

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Vintage base ball match review and photos)

Please credit Susan L. D'Apice for photos

Simsbury Taverneers Walloped in Whip City

Simsbury, CT – May 16 in the year of our Lord 1886

Scribed by Mike “Stretch” D’Apice, Simsbury Taverneers first bag tender, hailing from the wilds of Canton

Your vintage base ball heroes, the mighty, mighty Simsbury Taverneers, headed due north toward neighboring Massachusetts to confront ever-wily opposition in the guise of the Westfield Wheelmen. This season’s Simsbury squad boasts a horse buggy-load of first-year volunteers comprising half of your club’s manpower. Once Simsbury leather and lumber arrived to test Westfield mettle, it was agreed that the idea of 1860’s era barehanded play be relegated to the trash heap and both clubs prepared for an 1880’s era match allowing fielding mittens.

Appearing first at the striker’s line, your Taverneers passed backstop J.O. Goncalves posthaste to tally an ace upon the fence. All excited and such, Simsbury strutted out to defend the four bright white sawdust-filled bags floating as if upon a meadow-sea of early morning dewy lush green Westfield grass.

Simsbury’s chatter waned precipitously, turning to panting for breath as left, center and right garden fielders Rainman Vasas, Lefty Van Dyke and Pugs Brown scurried to retrieve numerous and many pelted hurls delivered from the hand of first-year volunteer The Juice White serving from the pitcher’s point. Westfield strikers tallied a six-ace first frame.

Hobbling in from the Wheelmen barrage, your Taverneers sent just three lone strikers to the line without an ace only to turn ‘round to resume defense. Westfield wooed hometown cranks, again directing strikes to distant far-off lands propelled as if by steam engine, raising the Wheelmen sum to 12 aces.

As match progressed, with less vigor did your Taverneers return from fielding duties, tuckered out with eyes lookin’ as heavy as lead. Increasingly pensive and withdrawn, only now recalled Simsbury ballists that during travel-arduous prior to arrival at Wheelmen’s meadow did one and all catch glimpse of bustling Westfield economy and banners upon city lamp post which read “Westfield - The Whip City”. Once match’s tale is told you’ll suspicionize that them Wheelmen varmints used, each and every of them, a big horse-whip to wallop your Taverneers boys.

Through this match only half of Taverneers ballists struck safely. One-bag hits were registered to the names J.O. Goncalves, Lefty Van Dyke, Smitty Smith, Kapi Kapiloff and Ish Rivera. The utterly most supremely grand striker’s display was occasioned as The Juice White let her rip far beyond meadow’s edge and into the rocks and roots beneath tree cover for a three-bag jaunt.

Largely shining moment, yet minimally soothing to Taverneers’ outlook in light of full match’s events, was circus-without-net death defying dive of second bagger Ish Rivera to retrieve a well-struck ball otherwise sure to roll into right garden. On knees, Rivera made a transferring throw to waiting shortstop Smitty Smith at second bag for one hand down. Smith alertly and accurately discharged a screaming emission toward first bag tender Stretch D’Apice who with one foot pinned to the bag seemed to reach out a full half baseline’s distance to receive the throw in time to complete a second hand down in the same play. That one defensive play could

garner double the hands down of an ordinary play inspired one Taverneer to coin a never-before-heard phrase “double play” to resounding laughter of the club.

As the prior mentioned loathe and cursed Whip City banners foretold, your Simsbury Taverneers were defeated and deflated. An impossibility to slick up match’s report to raise your spirits, your Taverneers have committed to chirk up you cranks by enlivened and skillful play at our next match in hometown Simsbury!

Cranks are invited to share with us a Sunday morning match on May 31 at 10 AM at Simsbury’s Memorial Field meadow (Babe Ruth complex) when Simsbury hosts the Whately Pioneers.

“Huzzah” to the Westfield Wheelmen.

Final tally: Westfield Wheelmen 13 - Simsbury Taverneers 4

Visit www.simsburytaverneers.com for updated information, ballist biographies and requests for \$10 commemorative past-season DVD’s. Visit www.taverneersphoto.myphotoalbum.com for photographs.



Taverneers Co-Founder “Lucky” Lucker sends Wheelmen scurrying



“Kapi” Kapiloff readies to make the put-out at second bag



Ball eludes Westfield first bagger as Simsbury's "Rainman" Vasas arrives safely



"What?! I am smiling!" grimaces Taverneers first-year hurler "The Juice" White



At the striker's line, "Swinny" Swinford gives the ball a ride for Simsbury