

Keokuk's Big League History

When City Was Member of Professional Association Back in 1875.

For a period of just six weeks back in the year 1875 Keokuk enjoyed the luxury of a big league ball club. The city was in the Professional Association composed of thirteen clubs, and which became the National League the following year.

Keokuk's first taste of league ball was not a very sweet one. The club played thirteen games winning only one, and losing twelve, and then disbanded and gave up the franchise because of lack of patronage. But it must be said that the attendance in those days was better than it is now. An average week day crowd was between 500 and 1,000, 500 being regarded as very small. The Sunday crowds usually ran up into several thousand. But even this attendance, which today would satisfy the Keokuk directors, was not a sufficient inducement for the big eastern clubs to travel to the small Iowa city, and about the middle of June they refused to do so, and Keokuk was forced to disband.

After carefully looking up the records of the games played the early part of that season, the writer is unable to come to a satisfactory conclusion as to just what strength the Westerns, as the Keokuk club was known, was possessed. The Keokuk papers were of the opinion that the team was a good one with the exception of several men, and St. Louis sporting writers were agreed that the club had some exceptional ball players. Chicago writers were not so generous, especially the Tribune dopest, who sort of looked upon the Westerns as a band of amateurs.

Golden was the name of the iron man who twirled for Keokuk and it is quite a remarkable fact to present day baseball lovers, that he pitched every game that the Westerns played. One week he pitched five games in five days, and only had an off day when it rained, or there was an open date. In all of the records that were uncovered, there is nothing to show that Keokuk, during the six weeks of baseball in the Professional Association, had more than one pitcher. Golden was regarded as a good pitcher, but in nearly every game he was charged with more or less wildness.

One player attracted especial attention here, however. He was Quinn, a fielder and wonderful batter. Quinn was one of the best ball players in the country at that time.

The First Game.
Keokuk opened the season on Wednesday, May 5, 1875, by losing to Chicago, 15 to 1, although Chicago was credited with only one earned run. The official score of the first game follows:

Keokuk	R H P O A
Hallehan, ss	1 2 1 2

Quinn, cf.	0 0 2 0
Simmons, 1b.	0 2 10 0
Jones, lf.	0 0 1 0
Riley, rf.	0 1 1 0
Goidey, 3b.	0 1 2 3
Miller, 2b.	0 0 1 4
Barnie, c.	0 0 7 2
Golden, p.	0 0 1 2
	1 6 27 13

Chicago	R H P O A
Hyham, c.	2 1 7 0
Hockings, cf.	0 1 0 1
Warren, 3b.	3 2 4 4
Devlin, rf.	3 2 0 0
Hines, lf.	1 2 3 0
Koerl, 2b.	1 0 0 1
Peters, ss.	2 1 1 3
Glen, 1b.	1 1 1 0
Zutlein, p.	2 2 1 1
	15 13 27 10

Runs earned, Keokuk 0; Chicago 1. Total base hits, Keokuk 6; Chicago 15.

Passed balls, Barnie 8; Higham 3. Errors, Keokuk 12; Chicago 3. Umpire, Fred Boardman, Chicago. Scorer, George Stahl.

The following day Keokuk lost to Chicago, 7 to 1, the same pitcher working for both clubs.

Golden pitched his third successive game on Friday, and Keokuk scored its only victory of the season, 15 to 2, over the St. Louis Red Stockings. Golden allowed six hits.

On Sunday, before a crowd of 1,000 people, the Red Stockings came back with a win over Keokuk, 6 to 1, Golden pitching his fourth game.

Rain kept Keokuk from playing for several days, but the following Wednesday they met defeat at the hands of the St. Louis Brown Stockings, 16 to 6, Golden pitching again. Keokuk made 23 errors.

The sixth game played with the same club was one of the best played in Keokuk that season. Golden held the Browns to seven hits, but lost 4 to 2.

The following day Keokuk hit the road, and fans followed the club with great interest. In a ten inning battle, the Chicago White Stockings won 7 to 6. The next day Keokuk lost to the same club, 6 to 2.

In the next game with Boston, Keokuk lost, 6 to 4, and the following day lost to the Mutuals, 1 to 0, in five innings, and so the Westerns continued until the disbanding without winning another game.

About the Players.
When the Westerns made their first appearance of the season in St. Louis, the St. Louis Globe baseball writer had the following to say about the Western players:

Golden, the pitcher is a powerful young fellow, who depends more on speed than on strategy for success. He is occasionally wild in his delivery, but is a good fielder and strong batsman. He was formerly connected with an organization in Springfield, Illinois.

Quinn will supercede Barnie, who was originally engaged to play behind the bat. As a catcher Quinn has few superiors. He watches the game closely, and throws well to bases. He was formerly one of the old Aetna nine in Chicago, then went to Fort Wayne to catch for the Professional Kiklongas. He subsequently joined the Franklins of Chicago, and was playing with them when his services were secured by the Westerns.

Carbine, the first baseman, is also a Chicago player, and one of the best that city ever turned out. He takes in the hottest thrown balls beautifully, and is principally noted for his one hand plays in the position. He is a very strong batter.

Miller, who plays second, is well known in St. Louis, and the manner in which he played his position last summer led admirers of the game to believe that he would rank with the best this season. Joe graduated in an Indiana club and played with the Red Stockings in one of their Empire games last season. He is a splendid infielder, throws accurately and is more than an average willow welder.

Goldsmith is an eastern professional and has played ball for many years. He was formerly connected with the Marylands of Baltimore, has played in Washington, was the Kiklonga third baseman, and has been on the Keokuk nine for two seasons. His fielding this year is not up to that of last season. He is reliable at the bat.

Hallihan is a Chicago fire laddie, and was for years the model Garden City shortstop. While playing that position on the Kiklonga team his record was equal to the best in the country, and he is, by all odds, the safest batsman in the Western club.

Jones, the left fielder, is a giant in stature, and one of the hardest hitters in the fraternity. He played first base for the Westerns last season and filled the position to perfection. Being naturally an infielder, he has not realized the anticipation of his admirers at left.

Barnie is a New York player, and a good one. He caught pretty in an eastern nine last season, and has filled the position acceptably in one of two games this year, but seems not to have mastered Golden's rather wild delivery as yet. He is a fine outfielder and an average batsman. He will alternate with Quinn during the season. Simmons is a prominent professional having manned first in the White

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Stockings and Rockford organizations. He is a splendid outfielder, very handy and reliable with the stick, and adds strength to any nine on which he is placed.

League History in Brief.
In 1875 thirteen clubs entered the lists for the Professional Association championship, representing seven eastern cities and three western cities—New York, Boston, Brooklyn, Washington, Hartford and New Haven each entering one club from the east, Chicago and Keokuk one each from the west, and Philadelphia entering three clubs and St. Louis two. Such an arrangement in itself was a barrier to success in the season's campaign and the final result proved it, as only eleven of the thirteen clubs played out their quota of games. This was the last year of the old Association and the percentages follow

	Won	Lost	Pct.
Boston	71	8	.899
Athletics	55	28	.656
Hartford	54	28	.639
St. Louis	29	39	.424
Philadelphia	37	31	.544
Chicago	30	37	.448
Mutual	29	38	.428
St. Louis Reds	4	14	.222
Washington	4	22	.156
New Haven	7	35	.152
Centennial	2	13	.133
Western	1	12	.077
Atlantic	2	42	.065

(Note—The Keokuk club was known as the Westerns. The above figures are taken from Spaulding's guide. It is impossible to account for the percentages of several of the clubs as given in the table.)

Bankruptcy attended the closing up of the affairs of the majority of the above clubs in 1875. The most noteworthy contest of the old Association's last season was that played at Chicago, June 19, between the Chicago White Stockings and the Dark Blues of Hartford, in which the veteran puglist, Billy McLean of Philadelphia, acted as umpire. For ten successive innings not a run was scored on either side, but in the eleventh inning the Chicago won by 1 to 0. Zottlein pitched for Chicago and Arthur Cummins for Hartford, the late veteran Robert Ferguson being on the bases. The score was a remarkable one for baseball in those days.

NEW IOWA STATUTES AFFECT THE CITIES

Can Levy Special Tax for Purpose of Buying Fire Equipment.

A number of new Iowa laws, affecting the methods of conducting municipal business, became effective last month. Among them is one giving certain cities the power to levy a special tax for the purpose of buying fire equipment and other property for the fire department and to anticipate the revenue derived from such special tax by issuing bonds. The tax cannot exceed 1 1/2 mills per year and the number of years cannot exceed ten.

More Library Tax.
An amendment to another law makes unplatted lands within the limits of a city or town subject to the library tax in addition to the road tax.

Still another law, of particular interest to politicians, is one which makes it unlawful to promise any office or support for any office by a candidate at any election, including municipal primaries and elections. It is likewise made unlawful to solicit support or promises from any candidate. Violations of the law are punishable as a misdemeanor.

Increase City Income.
Another law provides that the treasurer of all cities shall arrange to receive 2 per cent interest on 90 per cent of the daily balance of all funds.

This law makes the action mandatory and provides the treasurer shall make the deposit, with the approval of the city council as place and amount of deposit, by resolution entered of record. The banks are required to furnish a bond double the amount of the deposit, except when an approved surety company's bond is provided it may be accepted in an amount 10 per cent more than the amount deposited, to hold the treasurer harmless from all loss.

USING CONCRETE TO BUILD BIG DAM

It is an Artificial Stone Much More Durable Than Many Specimens of Natural Rock.

Concrete is a mixture of cement, sand and broken rock, crystallized by the addition of water. It is an artificial stone much more durable and of greater strength than many specimens of natural rock. The Keokuk water power development is built chiefly of concrete, the other material being steel used for certain special purposes. The composition of this concrete is one part of portland cement, three parts of sharp sand, and five to six parts of broken rock. The thorough mixing of these ingredients with one another and with water was accomplished in a mixing plant in each division of the works, one in Iowa and one in Illinois.

The mixing plant is something like a grain elevator, consisting of bins to reach ingredient with chutes leading to the mixing machines. The stone is taken to its own bin, high in the mixing plant, on an inclined railway on which it is carried in cars holding five cubic yards each, with bottoms that open to allow the crushed rock to fall into its bin. The sand is similarly elevated over a second tramway. The cement goes into hoppers directly above the mixing machines.

How Traveling Men Boost Keokuk.
The traveling men's fraternity of Keokuk has been a potent factor in boosting Keokuk during the past two years. Hundreds of them travel out of the city every week and answer thousands of inquiries about the big water power plant and business prospects. There is no one so optimistic as the traveling salesman and he carries this optimism a long way when speaking of Keokuk. The traveling men are doing much for Keokuk and their boosting is giving Keokuk a good name for hundreds of miles over the country.

—Read The Daily Gate City.