



23RD ANNUAL

## 2025 DAILY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9  
& SUNDAY, AUGUST 10  
9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

### TOURNAMENT MATCHES (SATURDAY)

9:30-5:00 • Walnut Grove  
#1 and #2

See historic base ball matches  
throughout the day.

### CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES (SUNDAY ONLY)

3RD-CLASS CHAMPION  
12:30 • Walnut Grove #2

2ND-CLASS CHAMPION  
12:30 • Walnut Grove #1

1ST-CLASS CHAMPION  
2:45 • Walnut Grove #1

### NEW SKILLS COMPETITION

2:00 • Walnut Grove #1  
Fastest Runner and  
Farthest Throw

### AWARDS CEREMONY

Immediately following the  
championship match.


#### Walnut Grove #1


A \$300 cash prize will be awarded  
to the champion club, and a bag  
of peanuts will go to the club with  
the fewest victories, just as in  
the 1867 World's Tournament.

Pottery prizes handcrafted by the  
artisans of Liberty Craftworks in  
Greenfield Village.

*Historic Base Ball in Greenfield Village is  
made possible through the generous  
support of Cynthia and Edsel B. Ford II.*

WORLD TOURNAMENT

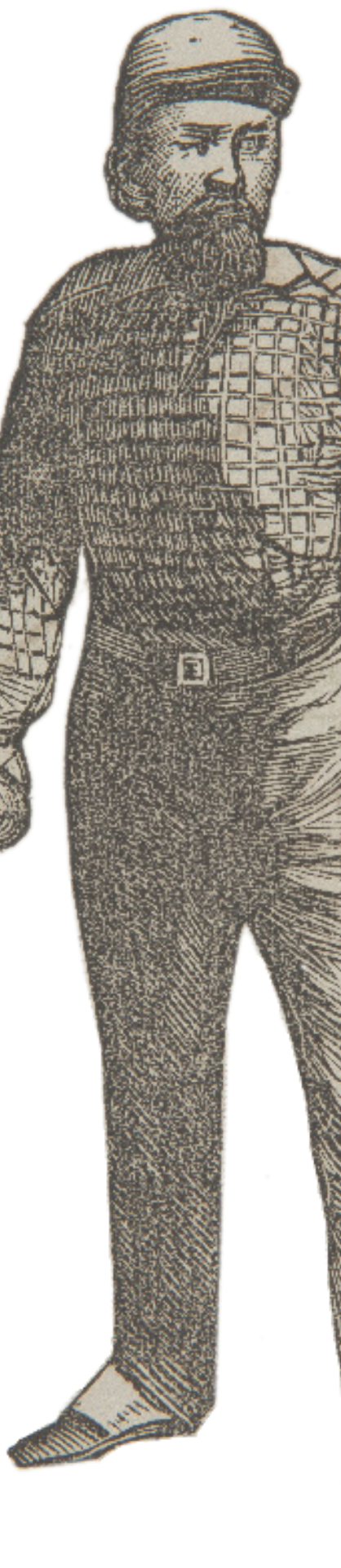
 HISTORIC  
BASE BALL

  
GREENFIELD VILLAGE®



[THF.org/historicbaseball](http://THF.org/historicbaseball)





# The Original **World's Base Ball Tournament**

## **“World's Base Ball Tournament, Detroit, Mich., 1867.”**

So reads the advertisement for the matches that would offer a first-place prize of \$300 in greenbacks to the winner of the first class. The Detroit Base Ball Club sponsored the tournament, and it attracted teams from the United States and Canada. These teams were entered in one of three classes so that teams of similar skill might be pitted against each other.

The matches began on the grounds of the Detroit Base Ball Club on August 13, 1867, with the fans paying 25 cents each and 50 cents for each vehicle that entered the property. Seats in the grandstand cost an additional fee. A fence enclosed the ball field. The Detroit Free Press reported extensively on the matches. Crowds as large as 5,000 attended over the tournament's run.

The Free Press stories also provided insight into the quality of the matches and activities on the field. In a game on the first day, Witherspoon, the second baseman for the Commercial Club of Detroit, was said to have “made kindling of his bat.” During the games of the second day, the Free Press described a predecessor to “Shoeless Joe” Jackson: “Marker of the Unions determined not to be outdone but rather to outdo, and after divesting himself of shoes and stockings ... succeeded in capturing two home runs by low balls.” The game accounts also offer an insight into at least some opinions about the introduction of mitts for players. The Free Press writer commented: “We have noticed in all the matches played thus far that the use of gloves by the players was to some degree a customary practice, which we think cannot be too highly

condemned and are of the opinion that the Custers would have shown a better score if there had been less buckskin on their hands.” The players couldn't be blamed for wanting to protect their hands for defensive purposes; scores such as 41-40 and 61-32 indicate that offense ruled the diamond.

As for the outcome of the tournament, the championship matches occurred on August 17 and 19 (the 18th, being Sunday, was a day of rest). On Saturday, the match pitted the Allegheny Club of Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, against the Unknown Club of Jackson, Michigan. The Free Press claimed the outcome was as much of a surprise to the winning club as it was to the losers. The final score of 29-26 earned greenbacks and a gold-mounted rosewood trophy bat (see Page 3) for the Unknowns of Jackson. In addition to cash and a prize for finishing second in the group, the Allegheny Club received a set of blue silk flags to serve as foul line markers down the outfield line. The Ann Arbor club won the second class, and a Canadian club, the Victoria of Ingersoll, took the third class.

BELOW: Detroit Free Press announcement of the World's Base Ball Tournament, 1867. LEFT: Portrait of a base ball player, circa 1860.

From the collections of The Henry Ford.

WORLD'S BASE BALL TOURNAMENT, DETROIT, MICH., 1867. Commencing August 13th, and continuing from day to day until all the matches are completed.	
SCHEDULE OF PRIZES.	
FIRST CLASS.	
First Prize, \$300 in Greenbacks, and a Gold Mounted Rosewood Bat, valued at \$75.....	\$375 00
Second Prize, Silver Tea Set with Urn, offered by M. S. Smith & Co., and valued at.....	250 00
Third Prize, Gold Ball, regulation size, valued at.....	50 00
SECOND CLASS.	
First Prize, \$200 in Greenbacks, and a Gold Mounted Rosewood Bat, valued at \$75.....	275 00
Second Prize, J. H. Morrison's Prize, valued at.....	150 00
Third Prize, Silver Ball, regulation size, valued at.....	25 00
THIRD CLASS.	
First Prize, \$100 in Greenbacks, and a Gold Mounted Rosewood Bat, valued at \$75.....	175 00
Second Prize, J. S. Conklin's Prize, valued at.....	100 00
Third Prize, Silver Trumpet, valued at.....	75 00
SPECIAL PRIZES.	
Best Captain, a Badge, base ball design, valued at.....	50 00
Best Catcher, a belt, mounted with Solid Silver, valued at.....	40 00
Best Pitcher, a Gold Mounted Opera Glass, valued at.....	40 00
Best Batter, a Gold Star or Badge, valued at.....	30 00
Best Runner of Bases, a Silver Mounted Opera Glass, valued at.....	30 00



## Base Ball as the National Pastime

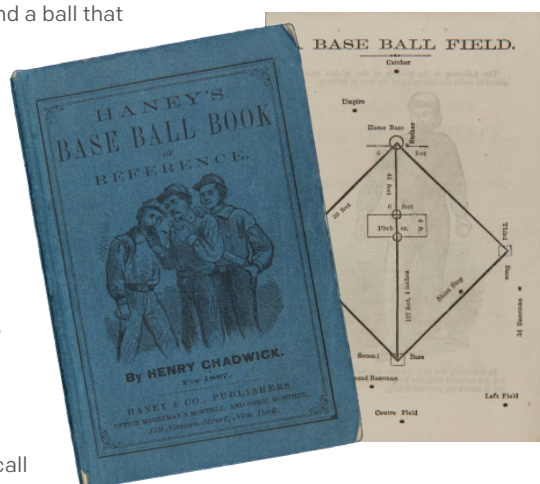
**As base ball (it was often spelled as two words into the early 1900s) gained popularity in the 1850s and 1860s, its promoters remarked on the healthful and wholesome aspects of the game.** Henry

Chadwick, one of base ball's chief advocates, wrote in 1867: "What cricket is to the Englishman, base ball has become to an American." Chadwick, the inventor of the box score and a prolific writer on all things related to base ball, explained: "As a means of cultivating the physical powers, base ball is one of the most commendable exercises in vogue. As a remedy for many of the evils resulting from the immoral associations the boys and young men of our cities are apt to become connected with, the game merits the endorsement of every clergyman in the country. But one of the strongest aids to the popularity of base ball lies in the fact that it is a game — and about the only one, by the way — which can be countenanced by the fair sex. American ladies have been hitherto shut out from all pleasures incident to games ... by the low character of the surroundings of most of the sports and pastimes men indulge in." Chadwick was right: Base ball became the national pastime, and part of the reason was its appeal to Americans of all ages. Base ball meant America. It served as a form of exercise, entertainment and even a way for immigrants to participate in American culture. Base ball built a sense of community and still contributes to our identity as Americans.

## Rules for World's Base Ball Tournament

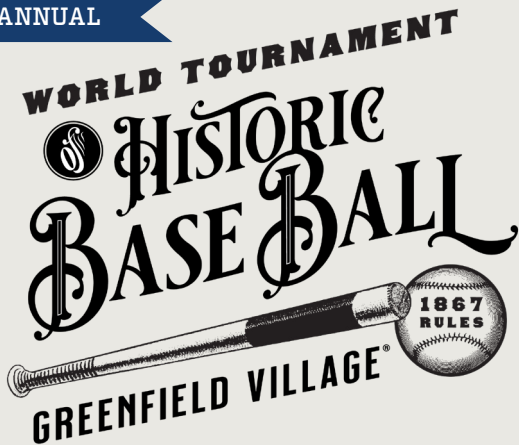
**Base ball in the 1867 Detroit tournament would look only vaguely familiar to us today.** The game consisted of nine players and four bases, 90 feet apart, with chalk marking the foul lines. After that, the game began to stray. The pitcher was required to pitch underhand in the manner of early cricket, foul balls caught on the first bound put the hitter out, and a ball that first bounced fair and then rolled foul was a fair ball.

Run scoring could be prolific, as players seldom wore gloves and the mitts of the day consisted of a fingerless pad that protected the palm and little else. Foul balls did not count as strikes, and the single umpire warned the hitter before he actually began calling strikes. He likewise warned the pitcher to deliver fair pitches before he called any balls. After such a warning, three balls allowed the runner to take his base, and any combination of three called or swinging strikes was an out. That rule remains today: Three strikes and you're out, and three balls is a turn at the plate. As you watch the game, feel free to ask our players about any call that confuses you. It's a grand old game, but one that can be confusing to modern visitors.



An 1860s diagram of the base ball diamond, found in *Haney's Base Ball Book of Reference* for 1867 by Henry Chadwick.  
From the collections of The Henry Ford.





**THE TRADITION CONTINUES** this weekend as the Lah-De-Dahs and the Nationals of Greenfield Village take on vintage ball clubs from Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania during the 23rd Annual World Tournament of Historic Base Ball.

In 1867, Detroit played host to the World’s Base Ball Tournament, and 24 clubs from the United States and Canada took the field to compete in the game that was fast becoming the national pastime.

Watch teams face off on the field until only one club remains to be declared champion. Check out great hands-on base ball activities all weekend. Enjoy music by the Dodworth Saxhorn Band, and see the original rosewood trophy bat awarded to the Unknowns of Jackson, Michigan, for winning the first-class division in the 1867 World’s Tournament in Detroit. View an original copy of *Haney’s Base Ball Book of Reference* for 1867, the rule book written by Henry Chadwick and used for the World’s Tournament and for the Greenfield Village historic base ball program, along with an array of period base ball artifacts from the mid-19th century on exhibit in our Walnut Grove field tent.

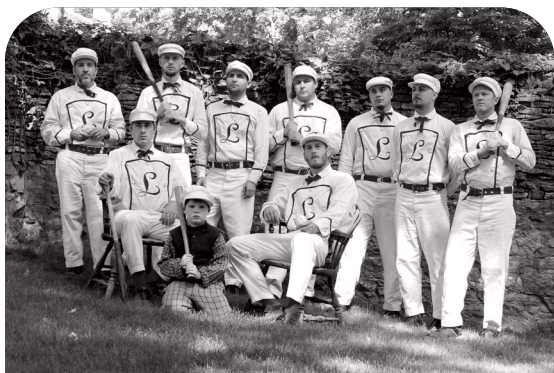
For a fun souvenir, take home a reproduction copy of *Haney’s Base Ball Book of Reference* — available for sale in the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Greenfield Village stores.

World Tournament Champions	
2003	Clodbusters BBC
2004	Mother Nature
2005	Clodbusters BBC
2006	Clodbusters BBC
2007	Lah-De-Dahs BBC
2008	Lah-De-Dahs BBC
2009	Saginaw Old Golds
2010	Columbus Capitals
2011	Saginaw Old Golds
2012	Saginaw Old Golds
2013	Saginaw Old Golds
2014	Saginaw Old Golds
2015	Walker Tavern Wheels
2016	Lah-De-Dahs BBC
2017	Saginaw Old Golds
2018	Lah-De-Dahs BBC
2019	Canton Cornshuckers
2020	COVID Shutdown
2021	Saginaw Old Golds
2022	Walker Tavern Wheels
2023	Flat Rock Bear Clan BBC
2024	Canton Cornshuckers

**AUTOGRAPHS**

CATCH A COLD ONE!





### LAH-DE-DAHS BBC

Dearborn, Michigan

The Greenfield Village Lah-De-Dahs, founded in 1992, borrowed their name from an amateur club that played ball in Waterford, Michigan, during the 1880s. As the sports ambassadors of Greenfield Village, they re-create base ball history every weekend of the summer for enthusiastic crowds of spectators. By challenging other vintage clubs to play by the authentic rules of 1867 in the true competitive spirit that is the legacy of our national pastime, they help to preserve the stories and traditions of America's past.



### COLUMBUS CAPITALS

Columbus, Ohio

The Capitals Base Ball Club is a team based on the original Capital Club, one of three base ball clubs formed in the spring of 1866 in downtown Columbus, Ohio. The Capitals' uniform — dark blue trousers and hat, blue and white checked shirt with white shield — is based on newspaper accounts of the uniforms worn by the original Capital Club. Enjoying their 21st season, the Capitals are thrilled to be returning to Greenfield Village.



### GREENFIELD VILLAGE NATIONALS BBC

Dearborn, Michigan

The Nationals, founded in 2003 as the second vintage base ball club of Greenfield Village, are based on the Nationals of Parma, Michigan, one of the 24 clubs that competed in the original 1867 World's Base Ball Tournament in Detroit. Together with their brother club, the Lah-De-Dahs, they play ball weekly in the historic and gentlemanly fashion of their namesakes.



### COLUMBUS BUCKEYES

Columbus, Ohio

The Columbus Buckeyes were formed in 2010 with family and friends. The uniforms are fashioned after the 1883 Columbus Buckeyes professional base ball team of the American Association.



**Check out these sources on historic base ball and vintage music makers:**

Vintage Base Ball Association • [vbba.org](http://vbba.org)  
 19th-Century Base Ball • [19cbaseball.com](http://19cbaseball.com)  
 Base Ball Supplies & Equipment • [vbbf.com](http://vbbf.com)

Wooden Base Ball Bats • [phoenixbats.com](http://phoenixbats.com)  
 Period Base Ball Equipment • [bulldogbatsonline.com](http://bulldogbatsonline.com)  
 Dodworth Saxhorn Band • [dodworth.org](http://dodworth.org)



## **WALKER TAVERN WHEELS BBC**

Brooklyn, Michigan

The Walker Tavern Wheels Base Ball Club was created in 2008. The Wheels are a modern representation of numerous base ball clubs founded in Washtenaw, Lenawee and Jackson counties. The Wheels' name pays homage to the Chicago Road (U.S. 12) and to the history interpreted at Walker Tavern at Cambridge Junction Historic State Park in Brooklyn. The green in the uniforms represents their home in the Irish Hills.



## **CANTON CORNSHUCKERS**

Canton, Michigan

The Canton Cornshuckers are a base ball club based out of Canton, Michigan. The team name is derived from Canton's early roots in agriculture. The township of Canton was organized in 1834 and later on became known as "The Sweet Corn Capital of Michigan." The club in green and yellow travels all over the Midwest filling a schedule of over 40 games. The Cornshuckers also host a handful of home matches every year at Heritage Park in Canton.



## **FLAT ROCK BEAR CLAN BBC**

Flat Rock, Michigan

The Flat Rock Bear Clan BBC was created in 2018. The Bear Clan is made up of gentlemen from the Downriver area who share a love of 1860s base ball. Their name is derived from one of the 12 clans of the Native American tribe known as the Wyandot who fished the waters of Huroc Park, where the Bear Clan now play their home matches. The bear represents both strength and a healing spirit.



## **ADDISON MOUNTAIN STARS**

Addison, Pennsylvania

The Addison Mountain Stars Base Ball Club was founded in 1994 by Bruce Augustine and comprised mainly of gentlemen and one lady from the mountains and river valleys of southwestern Pennsylvania. Their name pays homage to the Altoona-based clubs of the mid- to late 1860s ball clubs: Mountain (1865-67), Star (1867) and Mountain Star (1868). Their uniforms pay tribute to the blue-collar coal miners who made up the bulk of their roster.





## **BAY CITY INDEPENDENTS BBC**

Bay City, Michigan

The Bay City Independents Base Ball Club is a vintage club that was formed to play 19th-century base ball in the grandest of Bay City traditions. Bay City, Michigan, can date its base ball clubs to 1865, and it is the rules of that era that the Bay City Independents Base Ball Club chooses to re-create. The modern-day Independents patterned their scarlet and white uniforms after those of the 1883 club. Check out the club's website: [baycitybaseball.com](http://baycitybaseball.com).



## **BOVINA DAIRYMEN**

Bovina, New York

The Bovina Dairymen are based on a "town ball" team from Bovina, New York—a provincial powerhouse in the late 19th-century dairy industry. Farm workers played in their Sunday best, and the current uniform reflects the dual nature of Sundays in dairy country. Today, the Dairymen family fields three sets of brothers, and a tradition of spirited play going back to 2008.



## **OREGON GANYMEDES BBC**

Oregon, Illinois

The Ganymedes hail from the city of Oregon, located on the shores of the scenic Rock River 100 miles west of Chicago. The club's name comes from Ganymede Spring, a local mineral water spring named by the famous journalist Margaret Fuller when she visited Oregon in 1843. According to Greek mythology, Ganymede was the cupbearer to the gods on Mount Olympus. The team's gray and red uniforms were designed from an 1871 hometown newspaper description of the Oregon base ball club. The Ganymedes have been playing vintage rules base ball as an educational outreach program for Oregon's Chana School Museum since 2005.



## **ROCHESTER GRANGERS**

Rochester Hills, Michigan

The Rochester Grangers were founded in the 1870s in Rochester, Michigan, as part of a merchant's league. The club was re-formed in 1999 and plays home matches at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm. The club has traveled throughout the Midwest and enjoys meeting new friends wherever it goes.

# DAY ONE: ROUND ROBIN

Time Limit: 1 hour, 20 minutes

MATCH	LOCATION	TIME	TEAMS
1	Walnut Grove #1	8:00*	Flat Rock Bear Clan vs. Lah-De-Dahs
2	Walnut Grove #2	8:00*	Nationals vs. Columbus Capitals
3	Walnut Grove #1	9:30	Oregon Ganymedes vs. Columbus Buckeyes
4	Walnut Grove #2	9:30	Rochester Grangers vs. Canton Cornshuckers
5	Walnut Grove #1	11:00	Columbus Capitals vs. Addison Mountain Stars
6	Walnut Grove #2	11:00	Flat Rock Bear Clan vs. Walker Tavern Wheels
7	Walnut Grove #1	12:30	Rochester Grangers vs. Bovina Dairymen
8	Walnut Grove #2	12:30	Bay City Independents vs. Oregon Ganymedes
9	Walnut Grove #1	2:00	Lah-De-Dahs vs. Walker Tavern Wheels
10	Walnut Grove #2	2:00	Addison Mountain Stars vs. Nationals
11	Walnut Grove #1	3:30	Canton Cornshuckers vs. Bovina Dairymen
12	Walnut Grove #2	3:30	Columbus Buckeyes vs. Bay City Independents

\*Please note these matches will be completed prior to Greenfield Village opening at 9:30 a.m. Due to time and field restrictions, only participants and their families will be permitted into the village for these matches.

# DAY TWO: BRACKETS

## 3RD-CLASS CHAMPION



## 2ND-CLASS CHAMPION



## SKILLS COMPETITION

2:00 Fastest Runner and Farthest Throw

## 1ST-CLASS CHAMPION

No time limit for Championship Match.

