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(Vintage base ball match review and photos)
Please credit Susan L. D'Apice for photos

Vintage Taverneers 'Debate' Orators

Simsbury, CT - August 24 in the year of Our Lord 1886 - scribed by Mike "Stretch" D'Apice, Simsbury Taverneers first bag tender, hailing from the wilds of Canton

First Match: Glee-filled cranks adorned Simsbury's Memorial Field cow pasture, toothy grins sparkling as does a giddy newlywed bride's bejeweled finger displayed for all to admire.

This late-August challenge began with Simsbury hurler Kapi Kapiloff stunning Bridgeport strikers, untouchably, such that the tallykeepers call was "nil" at three hands down.

Opposites juxtaposed were Taverneers' bats meeting Orator feeds from the pitcher's point. The four Simsbury ballists touching bags safely were to round all to place aces upon the fence, giving your hometown heroes a 4-0 advantage.

Orators' strikers 'spoke' one second-frame ace to Simsbury's two, and holding Bridgeport without a third-frame tally your Taverneers strikers came to the line and could not be contained any sooner than you can catch a weasel asleep. Numerously schooling the Orators to elocute "Well struck, sir!", Simsbury would go the whole hog sending seven to the striker's line and returning a like seven past home base.

Of some pumpkins were Kapi Kapiloff's hurling skills and the adept field tending of your mittened Simsbury ballists. Speciality of several strikers demands relating - on bag thrice of three appearances were Kapi Kapiloff and Muzz Muszynski - on bag two of two trips to the line were Laddie O'Laughlin, Stretch D'Apice and Grey Shea.

At fourth frame's dawn Bridgeport whimpers for mercy were granted, thusly your Simsbury Taverneers notched another rip-roaring victory.

Final tally: Simsbury Taverneers 13 – Bridgeport Orators 1

Second Match: Bridgeport's request of an 1860's era contest was honored and both clubs removed fielding mittens for barehanded play.

Out of the gates, a tally of two Bridgeport aces caused hush of Simsbury cranks aghast at Orator fortitude and ginger. Further play was without tally until, again, another Bridgeport ballist crossed home base in the fourth frame making the visiting Orators the biggest frog in the puddle atop in aces 3-0.

Though monumental mettle of Taverneers' field tending by way of leaping clutches and true throws ceased further Orator aces, Simsbury had been unable to shake its aceless steady habit at the striker's line, whitewashed in every preceding frame. Neither Simsbury crank nor ballist imagined turnaround and Orators opined opposition's obliteration. But Taverneers' willows struck hard and often, ripping the peel off of the onion in a climactic explosion of grit which saw every of your Simsbury strikers-nine to the line in both of this match's last two frames.

Your mighty, mighty Taverneers' 10-ace final tally saw dual home base crossings for each of Scrapey Hagan, Judge MacKay and Stretch D'Apice.

Final tally: Simsbury Taverneers 10 – Bridgeport Orators 3

“Huzzah” to the Bridgeport Orators.

This writer exclaims to readership that no written word musters appreciation of magnitude sufficient to convey how dearly your Simsbury Taverneers value your support. Still needful of your cries for zest, zeal and ginger which ignite our hearts, cranks are welcomed to spectate as our hometown stand ends in a match with the Hartford Senators, Saturday 8-30 in a 10:30 AM contest at Simsbury's Town Forest grassland. Thereafter, our final outing occurs within the walls of Bluefish Stadium of Bridgeport, CT as your Simsbury ballists challenge the Orators in a rematch on Sunday, September 7.

Visit www.simsburytaverneers.com for updated information, ballist biographies, period language and instructions to the fields as well as www.taverneersphoto.myphotoalbum.com for match photographs.



Shoes Peregren stirs stumps 'round third bag
Photo by Susan L. D'Apice



Simsbury's Ish Rivera explodes from the striker's line
Photo by Susan L. D'Apice



A Laddie O'Laughlin barehanded grab
Photo by Susan L. D'Apice



Simsbury Taverneers hurler Kapi Kapiloff from pitcher's point
Photo by Susan L. D'Apice



Backstop J.O. Goncalves mits a foul tick
Photo by Susan L. D'Apice



Scrapey Hagan strikes a skyscraper
Photo by Susan L. D'Apice