

Essex Base Ball Club

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Essex ready for 2008 Season



Foley's new nickname "The Other" hopes to stick for more than a year.

The Essex Base Ball Organization is gearing up for the 2008 season and this season looks to be one of the best to date. This past winter we officially received our non-profit status which means we will be looking to apply for grants and pursuing sponsorship for the upcoming seasons. Anyone interested in becoming a partner with the Club please contact us.

Other news: Members of the clubs braved the frigid cold and biting wind to march in the Lawrence St Patrick's Day Parade... First practice will be March 30th at DB's Batting Cage in North Andover. Anyone interested in joining the club can join the returning members and try their hand at 19th century base ball...If you are looking to learn more about the history of the game and about our organization, early April offers two opportunities. On Wednesday April 9th at 6:30 PM Jeff "Graybeard" Peart will speak at the Manchester Public Library, and on Saturday April 12th Brian "Cappy" Sheehy will speak at 11am at the Peabody Public Library...

Team notes: Pat "Food Stamp" Foley has been given a new nickname, "The Other"... Players attending the St. Patrick's Day parade discussed acquiring a team horse and wagon. If you have a horse and wagon you'd consider donating for some of our events please let us know.



Name: Chris Sheehy
Position: Shortstop, Pitcher
Height: 5'10
Weight: 175

Q What is it about vintage baseball that motivated you to play?

A My brother got me involved. He brought me to a practice and I really enjoyed the game. Then he took over the team and it was inevitable.

What is your favorite rule difference?

The bounce rule in the 1861 game. It's no fun while hitting but great for defense. Some amazing catches are made that wouldn't be outs in other eras.

Which style do you prefer to play, 1861 or 1886? Why?

Regardless of the rules, The Monkey will always come out victorious. But I'd say I prefer the 1886 rules because I get to pitch. The 1861 rules are always a good change of pace, though.

They call you "Monkey". How did you get that nickname?

When I was about 11 or 12 one of my brother's friends said I looked like a monkey, jumping around the room acting crazy

You're one of the players that really appeals to the crowd. What makes "The Monkey" really stand out?

I think it's my defense. When the ball is in the air it's like a one-man cold for The Monkey; The Monkey is the only one catching it and he's the only one coming down *with* it.

Umpire's Update

Jeff "Greybeard" Peart explains the "Out on One Bounce" rule

One of the most obvious rule differences when you watch 1861 base ball, aside from the lack of gloves, is the "out on one bounce" rule. This rule was

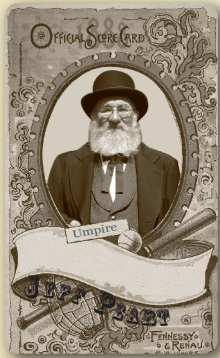
in effect from the earliest days of the "New York game" in the 1840s. By the late 1850s, many players had become opposed to the rule, perhaps after watching a well-struck drive into the gap turned into an easy one-bounce out, or after watching a fielder back off a fly ball to make an easier one-bounce play. Many players would jeer the latter; they considered it more manly to catch the ball on the fly.

Certainly the rule had its proponents

as well. The fact that baserunners advanced at their own risk created many exciting plays on one-bounce balls in the infield. You can see this and some amazing plays in the outfield at nearly every Essex game.

At the annual convention of the National Association of Base Ball Players the rule change was debated for six years before the "out on the fly" rule was adopted prior to the 1865 season. Interestingly, the "out on one bounce" rule was kept in place for foul balls until the early 1880s. When you watch a Beaneaters game using 1886 rules, all balls have to be caught in the air.

For more information on this and other rules, I suggest *A Game of Inches - The Game On The Field* by Peter Morris (Ivan R. Dee 2006). [Click here for more info.](#)



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