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Take Me Out To The Baseball Game

By Joshua Miller

Baseball is the American pasttime, you may be surprised how very few people actually know the rules of the game.

I went to a baseball game a few weeks ago and had the misfortune of sitting next to a group of very young, very boisterous children. Not that enthusiasm in the game is unfortunate, but they kept cheering at all the wrong times. Like when the opposing team batted a run in. And they were home team fans—they were dressed in full baseball regalia from replica batting helmets like these:

http://www.sports-collectibles-store.com/MLB_Batting_Helmets-p-1-c-21-ss2.html

to the stirrup pants.

My point is here that many children nowadays don't understand how the game is played. They confuse offense and defense and cheer when the pitcher beans a batter. Maybe they just don't like batters, but for some reason I don't think that is the case. They do all seem to know the value of baseball cards, which is more than I can say for many baseball card sellers. Baseball cards are not in their heyday anymore, but they are still darn popular and are still worth a pretty penny (or couple hundred bucks!).

Well, while I was sitting and trying to enjoy the game, the kids kept asking their dad questions. The one question that I believe I heard no less than 8 times was, "What's the difference between wooden baseball bats and metal ones?" This question tickled me almost as much as hearing the poor father of these curious children explain it to them over and over again.

I say we get kids back into baseball. I mean football and basketball have been attracting children for years, but baseball has sort of been on the decline for awhile. Why not have baseball camps and sand lot games in the summer instead of sitting the kids down in the air conditioning playing video games and watching television?

Joshua Miller is a sports columnist from Idaho, who specializes in his favorite sports, baseball. If you would like to read more of his articles, please visit

<http://www.sports-collectibles-store.com>

The Origins of Baseball.

By Catherine Kenyeres

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No one knows for sure where baseball exacted originated. However, most baseball buffs will concur that the sport is based on the English game of rounders. In the United States, baseball became popular in the early 1800's, originally known as townball.

At a later date, the sport was renamed baseball.

Throughout this period of time, smaller communities formed teams, while larger cities formed leagues. There is some question as to who was the original founder of the rules of baseball. Some contend that Alexander Cartwright in 1845 published a list of rules, which are still in place today. However, others contend that it was Abner Doubleday who invented the game. However, most baseball historians believe Alexander Cartwright indeed originated baseball.

The first ever-recorded baseball duel was played in 1846 between Alexander Cartwright's Knickerbockers who play against the New York Baseball Club. The Knickerbockers lost the game at the Elysian Fields, in Hoboken, New Jersey. In 1857, a meeting has held and over 25 amateur teams from the Northeast clamored together to hash out rules among other things.

The next year, the National Association of BaseBall Players was formed and the teams, needing financial assistance to support the league, intermittently charged the fans an admission fee.

The 1860's brought about the Civil War and the interest in baseball, understandably, diminished. After the war, baseball's popularity began to grown better than ever. The league's growth resulted in fans being charged a regular admission fee to watch games. The fees were needed to support the league and the ongoing traveling. Winning became important. Although the league was comprised of amateurs, sponsors occasionally paid the players secretly so that the amateur players wouldn't leave the team. The idea of paid players eventually became the norm. Today, baseball is one of North America's favorite sports.

Catherine Kenyeres is a freelance writer and publisher for <http://www.best-4u-tickets.com>. Catherine has written numerous articles for the sports enthusiast.



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