

# A Schott From The Bleachers

by

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## A Wild and Wacky Score of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Game

Incredible though it may seem, a baseball team once scored 209 runs in a nine-inning game. The contest was played on June 8, 1869 at Buffalo, New York. The Niagaras defeated a team called Columbia by a score of 209 – 10.

The Niagaras scored 40 runs in the opening inning, but that was not their best inning. In the 8<sup>th</sup> frame, 58 Niagara runs crossed the plate. It was a tough day for Columbia pitcher Mack, who went the distance. Curiously, in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning, with the Niagaras already up 69 – 6, they failed to score a run off Mack. It was the only goose-egg on the board for Niagara. They resumed the onslaught in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, as 18 crossed the plate against Mack.

The box score of this unbelievable game shows only outs and runs scored by the two lineups, as well as a score by innings.

NIAGARA			COLUMBIA		
	O	R		O	R
Croning (3b)	3	25	Jones (3b)	5	1
Hawley (ss)	4	25	Britze (ss)	2	1
Bettinger (c)	1	24	Winne (c)	2	2
Greene (p)	2	22	Mack (p)	3	2
A. Holley (cf)	3	24	Smith (cf)	5	0
Emerson (lf)	2	24	Felix (lf)	2	1
Tanner (rf)	4	23	Kunauss (rf)	4	1
M. Holler (2b)	3	22	Belzing (2b)	1	2
Van Velsor (1b)	5	20	Toppert (1b)	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>

  

Score by Innings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Niagara	40	20	9	0	18	19	26	58	19	-- 209
Columbia	2	3	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	-- 10

Umpire: J. Warren

Scorers: Ed Murray and Grant Warren

Every man on the Niagara club scored at least 20 runs, but no one scored more than 25. Since the distances on the playing field were the same as today – 90 feet between the bases – we can calculate that the winners traveled slightly over 14 miles on the basepaths in the process of producing 209 tallies.