

Cowtown Vintage Base Ball Club

Wichita Base Ball Articles 1873-1880

Reprinted from the Wichita City Eagle, August 21, 1873

Base Ball is to be our next affliction

Reprinted from the Wichita City Eagle, April 9, 1874

The colored boys of Wichita have organized a base ball club. Their grounds are just north of town, and they practice Saturday afternoons.

Reprinted from the Wichita Weekly Beacon, September 2, 1874

The baseball mania has reached us. What with the Indian scare, the drought, the chinch bugs and the grasshopper, truly we are badly afflicted; but as a supplement to this grand drama of misery our callow youths have inaugurated the "National Game" in the midst of us. What shall we do to circumvent their match-inations? Answer Eldorado Club, ditto Sedgwick Club ... or any club-footed grangers. Our crack club has, had the conceit so taken out of them by the aforesaid clubs, that we fear they could not respond to the call on time again; but the Sunday school youths say "wait until we get our new uniforms." We shall see what we shall see: These effeminate youngsters naturally devoid of "hirsute appendages," their hair cropped so short that the vermin find existence a bare necessity and no luxury. As a crowning feature; a bladder skin cap joined to these, a flashy shirt with pockets for the breast, white breeches, blue stockings, "yaller" pumps and hobnailed with 8 pennies to make `em springy, won't they make "jumping jacks." A stranger happening among us on field day would think the state penitentiary was located here. Ah! but, the halcyon days of youth are ours. But once when we grow of age like Paul "we put away all childish amusements" and accept the stern realities of maturity like men. Boys, go in on your muscle if you've got any, and if not, cultivate it

Reprinted from the Wichita Weekly Beacon, September 2, 1874

Base Ball

Base ballist of late have been active. Some days ago the Wichita and Valley club (col.) played a match game, and judging from the score which stood, Wichita 81, Valley 12. We should say that the "colored troops" did not on that occasion "fight nobly" as they are wont. Another game between the Wichita club and a picked nine, resulted in a victory for the Wichita club. Score: Wichita 48, Picked nine 13. The match game on last Saturday between the Wichita club and a scrub nine again, "panned out" for the Wichitas, Score: Wichita 26, Scrub, 20. The Wichita club is improving, and as they now stick to business with a bull dog tenacity, we may expect great results in the future.

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Reprinted from the Wichita Weekly Beacon, July 30, 1879

A lively and closely contested game of baseball was played, last Saturday afternoon, at the fair grounds, by the Wichita Base Ball Club, and a picked nine from Sumner county. The game lasted two hours and twenty minutes, and was won, after a skillful play, by the Wichita Club, they scoring thirteen to eight for the Sumner county club. The game excited considerable interest, there being over two hundred spectators on the grounds. Our Wichita boys feel quite proud of their victory.

Reprinted from the Wichita City Eagle, July 31, 1879

At the game of base ball played upon the Wichita grounds last Saturday, between the "Wichitas" and the "Rolling Greens" of Sumner county, the score stood as follows"

WICHITAS --- SCORE

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
Blackman, s.s	1	...	O	2	...	0	2	...	3	2
Francis, f.b.	2	...	O	+	...	1	+	...	...	1
Grismore, r.f.	3	...	+	3	...	O	3	...	...	1
Ern Lauck, p.	...	1	2	...	O	2	...	O	...	2
E. Nudd, c.	...	O	3	...	1	+	1	1	...	1
Ed. Lauck, s.b.	...	2	...	O	2	3	...	2	...	1
H. Nudd, t.b.	...	+	...	1	O	...	O	3	...	2
Everts, c.f.	...	3	2	O	O	...	1	...	2	2
Parshall, l.f.	...	...	1	O	3	...	+	...	1	1
Totals	0	1	2	3	3	2	1	1	0	13

ROLLING GREENS --- SCORE

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R
Ed. Sparr, c	1	...	2	...	1	...	1	...	O	1
Fleetwood, s.b.	2	...	O	...	2	...	2	...	O	2
D. Roberts, r.f.	+	...	+	...	+	...	3	...	1	0
O. Morse, t.b.	3	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	+	0
Rube, f.b.	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	3	0
Lute Sparr, s.s.	...	+	...	2	...	O	...	O	2	2
A. Fleet'd, l.f.	...	2	...	3	...	3	...	+	...	0
Beal, p.	...	3	...	+	O	O	...	3	...	2
A.D. Sparr, c.f.	...	...	1	+	...	3	...	...	O	1
Totals	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	3	8

Time of game, two hours and twenty min.

JOHN A. MALLORY, Umpire

JOHN J. DINES, Scorer

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Reprinted from the Wichita City Eagle, August 7, 1879

At the match game of ball on the Wichita base ball grounds, played between the Wichita boys and the El Paso club, August 2d, 1879, the following score was made:

WICHITA B.B.C. --- SCORE

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	O
Blackman	...	2	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	10	3
Francis	1	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	11	5
Grismore	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	12	2
Ern Lauck	...	...	...	...	3	1 2	...	2	...	10	4
Roof	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	...	11	4
Ed Lauck	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	2	11	3
Ozane	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	...	...	11	2
Everts	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	2
Parshall	...	1	...	1 3	...	...	...	...	1 3	9	4
Totals	23	0	12	7	1	17	10	10	13	96	27

EL PASO B.B.C. --- SCORE

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	O
E. Minnich	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	1	3
W. Baldwin	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	3	...	1	5
S. Whaley	2	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	1	1	2
J. McCoy	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	4
J. Law	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	2	4
W. Culver	...	3	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	1	3
F. Forest	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
L. McBee	...	...	2	...	1	2	...	...	...	0	2
B. Lloyd	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	4
Totals	0	0	0	4	1	3	1	1	0	10	27

Umpire --- E.H. Nudd

Scorer --- John J. Dines

Time of game --- four hours.

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Reprinted from the Wichita City Eagle, August 14, 1879

A MATCH B.B. GAME

There will be lots of fun at the Fair Grounds next Saturday and probably some excitement. The Westerns of Topeka who last week cleaned out the St. Louis professionals have accepted an invitation to play the Wichita club. The Topeka club will be accompanied by a number of citizens of the capital. Mr. Ward Burlingame will accompany them and will umpire the game. The game will be called in the afternoon in time for the people to witness it. Parties will be here from Newton, Sedgwick, Wellington and Winfield. There is no doubt as to the result. Of course the Topeka nine will be scooped. They expect that. But they will do their best to avoid a whitewash. A nine who can play a good game blindfolded, and hit a twister by moonlight, does not even dread professionals much less a soft, green outfit from Topeka. Carriages, buses and hacks will run to the grounds. The names of the Wichita nine are Marsh, Francis, Smoyer, Barnard, Donahue, Clark, Ozane, Myers, Ford – every man with a record in the old States.

P.S. The game has been postponed owing to a misunderstanding about the Fair Grounds, which had been leased. Due notice will be given of the time and place, when fixed.

Reprinted from the Wichita Weekly Beacon August 20, 1879

Ball and Bat

Saturday afternoon last, the “Westerns,” of Topeka, the champion base ball nine of Kansas, met a picked “nine,” of Wichita, called the “bulldozers,” (evidently a misnomer, as the sequel shows,) at the fair grounds. The game was called at 4 p.m., with the Westerns at the bat, where they succeeded in scoring two tallies, before invited by the home club to change positions by the “three out, side out.” The home boys succeeded in getting Whitewashed.

During the second inning the Bulldozers did some very poor playing, letting the Westerns score six tallies before being sent to “grass.” By this time the “Bulldozers” felt very much bulldozed, but by some good batting they scored five tallies before being put out. Here, Francis made the best hit of the game, sending a “star gazer” clear over the center field and bringing home two men. At this period of the game the home boys felt better than during any other time, the score standing five to eight in favor of the Westerns.

In the third inning the Westerns scored four tallies, while the home boys scored nothing. At this stage of the game, the umpire gave some decisions which the home boys thought unfair and which caused them to lose heart. In the fourth inning the Westerns made eight tallies to the Bulldozers two, the score standing at the end of the fourth inning, seven to twenty in favor of the Westerns. During this inning the home club did some very poor playing, particularly in letting one man to third base by wild throws. The fifth inning the Westerns scored six tallies and whitewashed the home club.

Most of the crowd left at the end of this inning, supposing the game ended. But one more inning was played, during which the Westerns made four tallies to the Bulldozers one, the score standing eight to thirty. The crowd, numbering about three hundred, took very little interest in the game after the second inning, as the game was very one sided. Topeka should be proud of her club as they are a very strong team. The home boys missed by not choosing players who had played together before. Ozane as pitcher, and

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Marsh as first baseman did some fine playing and if the other seven had been as good as those two, the score would have been very different at the end of the game.

Reprinted from the Wichita City Eagle, August 21, 1879

WESTERNS vs. BULLDOZERS

The Westerns, of Topeka, came on the noon train Saturday and were received by a proper committee and conveyed in buses to the Occidental where they had dinner, after which the two clubs repaired to the Fair Grounds, where were about three hundred ladies and gentlemen in waiting to see the game. After a few preliminaries the game commenced, the Westerns to the bat, The first inning they made two scores before Mr. Burlingame, the umpire called out. The Bulldozers got whitewashed the first time, but were on deck the second time making for themselves a good record, but the Westerns proved too much for them, and at the end of the seventh inning they were compelled to stop the game account of the lateness of the hour, the Westerns having beaten the Bulldozers nearly four to one. The best of reeling prevailed throughout the game among the members of the two glad of the pleasure of meeting and playing with the boys from the capital, every member of which is a gentleman, and they hope to meet them on their own grounds and give then another tilt. And we wish to say right here, in our judgement, for pure, unadulterated, and unbiased umpiring, commend us to Ward Burlingame. He is just that kind of a man. In order that no point should escape his notice he worked harder than any other man on the grounds, and we think our boys are perfectly satisfied with his decisions. We might offer some criticisms or suggestions to our club, but we will leave that for others, and say, upon the whole those who witnessed the game were well played and highly entertained, and the Wichita people are proud of their club – the Bulldozers. The names of the Westerns are. Ches. West, Hale Richie, Rich Phelan, Joe C. Knight, F.B. Rix, E. Millham and F. Halm.

Reprinted from the Wichita City Eagle, August 21, 1879

WINNING WESTERNS.

Everybody was anxious last night to hear the result of the game at Wichita and when the *Commonwealth* special, which will be found on the first page, came, it received with cheers.

The fact that the Westerns made but four runs shows that the Bulldozers were no mean adversaries, and since the Bulldozers scored but one, it is evident that our boys did their work well. Thus far the Westerns have been successful in every game they have played, and if they are careful and practice faithfully we have no fears that they will lose the championship. It is probable that poor batting was done by the Westerns or the Bulldozers are extremely good fielders. Our boys will be home to-day at 2:25.

Commonwealth, 17th.

Reprinted from the Wichita City Eagle, August 21, 1879

The Wichita Base Ball Club will reorganize complete this week. The two organizations contain material for a crack club and the next time the Westerns are called they will find

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business. Several of our subscribers have complained of the want of notice and the notice of postponement in the EAGLE. But for the latter notice Salem, Waco and other points would have sent up delegations. We were in nowise to blame as we were requested just as we were going to press to say that the match had been indefinitely put off.

Reprinted from the Wichita City Eagle, August 21, 1879

Here is what the WICHITA EAGLE says of the base ball game which comes off to-day in that city. We predict that the EAGLE will scream out the other corner of its mouth in its next issue. *Commonwealth, Friday.*

That was "out of the other corner." The Wichita boys know now what we knew a week ago, but we were not the one to take the conceit out of them, but rather to brace them up. The result of the "brace" is only too well understood in these parts.

Reprinted from the Wichita Weekly Beacon, September 4, 1879

Base Ball game, Saturday, between the Wichita club and the Shawnees, of Toepka. The latter are said to be equal to the Westerns.

Reprinted from the Wichita Weekly Beacon, September 4, 1879

The new Wichita base ball club is a new organization of the ablest players of the city, composed largely of the old Wichita nine; and many citizens were of the opinion that if the "Wichitas" had played the "Westerns" the game would have been the other way. The game on Saturday promises to be very entertaining.

Reprinted from the Wichita Daily Beacon, September 5, 1879

We take pleasure in stating that the Red Stocking Base-ball club has been organized on a substantial basis, with a corps of executive officers, and a "nine" that are destined to acquire more than a local reputation. The following is a list of the officers and members of the club;

President, E.B. Jewett; M.M. Alexander, Vice President; W.A. Richey, Treasurer; A.F. Stanley, secretary and Capt. L. N. Woodcock, manager.

Board of Directors, J.P. Allen, L.N. Woodcock, E.B. Jewett, W.A. Richey, T.L. Nixon, M.M. Alexander, Geo. A. Martin, C. Smythe and A.F. Stanley. The "nine" are made up as follows: E. Nudd, catcher, E. Ozanne, pitcher, E. Blackman, s-s, N. Marsh, 1st-base, Ed. Lauck, 2nd-base, E.H. Nudd, 3rd-base, Ern Lauck, l-field, R. Dines, c-field, A. Parshall, r-field with E. Blackman, captain.

Honorary member's tickets admitting to all games can be procured of E.B. Jewett, W.A. Richey or E. Ozanne, at a cost of one dollar. The players have been selected for their special merits, from the Wichita club, and the Bulldozers. They are ambitious to make a record, and in the contest, to-morrow, at the Fair grounds, with the Shawnees, from Topeka, we anticipate some playing that will place them high up on the baseball scroll of fame. As this is the first public contest of the club, we hope to see a large turn-out, to-morrow, on the part of our citizens, to encourage by their presence and by their

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contributions at the gate.

The club have just received, from Chicago, fifteen dollars worth of bats.

Reprinted from the Wichita Weekly Beacon, September 10, 1879

Shawnees vs. Red Stockings

The Shawnees, of Topeka, arrived from the Capital, Friday evening the 5th, to play the Red Stockings of this city. The boys were met at the train and escorted to the Occidental by the managers of our club. The Shawnees after viewing our boys in every day dress seemed to think that four to one in favor of the Shawnees would be easy enough without much exertion. At 2 o'clock, the buses and hacks were lining the road to the ball ground, where quite a crowd of citizens and lovers of the national game had assembled. At 3 o'clock the game was called, our boys winning the toss, sent the Shawnees to the bat. In this, the first inning, the Shawnees scored three tallies on account of errors of Nudd, the catcher, and first baseman Marsh in wild throwing. Our boys coming to bat were whitewashed as fast as the three men could take their position on account of the lightning catcher of the Shawnees, and we will compliment Mr. Taylor, their catcher, by saying that he is the finest catcher that has ever played on the Wichita grounds, and doubtless the best in the state. The Shawnees were again called to the bat with not the same success attending them as before, as they scored but two tallies. The Red Stockings coming to the bat, scored six tallies, which seemed to cheer up their opponents to think that the boys in their fine clothes were worse than they had anticipated. From this inning the Red Stockings played well with but very few errors, and whitewashed the Shawnees the last five innings, and at the close of the game the score stood thirty-three to eight, in favor of the Red Stockings. This was the first game the Red Stockings had ever played together and we feel we can compliment our boys too much by saying they pleasantly surprised all on the grounds; not a fly muffed and but few passed balls. Lauck, Blackman and Marsh made three base hits; Lauck would have made a home score on his fly ball if he had not slipped on third base, causing him to be put out by Taylor on home. The Shawnees found it very difficult to bat Ozanne's balls, and also were poor in fielding, having muffed nearly every fly ball. After the game the two clubs dined together at the hotel, spent the evening together at Jack's museum and the Shawnees were very well pleased with everything but the score. They took the morning train for Topeka, leaving the plume dangling in the caps of the Red Stockings. Mr. Smyth, the umpire. Deserves great credit for his impartial decisions, and the Topeka's say he is the best umpire they have played under this season.

Reprinted from the Wichita Weekly Beacon, September 17, 1879

The score in the game between the Red Stockings, of Wichita, and the "Coyotes," of Hutchinson, last Friday, at the Fair grounds, stood 31 for the Red Stockings and 5 for the Coyotes. Our boys played a good game, with but few mistakes. The Hutchinson boys did not do themselves justice. They have good material, and have played much better than they did here. They propose to give our boys an invitation to their town some time soon.

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Reprinted from the Wichita Weekly Beacon, September 24, 1879

Base Ball – Westerns vs. Wichita Red Stockings

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	...	Total
Westerns	5	2	1	0	6	1	7	8	2	...	32
Wichitas	1	0	3	0	2	2	1	1	2	...	12

CHAS. SMYTH, Referee

This was a very loose game for both clubs, and the only time an absorbing interest was taken by the crowd, was on the last half of the last inning, Wichita at the bat. The score stood 32 to 10, and if the Wichitas were whitewashed, the bets of three to one on the Westerns were won. However, our boys did their duty, made two runs and for a few seconds the crowd appeared demented. Frantic yells rent the air, hats were recklessly tossed aloft and Wichita congratulated itself.

We are sorry to have note the following casualties: Caton 2nd base of Westerns, in first inning sprained his ankle, and in third inning, had his thumb on left hand badly split, and retired from the field. Ozanne, pitcher of Wichitas, sprained his shoulder by colliding with Milan of the Westerns, at home plate, and Taylor, catcher for Wichitas, left the grounds with hands in bad shape.

Reprinted from the Wichita City Eagle, (I'll have to double check the date on this one)

A TOPEKAITE DEFENDS THE WESTERNS

Topeka, September 30, 1879

To the Editor of the Eagle:

In the Wichita Herald of the 27th, either the editor or bilious reporter attacks the Westerns Base Ball Club, and departs so far from decency and truth in the matter that I, as a disinterested looker-on, would like to correct the wrong impression in reference to the boys liable to take hold of your citizens if the statements are not denied. The Westerns are not “a crowd of bullies and blow-hards, and a disgrace to their town;” on the contrary, they are, without exception, young men who stand well in society at home; they are sober and industrious, and the citizens of Topeka are proud of them, not only as good ball-players, but good citizens. The statement that “there are not over two in the mob that ever sat down to a first-class table, and really don't know what a respectable meal is,” is billingsgate and requires no answer. The man who wrote it, surely did not expect your citizens to believe it. He goes on to state that “no one ever heard of the Westerns acting gentlemanly on any occasion” Not having seen them outside of Wichita in any game this season, he is not competent to judge. The fact is, the Westerns have not had a member of their club or citizen of their town act as umpire in any match game this season, with Kansas clubs, but they have never once done any “kicking,” but went manfully to work and won the game in every contest.

I think the majority of your citizens who witnessed the game at Wichita will bear me out in saying that they were quiet gentlemanly throughout the game, although they were “out of luck” and had their best men injured in the second inning, which weakened them very much. It is ridiculous to say “the Westerns would undoubtedly have been beaten had not one of their ruffians gone out of his way to jump on, and disable Ozane, the Reds' pitcher.” I sat very close to home base when Ozane was injured: it was in the eighth

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inning, and the score stood at the end of that inning, 30 to 10 in favor of the Westerns. In the next inning each club made two runs, so it looks very much from the score, as though that accident was a benefit instead of an injury to the Reds. Frank Millham, the player who injured Ozane, is the youngest player in the club, and as gentlemanly a little fellow as ever sold tea and sugar over a counter. He was on third base, and entitled to a clean run in making the home plate; the play was a very close one: Ozane was at the home plate stooping to catch the ball coming from the catcher and Millham in running to get there struck him on the shoulder with his knee. He afterwards expressed sorrow for the accident and forgiven, (though he was not at fault.) The two men were on friendly terms afterward and I don't think Mr. Ozane to-day considers Millham at fault. It was as much an accident when Caton had his thumb broken in the second inning.

The Westerns did not lose any thing on the game. The party who lost money was a sporting man who met the boys down the road and decided to go with them. He lost \$150 on bets that the Westerns would win 3 to 1. The club lost nothing. The rules do not permit bets to be made by members. The bet of \$100 that the Westerns would beat 2 to 1 was won, not by the club, but by individuals who made up the purse.

The dissatisfaction with the umpire arose from that he refused to call "strikes" on good curved balls. This had the effect of weakening and discouraging the pitcher: and the same pitching that whitewashed the Ottawa club six innings in succession, let the Reds get in twelve runs, though the Ottawas are much stronger at the bat than the Reds. The regular pitcher of the Westerns being injured in the second inning could not take the place of pitcher, or the score "might have been" some what different. Mr. Smythe evidently meant well, but being mused to judging curved balls, made it very unfortunate for the Westerns. The complaints made were made in a quite way by the players to the umpire, and although sitting within a hundred feet of both pitcher and umpire. I did not hear one word of complaint from any member of the club during the progress of the game.

I consider this defense due the Westerns and to the citizens of Wichita who would rather not entertain any unfriendly feelings towards "our boys."

Respectfully yours,
GEO. W. CRANE

Reprinted from the Wichita City Eagle 1879

We visited the sinful city of Wichita this week and found things lively there, considering the fact that Wichita is a way station on the side-track of the Santa Fe road. We visited the printing offices and found the *Eagle* and *Beacon* at home. They treated us kindly, and better yet, they did not slander each other. These papers have large, well-ventilated offices and good outfits.

Hutchison Herald

Reprinted from the Wichita Weekly Beacon, October 15, 1879

The barkeepers and cigar makers played a match game of ball last Sunday afternoon, near the cattle yards. Seven innings were played, and the score stood thirty for the bar tenders to fourteen for the cigar makers.

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Reprinted from the Wichita Weekly Beacon, July 7, 1880

Wichita Red Stockings

The Red Stockings went down to Winfield, Monday afternoon to play the Winfield club. The boys got round trip tickets for \$1.50, and when they started, they felt confident they could pluck the feather from the Winfield chaps. The Red Stockings propose to make a record this season worthy of the great Arkansas valley. By fall we think the Red Stockings can safely challenge any club in the state. Last week they played a well contested and close game with the Augusta club. The score shows fine skill on both sides, and Augusta has reason to be proud of its representatives of the bat.

The following is the score made on Tuesday of last week:

Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	...	Total
Wichita	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	...	4
Augusta	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	...	3

Time of game, one hour and forty-five minutes. Errors, Wichita 7, August 12.

Original BullDozers:

Marsh, Francis, Smoyer, Barnard, Donahue, Clark, Ozane, Myers, Ford

Original Red Stockings:

E. Nudd, catcher, E. Ozanne, pitcher, E. Blackman, s-s, N. Marsh, 1st-base, Ed. Lauck, 2nd-base, E.H. Nudd, 3rd-base, Ern Lauck, l-field, R. Dines, c-field, A. Parshall, r-field, E. Blackman, captain.

Original Umpires:

John A. Mallory

E.H. Nudd

Chas. Smyth

Original Score Keeper:

John J. Dines