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As Kansas transitioned from being a territory to a state, the earliest teams playing games with bats and balls were cricket clubs. In terms of formal clubs, cricket was more widespread during the 1850s as baseball developed as an organized sport. Following the US Civil War, baseball rapidly grew in popularity, and soldiers and immigrants from the Northeast and Midwest brought the sport with them to Kansas.¹ Aspects of the simultaneous decline of cricket and the rise of baseball in the state were evident in the experiences of the first two cricket clubs organized during the 1860s, the Leavenworth Occidental Cricket Club and the Wyandotte City Cricket Club.

To begin, it might help to give those people unfamiliar with cricket an outline of the sport. As in baseball, the cricket field varies from place to place, except that the rectangular cricket pitch (like the baseball diamond) has standard dimensions—66 feet long and 10 feet wide. Near each end is a wicket, consisting of three willow sticks (stumps) rising 28 inches above the ground. Balanced across the top of the stumps are two bails. One end of each bail sits on the central stump, and the other end sits on one of the outer stumps. The total width of the wicket is 9 inches. The pitch is generally in the center of the field, and play occurs in every direction.

On the cricket field are 11 men from of the fielding side and 2 batsmen from the batting side. One of the players on the fielding side is the bowler. The goal of the bowler is to throw the ball from a designated position adjacent to the wicket at his end of the pitch and hit the other wicket, knocking off at least one of the bails. Attempting to prevent this is the batsman, one of whom stands next to each wicket. The batsman opposite the bowler is known as the striker, and he attempts to hit or deflect the ball with the wooden bat, which is flattened on one side (the blade), except for the cylindrical handle. The batter is out if the ball knocks one of the bails off the wicket or if a ball hit into the air is caught before it touches the ground. As in early baseball, the fielders do not wear gloves. If the striker hits the ball, he may choose to run to the far wicket, which means the other batsman must run in the opposite direction. They carry their bats as they run and typically touch the ground near the wicket with the end of the bat to score a run. Runs can also be awarded if the ball hits the batsman or is beyond his reach (wide). If the fielders return the ball and knock a bail from the wicket before that runner touches the specified ground, the runner is out. When a batsman is out by any means, the next batter takes his place. The innings (always with an “s” in cricket) ends when 10 of the batsmen are out (two batsmen must always be on the field). In the summary of runs, the last batter is sometimes marked as “not out.” The games played in Kansas during the nineteenth century typically consisted of two innings.

Leavenworth Occidental Cricket Club

The first cricket club in Kansas was organized in Leavenworth in 1860. Among the “House Bills Passed” in the territorial legislature on 27 February 1860 were various

incorporations of railroad companies, utility companies, bridge companies, town companies, and so on, as might be expected of a territory on the verge of being admitted as the nation's thirty-fourth state. One of the incorporations, however, stands out from this group—the Leavenworth Occidental Cricket Club, which played its first match on April 25.²

There was no word of the cricket club during the turmoil of statehood, secession, and the opening of the US Civil War in 1861 and 1862, but a “new” cricket club was organized in 1863. The *Leavenworth Daily Conservative* reported, “An increasing interest is being awakened in the game, and we predict a large addition to the club.” The club played matches between teams chosen from among its members. An estimated crowd of 300–400 “gentlemen and ladies” turned out to watch the second match on April 30, for which the *Daily Conservative* published a summary of the scores. The newspaper boasted that, “before fall, [the] St. Louis and St. [Joseph, Missouri] clubs will be beaten, if they dare to match the Kansas boys.” The third match had to be suspended “owing to some of the novices breaking the bats.”³ All of this was taking place in the midst of horrific fighting during the Civil War, in which the Union was yet to turn the tide with victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg.

FIRST INNINGS.		SECOND INNINGS.	
Ummethun	21		1
Munn	4		—
Hughes	3		—
Merrick	—		1
Whitman	—		2
Niemann	—		3
McMichael	—		2
Todd	2		2
Currier	1		—
Blaine	2		—
Burdick	—		—
Purley	2		3
Total	35	Total	17

FIRST INNINGS.		SECOND INNINGS.	
Cooter	—		15
Smith	7		2
McLane	1		1
Hopwood	3		14
Keller	11		2
Glenn	10		—
Pope	2		2
Jenkins	1		—
Beck	2		—
Simmons	—		—
Jordan	3		1
Hanks	1		—
Total	41	Total	37

The name Leavenworth Occidental Cricket Club was again chosen for the group in 1863. Like its predecessor, it was a formal organization, overseen by President George Ummethun, Vice President J.E. Blaine, Secretary A.D. Niemann, Treasurer John Purley, and Property Man and Instructor J.W. Cooter. In addition, “Some of our finest citizens are joining the institution, and lovers of sport may confidently anticipate rare fun as soon as the club have had a little more practice.” These practices were scheduled for Tuesdays and Fridays. Most of the practices and matches took place on the ground sometimes referred to as “Mulligan Park” in the area known as “Cincinnati.” The cricket pitch was in a field bounded by Osage, Ottawa, Ninth, and Tenth Streets (now a residential area).⁴

The members of the club were business owners and others who had the ability to spend an entire weekday socializing and playing cricket, not the laborers, clerks, or enlisted men stationed at Fort Leavenworth. Among the club's new members was Thomas Moonlight, who served as a colonel with the 11th Kansas Cavalry. When the *Leavenworth Daily Conservative* encouraged “all persons who desire good exercise, and occasional relief

from tiresome business duties, [to] join the Cricket Club,” they were speaking to a select group of people in the community. For example, on Tuesday, May 26, when most people who were employed would be working, the club scheduled a “Cricketers Picnic” on the grounds of Fort Leavenworth, where the post’s band would entertain the crowd, courtesy of General James Blunt.⁵

The last mention of the Occidental Cricket Club in the spring of 1863 was the announcement of a practice on June 2, and a special meeting on June 5.⁶ Up to this point, the major Civil War battles in the region had been to the south, in places such as Wilson Creek (Missouri), Pea Ridge (Arkansas), and Prairie Grove (Arkansas). However, on 21 August 1863, William Quantrill and his Confederate guerillas sacked the city of Lawrence, Kansas, murdering more than 150 men and boys.⁷ A month later, a cricket match was announced in Leavenworth.

The Cricket Club will meet on Friday afternoon, at the old ground in Cincinnati, where a match will be made between some of our crack players. Cooter will be there—the jolly, inspiring Cooter—and wherever he goes, fun may just naturally be expected. All the rest of the “boys” intend to go, also, and the old English game will be revived in all its glory.⁸

The intention of the club members was to be prepared for a match at the first State Agricultural Fair to be held in Leavenworth on October 6–9. The cricket match was scheduled for the last day of the fair, but no report of the outcome was published.⁹ This was the final mention of the Leavenworth Occidental Cricket Club.

Wyandotte City Cricket Club (Kansas City, Kansas)

The next mention of cricket in Kansas was the reported “certificate of incorporation for the ‘Wyandotte City Cricket Club’” in August 1866. The officers were President Charles Glick, Vice President D.V. Clements, Secretary Lawson Cook, Treasurer Joseph Welsh, and Field Captain John Bolton. A week later, the club received its equipment from Philadelphia, but no matches were reported. On Christmas Eve, the club held a grand ball. Tickets were sold for \$2.00, which included supper. The *Leavenworth Daily Commercial* suggested that the Leavenworth Cricket Club should “take the hint” and hold their own ball. Yet, there was no other mention of a cricket club in Leavenworth in 1866. Instead, the newspaper was likely referring to the Frontier Base Ball Club (BBC).¹⁰

In January 1867, the Wyandotte City Cricket Club purchased “5 acres of beautiful ground from M. B. Newman” for a cricket ground. It was “within the city limits, south of O. H. Mitchell’s property.” At their meeting in February, the club elected honorary members from Atchison, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Manhattan, Olathe, Paola, and Topeka, Kansas and from Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri. In May, it was announced that the club’s first match was scheduled for the afternoon of July 4 between teams of married and single members, which was to be followed by a “grand soiree” that evening. The *Wyandotte Commercial Gazette* reported, “We believe this is the only Cricket Club in the State, and we are happy to learn that it is in a very prosperous condition.” The *Wyandotte Democrat* described the club’s membership as “the very best young and middle-aged men in

Wyandotte.” Rosters for the two sides taking part in the July 4 match were published in the Wyandotte newspapers, along with a late notice that Lawson Cook, the club secretary and captain of the single men, would not be able to take part due to “the sad intelligence of the death of his brother, in England.”¹¹

The Wyandotte City Cricket Club held meetings the first Sunday of each month and practiced every Sunday afternoon. This would accommodate the six-day workweek likely required of at least some club members. As with baseball, however, this brought objections from people in the community who opposed any such activity on Sundays, as expressed by a correspondent (pseudonym “Canterbury”) in the *Wyandotte Democrat* in May.¹²

I regret that the gentlemen comprising a certain social organization, acting under a charter (as I am informed,) of our State Legislature, had withheld from publication, the day on which they held their stated exercises, or, inserted and adopted another day. It seems to me that even prudential considerations would have suggested reticence, at least as to the day[.] [T]he fair name of our community ought to have restrained these gentlemen from publishing to the world the “Monthly meetings first Sunday in each month at club rooms. Play days, every Sunday at 2 o’clock p. m. The public are invited to witness the games.” ... Last Sunday evening a stranger passing over Jersey bridge would have thought there had been a general jail delivery—that a Bedlam had emptied its inmates into Mr. Busche’s lot, and were rejoicing over their deliverance from durance vile.¹³

The Wyandotte City Cricket Club sponsored the only July Fourth celebration in the city. Clear skies in the morning became overcast about noon, and the cricket match that began at 11:00 was called by 2:00. The single men won the contest, 54–24. The club’s expenses exceeded \$200, but the net proceeds were \$75.30. After the celebration, the club accommodated those who opposed Sunday sports by switching the monthly meetings from Sunday to Monday and changing practices from every Sunday afternoon to Tuesday afternoons at 2 o’clock. Meanwhile, the Wyandotte BBC was meeting the first Saturday of each month and playing every Friday afternoon at Huron Place (now Huron Park in Kansas City, Kansas).¹⁴

SINGLE :			
James Swales,	b E Blakeley,		0
Jno Knox,	b E Blakeley,		11
W H Coolidge,	b E Blakeley,		7
Geo Hockett, c VanHorn,	b E Blakeley;		0
A C Boddington, c S Balmer,	b Jno Bolton,		3
J B Scroggs,	b J C Welch,		9
J Jakobe,	b E Blakeley,		1
L Cook, Jr., not out			2
G Bolton,	b E Blakeley,		1
Ric'd Walsh, c VanHorn,	b E Blakeley,		1
S Balmer, Jr., run out			1
Extras (Byes and Wides)			18
Total		: : : : : :	54
MARRIED :			
E Blakeley,	1 b wicket,	b J Swales,	4
J C Welch,	c J Knox,	b J Swales,	0
J McMillan,		b W H Cooledge,	3
Jno Bolton,		b J Swales,	2
S Balmer,		b J Swales,	2
Van Horn,		b J Swales,	0
J Somerville,		b J Swales,	3
J Barks,		b J Swales,	0
D M Cable,		b J Swales,	1
C S Glick, (not out)			1
Jaf Mortimer, c R. Walsh,	b J Swales,		0
Byes			8
Total		: : : : : :	24

In the absence of outside competition in cricket, the Wyandotte City Cricket Club agreed to send nine members against the Wyandotte BBC for the baseball championship of the city. On August 16, the Cricket Nine won in a rout, 86–28. The game lasted four

hours and was ended by darkness after only five innings. The Wyandotte BBC published a note in the *Wyandotte Democrat* explaining that its four top players missed the game. The *Leavenworth Daily Commercial* published a box score, which was similar to those used for cricket matches.¹⁵

On September 1, when it came time to balance the cricket club's accounts and elect officers, the club

WYANDOTTE.			CRICKETERS.		
H. L.	R.		H. L.	R.	
J. Swigert, 1st b...	2	4	J. Swales 2d b....	3	9
J. Walker, r f.....	2	3	S. Balmer, c f.....	2	10
W. Lynch, 1f.....	1	4	E. Blakely, 1 f....	1	10
E. T. Hovey 3d b....	3	2	J. Jakobe s s.....	1	9
E. L. Bartlett, p....	2	1	J. C. Welsh, 1st b.1	1	10
W. Converse, c f....	3	2	J. B. Sharp, r f....	1	11
S. Armstrong, 2d b.1	4	4	J. Knox, c.....	3	8
R. Armstrong, ss...1	4	4	G. Hucket, 3d b....	2	9
Wirt Converse, c....	0	4	L. Cook, p.....	1	10
Total..... 28			Total..... 86		
Innings.....1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.....	Total.
Wyandotte... 2	5	6	11	4.....	28
Cricketers....10	12	17	25	22.....	86
Home Runs—Wyandotte 3; Cricketers 9.					
Umpire—John B. Scroggs. Scorers—J. A. Cruise, James Hadley. Time of game, four hours.					

was financially strong. Receipts were \$702.75, and expenditures were \$588.75, leaving a balance of \$114 in the treasury. The new officers were President J.B. Sharp, Vice President D.M. Cable, Secretary Lawson Cook, Treasurer Joseph Welsh, and Field Captain Ed Blakely. The club later surprised former President Charles Glick with a silver-mounted ebony walking stick in “appreciation of his valuable services” to the club. They also wasted no time in seeking outside opponents. “The Wyandotte City Cricket Club claims the championship of Wyandotte County, either as Cricketers or base ball players. Any challenge issued by any resident Cricket or Base Ball Club will be accepted.”¹⁶

Also in September, a juvenile cricket club was organized. The Wyandotte City Cricket Club supported them, but the young cricketers practiced on the field at Huron Place. On October 7, the Pioneer Cricket Club easily defeated the visiting Atlantics from Kansas City, Missouri in a game of baseball, 71–26. A week later, they played the return match in Kansas City, and the Pioneers won again, 113–78, despite having only eight players.¹⁷

As the Wyandotte City Cricket Club planned their second annual Christmas Eve ball, they again took the field as a baseball nine in November against the Anderson BBC composed of Union Pacific railroad employees. The Anderson BBC won the close contest, 41–39. The Andersons were batting in the ninth inning with only one out when the game was called due to darkness, so the official score was taken from the close of the eighth inning, with the Andersons leading, 33–32. The game lasted 3 hours and 20 minutes, and had to be called at 5:20 because of the early winter sunset. The umpire was O.F. Garrison of the Union BBC of St. Louis, who “discharged his duties credibly.” The *Wyandotte Democrat* provided one of the most detailed game summaries during this era (on the next page). The Christmas Eve ball and supper was another success, socially and financially, the club spending \$169.70 and receiving \$243.00.¹⁸

The Wyandotte City Cricket Club continued to meet and practice in 1868, and they elected new officers in September. Yet, there was no mention of cricket or baseball matches, and no mention of the Christmas Eve ball and supper. A special meeting of the club was called for 14 February 1869. Another special meeting was called for August 15, “when action will be taken for the sale of the real estate of the club.” The Wyandotte City Cricket Club had folded.¹⁹

BATTING SCORE.				CRICKET.					
ANDERSON.	O.	R.	C.	O.	R.	C.	E.		
Cornell, 1st b.	2	6	Swales, 3d b.	1	7				
McDonald, p.	5	4	Knox, c.	3	4				
Plowman, c.	2	5	McMillan, r. f.	2	5				
Larish, s. s.	1	6	Blakely, l. f.	3	4				
Taylor, 2d b.	3	5	Scroggs, 2d b.	3	4				
Dutton, 3d b.	3	4	Jacobi, s. s.	6	2				
Westbrook, l. f.	5	3	Huckett, c. f.	4	3				
Barnard, c. f.	3	5	Cook, p.	4	4				
Haunon, r. f.	1	4	Welsh, 1st b.	1	6				
Total,	25	41	Total,	27	39				
Innings—	1,	2,	3,	4,	5,	6,	7,	8	9.
Anderson,	11	2	7	2	6	1	1	3	8-41
Cricket,	8	2	1	6	1	11	3	0	7-39

FIELDING SCORE.

Fly Catches—Plowman 1, Westbrook 1, Cornell 1. Total by Anderson, 3. Scroggs 1, Cook 2, Huckett 1, Blakely 1, Jacobi 1. Total by Cricket, 6.

Foul Catches—Plowman 1. Total by Anderson, 1. Swales 1, Knox 1, Welsh 1. Total by Cricket, 3.

Missed Fly Catches—Larish 2, Barnard 1, McDonald 1. Total by Anderson, 4. Jacobi 2, Scroggs 1. Total by Cricket, 3.

Passed Balls—Plowman 8, Knox 3.

Left on Bases—Cornell 1, Plowman 1, Larish 1, Haunon 2. Total, 5. Knox 1, McMillan 1, Blakely 1, Scroggs 1, Huckett 1. Total, 5.

Home Runs—Huckett 1.

Base Play—Put out by Dutton, 2, Cornell 5, Larish 1. Total by Anderson, 8. Assisted by Plowman 1, Larish 2, Westbrook 1, Barnard 1, Taylor 2, McDonald 1. Put out by Scroggs, 3, Welsh 5, Cook 1, Swales 1. Total by Cricket, 10. Assisted by Welsh, 1, Cook 4, Knox 2, Huckett 1, Jacobi 1, McMillan 1.

Umpire—O. F. Garrison, of Union Club, St. Louis, Mo.

Scorers—Messrs. E. D. Meier and J. A. Cruise.

Cricket Shrinks and Baseball Grows

Other cricket clubs were organized sporadically in Kansas in the coming decades. For example, in 1871, there were matches among teams from the Welsh settlement of Bala, the nearby English settlement of Wakefield, and Junction City, a few miles to the south. The Capital Cricket Club of Topeka was organized in 1874, and the Lawrence Cricket Club was formed a year later. In 1877, the Victoria Cricket Club near Hays offered a generous dual challenge. "The Victoria Eleven will play any Eighteen in Ellis county a friendly game of Cricket, to be followed by a return game of Base Ball. The Victoria Cricket Club will furnish all the necessary appendages for the game of Cricket." The club in this English settlement was still active in 1878, even arranging a match with a team from Denver, Colorado, more than 300 miles to the west.²⁰

Intercity matches were rare, but in 1886, the Topeka Cricket Club played the Emporia Cricket Club at Soden's Grove south of Emporia. Topeka was victorious in a close match, 96-95, and was "treated royally by their defeated friends." In 1889, the *Topeka Daily Capital* noted it was usually men in the "anglomaniacal towns of Kansas," such as Clay Center and Wakefield, who organized cricket clubs. However, in 1895, as "bloomer girl" baseball teams were starting to barnstorm through the region, the "young ladies of Plymouth" (near Topeka) organized a cricket club. "The fair damsels will dress in uniform and we regret to say will perhaps adopt the bloomer costume." Cricket persisted the longest in Topeka, but the sport barely existed in Kansas after the First World War.²¹

Multiple factors contributed to the inability of cricket to garner interest and persist in Kansas. Nearly all of the clubs were organized in towns with immigrants from Great Britain. For example, Leavenworth's George Cooter was born in England, and Thomas Moonlight was an immigrant from Scotland.²² Among the smaller villages, Bala was a Welsh settlement, while Wakefield and Victoria were settled by English immigrants.

In 1890, the *Chicago Tribune* reflected on the reasons a league of cricket teams would not be feasible. Among the drawbacks relevant to the clubs in places like Leavenworth and Wyandotte City was that cricket “action is too slow to suit the disposition of the American people.”²³ There are two components to this perception of speed. At a broad scale, baseball games could finish in two or three hours, while a cricket match of two innings played by the town clubs could last most of a day. At a finer scale, the turn of each batter in baseball was shorter, and every ball hit within the field of play resulted in a hit or an out. In contrast, a batsman in cricket could remain on the field for a substantial length of time, either scoring runs or simply defending the wicket and opting not to run. In addition, baseball potentially provided action other than the contest between the pitcher and batter, such as runners stealing bases. These features would make baseball a faster game that was more appealing to American spectators than cricket.

Baseball could also be more appealing to the players. For example, because the batters took their turns more quickly than the batsmen in cricket, this would keep them more involved as participants actively engaged in the game. In addition, less equipment was needed for baseball—a bat and a ball—which would have been easier for soldiers serving in the Civil War and across the West to carry in the field than the bats, ball, and wickets needed for cricket. In addition, it would be easier to find a suitable place to play baseball. The relatively smaller baseball field filled an arc of only 90° from home plate, whereas the cricket field radiated a full 360° from the pitch. Spectators and players in Kansas probably viewed all of these factors as making baseball more enjoyable. If these characteristics contributed to the limited success of cricket, they would have applied equally to Leavenworth and Wyandotte City. Yet, the demise of cricket in both cities differed somewhat.

The Leavenworth Occidental Cricket Club was replaced by the Frontier BBC, who also played their games in the Cincinnati area. At least three, and perhaps five, members of the cricket club in 1863 played for the Frontier BBC or the Leavenworth Pioneer BBC during the late 1860s. These included Thomas Moonlight, William H. Coolidge, and George W. Cooter. All were businessowners in Leavenworth.²⁴ However, weekday matches in either sport by these gentlemen’s clubs were not entertainment for the masses, who worked six days per week. Thus, the Frontier BBC, a gentlemen’s club, replaced the Occidental Cricket Club, but it was in turn replaced by baseball teams of the best players, not just local businessowners, and these teams played evenings and Sunday afternoons to accommodate fans.²⁵ This allowed baseball to persist.

Although they played baseball games, the Wyandotte City Cricket Club did not morph into a baseball club, they simply folded. This probably happened because the club’s players no longer devoted their time to practice and matches. Their business interests in a growing city would likely consume ever greater amounts of their time.

Cricket clubs in Leavenworth, Wyandotte City, and elsewhere in Kansas only lasted as long as they provided enjoyment for the players. In addition to being gentlemen’s clubs, who played their matches on weekday afternoons, their ability to generate community support was hampered by the limited number of outside competitors. This desire for

outside competition is what led cricket clubs to also play baseball, either by playing both sports, as in Wyandotte City, or simply abandoning cricket for baseball, as in Leavenworth. The subsequent transition from gentlemen's baseball clubs to town teams provided crucial, broad support from residents, which was especially important in a young town competing with neighboring communities to be the principal city in their area—the county seat and business center. Town team baseball was a means of expressing the community pride held by a majority of its residents.²⁶

An event in Topeka in August 1895 sums up the competition between cricket and baseball. “The cricket game was played, as was one of the [base]ball games. Like a two ring circus, it was impossible to ‘keep tab’ on both games at the same time, and the novelty of cricket soon wore off among those who looked on the first game they had ever witnessed, and a stampede was made by the spectators for the game they understood,” or perhaps more importantly, the game they preferred.²⁷

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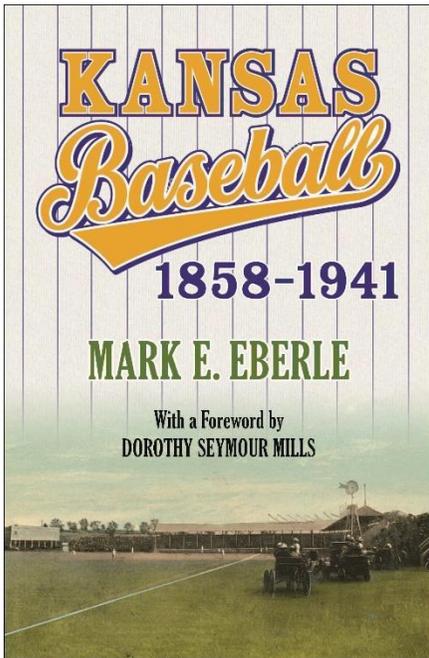
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- ¹⁸ *Wyandotte Commercial Gazette*, 9 November 1867, p 3; 16 November 1867, p 3; 23 November 1867, p 2; 28 December 1867, p 3. • *Wyandotte Democrat*, 8 November 1867, p 2; 15 November 1867, p 3; 22 November 1867, p 3.
- ¹⁹ *Wyandotte Commercial Gazette*, 12 September 1868, p 3; 6 February 1869, p 3; 31 July 1869, p 2. • *Wyandotte Democrat*, 24 January 1868, p 3; 3 April 1868, p 3; 12 June 1868, p 3; 7 August 1868, p 3.
- ²⁰ *Ellis County Star*, 24 May 1877, p 4. • *Hays City Sentinel*, 29 June 1878, p 3; 27 July 1878, p 3; 17 August 1878, p 3. • *Junction City Weekly Union*, 6 May 1871, p 2. • *Lawrence Republican Daily Journal*, 1 September 1875, p 1; 16 September 1875, p 3. • *Manhattan Nationalist*, 15 September 1871, p 2; 29 September 1871, p 2. • *Topeka Commonwealth*, 24 March 1874, p 4.
- ²¹ *Clay Center Dispatch*, 6 June 1889, p 2; 20 June 1889, p 6; ; 11 July 1889, p 4; 8 August 1889, p 4; 15 August 1889, p 1; 29 August 1889, p 4. • *Emporia Daily News*, 28 June 1886, p 1. • *Topeka Daily Capital*, 8 August 1889, p 2. • *Topeka Kansas Daily State Journal*, 28 June 1886, p 1. • *Topeka Mail*, 6 September 1895, p 4. • Eberle (2017, pages 12–14).
- ²² *Leavenworth Daily Commercial*, 25 March 1868, p 1, 4. • *Leavenworth Standard*, 17 January 1887, p 4.
- ²³ *Chicago Tribune*, 14 December 1890, p 27.
- ²⁴ *Leavenworth Daily Conservative*, 26 January 1864, p 3; 25 August 1864, p 3. • *Leavenworth Standard*, 23 March 1894, p 1. • Eberle (2017, p 18).
- ²⁵ Eberle (2017, pages 18–20).
- ²⁶ Eberle (2017, pages 18–20, 32–34).
- ²⁷ *Topeka Daily Capital*, 11 August 1895, p 3.



You can learn more about the early history of baseball played by teams throughout Kansas in the book *Kansas Baseball, 1858–1941*, published in 2017 by the University Press of Kansas and available in paperback or e-book through bookstores and online retailers.

The book explores the early game played by hundreds of town teams composed of white males, as well as teams of women, African Americans, American Indians, and Mexican Americans. Also described are the regional minor leagues and major league tours, along with the histories of towns still playing baseball in the state's oldest ballparks constructed between 1924 and 1940.