

Long Island Newsday



6 Comments Like 13 Tweet 2 +1 Pin it

Vintage baseball season opens with old style

Originally published: April 5, 2014 4:44 PM
Updated: April 5, 2014 9:37 PM
By AISHA AL-MUSLIM aisha.al-muslim@newsday.com



George "Wild Horse" Ferchland, right, of the Atlantic Base Ball Club, catches the ball and tags the base as Rocky Belbol, left, of the Flemington Neshanock races to it. The Atlantics opened their schedule against two teams from New Jersey at the Smithtown Historical Society field in Smithtown, Saturday, April 5, 2014. The three games were played under 19th century rules. (Credit: Steve Pfost)

Galleries

Play ball!



Vintage baseball season opens



MLB Opening Day winners and losers



Baseball's 2014 walk year all-stars

Web links



It was 1864 again Saturday as the Brooklyn Atlantics, Flemington Neshanock and the Elizabeth Resolutes competed in Smithtown during opening day in a vintage baseball league.

About 30 spectators watched the teams play three "base ball" matches on the field of the Smithtown Historical Society, based on rules and customs of a time when Abraham Lincoln led the land.

The players, whose ages ranged from the 20s to 60s, wore replica uniforms with long trousers, shield shirts and soft cloth hats.

"The nice part is that this is base ball, and this is entwined with America's history," said Neshanock player Chris "Low Ball" Lowry, 53, of Hillsborough, N.J., a computer programmer who joined the team in 2002. "It also changed like the country changed."

More than 200 vintage teams nationwide compete weekly from April to November, using rules based on research from the 19th century. "Ballists," as they're called, play with bare hands and use custom-made balls and wooden bats. Unlike in modern-day baseball, vintage players must throw with an underhand or sidearm motion.

The sport was spelled as two words before the 1880s, according to the Vintage Base Ball Association. It evolved from the British game of rounders until the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club of New York City formulated the basic rules of baseball in 1845, according to the association. By the late 1850s, there were more than a dozen teams, including the Atlantics, in New York City, the association found.

Schedule A FREE Energy Consultation Save Now SUNPOWER GREENLOGIC ENERGY 877.771.4330

advertisement | advertise on newsday

Newsday.com features

- Movies shot on Long Island
- Search Nassau's 2013 salaries
- Top photos

Vote

Which AL playoff team will regress the most?

- Red Sox
- Indians
- Rays
- Tigers
- Athletics

Show results

Most popular

Stories Photos

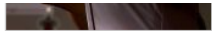
7 LI schools in top 200 of Most Challenging list 41 m ago

Officials: Trailers destroyed in mobile home park fire 8:41 PM

Motorcyclist in crash dies, cops say 3 m ago

Speed radars added to deadly intersection 8:47 PM

3 districts may lengthen kindergarten



Baseball salaries 2014



Baseball blog: On-Base Perception

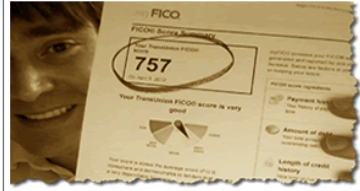
"I fell in love with it," said Anthony "Dirty Pirate" Cannino, 27, of Lynbrook, an insurance underwriter's assistant who has played with the Athletics since he was 14. "It's different than what you see on TV today."

In Saturday's exhibition, the Athletics defeated the Neshanock in the first game 26-1, but the Resolutes beat both in the last two matches, 12-7 and 21-4, respectively. "I never saw an old game, and I was curious of how it was played back in the day," said Mets fan Howard Jennings, 64, of Lake Ronkonkoma, a retired sales representative.

"It's absolutely terrific."

8:31 PM

Man Cheats Credit Score



6 Comments

Newsday

lh8piak

Sort by Newest

Share Favorite

sillywilly · 2 days ago
those teachers again. summers off
^ | v · Share

jbubba_99 · 2 days ago
is there a game on Sunday, 4/6? I didn't notice a date in the article. Would love to see one of these games.
^ | v · Share

tfigs → **jbubba_99** · 2 days ago
Games are played every Sunday at Old Bethpage Restoration Village beginning April 26th and going until the end of September.
^ | v · Share

jolgro49 → **jbubba_99** · 2 days ago
One word: Internet
^ | v · Share

tfigs · 2 days ago
Base ball at Old Bethpage Restoration Village, the birthplace of 19th century base ball in America, begins on Saturday, April 26th with the NY/NJ Cup as the Mutuals and Gothams of New York play Hoboken and Flemington of New Jersey. First game is at 11am. And on Sunday, April 27th, the Mutuals play the Providence Grays beginning at 10 am.

FCouncil · 2 days ago
"...And this call for a new Ballist is brought to you by Jacob's Stagecoach Outfitters..."
^ | v · Share

LATEST CIRCULARS

DOLLAR GENERAL

Dollar General
THIS WEEK ONLY

RITE AID

Rite Aid
THIS WEEK ONLY

MORE CIRCULARS