

I also have this one that doesn't seem to be on the list. It's an article about a baseball game played on August 18, 1858 in Hamilton.

BASE BALL - A match at Base Ball between the Young Canadian and Burlington Clubs, is to be played this afternoon on the common, at the east end of the city. Play to commence at half-past two o'clock.

Citation:

"Base ball," (Hamilton) *Semi-Weekly Spectator and Journal of Commerce*, August 18, 1858: 2
SR: 3Aug2024

This should probably be added as well, and we (by we, I mean Bill!) may have found more info on this game, as it could be the same game as appeared in the Spectator on Aug 14 1858 between the 'East' and 'West' end clubs of this city, with a final score of 115-53 in favour of the West team. There is no more info provided apart from the hint that 5 'innings' were played, with 5 separate numbers provided for each side. There is also the potential issue that the source dates are backwards, with the 'box score' printed on Aug 14 while a mention of an upcoming game is in the Aug 18 paper, but... the latter is the *Semi-Weekly Spectator*, so the announcement is very possibly actually from before the 14th, so both could still be referencing the same game.

ML: 3Aug2024

Intriguing observation Martin about the backwards sourcing - though the 1858 locations for both the Young Canadians (Central School) and the Burlingtons (Corktown area) appear to be more north/south rather than east/west in Hamilton - a 5 inning game however seems almost certain - James Shuttleworth brought the game as played in Hamilton to Woodstock and one of the 1860 contests between Woodstock and Ingersoll is described in the *Ingersoll Chronicle* as a five inning game, so working backwards we can be fairly confident in the east/west game as being five innings.

BH: 3Aug2024

My theory is that Canadian papers were slow off the mark reporting a lot of sport including baseball - but at least its players could send off their report to the *Clipper* and be confident it would be printed - The *Ingersoll Chronicle* said as much when reporting those 1860 games between Woodstock and Ingersoll - "We inadvertently omitted to notice..." - but at least it confirmed the five inning length corresponding to that earlier 1858 Hamilton newspaper report.

BH: 4Aug2024

It didn't seem overly fashionable to relay game accounts until the 1870s, and then it just exploded. It could perhaps (you all would know much better than I) be tied to baseball not being overly respectable in the earlier days, maybe..?

Either way, yes, thank goodness for the *Clipper*!

ML: 4Aug2024

I suspect it had something to do with baseball's later arrival as a recognized formal and adult sport which occurs only by the mid to late 1850s as opposed to cricket which in North America reached such a formal status 20 years earlier - as a result cricket results/box scores dominate news coverage until the late 1850s/1860s (even the *Clipper* has more cricket than baseball in its early days). Rather than respectability I suspect it had something to do with whether a sport was perceived as either a serious game or more like child's play - the latter in the case of baseball would have been indulged in by adults but with a sense until the 1850s that they were acting like kids. Ice hockey has a similar development - it doesn't really get serious news coverage until the 1880s but it was played as an idle recreation on frozen ice surfaces long before then.

BH: 5Aug2024

Yes, good points... I have noticed in early papers some very detailed cricket coverage followed by one line about a baseball match. If they only knew then...

ML: 5Aug2024