

Pre-Civil-War “Base Ball”-Related Games Played in Greater Chicago Region

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Acronyms:

CDPT = *Chicago Daily Press and Tribune*

NYC = *New York Clipper*

PSOT = *Porter’s Spirit of the Times*

PT = *Press and Tribune* [Chicago]

Date of Game	City/Town Playing Field	Outcome	Sources
1858			
19 Jun (Sat)	[?]. Illinois	Alton, 224 rounds Upper Alton, 90 rounds (5 innings, 13 players each)	(1) One of the A. B. B. C., “Base-Ball in Illinois,” <i>PSOT</i> , vol. 4, no. 20 (17 Jul 1858), p. 309, cols. 2-3 (2) “Base-Ball in Illinois,” <i>NYC</i> , [?] Jun 1858
7 Jul (Wed)	Chicago Union grounds at corner of South Halstead and West Harrison streets	Downer’s Grove (W) Union (Chicago) (L) (<i>CDPT</i> (2): “A Spacious tent was erected on the Club’s grounds, ..., for the accommodation of visitors. The Downer’s Grove Club came off[f] victorious, the ‘country boys’ being excellent players. In the evening the Union Club entertained their victors, at which several good speeches were made, after which the whole party attended the theatre in uniform.”)	(1) “Match Game of Base Ball Clubs,” <i>CDPT</i> , vol. 12, no. 5 (7 Jul 1858), p. 1, col. 5 (2) “Base Ball Match,” <i>CDPT</i> , vol. 12, no. 6 (8 Jul 1858), p. 1, col. 4
30 Aug (Mon) (rain delayed from 26 Aug)	Chicago Prairie Cricket Club grounds near Bull’s Head	Excelsior (Chicago) 17 Union (Chicago) 11 (<i>CDPT</i> (2): “This is the first match of the season, and deserves encouragement. The Nines comprise the flower of each Club, and have been in rigorous training	(1) [match invitation and acceptance], <i>CDPT</i> , vol. 12, no. 39 (17 Aug 1858), p. 1, col. 4 (2) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>CDPT</i> , vol. 12, no. 47 (26 Aug 1858), p. 1, col. 3 (3) “The City: Postponed on

		for some time past preparatory to this match. The Committee have made arrangements for the accommodation of a large concourse of spectators, and numerous tents have been erected for the benefit of the ladies. The Madison street omnibus runs to and from the ground every half hour.”)	Account of Weather,” <i>CDPT</i> , vol. 12, no. 48 (27 Aug 1858), p. 1, col. 2 (4) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>CDPT</i> , vol. 12, no. 52 (1 Sep 1858), p. 1, col. 4
13 Sep (Mon)	Chicago	Excelsior (Chicago) 30? Union (Chicago) 17 (return game) (<i>CDPT</i> : “After the conclusion of the match the Clubs returned to the Union Park House to partake of a collation, and adjourned at a late hour, the time being spent in speech making, pleasant repartee, merry jokes, and singing. We was [<i>sic</i>] glad to note the good feeling that was evinced by the members of each Club on this occasion, and trust that our citizens will take more interest in this truly healthful and entertaining game.”)	“The City: Base Ball Clubs,” <i>CDPT</i> , vol. 12, no. 63 (14 Sep 1858), p. 1, col. 5
1859			
11 Jun (Sat)	Chicago Grounds at corner of Washington and Sheldin streets	Excelsior 31 Atlantic 17 (<i>PT</i> : “There were some five hundred spectators, not a few of whom were ladies.”) (<i>PSOT</i> : “The Excelsior is the pioneer ball club of this city; it was organized a year ago this spring. We have now four clubs that play under the New York rules, and one or two now in process of organization. The Excelsior club won two matches with the Union club last year, and have so far been not only Excelsior in name, but <i>the</i> Excelsior club of this city.”)	(1) “The City: The Base Ball Match,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 12, no. 292 (13 Jun 1859), p. 1, col. 4 (2) X., “Base Ball: Base Ball in Chicago,” <i>PSOT</i> , vol. 6, no. 17 (25 Jun 1859), p. 261, col. 1

16 Jul (Sat)	Chicago Excelsior grounds at the corner of Lake and May streets	Atlantic 30 Excelsior 23 (return game) (<i>PT</i> (2): “The Atlantic boys, not being satisfied with their defeat on the 11th ult., with the Excelsiors, have challenged them to play this afternoon, From the returns of the last match, we anticipate some rich sport. Walker’s line of omnibuses run to the grounds every fifteen minutes.”) (<i>PSOT</i> (3): “The Atlantic Base Ball Club have challenged the Excelsiors to a second match, which has been accepted, and the game will take place in a week or two on the grounds of the Excelsiors, ...”)	(1) “The City,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 8 (11 Jul 1859), p. 1, col. 2 (2) “The City: Base Ball Match,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 13 (16 Jul 1859), p. 1, col. 2 (3) Bobian, “Sporting Matters in Chicago,” <i>PSOT</i> , vol. 6, no. 21 (23 Jul 1859), p. 326, col. 3 (letter from Chicago dated 10 Jul 1859) (4) Bobian, “Out-Door Sports: Base Ball: Base-Ball in Chicago— Excelsior vs. Atlantic,” <i>PSOT</i> , vol. 6, no. 23 (6 Aug 1859), p. 357, col. 1 (letter from Chicago dated 26 Jul 1859)
27 Jul (Wed)	Chicago Cricket grounds near Union Park	Excelsior 49 Columbia 33 (<i>PT</i> (1): “The Columbia Club have challenged the Excelsiors to a game on Tuesday week, which they have accepted. The lovers of this sport will find interest in both games.”) (<i>PSOT</i> (5): “The game was witnessed by a large concourse of people, ...”)	(1) “The City,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 8 (11 Jul 1859), p. 1, col. 2 (2) “The City,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 21 (26 Jul 1859), p. 1, col. 3 (3) “The City: The Base Ball Match,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 23 (28 Jul 1859), p. 1, col. 6 (4) “Base Ball in Chicago,” <i>NYC</i> , vol. 7, no. 17 (13 Aug 1859), p. 132, col. [xx] (5) Base Ball, “Base Ball: Base Ball at Chicago,” <i>PSOT</i> , vol. 6, no. 23 (6 Aug 1859), p. 357, col. 2 (letter dated 29 Jul) (6) “Base Ball: Base Ball in Chicago,” <i>PSOT</i> , vol. 6, no. 24 (13 Aug 1859), p. 372, col. 3
1 Aug (Mon)	Chicago Columbia grounds opposite the Gillies House at the corner of Canal and Mitchell streets	Married Men Single Men (scheduled Columbia intra-club game)	(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 25 (30 Jul 1859), p. 1, col. 3
8 Aug	Chicago	Married Men	(1) Bobian, “Sporting Matters in

(Mon)	Excelsior grounds at the corner of Lake and Ann	Single Men (scheduled Excelsior intra-club game) (<i>PSOT</i> : “A match is also talked of between the married and the single of the Excelsior Club, which will very likely take place soon.”)	Chicago,” <i>PSOT</i> , vol. 6, no. 21 (23 Jul 1859), p. 326, col. 3 (letter from Chicago dated 10 Jul 1859) (2) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 32 (8 Aug 1859), p. 1, col. 3
16 Aug (Tue) (initially set for 15 Aug)	Chicago Prairie Cricket grounds near Union Park	Atlantic 18 Excelsior 16 (<i>PT</i> (1): “A very interesting and exciting game may be expected, as each Club have won a match, and this will decide the contest for the superiority.”) <i>PT</i> (2): “This will be the most exciting game of the season, as both clubs are confident of victory. A large tent will be erected on the ground, so as to afford ample accommodations for ladies and gentlemen who may wish to witness the game.”) <i>PT</i> (3): “The match game ... for the championship, ...” (<i>NYC</i> : The Atlantic “only started this spring” and “have now beaten the Excelsiors two out the three games played, which entitles them to the championship.”) (<i>PSOT</i> : “The day was fine, and a large crowd witnessed the match.”)	(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 36 (12 Aug 1859), p. 1, col. 3 (2) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 39 (16 Aug 1859), p. 1, col. 3 (3) “The City: Match Game of Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 40 (17 Aug 1859), p. 1, col. 3 (4) “Base Ball in Chicago,” <i>NYC</i> , vol. 7, no. 20 (3 Sep 1859), p. 160, col. [xx] (5) Bobian, “Base Ball: Base Ball in Chicago,” <i>PSOT</i> , vol. 6, no. 26 (27 Aug 1859), p. 404, col. 3 [states game was played on 15 Aug]
Prior to 29 Oct (Thu)	Chicago	Married 24 Single 12 (Excelsior intra-club game) (<i>PSOT</i> : “The third game of the season, between the married and single members ...)	(1), “Cricket and Base Ball: Chicago,” <i>PSOT</i> , vol. 7, no. 9 (29 Oct 1859), p. 142, col. 2
1860			
21 Apr (Sat)	Chicago Excelsior grounds on West Lake Street	Excelsior Jr. 44 Niagara 3 (<i>PT</i> (2): “The return of settled open weather is causing [sic] out the Ball	(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 254 (23 Apr 1860), p. 1, col. 3 (2) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol.

		Clubs.”)	13, no. 255 (24 Apr 1860), p. 1, col. 3
19 May (Sat)	Chicago Excelsior grounds at the corner of May and West Lake streets	Osceola Excelsior Jr. (scheduled)	(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 277 (19 May 1860), p. 4, col. 7
9 Jun (Sat)	Chicago Niagara grounds at the corner of West Van Buren and Halstead streets	Niagara 27 Atlantic Jr. 19	(1) “The City: Match Game of Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 294 (9 Jun 1860), p. 1, col. 3 (2) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 295 (11 Jun 1860), p. 1, col. 3 (3) “The City: Base Ball Match,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 297 (13 Jun 1860), p. 1, col. 3
22 Jun (Fri)	?	Single Men (W) Married Men (L) [an intra-club game?]	(1) “The City,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 13, no. 307 (25 Jun 1860), p. 1, col. 3
20 Jul (Fri)	Chicago “on the ground of their former match, corner of Twelfth and Halstead streets”	Ossawatomie Niagara (scheduled)	(1) “The City,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 16 (20 Jul 1860), p. 1, col. 4
24 Jul (Tue)	Chicago Corner of Ann and West Lake streets	Douglas men 16 Lincoln men 14 (<i>PT</i> (1): “The Lincoln members of the Excelsior Base Ball Club have challenged the Douglasites of the same Club We have no authority for saying that the event of this match will decide the Presidential contest, but it will be a spirited affair on both sides.”) (<i>PT</i> (2): “Some twelve hundred spectators were present. ... Never mind, Lincoln boys, there’s a victory in store where Douglas will mak no ‘runs.’ He is a lame ‘short stop,’ and has been ‘caught out.’ “) (<i>NYC</i> : “We do not approve of their thus being brought in contact, but	(1) “The City: Lincoln vs. Douglas—Nine against Nine,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 19 (24 Jul 1860), p. 1, col. 4 (2) “The City: The Political Base Ball Match—The Score and Result,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 20 (25 Jul 1860), p. 1, col. 3 (3) “Base Ball and Politics,” <i>NYC</i> , [?] Aug 1860

		as a match took place ... between nine Douglas men and nine Lincoln men of the Excelsior Club, we feel in duty bound to report it.”	
Prior to 1 Aug	Chicago Ossawatomie grounds at the corner of Twelfth and Halstead streets	Ossawatomie Jr. 62 Wide Awake Jr. 12	(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 27 (1 Aug 1860), p. 1, col. 6
11 Aug (Sat)	Chicago Osceola grounds at Washington Park on North Clark St., between Whitney & Chestnut streets	Osceola BBC intra-club game	(1) “The City: Sporting Matters,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 36 (11 Aug 1860), p. 1, col. 5
18 Aug (Sat)	Chicago [or NY?] Independent grounds on the corner of Twelfth and Rucker streets	Young America Independent (scheduled)	(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 41 (17 Aug 1860), p. 1, col. 7
20 Aug (Mon)	Chicago Prairie Cricket grounds on West Madison St.	Atlantic 2 (Chicago) 17 Excelsior 2 (Chicago) 9 (<i>PT</i> (1): “The second nine of the Atlantics have challenged the second nine of the Excelsiors. This match promises to be a very interesting one, as it brings to notice many first-class players, who have never before appeared as contestants for ‘the ball.’ ”)	(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 41 (17 Aug 1860), p. 1, col. 4 (2) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 45 (22 Aug 1860), p. 4, col. 6 (3) “Base Ball in Chicago,” <i>NYC</i> , [?] Aug 1860 [states game was played on 16 Aug]
23 Aug (Thu)	Chicago Ossawatomie grounds at the corner of Twelfth and Halstead streets	Niagara Excelsior Jr. (scheduled)	(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 46 (23 Aug 1860), p. 1, col. 3 (2) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 46 (23 Aug 1860), p. 1, col. 6
26 Aug (Sat)	Chicago Prairie Cricket Club grounds at corner of West Madison & Loomis streets	Atlantic 23 Excelsior 12 (<i>PT</i> (1): “All who are desirous of seeing the national game of Base Ball, well played, should witness the match next Saturday, as it will	(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 45 (22 Aug 1860), p. 4, col. 6 (2) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i> , vol. 14, no. 47 (24 Aug 1860), p. 1, col. 6

		<p>doubtless be the best play of the season.”)</p> <p>(PT (2): “As these Clubs are rivals for the championship of the West, excellent playing may be expected. Should the weather be favorable the game will be witnessed by at least 1,000 persons. The above match promises to be closely contested, as each Club are prepared for the occasion. The Excelsior forces are greatly strengthened this season by the accession to their ranks of several prominent players, formerly of the Columbian Club.”</p> <p>(PT (3): “... a signal victory for the Atlantics, who for a year past have been the champions of the city. ... The play was witnessed by a much larger crowd than has heretofore attended during a match.”)</p>	<p>(3) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i>, vol. 14, no. 49 (27 Aug 1860), p. 1, col. 5</p>
22 Sep (Sat)	Chicago Cricket Club grounds on West Madison St.	<p>Atlantic 2 (Chicago) Excelsior 2 (Chicago) (scheduled)</p> <p>(PT: “This is the return match and decides the championship of the respective nines.”)</p>	<p>(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i>, vol. 14, no. 72 (22 Sep 1860), p. 1, col. 3</p>
29 Sep (Sat)	Chicago Niagara grounds on Saugamon St, between Jackson and Van Buren	<p>Osceola Jr. 43 Niagara Jr. 17 (5 innings, due to darkness)</p>	<p>(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i>, vol. 14, no. 78 (29 Sep 1860), p. 1, col. 4</p> <p>(2) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i>, vol. 14, no. 80 (2 Oct 1860), p. 1, col. 2</p> <p>(3) “Base Ball in Chicago,” <i>NYC</i>, [?] Oct 1860 [states game was played on 2 Oct]</p>
20 Oct (Sat)	Chicago	<p>Niagara 28 Ossawatomie 11</p>	<p>(1) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i>, vol. 14, no. 95 (20 Oct 1860), p. 1, col. 4</p> <p>(2) “The City: Base Ball,” <i>PT</i>, vol. 14, no. 96 (22 Oct 1860), p. 1, col. 3</p>