

No doubt the 1856 game London/Delaware was a Canadian rules game given its two inning length. As well, the New York game didn't reach Buffalo and Rochester for at least another year (perhaps two) which is consistent with the 1859 "first" NY rules game in Ontario. BH 28Jul2020

Here is a bit of a puzzler. I thought I had lost this primitive box score but here it is below. I'm almost certain it's from the *Hamilton Spectator* in 1858 and the story below about Mr. Christie of East Brant seems to confirm this. Was it a five inning game? Were there 5 aside? And who would have been the east and west teams in Hamilton? Regardless it appears to be our second oldest "box score" after the Delaware/London one of 1856. BH 31Jul2020

I can confirm the "primitive" Hamilton box score (as such!) is from the 14 August 1858 *Hamilton Spectator*. Any thoughts on what the breakdown means?

Open with ▾

BASE BALL —A game was played yesterday afternoon by the East and West end Clubs of this city. The following was the result :

WEST.	EAST.
14	11
23	9
24	7
25	15
29	11
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115	63
53	
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Majority..62

Base Balls —The Clubs appear to be in a

BH 1Aug2020

Two thoughts:

1) The easy answer is that it was a 5 inning game, and with West having reached 100 runs at that point, game over.

2) I think it unlikely, given the wording, but 'East' and 'West' I've seen a few times in connection with a sort of 'all-star' game, where players from various East clubs (usually of the province, not the town as in this case), played same from the West. I recall a game where 3 players from Guelph joined 3 players from Hamilton, etc. to play a similar mixed squad from the 'West'. This seems less likely here, in my opinion. It does say "the West and East end clubs", which does imply these are clubs already in existence, not formed for this occasion. Door number 1 is the most likely and obvious answer, in my opinion. ML1Aug2020

5 innings, however, wasn't the norm for the Canadian rules game. Since James Shuttleworth of Hamilton seems to have been the instigator for a formal team in Woodstock, and they in turn played by the 2-inning Canadian rules in 1860, it would seem teams in Hamilton in 1858 would have played by those 2-inning rules. The only teams we know of in 1858 in Hamilton were Bill Shuttleworth's Young Canadians (who became the Maple Leafs in the 1860s) and the Burlingtons, who weren't from Burlington at all but played just down the street from the Young Canadians. Still, it is possible there were two other teams from Hamilton's east and west ends whose identity has been lost to us in history, but who may, the next year, make up the Young America team of Hamilton which played Toronto in what the *Clipper* records as the first New York rules game played in Canada. Pure speculation on my part. BH1Aug2020