

A Schott From The Bleachers

New Orleans Played First Night Game Here in 1936

by
Arthur O. Schott

Southern Association night baseball was introduced to New Orleans on Friday, May 15, 1936, as Heinemann Park, illuminated by lights measuring 7,000,000 candle power, attracted 11,149 fans for the gala occasion. This was six years after the league's first night game was played at Little Rock on July 21, 1930.

The powerful Atlanta Crackers defeated the Pelicans in the local nocturnal inaugural by a score of 11 – 5, as Alex Hooks (Atlanta first baseman) became the batting star of the evening. In five times at bat he scored three runs and obtained four base-hits (including two doubles and a home run), all of which accounted for five runs. His home run in the sixth inning was the first ever in a night game here.

Although both lineups show outstanding names among organized ball performers, I feel that Tommy Henrich and Paul Richards were the most notable among those who saw service in the majors. Henrich was the local hitting star in this game with a single and two doubles.

From a personal standpoint this game remains among my treasured baseball memories as I attended the contest with my father, one month before my graduation from Jesuit High School. I recall Paul Richards' three-run homer in the final frame to ice the outcome for the Crackers. His ability behind the plate as he called the pitches also made a lasting impression on me.

Eddie Rose has a unique record in Southern Association night ball accomplishments. He played leftfield for Little Rock on July 20, 1930 – the first Southern Association night game. He played against the Pels for Little Rock on August 5, 1930 – the first game the Pels played at night away from home – and

six years later you will note that he was the left fielder for the Pelicans in their first night game at home.

Among the comments made concerning this first night game at Heinemann Park are the following:

"Your system is plenty good. It is one of the very best that I've seen. I am sure that New Orleans is going to like night baseball."

Earl Mann
Atlanta Owner/President

"This crowd speaks for itself. Night baseball is going to be a great success in New Orleans."

Gernon Brown
Jesuit High School Athletic Director

Photograph of the Pelicans dugout, May 15, 1936



From left-to-right: Unidentified, Eddie Morgan, Unidentified, Chick Autry, Larry Gilbert, and Larry Gilbert, Jr.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Helen Gilbert

First Southern Association Night Game At New Orleans, May 15, 1936

ATLANTA	AB	H	PO	A	NEW ORLEANS	AB	H	PO	A
Peck Hamel, cf	3	1	1	0	Tommy Irwin, ss	4	2	3	2
John Hill, 3b	5	2	2	6	Leo Kintana, 2b	5	1	4	2
Alex Hooks, 1b	5	4	16	0	Tommy Henrich, cf	5	3	0	0
Dave Harris, lf	3	1	2	0	Eddie Morgan, 1b	5	0	11	0
Gerard Lipscomb, 2b	5	3	1	1	Eddie Rose, lf	4	1	0	0
Eddie Moore, rf	4	1	1	0	Pete Fleming, rf	3	1	2	0
Paul Richards, c	5	2	4	0	Bud Connolly, 3b	3	0	2	7
Buster Chatham, ss	4	1	0	5	Hank Helf, c	4	2	5	2
Bob Durham, p	5	0	0	2	Bill Perrin, p	1	0	0	1
					Bill Zuber, p	1	0	0	0
					a - Mike McCormick, ph	1	0	0	0
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Totals	39	15	27	14	Totals	36	10	27	14

a - struck out for Zuber in the 9th

R - Hamel (2), Hill, Hooks (3), Harris (2), Lipscomb, Moore, Richards, Irwin (2), Kintana, Henrich, Helf. RBI - Hamel, Hooks (2), Harris, Lipscomb (3), Richards (3), one run scored on a WP. 2B - Hooks (2), Irwin (2), Henrich (2), Fleming. HR - Hooks, Harris, Kintana, Richards. SH - Perrin, Moore. PB - Helf. SO - Hill, Harris, Chatham, Durham (2), Kintana, Henrich, Morgan, McCormick. BB - Irwin, Connolly, Hamel (2), Harris, Chatham.

Umpires - Williams and Grigg.
Attendance - 11,149

	R	H	E	LOB
Atlanta	2	0	0	0 0 3
New Orleans	0	0	1	0 0 1

Pitching	IP	R	H	BB	SO	Pitching	IP	R	H	BB	SO
Durham (W)	9	5	10	2	4	Perrin (L)	5.1	5	9	1	3
						Zuber	3.2	6	6	3	2
						Totals	9	11	15	4	5

HBP - By Durham (Fleming)
By Zuber (Harris)

WP - Perrin