

## Simsbury Taverneers vs. Whately Pioneers – Game 2 - 2008

Simsbury, Connecticut

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

Woefully, woefully have events unraveled. Dare you read on to learn of another lesson learned by your dear Simsbury Taverneers Base Ball Club? Evenly matched hurlers and strikers tussled Saturday April 26 in a gentlemanly outing with the visiting Whately Pioneers - and true pioneers they were, journeying untrod terrain in their inaugural arrival to Simsbury.

On the green grass of Simsbury’s Memorial Field cow pasture, holding the visitors without score in the first frame, your Simsbury heroes tallied 3 passes. Faintly registering even a pulse of life, Pioneers strikers were befuddled by the Taverneers’ hurling and rugged tending of their positions upon the field. The tally increased to 5-1 in Simsbury’s favor. Whately’s 4 aces in the 4<sup>th</sup> was nearly matched by Simsbury’s 3 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, leaving Simsbury to lead 8-5.

The lucky 7<sup>th</sup> frame decided the day - Whately strikers found a solitary spot of land unprotected by the blue-clad Taverneers. With successive cracks from previously dead wood, Pioneers struck daisy-cutters rolling directly over second bag and out of Simsbury reach as well as shellacking several into center garden. Putting up 8 aces in the 6<sup>th</sup> frame, Whately went ahead of Simsbury by a margin which could not be overcome by the Taverneers’ 3-ace 7<sup>th</sup> frame.

**Note to self** - perhaps the introduction of what I call “ye old shift” would properly defend against such accurately aimed striking through our middle should we set a ballist directly upon second bag at each hurl. But, in this the year of Our Lord 1886, I fear it judged by some as too brazen a method of calculated play and disapproved as unbecoming a gentleman. Never mind, it would never catch on.

This 9-frame match ended prematurely as bags were pulled up to afford cows return to their grazing.

This writer is doubly encouraged by certain occurrences at this match. Taverneers first year volunteers shone brightly at the striker’s line - both veterans and volunteers have become one - we are now one club without special regard to experience or skill! Additionally, an increased count of cranks were in spectation today - a cheering, jeering throng is to be expected shortly!

The favour of your presence is requested on May 10 at 10:30 AM for a double-match with the Hartford Dark Blues on Simsbury’s Memorial Field cow pasture. Barnstorming through other fine New England cities for May’s remainder, the Taverneers return to their beloved Farmington Valley town of Simsbury to defend your honor against the Meadowwe Boys on June 14 at 10:30 AM in a double-match at Town Forest grassland.

Final tally: Whately Pioneers 13 - Simsbury Taverneers 11

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Photo by Susan D'Apice 2008