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Baseball Takes Root in New Mexico, 1867–1883

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Baseball Takes Root in New Mexico, 1867–1883

“OPTIC” SALOON

And Base Ball Headquarters,

CAMPBELL & KERRIGAN, Prop'rs

Good Club Room and the Best Wines Liquors and Cigars
in the Territory,

AND GOOD LUNCH EVERY EVENING.

Mark E. Eberle

Baseball Takes Root in New Mexico, 1867–1883

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Cover image: advertisement from 1881 in the *Las Vegas (NM) Gazette* for a local business co-owned by a member of the Optic Base Ball Club.

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Baseball Takes Root in New Mexico, 1867–1883

Mark E. Eberle

In nearly all the states and territories of the western United States, baseball played by formally organized clubs began during the 1860s and 1870s, primarily after the US Civil War. These clubs were organized by civilians and members of military units.¹ The same was true for the territory of New Mexico.

As additional resources become available, especially digital newspapers, our understanding of the early history of baseball in New Mexico might change. Currently, the first known club in the territory was the Santa Fe Base Ball Club (BBC). On 15 June 1867, the *Santa Fe Weekly Gazette* published a box score for an intramural contest between two nines picked from among the club's members. A month later, a short notice about the game was published in the *New York Clipper*, but the *Clipper* reversed the scores for the Wheellocks and Keatings.² The full identities of all the players are not known, but most early ball clubs were composed of businessowners and others who could take time on any afternoon for practice and games, while most men would be employed during a workweek of six days with long hours. The club members sought to play baseball for exercise, which was limited in their somewhat sedentary occupations. They also played just for fun.

Games were played any time of the year when the weather permitted, and clubs were organized whenever enough interest arose among members. Thus, the Santa Fe BBC met in September 1868 to elect officers for the ensuing year. Among the officers mentioned were two players from the 1867 game—E.D. Thompson and William Chard.³

The next mention of the Santa Fe BBC was in November, when they received a challenge from the Bradley BBC at Fort Union, about 90 miles east on the Santa Fe Trail through Glorieta Pass. The Bradley BBC was named for the post quartermaster, Captain George Bradley. The game was scheduled for Thanksgiving Day at Las Vegas, an intermediate site that was still about 65 miles from Santa Fe. However, the match was postponed two days “on account of the fall of several inches of snow, which rendered the ground unfit to play upon.” After the soldiers cleared the field, the clubs played a game of seven innings that lasted 4 hours and 20 minutes. Santa Fe was victorious, 74–36. Afterward, both clubs submitted resolutions of thanks for those involved in the game to the *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican*.⁴ This was the first known contest in New Mexico played by clubs from different locations. Yet this was not the last event for the Santa Fe BBC that year. An intramural match was scheduled for December 30.⁵

Our Base Ball Club played a match game on Wednesday afternoon 12th inst. Annexed is the score:

WHEELLOCK'S SIDE.	H. L.	R.	KEATING'S SIDE.	H. L.	R.					
Wheelock, 1st b.....	2	3	Keating, 1st b.....	3	4					
Thompson, h.....	3	1	Watts, s s.....	2	4					
Thacher, c.....	0	3	Jewett, 2d b.....	5	2					
Van Winkle, 2d b.....	4	2	Cosgrove, p.....	1	4					
Barbey, 1 f.....	4	2	McMullen, c.....	3	3					
Mendelsohn, s s.....	5	1	Chard, 1 f.....	3	2					
Cahan, 3d b.....	3	2	Everett, 3d b.....	3	2					
Reynolds, r f.....	3	1	Easton c f.....	3	1					
McCall, c f.....	4	1	Cole, r f.....	4	2					
		16			24					
INNINGS.										
Wheelock's side	4	1	2	2	0	6	1	0	0	—16
Keating's side	5	5	1	1	4	5	0	0	3	—24
Umpire—Mr. Goodheim. Time 1h. 40m.										

Early ball clubs did not organize every year. Poor economic conditions, the personal interests of club members, or other factors could sometimes leave a city without a team. The *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican* pondered that possibility in 1869. “We wonder why our ‘Champions’ are not girding on their belts for the invigorating exercise. Are we to have the pleasure of recording another friendly contest between our boys and the Fort Union club?”⁶ Apparently not.

In April 1870, the Montezuma BBC was organized in Santa Fe. Among its officers were members of the Santa Fe BBC of 1867–1868. That same month, a *New York Clipper* correspondent using the alias “Amigo” offered his opinion that Santa Fe had “a good base ball club.” He tempered this with a touch of modesty, followed by unfounded braggadocio. “We are merely admirers of that noblest of games, and try to do our little best to keep up an organization here, hundreds of miles away from any others. Of course, we are champions of New Mexico, Arizona, Mexico, &c.” He also noted the challenge of playing at Santa Fe’s high elevation (about 7,200 feet). This might have been mitigated by the opportunities to go trout fishing in the nearby mountains.⁷

The goal of the Montezuma BBC was to play intramural games on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. A box score of one such match in July included something new for the local baseball club—two players with Hispanic names. One was left fielder Manuel Smith, and the other was a first baseman simply listed as Miguel.⁸ There would be a few other players with Hispanic names on early clubs dominated by white players, which might not seem surprising in the Southwest. The region had been part of Mexico only a quarter century earlier. However, integrated teams were not organized throughout the country, including parts of the Southwest.⁹ Through 1945, only 55 Latino players were signed by major league clubs, most of whom were from Cuba, including Esteban Bellán from 1871 to 1873. This was prior to the founding of the National League. Only four of the players were Mexican Americans. The first was Vincent “Sandy” Nava from California. Nava was a backup catcher for the Providence Grays of the National League in 1882–1884 and the Baltimore Orioles of the American Association in 1885–1886.¹⁰

Back in Santa Fe, from 1871 to 1875, there was only one mention of a ball club in 1873, but no name for the club was given. “The city has been horribly dull and if anything will wake it up, we think base ball will.” There were a few games. Some were pick-up games with teams organized from the people on the grounds—often on the “state house grounds.” In addition, military personnel posted in Santa Fe instigated contests between “citizens” and “soldiers.” With no formal clubs, no detailed reports of the players involved were published.¹¹

After a five-year hiatus, celebration of the nation’s 100th birthday seemed to stimulate the organization of baseball clubs, though not all of them survived the entire season. The *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican* summed up conditions during May.

Spring weather. Ice in abundance. The cottonwood trees have dispensed with their down and the locusts and snow balls are in bloom. Another quiet pleasant Sunday, yesterday. Strawberries and ice-cream next week. Several new adobe buildings going up. Another game of baseball is talked of for Thursday next.¹²

Table 1.—Players on “base ball clubs” in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1876. The Collegian BBC represented St. Michael’s College.* The Centennial BBC disbanded after one game, with some of the players joining the newly organized Union BBC. Some players, including James Martin and Fred Parrish, were members of the Fifteenth US Infantry stationed in Santa Fe.

Position	College BBC	Centennial BBC	Union BBC
P	David Salazar	James Martin	James Martin
C	Reyes / Jacob	H.W. Shaw	H.W. Shaw / J.T. Newhall
1B	Octaviano	J.M. Irwin	A.M. Williams / H.W. Shaw
2B	Smith	J.T. Newhall	Murray / Fred Parrish
3B	Adrian / Dunand	Otto Scheske	Jackson / Otto Scheske / Warren
SS	Chavez / Reyes	Will M. Tipton	Conway / H. Proudfit / Barney (Barbey?)
LF	Domingo	A.M. Williams	Lesserman / A.M. Williams / Mitchell
CF	Prudencio / Garcia	J.A. McEachron	Warren / J. Johnson / Magher
RF	Dunand / Polyto	L.H. Barbey	Snyder / L.H. Barbey

Fittingly, the first club to represent the city was the Centennial BBC (Table 1). On May 11, they defeated the Collegian BBC, 23–16. The Collegians were students at St. Michael’s College in Santa Fe.* The next opponent for the Collegians was another newly organized city team named the Union BBC, which apparently replaced the Centennial BBC. The Collegians, reported to be between 14 and 18 years of age, won this contest, 33–20.¹³

For the second game, a reporter for the *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican* wrote one of the most detailed descriptions of a game during these early years of the sport in the territory. It filled nearly half of the newspaper’s front page (half of the page was advertisements). The writer, perhaps one of the editors, admitted to not being knowledgeable about baseball.

Some time ago we had considered ourselves somewhat of an expert at Town ball and liked it. There was some vim and vinegar about a game of town ball; when a youth got to fooling along between corners he stood the risk of having his pins [legs] knocked from under him with a solid rubber ball [thrown by an opposing player], and many were the black eyes and bruised shins resulting from this interesting sport. Somehow we found base ball, yesterday, different from town ball; there is certainly work enough about it, but it seems to work in too many intricate evolutions; in fact there is too much science, and it lacks vim.¹⁴

The writer went on to describe the players’ uniforms. The Collegians wore white shirts and dark pants. Their caps had dark green and white stripes, with a red star crown. The Unions wore white shirts and blue pants. Their caps were red, white, and blue, with a white star crown. For a description of the game, the writer relied on a member of the

* The school was founded as El Colegio de San Miguel in 1859 by the De La Salle Brothers at the invitation of Bishop Jean-Baptiste Lamy. A program in higher education was added in 1874. Initially open only to male students, it became coeducational in 1966 and changed its name to the College of Santa Fe, which closed in 2009. However, St. Michael’s High School remains open (Levin 2018).

Unions, but only the first three innings were included in the article. “The remainder of the game is not necessary to describe by innings as the preceding ones are a fair sample of the rest of the game.” The game was interrupted twice. A drunken soldier rode a horse into the crowd of spectators (he was sent to the guardhouse by Captain Chambers McKibben). This was followed by the “appearance of a very black cow within the diamond.”¹⁵ Such was the nature of baseball on the frontier.

Baseball activity faded during the heat of summer, but the Union BBC reorganized in September. They played a game with a picked nine consisting of former club members and some of the college students. Rather than the usual ball field at the capitol grounds, this game was played “north of the military reservation.” One fly ball landed on the roof of Captain McKibben’s residence. Baseballs were few in number at the time, so the game would be halted while balls leaving the playing field were retrieved, no matter the risk. Fred Parrish of the Fifteenth US Infantry, who played for the Unions, was tasked with performing “a perilous feat in climbing down the old well in the penitentiary grounds and throwing out a foul ball.” Other than games between local teams, there was talk of a visit by the club from Las Vegas in November, but no game reports were found.¹⁶

In 1877, four teams at St. Michael’s College played among themselves, including a game on Washington’s birthday in February. There were glimmers of a town club in March, when A.M. Williams organized a “picked nine”—a team without the formal club structure and officers. A team composed of five college students and four soldiers from the Fifteenth Infantry easily defeated Williams’ picked nine of seven civilians and two soldiers (neither from the Fifteenth). The catcher for the picked nine, Montoya, was one of three players singled out for his “excellent playing.”¹⁷

In April, the Mutual BBC was organized, apparently from Williams’ picked nine. Several of the team’s members had played for the Centennial and Union BBCs the previous year (Tables 1 and 2). Soldiers on the 1876 team joined with fellow members of their unit to play as the I Company BBC, representing the Fifteenth Infantry. Their roster was augmented by players from St. Michael’s College, which also fielded a team of its own (Table 2).¹⁸

The Mutual and I Company BBCs played two games in April, with J.M. Armijo serving as scorekeeper in both contests. The Mutuals won both games, 38–36 and 57–35. The *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican* exhibited great enthusiasm for the games, and published Armijo’s box scores but few other details. “From labor to base ball; from school to base ball; from graveyard to base ball; from the church to base ball.” It was that last hoorah that proved to be a problem. The second game had been played on Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 6:00. “There has never been such a crowd on the base-ball grounds as were assembled yesterday.” This was likely because it was the one afternoon during the week when most people did not have to work. Playing in the territorial capital, the game brought a swift admonishment from the territory’s Office of Attorney General published in the *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican*.¹⁹

Editors New Mexican: Please publish this notice for the purpose of informing all persons concerned that the parties engaged in playing base-ball or any other game on Sunday last were guilty of a violation of the law known as the

“Sunday Law”, which denounces a penalty against all persons who engage in “game or sports” on that day. The persons who engaged in the game on Sunday last, doubtless were not aware that they were by so doing rendering themselves liable to prosecution and punishment. And I give this notice in order that they may hereafter act advisedly, as if it is reported[,] it will be my duty to prosecute the offenders. Respectfully[,] Wm. Breeden, Attorney General.²⁰

State, territorial, or local bans on Sunday baseball were enforced to various degrees in communities across the country into the early twentieth century, even for major league teams. Sunday bans hampered the ability of teams to raise funds from gate admissions to cover their expenses, even for amateur clubs, whose costs could include travel, equipment, and construction and maintenance of ballparks. Eventually, baseball (and other sports) were permitted on Sunday afternoons and evenings.²¹

In June, after defeating the I Company BBC twice, the Mutual BBC arranged to play the College BBC on the grounds “north of the Military Reservation” (on a Thursday). The Mutuels ordered new uniforms, so both teams would be sporting their “regulation” kits. Both clubs wore uniforms of white navy flannel, but the trim was blue for the Mutuels and red for the Collegians. The cloth “shields” on the breasts of the jerseys were adorned with either a “C” or “MUTUAL.” The Mutuels came from behind to win, 26–13, for their third victory. The Collegian center fielder, Otero, hit the only homerun.²²

That same month, the Santa Fe Driving Park Association (racetrack) decided to offer a purse of \$30 to the winning baseball club during their Fourth of July celebration. Notices in the *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican* ran in both English and Spanish, although the term “base ball” was retained in the Spanish version (it is now spelled *béisbol*). At the time, the four-page newspaper ran Spanish translations of stories and ads on part of page three and all of

Table 2.—Players on “base ball clubs” in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1877. The Collegian BBC represented St. Michael’s College, the Mutual BBC represented the city, and the I Company BBC included soldiers in the Fifteenth US Infantry, bolstered by college players (names in italics). At the end of June, T. Johnson, H.W. Shaw, and W.S. Woodside left the Mutual BBC and joined the newly organized Active BBC with C. Cosgrove, Charles Fitch, L. Fitch, L.N. Hopkins, Dewitt Spencer, and presumably one other player.

Position	College BBC	Mutual BBC	I Company BBC
P	Gonzales	A.M. Williams	James Martin
C	Victor	Montoya	Hawkins / <i>Victor</i>
1B	Bertine	Johnson / J.M. Irwin / H.W. Shaw	<i>Bertine</i>
2B	Ribera	H.W. Shaw / T. Johnson	<i>Victor</i> / Fred Parrish
3B	A. Smith	W.S. Woodside / D.H. Montgomery	Warren / <i>Adrian</i>
SS	Joaquin	Will M. Tipton	<i>Adrian</i> / <i>Tondre</i>
LF	Teofilo	Otto Scheske / W.S. Woodside	Fred Parrish / Sturgis
CF	Otero	Valentine / Johnson / Otto Scheske	Morrissey / Warren
RF	Tondre	Gooch / Valentine / S. Johnson	Melchiades / Spencer

page four. Any teams in the territory were welcome to participate, but intercity matches were still rare in the region. The Mutuals were the logical choice to represent Santa Fe, but they had already defeated the other two local clubs. There was a rumor that a team from Las Vegas would come to Santa Fe, but in the end, it was another local club that took the field. For unstated reasons, some of the players for the Mutuals, including their captain, H.W. Shaw, left the team and joined the Active BBC, organized on June 28. The Mutuals immediately advertised for three new players.²³

The two clubs met on the grounds at 9:30 in the morning. After three innings, the Mutuals led 33–17. At the end of the fourth inning, with no update to the score reported, “it was decided on account of the heat and the general ‘goneness’ of the players, to postpone the finale of the game to some more auspicious season.” The temperature at game time is unknown, but Sergeant B.F. Hough of the Army’s Signal Service reported a temperature in Santa Fe at 2:00 of 86°F, with a relative humidity of 0% and south wind of 6 miles per hour. The “largest crowd” of spectators for any local ball game departed to eat lunch. On July 18, it was reported that the “city base-ball clubs and the minstrel troupe have postponed their engagements to more salubrious fall weather.” Only the college baseball teams dared to play on the capitol ground in August, the last report of baseball in Santa Fe that year. The temperature at 2:00 that afternoon was only 70°F, on the way to a high of 74°F, with a light wind from the southwest.²⁴ The weather sounded more like an excuse than a reason for the absence of the city’s fractured baseball clubs.

Little was published about baseball in the *Santa Fe New Mexican* during 1878 and 1879, as the newspaper underwent a change in management. The Mutual and College BBCs were scheduled to play during the Fourth of July celebration in 1878, but reports of the activities that day did not mention the game.²⁵

In 1880, the Santa Fe BBC and Las Vegas BBC were both organized, though there was no mention of any contests between them.²⁶ The following year, however, baseball activity began to increase in Santa Fe and elsewhere, as noted by the *Las Vegas Gazette* in March. “Several cities are talking of forming base ball clubs.” Among them was the Optic BBC in Las Vegas. In addition to playing baseball, one of the club’s members and a partner opened the Optic Saloon and Base Ball Headquarters (see the ad on the front cover). The Santa Fe BBC had some familiar names on its membership roll—H.W. Shaw, J. Newhall, S. Johnson, and T. Johnson, as well as B. Montoya and J. Montoya, one of whom might have been the catcher on the 1877 Mutual BBC. Although the Santa Fe BBC had trouble focusing on baseball that year, the city also sported military teams, including the Fort Marcy BBC and C Company of the Ninth US Cavalry, composed of black troopers.²⁷

Interest in intercity matches began to increase during 1881, but competition remained primarily local. Las Vegas offered to play Santa Fe, but no game was scheduled. The Socorro BBC also wanted games and chided “Santa Fe, Las Vegas and Albuquerque [for] doing so much useless blowing on paper regarding their base ball clubs.” The *Socorro Sun* suggested that a “tournament at some central point ... would perhaps be the best way to settle the vexed question.”²⁸

As clubs continued to organize, intercity competition finally took hold. For example, the Optic BBC hosted two games in August 1882 with a team from Trinidad in southeastern Colorado. Trinidad won both games, the first ended after five innings because of darkness and the second ended after four innings, perhaps to allow the Trinidad players to catch the northbound train.²⁹

Socorro's suggestion for a tournament was also taken up that year by the New Mexico Exposition and Driving Park Association as part of its Second Annual Fair in Albuquerque during September. Consequently, a new ball club was organized in the city. In late May, a "good many of our muscular men [were] agitating the base ball subject," with the intention of organizing a team to participate in the tournament that autumn. At a meeting of the baseball association on June 13, it was decided to name the team the Albuquerque Browns. Practices would be held on Thursdays. The secretary was asked to "write some firm dealing in base ball outfits and inquire the prices of balls and bats, toe plates, masks, caps, gloves, etc.," to be paid for with money solicited "in the old and new towns." In the meantime, "the secretary was instructed not to accept challenges until authorized."³⁰

On July 4, the celebration in Albuquerque included various races, a balloon ascension, and a baseball game between the Browns and a picked nine. The Browns also held a practice game at the fairgrounds on July 23 that "was remarkable in nothing." On August 13, a game between the Browns and the team from Wallace was scheduled in Bernalillo. When the Wallace team arrived at the depot, they learned that the game was to be played on a diamond five miles away, and no one was there to meet them with transportation to the grounds. As a result, the intercity match was not played.³¹

When the tournament at the fair was held in September, only three clubs participated. The Rio Grande BBC of San Marcial defeated the Mountain Boys of Carbonateville and the Albuquerque Browns. For their efforts, the Rio Grandes were awarded the prize of \$100.³²

The following spring, the Browns and the Santa Fe BBC arranged a home-and-home series, with both games to be played on Sundays. For the first game on May 13, the Santa Fe BBC traveled to Albuquerque. Arrangements were made by the host club for the fine

treatment of their guests, unlike what occurred at Bernalillo. Santa Fe was the victor, although the final score might have been 10-3 instead of 9-3, as reported in the box score. Betting was heavy during the game.³³ Sadly, the return game in Santa Fe on June 10, was marred by hard feelings. Santa Fe was accused of not treating the visitors as courteously as expected of the host club through

BROWNS.		R	O	SANTA FE		R	O
Palmer, 3d b	0	3	Crawford, p	1	4		
Parker, 1st b	0	4	Sloan, 2d b	1	3		
Anderson, s	1	3	Clancy, 3d b	0	6		
Skinnick, 2d b	0	3	Shoemaker, s	1	4		
Sullivan, p	0	4	Gilnaugh, 1 b	1	3		
Wainey, 1 f	0	3	Morrison, c	3	1		
Hopkins, c	1	2	Matthews, 1 f	1	1		
Pratt, c f	1	2	Burkhart, c f	0	3		
Gillmore, r f	0	3	Thayer, r f	1	3		
Total	3	27	Total	9	27		

SCORE BY INNINGS.	
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Browns	0 0 2 0 0 1 0 0 0-3
Santa Fe	0 1 0 3 0 1 1 0 3-9

arrangements for the visitors to be met at the depot and provided for during their stay. In addition, the *Albuquerque Democrat* referred to the game as the "most disagreeable and disgusting game of base ball ever played in New Mexico." Arguments led to the first umpire being replaced. It got so bad that both sides agreed to call the game a draw.³⁴

Nevertheless, baseball was becoming more widespread in New Mexico, and intercity matches were becoming increasingly common, as described by Sutter.³⁵ It all began with the Santa Fe BBC in 1867 and a game on a snow-covered field in Las Vegas the following year. Baseball still had to overcome segregation and other issues, but the sport had taken root in New Mexico.

Acknowledgements

Newspapers were accessed through Newspapers.com, GenealogyBank.com, and the Illinois University Library (<https://digital.library.illinois.edu/>).

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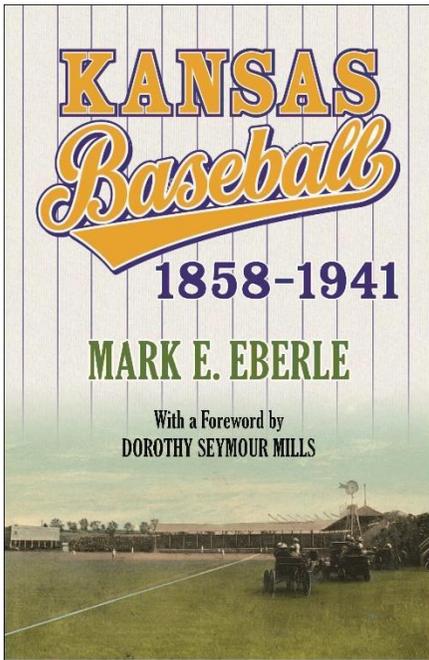
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- ²⁴ *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican*, 5 July 1877, p 1, 2; 18 July 1877, p 1; 17 August 1877, p 1, 2.
- ²⁵ *Santa Fe Weekly New Mexican*, 29 June 1878, p 2.
- ²⁶ *Las Vegas Gazette*, 12 February 1880, p 2; 25 September 1880, p 4. • *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican*, 2 April 1880, p 4.
- ²⁷ *Las Vegas Gazette*, 25 March 1881, p 2; 29 April 1881, p 4; 3 May 1881, p 4; 8 May 1881, p 4; 6 May 1881, p 4; 13 May 1881, p 4; 26 May 1881, p 1; 31 May 1881, p 4; 9 June 1881, p 4; 10 June 1881, p 4; 11 June 1881, p 4; 14 June 1881, p 4; 18 June 1881, p 4. • *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican*, 16 April 1881, p 4; 3 May 1881, p 4; 5 May 1881, p 4; 10 May 1881, p 4; 13 May 1881, p 4; 18 May 1881, p 4; 21 May 1881, p 4; 25 May 1881, p 4; 26 May 1881, p 4; 28 May 1881, p 4; 3 June 1881, p 4.
- ²⁸ *Las Vegas Gazette*, 2 June 1881, p 4. • *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican*, 18 May 1881, p 4; 21 May 1881, p 4; 7 June 1881, p 4. • *Socorro Sun*, 16 July 1881, p 4.

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- ²⁹ *Las Vegas Gazette*, 3 March 1882, p 4; 5 May 1882, p 4; 16 August 1882, p 4; 17 August 1882, p 4. • *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican*, 15 June 1882, p 4. • Protoball.org, *Pre-pro Clubs and Games in New Mexico*, <https://protoball.org/NM> (accessed 3 August 2020).
- ³⁰ *Albuquerque Journal*, 30 May 1882, p 4; 14 June 1882, p 4.
- ³¹ *Albuquerque Journal*, 22 June 1882, p 2; 25 July 1882, p 3; 16 August 1882, p 3; 18 August 1882, p 3.
- ³² *Albuquerque Journal*, 10 September 1882, p 3; 20 September 1882, p 3; 22 September 1882, p 3; 1 October 1882, p 4.
- ³³ *Albuquerque Democrat*, 14 May 1883, p 4. • *Albuquerque Journal*, 8 May 1883, p 4; 15 May 1883, p 4. • *Santa Fe Daily New Mexican*, 15 May 1883, p 4.
- ³⁴ *Albuquerque Democrat*, 11 June 1883, p 4. • *Albuquerque Journal*, 12 June 1883, p 4.
- ³⁵ Sutter (2010).



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.