

## A Schott From The Bleachers

### Atlanta and Chattanooga Play 23-Inning Tie Game in 1919

by  
Arthur O. Schott

June 13, 1919 found Atlanta playing at Chattanooga in a Southern Association game which lasted 23-innings and ended in a 2 – 2 deadlock, when darkness halted the activities.

A study of the box score reveals some interesting items. The game was played in three hours and forty minutes, which averages out to 4.8 minutes per half-inning, a figure most impressive when compared with today's time of games. Remarkable is the fact that the minimum of 18 players participated in the contest without any changes of positions. The two pitchers, Ray Roberts and Rube Marshall, allowed 32 hits in 156 official times at-bat – a batting average of .205 for this game. Marshall's work is especially noteworthy in that he issued not a single base on balls in the 23 frames. Bratchi (Atlanta's left fielder) and Lacey (Chattanooga's left fielder) each batted nine times without a base hit.

The most famous name in the two lineups has to be Atlanta's leadoff hitter and second baseman Jimmy Dykes, who went on to achieve stardom with Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics, pennant winners of 1929 – 31. Jimmy played third base for the A's and was later to become the second manager of the club, succeeding Mack in 1951 after the "Grand Old Man" completed 50 years as the team's skipper. In the 23-inning game of 1919, Dykes handled 22 chances flawlessly.

Chattanooga's pitcher, Rube Marshall, can take the blame for not winning the game. In the bottom of the nineteenth inning the Lookouts had the bases loaded with two out and Marshall on first. Griffith sailed a clean single to right-center, scoring what should have been the winning run, but Marshall instead of running to second base headed for the dugout and the run was nullified by a force out at second. This was an exact replica of the famous *Merkle Boner*, which had occurred eleven years before.

Charlie Frank (Atlanta) and Sammy Strang (Chattanooga) were the rival managers that day and both had long service in the old Southern Association.

At Chattanooga, June 13, 1919

ATLANTA					CHATTANOOGA				
	AB	H	PO	A		AB	H	PO	A
Dykes, 2b	10	2	11	11	Griffith, 2b	10	3	7	4
Galloway, ss	9	2	6	4	Graff, 3b	9	2	3	3
Herndon, cf	9	1	6	1	Kelly, cf	9	2	8	0
Bratchi, lf	9	0	8	0	Bates, rf	8	1	1	0
Griffin, 1b	9	3	27	1	Demoe, ss	8	3	7	10
Styles, c	9	1	7	4	Anderson, 1b	7	0	26	3
Thorburn, rf	9	1	2	0	Lacey, lf	9	0	2	0
Moore, 3b	9	3	1	6	Higgins, c	7	2	15	3
Roberts, p	7	3	1	9	Marshall, p	9	3	0	5
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Totals .....	80	16	69	36	Totals .....	76	16	69	28

R – Herndon, Moore, Bates, Higgins. RBI – Anderson, Marshall, Styles, Herndon. E – Moore, Demoe (3), Anderson.  
 2B – Herndon, Styles, Demoe. SB – Higgins, Lacey. SH – Anderson (2), Roberts (2), Demoe (2), Graff, Kelly, Galloway.  
 DP – Graff-Anderson-Demoe; Anderson-Demoe; Graff-Anderson; Demoe-Anderson; Galloway-Dykes-Griffin. PB – Styles.

Umpires – Johnson and Williams.  
 Time – 3:40

Game called at the end of 23-innings because of darkness

	R	H	E	LOB
Atlanta	0	0	0	12
Chattanooga	0	1	1	15

Pitching	IP	R	H	BB	SO	Pitching	IP	R	H	BB	SO
Roberts	23	2	16	4	4	Marshall	23	2	16	0	10

WP - Roberts