

## **Simsbury Taverneers vs. Boston Colonials – Game 1 - 2008**

Simsbury, Connecticut

Scribed by Mike “Stretch” D’Apice, Simsbury Taverneers Base Ball Club, first bag tender

With pen as heavy as is the sorrow in his heart this writer inks a tale of the victorious Boston Colonials’ visitation to grand Simsbury, hosted by your Simsbury Taverneers Vintage Base Ball Club. During their season prior, your Simsbury Taverneers ballists conquered the Colonial lads in both an opening-season win and again doubly dealing winning blows on the occasion of a season-ending two-match meeting on historic Boston Common.

With these victories fresh on Simsbury minds and with Simsbury ballists’ advantage in wisdom earned by decades of experience beyond that of Boston’s lads, who in appearance seem too young to drive horse and buggy hither and fro, a Simsbury success was a conclusion foregone.

One by one Boston tallied in the first and second frames to lead Simsbury in aces 2-0. Simsbury placed 4 aces on the fence in the third yet Boston’s 2 evened all at 4. Again, even at 6-6 after 4 frames, your Simsbury champions later surpassed the Colonials 7-4 only to be crept-up-upon by tenacious Boston who led 10-7 after 7 frames.

This writer saw nothing to support what he now scribes, though he searched high and low to prove this duplicity, but he heard tell that Boston Colonial strikers carried with them bats of dynamite to the line, swinging with a gusto never-before witnessed by scurrying Taverneers defenders. Circling as a merry-go-round, one striker would secure first bag, the next striker solidly connecting to reach second bag, a three-bag strike was followed by a lad who struck the ball beyond all garden tenders to gain a four bag trip on his turn at the striker’s line. Many more aces exceed, in the fantastic, my ability to describe them.

This 8-ace 8<sup>th</sup> frame saw many hometown cranks spit on the dirt while your gallant and noble Taverneers greeted Boston triumphs with “finely struck, sir!” Now 18-7 in Boston’s favor, Simsbury’s meager 2 aces in the 8<sup>th</sup> frame ended this well-played match earlier than its intended 9 frames as brought about by injuries, exhaustion and Boston’s need of departure for its two-day carriage ride home.

With most Simsbury aces produced by veterans, Taverneers first year volunteers are expected to stand up and be counted in coming matches. Your Simsbury ballists will need every man in later matches to provide Boston with a reckoning which they will never forget!

Final tally: Boston Colonials 18 - Simsbury Taverneers 9

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Photo by Susan D'Apice 2008