

Colorado Territorial *All-Stars* 18, Loveland *Heartbreakers* 12

The day dawned muggy and cool and rain clouds were on every horizon, but the match went off as planned on May 23rd last. The venue was the old county fairgrounds south of the hamlet of Loveland, which provided excellent seating for the 50 or so cranks in attendance. It also featured some uneven terrain for the ballists, with a hill elevating the second and third bags some six feet above the rest, which made for some interesting plays. Recent torrential rains had also created a lake in the far mid-garden -- but fears that it would come into play were not realized.

A new club took the field this day representing the home town and calling themselves the "Heartbreakers". It fielded some local lads, with assistance primarily coming from the Berthoud *Blues* club just a few miles down the road. The visitors were the usual suspects, the Territorial *All-Stars*, on this day mostly dressed in their new patriotic motif -- it being the Memorial Day weekend -- of red stripes and blue bibs with white stars. It was noted by this reporter that having ten such lads dressed such was not NEARLY as ugly as when these new jerseys have been worn individually. In fact, they were actually quite attractive in a group.

Although the Loveland club caught the *Eclectics* napping for a four-run first, the more experienced visitors soon asserted themselves and led 11-4 after four and a half innings. They never could quite shake the rookies however, who stuck back for three in the fifth and another five in the eighth. There was some grumbling from the visitors, I believe, that umpire *Deacon* Massengill was under some pecuniary influence by the home crowd, as home boys received a second "Strike 2", a "Strike 2 and a half", and at least a couple of very favorable calls on the base-paths. If guilty of some chicanery, however, he wasn't the only offender, as at one point *Rube* Foster launched (literally) the worst throw from third to first ever, so bad it arched over the grandstand and out of the park -- resulting in a 4-bagger for "Newsboy" (last name withheld evidently due to some problem with the local constabulary).

In the end, the visitors prevailed 18-12, according to the fine tally-keeping of Miss *Cherokee*. For the *All-Stars*, a suddenly youthful *Old Hoss* Foster tallied four aces, followed by brother *Rube*, uncle *Fearless*, and (cousin) *Shark* Renker with three each. *Bike* Mike, *Tiny* Heine, *Mad Dog*, and *Suds* also tallied, while *Irish Tom*, *Fast Eddie*, and *Red Dog* provided excellent support in the field.

For the home club (and their *heartbroken* cranks) revolver *Hands* Phelan led the charge with three aces, followed by *Scurvy*, *Clanger*, and *Newsboy* with two, *Slappy*, *Cannibal*, and *Hobo* with one -- while *Sodbuster*, *Scoop*, *Comrade*, and *Spike* were unable to ring the bell.