

BRANTFORD, CANADA, FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1914

FIRST GAME PROVED A REAL PITCHERS' BATTLE

Gero Distinguished Himself Against Hamilton.

Won the Opening Game 2-0, Before Record Crowd.

Before a crowd of some 3,500 wildly enthusiastic baseball fans, the 1914 Canadian League ball season was ushered in at Agricultural Park, when the Red Sox defeated Hamilton Athletics by the score of 2 to 0. It was a great game. The work was fast and both teams played excellent ball.

Prior to the commencement of the game, a monster parade of automobiles, headed by the 38th Dufferin Rifles band, left Victoria Park at 2:45 p.m., and proceeded down George street to Colborne, thence to Agricultural Park. The streets were lined

with people, who kept moving along with the parade. Behind the band in the first automobile came the principals of the introduction of the season, Mayor J. H. Spence and Mayor John Allan of Hamilton and John Muir. Following behind them were the players of both teams and the city aldermen. Upon entering Agricultural Park, the autos were abandoned and the band proceeded to the centre field fence with the Hamilton team on the left field foul line and the Brantford team on the right field line. To the strains of "O Canada," all three parties marched towards home plate where they met and Mayor Spence, in a few words declared the season open.

Before his Worship Mayor Spence threw the first ball, "Chubby" Coose, last year's popular all-around man, was called before the stands, and Mr. Roy Secord, on behalf of P. H. Secord & Sons, presented him with the gold watch which he won last year for his all round good work. Mayor Spence then took the box with Mayor Allan of Hamilton behind the bat and Mr. John Muir wielding the willow. Mayor Spence found his control a little bad, and after pitching

two balls, retired amid great cheering. Umpire Bedford, a new man in this league, then announced the batteries as Donohue and Fisher for the Athletics, and Gero and LeCrox for the Red Sox, and the game was on. Hamilton went out in order. Gilhooly, the first man up, hit one of Gero's benders on the nose and hoisted a high fly to Sandusky. Dudley whipped at three good ones and retired, while Gero took care of Sheppard's slow roller, getting him at first.

For Brantford, "Biddy" Burns struck out after fouling some. Rickart popped to Dudley at third but Deneau looked at four bad ones and went to first. With two balls and one strike, on Gabby Ivers, the Chief at-pitcher, the autos were abandoned and the band proceeded to the centre field fence with the Hamilton team on the left field foul line and the Brantford team on the right field line. To the strains of "O Canada," all three parties marched towards home plate where they met and Mayor Spence, in a few words declared the season open.

Hamilton threatened in the second, but Gero's masterly pitching saved the game. White got his shoulder in front of a fast one and went to first. Fisher laid down a perfect sacrifice and White went to second. Ruben took care of the next two all by himself, getting Dolan's grounder close to first and Unick's skyscraper.

For Brantford, Honeck got the first hit of the season. After Ivers and Sandusky had been disposed of, the youngster beamed one into left field for a clean single. Beltz could not advance him and was out at first.

Barrows opened the third for Hamilton by hitting into centre field for a single, but Gero got him a minute later on a close decision at first. Gero struck Donohue out and Burns made a grand running catch of Gilhooly's liner. The hit had all the earmarks of an extra base clout, but "Old Reliable" was in front of it and stabbed it with his gloved hand. "Biddy" got a great hand from the crowd as he came in.

There was something doing in Brantford. Gero had been retired at first. Biddy Burns poled a hit along the right field foul line and then pilfered second. Red Fisher threw to centre field in attempting to get him and Biddy kept on but Sheppard on a great peg to Dudley at third got the runner cold, cutting off Brantford's chances to score.

Hamilton came near scoring again in the fourth. Dudley opened up with a single to left and passed ball and Sheppard's out worked his way to third, but the next two men went out.

Brantford started things in their half of the fourth. After Rickart had been retired, Deneau whaled out to deep short and then stole second. Fisher threw to second to catch him, but Anick dropped the ball, and Ruben kept right on, reaching third in safety, from where he scored a few minutes later on Gabby Ivers' sacrifice fly. The play at the plate was close, but Fisher dropped the ball and Manager Deneau scored the first run of the Canadian League season. Sandusky kept up the good work with a hard rap to right field which counted for two bases. But there he stayed as Honeck went out at first. The crowd was wild with the joy of witnessing such a pitcher's battle as Gero and Donohue were putting up.

Hamilton went out in order in the first of the fifth, as did Brantford, two of their number fanning. In the sixth, both teams were again retired in order.

In the seventh, after two were gone Red Fisher smashed one into right field, but died at first when Beltz took care of Dolan's fly.

Gabby Ivers smashed one at Dudley, to start for Brantford, but that gentleman heaved wild to first and

Gabby was safe. Sandusky sacrificed him to second and Gabby then proceeded to pull a bonehead. Perhaps the coaches were to blame, but the play made Gabby look foolish. Honeck was at bat and he poled a line drive to left which White easily grabbed. Gabby at the crack of the bat started for home and had rounded third when White pegged to second completing a double play.

Unick started off the eighth by a line drive a little to the left of first base, which Deneau knocked down. Gero covered first but dropped Deneau's throw and Unick was safe. However the next three men went out, including the pinch hitter Baldwin, who batted for Donohue.

Manager Yates made a change at this stage of the game which proved disastrous. Donohue, who had been going good, was taken out and Doherty, a southpaw, was sent in.

He proved easy for the Sox, who banged in a run in short order. Beltz hit a screamer through the pitcher and was sacrificed to second by LeCrox. Gero was safe on a fielder's choice, and only one man was down, and Beltz was on third. Gero stole second and Beltz scored on Biddy Burns' sacrifice fly to White.

The throw hitting him on the back going home, Rickart fouled out, and Brantford's scoring was over.

Things looked bad for the Red Sox in the first of the ninth. Two errors placed men on first and second with only one gone, but Gero tightened up and retired the next two men.

It was a splendid game, and the ideal day made playing right. The diamond was heavy, but the fielding was good.

Umpire Bedford looked good. He let go a couple of bad ones, but on the whole his work was very satisfactory.

Just Like Taking Candy From a Baby

BRANTFORD.

	A.B.	R.	H.	P.O.	A.	E.
BURNS, 1f.	3	0	1	3	0	0
RICKART, 3b.	4	0	0	0	0	1
DENEAU, 1b.	2	1	1	14	0	0
IVERS, r.f.	2	0	0	0	0	0
SANDUSKY, m.	2	0	1	3	0	0
HONECK, s.s.	3	0	1	0	1	0
BELTZ, 2b.	3	1	1	2	0	0
LECROIX, c.	2	0	0	5	1	0
GERO, p.	3	0	0	0	9	2
	24	2	5	27	12	3

HAMILTON.

	A.B.	R.	H.	P.O.	A.	E.
GILHOOLEY, 2nd	4	0	1	3	0	0
DUDLEY, 3b.	4	0	1	3	0	0
SHECKARD, m.	4	0	0	1	1	0
WHITE, 1f.	3	0	0	5	1	0
FISHER, c.	3	0	1	4	2	0
DOLAN, 1b.	4	0	0	9	0	0
UNICK, s.s.	3	0	0	1	1	1
BARROW, r.f.	3	0	1	0	0	0
DONOHUE, p.	3	0	0	0	6	0
DOUGHARTY, p.	0	0	0	0	0	0
*BALDWIN	1	0	0	0	0	0
	31	0	3	24	12	2

*Baldwin batted for Donohue in the 8th.
Score by Innings:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R.	H.	E.
HAMILTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
BRANTFORD	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	5	3	

SUMMARY: Stolen bases, Burns, Deneau, Gero. Sacrifice hits: Sandusky, LeCrox, Fisher. Sacrifice flies, Burns, Ivers. Two base hit, Sandusky. Double plays, White to Unick. Innings pitched by Donohue 7; by Dougherty 1. Struck out: By Gero 5, by Donohue 4. Bases on balls: Off Donohue 1. Wild pitch Donohue and Dougherty. Hit by pitcher: By Gero 1 (White). Left on bases, Brantford 3, Hamilton 5. Passed ball: LeCrox. Time, 1:45. Umpire, Bedford.

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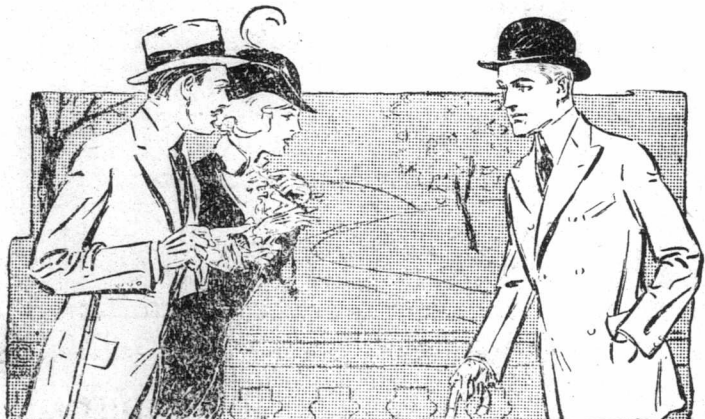
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