

# Essex Base Ball Club

VOL. II

DANVERS, MA

2008

No. 2

## Opening Weekend - April 26 & 27 2008



Essex at last year's opening day festivities [Back row L-R; Brian "Wizard" Besse, Bill "Undertaker" Gendall, Pat "The Other" Foley, "Lee Smith," "No Hat" Matt Quinlan, Jeff "Greybeard" Peart.; Front Row L-R; Mark Scapicchio, Chris "Monkey" Sheehy, Pat "Cueball" Cook, Brian "Cappy" Sheehy, Aaron "Cappy Jr." Horwitz

Come check out the Essex Base Ball Club and Lynn Live Oaks as they host a week-end of 19th century base ball action on April 26th and 27th at Endicott Park in Danvers, MA. Watch the Live Oaks square off against the Dirigo Nine of August, ME on Saturday April 26th at 12pm, and then come back on Sunday to see the Essex Base Ball Club challenge the Melrose Pondfielders and the Fitchburg Rollstones in an action packed day of 1861 rules baseball. The games on Sunday (there will be three) kick off at 11am. Admission is free but donations are welcome. Please bring a blanket or chair and enjoy the action. Directions to Endicott Park are [here](#).

For anyone interested in trying their hand at vintage base ball the games on

Saturday will be open to the public. Come play a few innings and see for yourself how much fun baseball was in 1861.

### Team Notes

Keep an eye out on the [web site](#) for a Podcast by Andrew Tressler of Endicott College featuring members of the Essex Base Ball Club... After years of playing the event in Danvers, this year Trails and Sails will be moving 1 day of games to the Tenney Middle School in Methuen, MA. The club is excited about connecting with the Methuen Historical Commission and hope that this partnership will carry through in upcoming years. Keep checking the newsletter for information about this yearly event... The Hingham Historical Society will be holding a Mike

"King" Kelly fund raiser May 31st which several of the Boston Beaneaters will be attending. Author of the book "Slide Kelly Slide" Marty Appel will be in attendance. For more information on the event [click here](#).

### Upcoming Games

- Saturday April 26th Lynn vs. Dirigo (Danvers)
- Sunday April 27th- round robin in Essex- Fitchburg- Melrose (Danvers) 11am
- Saturday May 3rd- Beaneaters @ Providence Cadets and Game Hens (Warwick, RI)
- Saturday May 10th- Lynn vs. Melrose in Danvers, MA
- Sunday May 18th- Essex vs. Lynn in Danvers, MA



# Umpire's Update

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

One of the hardest lessons for a rookie vintage player to remember is to not overrun first base. In the early days of base ball a runner could

be tagged anytime he was off the base. Sliding into bases was uncommon, players would more often dive towards a base or attempt to jump around the fielder. This resulted in frequent collisions and ankle injuries as players running hard attempted to stop suddenly on the base. While many players enjoyed this aspect of the game, others wanted to allow

base runners to overrun all the bases. A compromise rule was adopted prior to the 1871 season which allowed players to overrun first base as long as the he turned to the right, in other words wasn't heading towards second.

Sliding remained primarily a diving, "avoiding the tag tactic" throughout the 1870s. Base runners began aggressively sliding into bases when stealing in the early 80s, which is what you will see when watch the Beaneaters play under 1886 rules.

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.](#)



Name: Pat Foley  
Position: Outfield  
Height: 6'4"  
Weight: 235

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

A I actually had no interest in it when Cappy told me about it. I made fun of him and started calling it "historyball." I hadn't ever played baseball before so I didn't know the history of the game and how much fun it could be playing by the old rules. I went to a few practices and enjoyed myself and then played in a few scrimmage-type games and decided it was so much fun with the rule differences that I had to play.

## What is your favorite rule difference?

It seems to be the go-to answer but the one bounce rule is a big favorite of mine. Especially when I drop a fly ball and can pick it up off the bounce. Another different rule that I really enjoy is the fair foul hit. For guys like me that never really learned to hit properly and to hit to all the fields it can be a big weapon.

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

I prefer the 1861 rules. It really plays to the crowd. The 1886 rules seem too much like regular baseball to me. Since vintage base ball is for the "cranks" it seems to me they should come out and see something different. I can go to Fenway... well I can watch the Sox on TV at least... and see regular baseball played at a much higher level.

## Lightning Round

**Favorite position?** Anything in the outfield

**Favorite player to watch?** I know Monkey wants me to say him, but I've got to go with The Undertaker. He still gets excited every time he scores a run. It's nice to see that kind of enthusiasm.

**Favorite pre-game meal?** Salmon and mashed potatoes.

# 2008 Vintage Base Ball Opening weekend celebration

April 26 and 27



at **Endicott Park**

Danvers, MA



## Hosted by the Essex Base Ball Club and the Lynn Live Oaks

Opponents:

Melrose Pondfielders

Fitchburg Rollstones

Dirigo Nine

Free admission  
Donations accepted  
and appreciated

Directions available at [www.essexbaseball.wordpress.com](http://www.essexbaseball.wordpress.com)