base tears away from its position, flying several feet toward the outfield. Noodles stands up, making sure that his feet are in constant contact with the post in the ground where the base is normally attached. Boomba tags him with the ball. Is Noodles in or out? (See answer on back page.)

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

At the Henry Ford and Greenfield Village, we work hard to get things right, including the little things. This week we highlight some of those "little things" that may not be noticed but which we do to ensure that the historic base ball program gets it right.

First, notice the foul lines on the field. Section 4 of the 1867 rules states in part "In all match games a line connecting the home and first base and the home and third base, shall be marked by the use of chalk... so as to be distinctly seen by the umpire." Note that the rule does not yet require that the line go beyond the bases, and indeed, the lines on our field stop at the bases.

Sticking with the topic of the foul lines, though not a rule, Chadwick does encourage the placement of "foul flags" approximately 100 feet beyond the first and third bases, to assist the umpire in judging fair and foul balls. We do in fact have such foul flags, and they are constructed based on designs from 1867. The red and white flags are based on the cover of the 1867 sheet music for "The Base Ball Quadrille" (it's easy to find the image with a Google search), modified from the original Tri-Mountain BBC to represent our own Lah-de-dahs (LDDBBC). The blue and gold flags that were in use for the World's Tournament represent our National BBC, and are true to a design in an 1867 sporting goods catalog.

Though it may be difficult (perhaps impossible) for spectators to see, there are two round white plates on the field, one located in the middle of the front line of the pitcher's area, and the other in the middle of the back line. Section 5 of the rules describes the pitcher's area thusly: "The pitcher's position shall be designated by two lines, two yards in length, drawn at right angles to a line

Continued as "Little things" on page 2

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!

from home to second base, having their centres upon that line at two fixed iron plates, placed at points fifteen and sixteen and one-third yards distant from the home base." Though you likely can't see them, the "pitcher's points" are there.

Lastly, some may remember that we used to cheer with the word "huzzah," rather than the word we now use, which is "hurrah." We have made this change because, quite simply, we were wrong before. As the Vintage Base Ball Association's Rules and Customs Committee explains:

"Hurrah" was the common cheer of mid-19th century base ball. A well-documented American cheer of the 19th century was three "Hip, Hip, Hurrahs."

This cheer, for emphasis, was sometimes followed by a "tiger." This was an 'additional cheer with greater emphasis'; or "one more" (often the word "tiger") or a "growl, screech or howl" (1842).

"Huzzah" was an archaic English cheer that was displaced by Hurrah among Americans by the early 19th century. (NOTE: Think of familiar songs of the Civil War era, like "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again, Hurrah! Hurrah!" or "Marching Through Georgia's" line "Hurrah! Hurrah! We bring the jubilee!")

We certainly don't get everything right, and we still change things when we realize we are wrong. But your Lah-da-dahs and Nationals try very hard to get things right – even the little things.

This Week's Opponents

Saturday: The Eclipse of Northville opened the Walnut Grove season of base ball, and took that game 13-1. The LDDBBC hopes to even the score!

Sunday: The Nationals and Lah-de-dahs face each other once again on Sunday. This rivalry is one for the ages (and not because of the age of many of the players!)

RULES QUIZ ANSWER

Noodles is out. Section 18 of the rules states "Any player running the bases is out if at any time he is touched by the ball while in play in the hands of an adversary, without some part of his person being on the base." The commentary on that rule clarifies that "A player makes his base if he touches the base-bag, no matter whether the base-bag is in its position or not. That alone is considered 'the base.'" So if the base comes loose in a play, runners have to go to the base, wherever it may happen to be.