The Billings Gazette.

SEMI-WEEKLY.

VOL. XV. BILLINGS, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1899 NO. 43

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HELENA PAPERS ROAR

About Billings "Rowdies" "Robbing" Her Ball Team and "Bulldozing" the Umpire.

HELENA IS RIDICULOUS

Her Ball Team Outclassed and This City Holds the Northwestern Championship.

Yesterday's Helena Independent and Herald, which are just to hand today, claim, in flaring head lines, that Helena was robbed of Sunday's ball game. They falsely and maliciously state that the umpire first decided that Ryan was not out and ordered Billings to play ball. The only Helena man who would make such a claim in Billings Sunday evening was the "affidavit man," who declared that he heard the umpire make this decision. As a matter of fact, this man remained seated in the grand stand for fully five minutes after McNeeley was slugged, but even if such a decision had been made, it was impossible for him to have heard it. The truth is that Umpire Lavernash made no decision whatever until he finally decided that Ryan was out. The Gazette reporter was on the diamond in two minutes after McNeeley fell and asked the umpire what his decision was. He replied, "I have made none and will not decide until the ground is cleared of the crowd." The Helena papers also say that the ummire was surrounded by a "mob," and was "bulldozed" into making his decision. That is a deliberate falsehood, Not a Billings man made a threat of any character whatever, but young Goodyear, a Helena ball player who was not in uniform, yelled out "we'll lick him if he don't decide in our favor." The Gazette reporter told him to shut his mouth, as did Manager Goodman of the Helena team. That is the only threat that was made. The crowd that rushed onto the diamond did so to learn whether or not McNeeley was killed; it was a quiet and orderly crowd and was in no sense a "mob." There was not a single Billings man who even importuned the umpire to decide in our favor, while the umpire states that a Helena man attempted to bribe him. Billings people knew that Ryan was out, but before the decision was rendered, said they would abide by it, whatever it was. Instead of Helena being "robbed" of the game, she deliberately tried to steal it after she had been fairly beaten and clearly out-played in all three of the games. It was a case of the Helena hog again asserting itself, and the residents of the capital had better quit their whining and take their defeat like men. Their ball team is outclassed by Billings; Helena didn't have enterprise enough to get together a first-class ball club, and this town does not propose to have anything stolen from it by such a lot of cheap guys. Helena would prostitue baseball by introducing prize-ring tactics into the great national game, which Billings objects to. If, however, Helena desires a prize-ring contest, Billings, if she accepts such a challenge, will secure the best sluggers in the country and knock Helena out at her own game. Helena had better drop the base ball controversy with Billings; the capital is making herself ridiculous and the whole state is ridiculing her.

At a meeting of the patrons of the game last night, it was decided that Billings would play no more baseball this year. The team was paid off in full today and all the boys want to return here next season. Billings has won the championship of the state and the northwest, as she started out to do, and no one is kicking except Helena—and she don't count for anything. Helena did make a porposition Sunday evening to play three more games in Butte, on neutral grounds, which was an admission that Billings cannot get a fair game at the capital. Helena withdrew the proposition, however, for fear she would be beaten. She was well treated in Billings, but didn't appreciate it—it was like casting pearls before swine.

Manager Nix deserves great credit for the manner in which he has handled the Billings team. He has given this town the best baseball in the northwest—and nothing but the best goes in Billings. Helena, it is hoped, may be spurred up, sometime in the future, to also get a good ball club.

Three More Games.

Just as The Gazette goes to press, three more games have been arranged for, to be played in Helena next Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A letter from Manager Goodman this morning to Manager Nix, assures Billings of fair treatment and a square deal. The Billings team as an organization has disbanded, as stated above, but the players themselves are determined to have it out with Helena and the gate receipts will be divided among them, winners to get 65 and losers 35 per cent. Smith of Butte will umpire. N. G. Carwile will go along as manager of the team, which still represents Billings. Helena should now muzzle her newspapers and the baseball season may then end without a free fight.

ELEVEN-INNING GAME.

Helena Won It, Although Outplayed at Every Point.

The prettiest exhibition of the national game ever witnessed in Billings and probably the west, was played at the fair grounds Saturday afternoon, it being the second game of the series between Helena and Billings. The day was a perfect one for the sport and over 800 people witnessed it from the grand stand and on the grounds. Billings had no license to lose the eleven-inning game, which it did to the tune of three to two. The Cowboys outfielded and outbatted the visitors, as is shown by the tabulated score given below. Our boys were given the worst of several decisions on first base by the Helena umpire Freeman, who was playing that bag for Helena, was off base base at four different times when he caught the thrown balls, but it made no difference, the runner was called out each time. The umpire's attention was called to the matter after the first time, but he decided against our boys in every case.

McNeeley was in the box for Billings and had his support been as faultless as was Denzer's the day before, Helena would have suffered a complete shut-out and the Cowboys would have three more victories instead of two. Helena's new pitcher, Maupin, late from the St. Louis league, was pitted against McNeeley. He was touched up for eight hits, but pitched a good game, having four strike-outs. Of the three errors made by Billings each one is likely to occur with the best teams, and although any one of them lost the game, no one can be blamed for them alone.

Helena started the game to rolling, but not a man reached first McNeeley only pitched six balls in the first half, three of which were touched, one for a foul fly, gobbled in by Zearfoss; a hot one to McNeeley, who threw Arenson out at first, and a fly catch by Marshall. Billings' first bat resulted in a score after the first two men up had retired on fly hits. Marshall was allowed first on an error of Arenson at short, who could not stop his hot grounder; got second on a passed ball and scored on an error of Schnables, who couldn't stop Flannery's blistering liner.

For six innings after their first, Helena was unable to score. In the third and fifth innings the visitors had two men on bases and two outs, but were unable to score. In the sixth inning they had a runner on third base and two men out, but it availed them not. McNeeley was pitching ball as he had never done before. Billings failed to get another score until the fifth inning, when one run was made. Sporer started off with a hot liner, which Arneson let go under him. Scott went out at first on a ball fielded by Schnables. Casey made a pretty, safe hit, but was caught napping at first by the pitcher and the umpire declared him out. It was a close decision and made a difference of one score to Billings, for Marshall came next with a clean three-bagger, which brought Sporer home. Flannery followed with a long drive to center field, which would have been a clean home run, but luck was with Helena and Lloyd gobbled it up. In Billings' seventh the first three men went out on fly hits to the infield.

Helena's eighth inning gave her two tallies when it should have been a shut-out. Arenson hit a nice pop-up to Casey, who muffed it as pretty as you please. Hammond went out at first on a ball fielded from McNeeley. Gimlin hit safe. So did Burton, bringing in Arenson. Schnables died on a fly caught by Flannery. This left a runner on second. McDonough batted a short fly into left field. Scott started up after it and was ready to catch it, when Arneson, of Helena, who was on the third base coach line, called out, "I'll take it," and Scott, thinking it was a Billings player, stopped and let the ball fall to the ground. Gimlin, meanwhile, had run home. This act of Arneson's was but another evidence of the dirty ball playing which creeps out on Helena at critical times. These two scores tied the game and at the end of the ninth inning neither side had scored again. In Billings' half of the eighth inning a pretty double play was made by Helena. Flannery had been put out at first by Schnables. Zearfoss got hit by a pitched ball. Hawley made a hot line drive, which looked like it was good for at least two bases, but Burton got his right paw in front of it and there it stayed, Burton returning it quickly to first base, catching Zearfoss. In Helena's half of the ninth Hansen made a pretty line fly catch. In this innfug McNeeley only pitched four balls.

The tenth inning drew blanks for both sides. In the eleventh, Helena scored one on a wild throw of Hansen to Hawley. Schnables went out at first on a ball fielded by Hansen. McDonough got hit by a pitched ball, but was forced out at second on Maupin's sacrifice. Freeman hit to Hansen, who threw wild to Hawley in an attempt to catch runner, which would have retired the side, but the ball went through Hawley, way back to the track, permitting Maupin to score. Denzer then succeeded McNeeley in the box, pitching one ball, and Lloyd retired the side.

Billings' half of the eleventh was hoodooed. Hawley got to first on a pretty, safe hit, but was forced out at second by Hansen's hit to Burton. Denzer flew out to Gimlin, who doubled Hansen at first and thus Billings was defeated. The official score is as follows:

Helena—	AB	R	BH	PO	A	E
Lloyd, cf	4	1	0	3	0	0
Arneson, ss	4	0	0	1	1	3
Hammond, lf	5	1	2	2	0	0
Gimlin, rf	5	0	1	1	1	0
Burton, 2nd	5	0	1	3	5	1
Schnables, 3rd	4	0	1	2	7	1
McDonough, c	5	1	0	4	1	0
Maupin, p	4	0	0	0	2	0
Freeman, 1st	5	0	1	17	0	0
Totals	41	3	6	33	17	5

Billings—	AB	R	BH	PO	A	E
Scott, lf	4	0	0	2	0	0
Casey, ss	5	0	1	5	1	1
Marshall, 3rd	5	1	2	4	6	0
Flannery, cf	5	0	0	3	0	0
Zearfoss, c	3	0	0	2	0	0
Hawley, 1st	5	0	2	14	0	1
Hansen, 2nd	5	0	1	2	5	1
McNeeley, p	4	0	2	0	4	0
Denzer, p	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sporer, rf	4	1	0	1	0	0
Totals	41	2	8	33	16	3

Score by innings:

Helena	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	—3
Billings	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	—2

Earned runs—none. Stolen bases—Marshall. Two-base hit—McNeeley. Three-base hit—Marshall. Double plays—Burton to Freeman, Gimlin to Freeman. Bases on balls—Lloyd, Maupin. Hit by pitched balls—Zearfoss (2), Schnables. Struck out—Scott, Flannery (2), Sporer. Left on bases—Billings, 9; Helena, 9. Time of game—1:45. Umpires—Mains and Johns of Helena.

Notes of the Game.

Marshall had four put-outs and six assists, without an error. Besides, he stole the only base and hit a three bagger and a single. How is that for a record in one game?

* * *

McNeeley's pitching was of the phenomenal order, only six scattering singles being made off his delivery in the eleven innings, and Helena would have been shut out had it not been for the three unfortunate errors of the Cowboys. Mc also lined out a double and a single and played a game that no national league pitcher could have beaten.

* * *

Burton's one-handed catch of Hawley's hot liner, doubling Zearfoss at first, was a beautiful play, but the catch was just a "scratch." Burton didn't know for a second that he had the ball, and he couldn't get another like it in a hundred chances.

* * *

Hansen fielded well at second, but if he had tossed the ball to his base to Casey in the eleventh inning, instead of throwing low to first, Billings would likely have won the game. That's the difference between a young player and an old one. If Rose or McNeeley had been playing second, they would have picked out the easiest play.

* * *

Rose couldn't play in any of the games on account of his sore hands, but he did good work in all of them on the coaching lines.

* * *

Arneson—the wonderful "Arney," as some of the Helena fans call him—made three errors at short out of four chances and did not get a hit. He also gave an exhibition of "clean" ball—the kind Helena plays—when he yelled "I've got it," from the coachers' box at third, and prevented Scott from catching an easy fly that would have won the game for Billings. Arneson was played on the bench next day, but this was on account of his errors, not his interference.

* * *

Some of the Helena "sports" were chumps enough to bet one to two—they always had to have odds—on a proposition where they could not win. And it was fully explained to them, too, one of the bets being written down before the money was put up. The Helenaites said they were afraid to bet for fear Denzer would go in the box. Then the Billings men said they would bet two to one, the bets to be drawn if Denzer was put in to pitch. The Helena men put up the money, even after it was explained to them that Billings could put Denzer in to pitch only one ball, if it was thought we would lose the game. And then Helena had the nerve to kick when Denzer went in the box in the eleventh and pitched a single ball that saved about $500 of Billings money. The Helena "sports," who were afraid to back their club, ought to be ashamed to kick when they were worked for such blooming chumps. They are "hot sports," sure enough, to let themselves fall into a trap like that. It never would have been sprung on them, though, if they hadn't shown such craven cowardice about backing their club, which they claim is invincible.

* * *

There wasn't much betting on the game, although Helena could have won a pot of money if her "sports" hadn't been afraid to put it up. One Billings man, who thought, perhaps, that all the Helena "sports" might pool and get up a respectable-sized bet in that way, offered to cover all they could raise. But they wanted odds of two to one and even declined to bet their money, collectively, against that of a single Billings man. And then Helena won the game and her "sports" kicked themselves.

* * *

Helena got nearly as much applause from the grand stand as Billings and the audience was as impartial a one as ever saw a ball game, notwithstanding that Billings was getting the worst of it by the Helena umpire.

FOUR TO THREE.

Billings Wins a Good Game, Which Helena Tried to Steal.

After the close and exciting contest of Saturday, the 800 people who attended Sunday's game hardly thought they would see another of the same character. But they saw it, just the same. Ryan pitched for Helena and Denzer for Billings. It was thought the former would be batted very hard, as he has not shown ability as a pitcher, but there is no denying that he pitched a splendid game Sunday, altough he did disgrace himself before the contest was over. Helena went first to the bat and scored one run on Marshall's low throw to first base of Hammond's grounder, who got home on the play after two men were out. Then the Cowboys played almost faultless ball and Helena did not get another score until the ninth inning. But in the meantime Helena was also doing some good work. She gave the Cowboys five goose eggs in succession, who seemed unable to bat Ryan effectively, but everybody knew that they would solve his curves before the game was over. They did it in the sixth in-

Continued on Fourth Page.

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