

Firestone B.B.C. 7, Colorado Territorial *All-Stars* 5

August 29, Firestone, C.T.

I'll just have to admit this up front. This was one of those matches that doesn't lend to a very inspired retelling. There was little scoring, little excitement, and a little crowd. I'm not kidding much to tell you that I started the team introductions with, "Lady and Gentleman!" Perhaps if *Digger* Hadix had gotten hurt in the first inning rather than the eighth, the looky-loos that followed the emergency crew over from the faire might have hung around to watch. Oy!

Despite the dearth of eye-witnesses, the home club began putting on a show, as four hits brought home a couple of runs. The *All-Stars* countered. A leadoff single by *Tiny* Heine, double by *Hands* Phelan, and sacrifice by *Rattler* Gallegos got two matching aces in the book.

The promising start fizzled, though, with the two clubs only managing five base-runners over the next four and a half innings. One, though, was pretty spectacular, as Firestone Captain *Big Dog* Wolfenbarger sent the ball so far over the middle-garden trees that mid-scout *Tiny* had to wire the club for money so that he could take the stagecoach back after retrieving it.

The slumbering (lack of) crowd was awakened again in the bottom of the sixth as consecutive hits by *Digger*, *Skinny* Timme, *Fast Eddie* Phelan, and *Crush* Sumner brought the first two home and a lead for the visitors. But the advantage was short-lived as the home boys pushed across three of their own in the seventh. One more tally by *Tiny* closed the gap to one after seven. The eighth passed by quietly, except for *Digger's* leg injury trying to leg out an infield grounder, which sent him to the sidelines and potentially the disabled list for the season. [However, the plucky one defied the odds and was back for the next match at Rock Ledge.]

In the ninth, *Big Dog* did the damage again with a double. A groundout and single brought him home for a two-run lead. Despite a leadoff single by *Crush*, the *All-Stars* just didn't have it in them to take or extend the contest.

Besides the captain's two, "D" Sanders had the same for Firestone, while *Old Wiley* Doerschlag, *the Rev* Ewing, and *Dragon* Cook each added a tally.

Tiny's two led the *All-Stars*, with *Hands*, *Digger*, and *Skinny* each ringing the bell once. *Mad Dog* Mason, *Crush*, and *Irish Tom* Valaika handled the hurling duties, with, *Hustler* Nunuz, *Yo-Yo* Reedy and Captain *Old Hoss* Foster in support. *Cherokee* kept the tally, while yours truly called the match. The Mason family and Ann Massengill about doubled the otherwise meager gathering.