The history of baseball in the Mississippi River-town of Dubuque, Iowa, between 1855 and 1976 is associated with four members of the National Baseball Hall of Fame (HOF); six Major League Baseball (MLB) team owners; five major league player-managers, five managers, and two of the three key founding fathers of the American League; four minor league presidents; arguably the first minor league and the second professional baseball league after the National League according to the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). Dubuque's baseball history is American baseball history and it led early twentieth-century sports writers to refer to Dubuque as an early cradle of baseball ultimately giving rise to the ghosts of baseball's past in the Field of Dreams in a sea of corn 25 miles west of Dubuque. From the adoption of the Knickerbocker Rules in 1845 to the start of modern-day MLB in 1903, this exhibition tells the story of Dubuque's place in helping to build up the game of baseball into a National Pastime through almost 70 photographs as well as news clippings, graphics, and artifacts. In 1954, the year minor league baseball returned to Dubuque

in the form of the Dubuque Packers, Chicago Tribune sports

editor Edward Prell repeated in his series, "Cities that Pioneered

Sports in Chicagoland," what his paper had reported fifty years earlier, Dubuque was an early cradle of professional baseball.

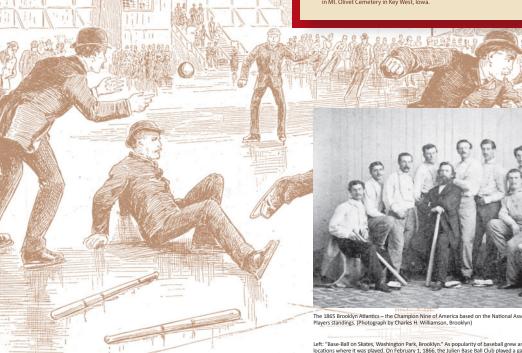
In 1981, singer-songwriter Terry Cashman wrote his baseball anthem "Talkin' Baseball" reminding the baseball world that once upon a time "they knew 'em all from Boston to Dubuque."

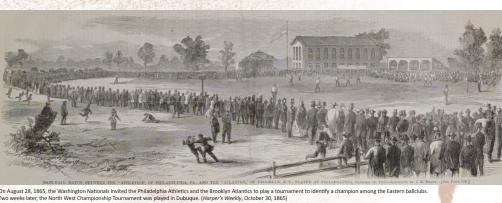
## EARLY BASEBALL PIONEERS ASSOCIATED WITH DUBUQUE BASEBALL

John T. Pregler, Guest Curator

Hall of Famers MLB Owners MLB Player-Managers MLB Managers Fathers President











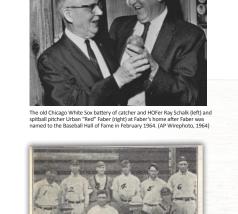




EVOLUTION OF THE

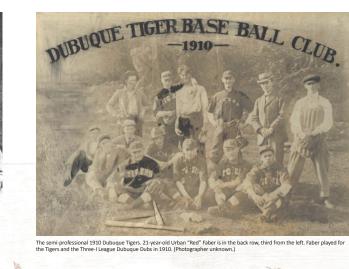
AMERICAN LEAGUE







—John W. Foler, a colored man from Lock Haven, Pa., has written to Ted Sullivan, asking for the position of pitcher should Dubuque decide to have a base ball club next season.







DUBUQUE MINOR LEAGUE









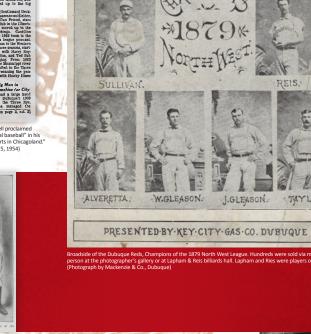




FIELD OF DREAMS

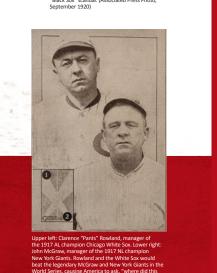


NORTH WEST BASE BALL



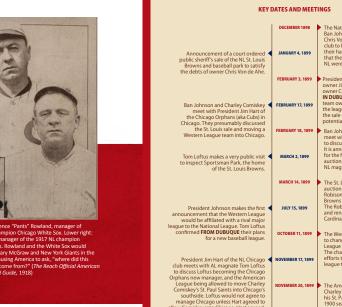








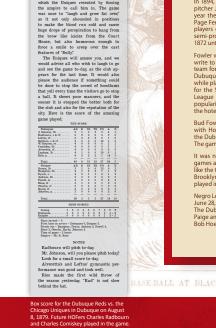


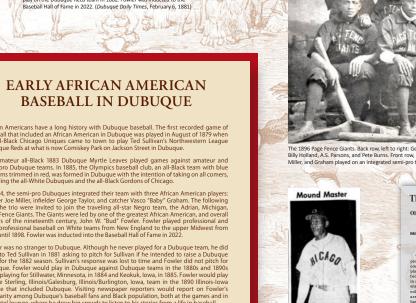


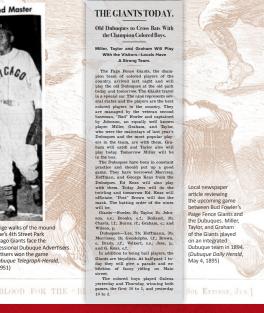


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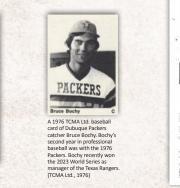


















Vriters Pick Top Sports Thrills of '55.-All-Sports Section





DUBUQUE PLUMPERS

BALLPARK FRANK







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A jersey and hat from the first season of the first Kansas City Royals' minor league affiliate, the 1968 Dubuque Packers. (Collection of Dan Kennedy)

Western Union telegram to the Dubuque Packers from VP Cedrick Tallis of the Kansas City Royals, April 28, 1968. (Collection of John T. Pregler,



