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**A Little About Baseball History**

**By Keith Kingston**

There is evidence to suggest that in terms of baseball history, people played games that involved a stick and a ball, right back to the early days of civilization. Ancient cultures in Persia, Egypt, and Greece played ball and stick games for recreation and as part of special ceremonies where celebrations were rituals. Ball and stick games of this type spread throughout Europe in the Middle Ages and became even popular as different varieties took hold. Europeans brought ball and stick games to the American colonies as early as the 1600s. Until the late 1700s, however, they were widely considered children's games.

By the early 1800s, a variety of ball and stick games had also become popular in North America. Many people in northeastern cities such as Boston, New York, and Philadelphia played cricket, but rounders also began to take hold. Rounders most closely resembled modern baseball as we know it now.

This early version of baseball history then known as rounders, required a batter to strike a ball and run around bases without being caught out. Balls that were caught on the fly, or in some cases after one bounce, were commonly known as outs.

Varieties of rounders also involved the practice of plugging, soaking, or stinging the batter. This was where fielders could put runners out by throwing the ball at them as they ran between the bases. People used various names to describe it rounders depending on what part of the country you were in. It was also known as town ball, one o' cat, and base ball (hence the now shortened version we know as baseball).

Americans began playing baseball in informal competitions in the early 1800s. By the 1860s, the sport, was being described as America's "national pastime." In 1845 Alexander Cartwright and the members of the New York Knickerbocker Base Ball Club, devised the first rules and regulations for the modern game of baseball. The first game was held at the Elysian Fields, in New Jersey.

In 1858, the National Association of Base Ball Players, the first organized baseball league with tournaments and competitions between clubs was formed and in 1876 the first major league, the National League, was formed. This allowed states to play against other states. State teams were fed

players from local leagues where the cream of the crop was selected to play for the states League team. Baseball is know one of the most popular sports in the country.

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### **Three Great MLB Baseball Betting Tips**

**By Sebastien Veilleux**

Do you bet on MLB baseball? If not, you should. There are countless profitable betting opportunities every MLB baseball season. Whether you are already betting on MLB baseball or thinking about starting, this article will give you three solid baseball betting tips. These baseball betting tips will help you refine your selection process so you are getting better value for your money and winning more in the long run.

**Baseball Betting Tip One: Don't bet on heavy favorites**

As a generally rule, I don't bet on any MLB team that's around -160 or higher. The principle is a sound one. The more money you lay—without getting anything in return—the more you have to win to just break even. Let's look at an example using a heavy favorite of -200. You are laying \$2 to win \$1. Right away we can see that we must pick winners 66% of the time just to break even.

This is ridiculous. Take the best team in baseball and look at their win percentage. It's generally around 60–62%. Sure, the team playing a heavy favorite is probably not that good, but baseball is a funny game. Rather than getting suckered in, look for other betting options or steer clear of heavy favorites.

**Baseball Betting Tip Two: If you must bet a heavy favorite, do it on the run line.**

The run line in baseball is a spread and money line combination. In this case, you will be laying 1.5 runs—so your team must win by 2 or more—but you will be knocking down the money laid. Many good teams will beat poor teams by two or more. By betting them on the run line, you can knock off significant money. Perhaps the team you were going to wager on that was over the mark set in tip number one is now down to -120.

**Baseball Betting Tip Three: Don't bet on road teams going for the sweep**

Yes, road teams do sweep, but it's very hard. Looking over recent history, a home team only gets swept about 10% of the time. Good ones get swept even less. You could say that a secondary tip would be to bet on home teams trying to avoid the sweep. That's up to you. My main point is to simply walk away from games where you like the visitor, but that team is going for the sweep.

There are your three great MLB baseball betting tips. Good Luck!

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