

Pinch Hits, "Average Start on Even Basis"

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On July 15, 1906, with a complete reorganization of the dysfunctional Battle Creek franchise ongoing, and in an effort to reorganize itself into a six-team circuit, Interstate League refugee Saginaw is granted mid-season membership in the **Southern Michigan League**.

To enhance league balance and competitiveness, both the Saginaw and the reconstituted Battle Creek nines are granted a unique "average start on an even basis," where both teams' won-loss records are determined by an average of the league's standings - a record half way between the first and last place clubs.

When Saginaw begins play on July 18, the team is assigned a record of 15-20 - the average between first place Mt. Clemens and last place Battle Creek.

On the strength of a seven-hit complete game by 30-year-old Nel Mason, Saginaw makes its debut before a crowd of 950 at Recreation Park, rallying for a 5-4 win over the visiting Bathers of Mt. Clemens.

Four days later, on July 22, and bolstered by another "average start on even basis," and a similar 15-20 record, the Battle Creek Creekites make their reappearance in Southern Michigan League play by dropping an 11-inning 6-5 decision to Kalamazoo.

SAGINAW OFF RIGHT

BEATS MT. CLEMENS IN FAST GAME AS STARTER.

MT. CLEMENS.					SAGINAW.						
AB	H	O	A	E	AB	H	O	A	E		
Deisel,m.	4	1	2	0	0	Plum'r,r	3	1	0	0	0
Roth,3...	4	1	1	4	0	Cam'on,1	4	0	14	1	0
Cocash,2	4	1	0	4	1	Bush,3...	5	2	2	5	0
Ort,s....	4	0	3	2	1	Bell,s....	5	2	1	2	0
Taylor,l.	4	1	0	0	0	Dillon,2.	4	2	0	3	0
Vizard,r.	3	0	0	0	0	Neal,m.	5	2	4	0	0
Hayes,l.	3	1	15	0	0	Harms,l.	3	1	1	0	0
Martin,c.	3	0	6	4	0	Jessup,c.	4	2	4	0	0
M'C'ty,p	3	2	0	3	0	Mason,p.	4	0	1	3	1
Totals..32 7 27 17 2					Totals..37 12 27 14 1						
Innings.....1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9					Mt. Clemens .....0 0 4 0 0 0 0 0 0-4						
Saginaw .....2 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0-5											

Two-base hit—Bell. Three-base hits—Neal. Plummer. Sacrifice hits—Cameron, Harms. First base on balls—Off McCarthy 3. First base on error—Saginaw 1. Left on bases—Mt. Clemens 1, Saginaw 10. Struck out—By McCarthy 7, by Mason 3. Wild pitch—McCarthy. Time—1:40. Umpires—O'Conner and Popkay. Attendance 950.

CAN YOU BEAT IT?

BATTLE CREEK LOST TOUGH ONE IN ELEVENTH.

BATTLE CREEK.					KALAMAZOO.						
AB	H	O	A	E	AB	H	O	A	E		
W'g'r,m.	5	0	2	0	0	Bolin,r...	5	1	1	0	0
Faatz,l.	5	0	13	0	1	Parker,s.	5	2	2	1	2
L'ndr'y,l	4	2	3	0	0	Killif'r,2	3	1	1	3	2
K'v'n'y,3	5	2	4	1	1	F'r'l'g,m.	5	2	2	0	0
Hale,s...	5	2	3	2	0	Andr's,3.	5	1	2	4	0
H's'g'r,2	5	1	1	5	1	B'ns'l'y,l	4	1	1	0	1
Dennis,r.	4	1	1	0	0	W'bst'r,l	5	0	14	0	0
B'rd'l'y,c	4	0	6	1	1	Walsh,c.	5	1	9	0	1
M'Cain,p	4	0	0	1	0	Sp'ker,p.	0	0	0	1	0
Reed,p...	1	0	0	1	0	Fel'r'th,p	3	0	0	4	0
Totals..45 8 33 11 4					Totals..40 9*32 13 6						

*Landry out; hit by bunt ball.
Innings.....1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
Battle Creek.. 4 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-5
Kalamazoo.... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 3 0 0-1-6
Runs—Wenger, Landry 2, Keveney, Hale, Bolin, Parker, Killifer, Furlong, Andrews, Felrath. Bases on balls—Off McCain 3, off Reed 1, off Speaker 1, off Felrath 2. Two-base hits—Killifer, Furlong, Parker. Double play—Faatz to Keveney. Struck out—By Speaker 1, by Felrath 7, by McCain 5. Sacrifice hits—Faatz, Landry, Keveney, Bradley, Bensley. Stolen bases—Landry 3, Hale 2, Dennis, Bradley, Parker, Killifer, Andrews, Bensley, Walsh. Wild pitch—Felrath. Innings pitched—By Speaker 1, by Felrath 10, by McCain 10, by Reed 1. Umpire—Henderson. Time—2:40. Attendance—3,000.

On July 16, one day after Saginaw is admitted to the league, Battle Creek releases all of their players with the exception of Jack Landry, Mike Keveney and Waddell. Battle Creek eventually forfeits a game to Tecumseh, rather than play a game before a new team can be formed.

It had been hoped that the players from the Flint Vehics, which had been playing independent ball since the Interstate League disbanded earlier, would arrive in town on July 17 and don Battle Creek uniforms that afternoon in a Southern Michigan League game against Mt. Clemens.

Battle Creek, fielding a minor league team for the first time in four years, has the league's best attendance totals, often exceeding 2,000 for Sunday games despite its 4-37 record.

Given a second chance of fielding a minor league team, things however don't as planned for Saginaw. First, the team begins a sale of season ticket books on August 6, in an effort to raise money to pay for better players.

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN.

STANDING.

W.	L.	Pct.	W.	L.	Pct.		
Mt. Cl'm's	28	14	.667	K'v'n'zoo	26	21	.553
Tecumseh	29	17	.630	Saginaw..	17	23	.425
Jackson..	26	29	.565	Battle C'k	15	22	.406

*Given average start on even basis.

Two weeks later, Saginaw players agree to play for four days without pay in hopes that \$1,000 can be

Average Start on Even Basis [2 of 4]:

raised to pay salaries. One day later league president Joe Jackson considers ordering that all of Saginaw's remaining games, with the exception of Sunday and Holiday games are to be played on the road.

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN LEAGUE CHRONOLOGY

January 29

The Southern Michigan League forms following a meeting in Battle Creek ... Joe Jackson, the sports editor of the *Detroit Free Press*, is named league president ... each team will play three games a week ... a salary limit of \$800 per month is established.

February 19

The National Baseball Commission awards the Michigan cities of Jackson and Kalamazoo to the Southern Michigan League, setting up a showdown with the Interstate League, which claims Kalamazoo as a member and a manager who owns the local ball grounds and wants nothing to do with the Southern Michigan League.

March 19

A new stadium is being built in Saginaw.

April 1

First baseman Jock Somerlott signs with both Kalamazoo and Fort Wayne ... the Flint, Michigan, native however will eventually play for Winnipeg of the Northern Copper County (C) League in 1906 Somerlott will play parts of two seasons (1910-11) with the Washington Senators.

Burroughs Adding Machine Company Baseball Team



May 6

In an exhibition game, Battle Creek beats the Burroughs Adding Machine of Detroit 9-2 before an estimated 1,000 fans at Battle Creek.

May 15

The Southern Michigan League makes its debut with a pair of season openers ... before 2,400 fans, the largest crowd to witness a baseball game in Battle Creek, the home-standing Creekites beat Kalamazoo 7-4 ... In Jackson, before 1,565 fans, Mt. Clemons beats the Convicts 4-3 on a ninth inning RBI single by William Hessberger.

May 24

After opening the season with seven-straight games on the road, the Mt. Clemons Bathers allow two unearned runs in the fourth inning and drop a 2-1 decision to Jackson in their home opener before a record crowd of 1,847.

June 2

Mt. Clemons beats Battle Creek 21-0, dropping the Creekites' record to 1-12.

LIMA QUILTS INTERSTATE
TEAM WILL PLAY INDEPENDENT
BALL HEREAFTER.

June 18

The first seed of discontent is sown in the Interstate League as Lima team president C.H. Chappell informs league president E.W. Dickerson on his team's

SOUTH MICHIGAN BATTING

Following are the batting averages of the players who have been seen this year in the young, though fast, Southern Michigan league:

	G.	A.B.	H.	Pct.
Brace, 3b, B. C.	12	41	13	.317
G. Thomas, 2b, B. C.	27	106	33	.311
Vizard, rf, M. C.	19	65	20	.308
Roth, 3b, M. C.	97	381	115	.302
Stevens, 2b, M. C.	17	64	11	.297
Duval, rf, Jack.	94	355	106	.296
Killefer, 2b, Kal.	103	383	113	.295
Ganzel, 1b, B. C.	27	106	31	.292
Ort, ss, M. C.	89	342	99	.289
Bensley, lf, Kal.	87	308	89	.288
Sanger, p, Kal.	12	28	8	.286
Bensley, 1b, Tec.	85	349	97	.285
McCarthy, p, M. C.	68	215	61	.284
Deneau, p, Jack.	82	285	80	.281
Hycop, c, Kal.	34	120	33	.275
Barber, c, B. C.	20	73	20	.274
Haley, 1b, Jack.	31	107	29	.272
Stear, cf, Tec.	77	191	78	.263
Plummer, rf, Sag.	55	217	58	.267
Webster, 1b, Kal.	101	361	95	.263
Landry, lf, B. C.	33	124	35	.282
Preston, lf, Tec.	99	373	97	.260
Ohland, lf, Jack.	94	348	80	.259
Bell, ss, Sag.	57	228	59	.259
Furlong, cf, Kal.	97	367	89	.258
Daniels, 1b, Jack.	24	82	21	.256
Martin, c, M. C.	72	214	54	.252
Keveney, 3b, B. C.	45	172	43	.250
Andrews, 3b, Kal.	99	378	94	.249
Wagner, 2b, Tec.	103	427	105	.246
Cocash, lf, M. C.	29	102	25	.245
Neal, cf, Sag.	55	200	49	.245
Hale, ss, B. C.	60	246	60	.244
J. Ryan, p, M. C.	64	193	47	.244
Stark, ss, Tec.	83	317	77	.243
Bolin, rf, Kal.	54	231	56	.242
Merkle, 3b, Tec.	85	314	76	.243
Weinberg, rf, Tec.	65	250	59	.238
Hughey, p, B. C.	21	72	17	.236
Carroll, Sag.	53	204	48	.235
W. Smith, c, Tec.	26	94	22	.234
Taylor, lf, M. C.	92	354	83	.234
Ragan, 3b, Jack.	56	205	47	.229
Blair, ss, Jack.	100	387	88	.227
Mitchell, c, Tec.	85	227	67	.236
Wenzel, cf, B. C.	58	238	53	.223
Rehlinger, 3b, B. C.	10	36	8	.222
Carey, lf, Sag.	24	93	20	.215
Deisel, cf, M. C.	97	350	76	.214
Harris, c, Jack.	72	211	45	.213
Barney, 2b, Jack.	38	136	29	.213
T. Smith, 3b, Jack.	72	265	56	.212
Parker, ss, Kal.	98	376	79	.210
Bradley, c, Jack.	74	235	49	.209
Dillon, 1b, B. C.	61	230	48	.208
Egbert, 2b, Jack.	46	179	37	.207
Fartz, 1b, Jack.	18	63	12	.207
Harris, 3b, Sag.	59	200	42	.205
Hayes, 1b, M. C.	86	318	65	.204
Dennis, cf, B. C.	38	138	28	.201
Hessberger, rf, Tec.	64	242	49	.203
Benke, ss, B. C.	33	124	25	.202
Farnum, lf, B. C.	32	124	25	.202
McCain, p, B. C.	34	116	23	.201
Walsh, c, Kal.	91	316	63	.199
P. Ryan, c, M. C.	26	107	21	.195
Krapp, p, Tec.	36	114	22	.193
Graham, 3b, Tec.	33	47	9	.192
Nye, ss, Tec.	27	110	21	.191
Frost, 3b, B. C.	31	42	8	.190
Belger, p, Jack.	37	112	21	.188
Felrath, p, Kal.	46	129	24	.187
Teal, p, Tec.	31	104	19	.183
Lillis, p, M. C.	30	77	14	.182
Cameron, 1b, Sag.	58	230	41	.179
King, c, B. C.	11	34	6	.177
Rush, 3b, Sag.	10	40	7	.175
Speaker, p, Kal.	15	46	8	.174
Jessup, c, Sag.	58	201	35	.174
Volk, 2b, Sag.	45	169	29	.166
E. McDonnell, cf, Jack.	31	127	21	.165
Fountain, cf, Sag.	34	49	8	.163
Moon, c, B. C.	21	74	12	.162
Krenmer, p, Jack.	12	32	5	.156
Chaffee, c, M. C.	14	38	6	.154
Wattick, p, B. C.	33	92	14	.151
Maire, p, Sag.	23	69	10	.145
La Belle, p, Kal.	10	35	5	.143
Doty, p, Tec.	38	118	16	.135
Curie, cf, Sag.	10	37	5	.133
Hoffman, c, B. C.	10	37	5	.133
Germaine, p, Kal.	10	31	4	.127
Brown, 3b, B. C.	18	59	7	.119
Method, p, Kal.	28	110	12	.118
Mason, p, Sag.	28	72	8	.111
Trombler, 1b, M. C.	18	28	3	.108
Fisher, cf, B. C.	31	47	4	.084
Forn, p, Sag.	23	46	4	.067
McCauley, ss, B. C.	11	39	1	.029

Average Start on Even Basis [3 of 4]:

intent to "retire" from the association, citing "raw deals" by umpires at Fort Wayne, Anderson and Marion.

June 19

Lima president C.H. Chappell reconsiders his decision to drop out of the Interstate League and elects to play his team's scheduled game at Marion where they drop a 2-0 decision.

June 22

Big day in the Southern Michigan League ... all five leagues teams agree to "amplify" the schedule starting on July 4 ... citing a lack of "solid" semipro teams, league teams will now play each other in series' of two games instead of a single game ... four towns have asked about possible admission to the league - Saginaw, Bay City, Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor ... Saginaw, which earlier had dropped out of the Interstate League, is playing independent ball.

June 23

Tecumseh beats Jackson 2-0 in a game that takes only 65 minutes to play ... Tecumseh's Harvey "Schoolmaster" Teal allows only two hits and faces only 28 batters in picking up the win ... Teal was only 17 years old when he earned his first teaching job in Seneca, Ohio, in 1897 ... following a 21-5 mark for Tecumseh in 1907, the Philadelphia Athletics draft Teal, but the thin right-hander ends up with the St. Paul Saints of the American (AA) Association where he posts a 6-12 mark.

June 27

Manager Black, of the Battle Creek team, is arrested in Mt. Clemens for slugging Umpire O'Connor ... the arbiter refuses to lodge a complaint against Black, so the case is dropped.

July 6

Seventeen-year-old third baseman Fred Merkle, two years shy of his famous base-running blunder, hits a third-inning home run to lead Tecumseh to a 19-10 win over visiting Mt. Clemens.

July 8

Despite five new players in the starting lineup, the song remains the same as Battle Creek drops to 4-31 with a 12-4 loss to Tecumseh.

July 15

In on-going roster moves, Battle Creek turns to a local amateur in a game against Jackson ... Shelts, a pitcher signed just prior to the game, allows only four hits, but plunks four Jackson batters, including left fielder and future major leaguer Bert Daniels three times in a 4-3 loss.

**"BUSH LEAGUE" BASEBALL BRAND TO PLEASE
THOSE WHO YELL FOR THE GINGERY KIND**

**Twelve Innings at Tecumseh, Same at Battle Creek,
Fourteen at Kalamazoo, Remarkable Record
of Day in South Michigan.**

July 31

Fred Merkle's home run with one out in the bottom of the ninth gives Tecumseh a 3-2 win over Saginaw.

August 4

Southern Michigan League team managers express concern over losing their star players in the upcoming minor league draft.

June 3, 1906

KALAMAZOO FOUND KRAPP

FILED UP EARLY LEAD AND BEAT OUT TECUMSEH.

Kalamazoo, Mich., June 3.—(Special).—Kalamazoo, by timely hitting and assisted by two costly errors on the part of the visitors, defeated Tecumseh before two thousand people today by a score of 7 to 6. With the score 7 to 1, the visitors had a batting rally in the eighth and came within one tally of tying the score. They made six hits in this inning. Kalamazoo players did their best batting in the third inning when they fell on Krapp for four hits netting three runs. Score:

KALAMAZOO.		AB	R	H	O	A	E			
Parker, ss.	.....	5	1	0	5	2	0		
Andrews, 3b.	.....	4	1	1	1	0	0		
Killifer, 2b.	.....	4	0	1	2	7	2		
Furlong, cf.	.....	5	1	0	1	1	0		
Hycoop, rf.	.....	4	1	1	3	0	0		
Walsh, c.	.....	4	1	0	6	0	0		
Labelle, lf.	.....	4	1	0	0	1	0		
Webster, 1b.	.....	4	1	1	0	0	0		
Method, p.	.....	4	0	1	0	0	0		
Totals	.....	38	7	5	27	12	2		
TECUMSEH.		AB	R	H	O	A	E			
Preston, rf.	.....	1	0	0	2	0	1		
Mitchell, ss.	.....	5	0	1	2	1	0		
Wagner, c.	.....	5	0	1	6	1	0		
Weinberg, lf.	.....	5	1	1	2	0	0		
Hersberger, 2b.	.....	5	0	1	2	0	0		
Beasley, 1b.	.....	5	2	2	5	0	0		
Doty, cf.	.....	5	1	1	3	0	0		
Graham, 3b.	.....	4	1	1	0	1	0		
Krapp, p.	.....	4	1	1	1	6	2		
Totals	.....	42	6	9	24	9	3		
Inning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Kalamazoo	1	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	*-7
Tecumseh	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	-8

Three-base hit—Webster. Two-base hit—Andrews. First base on balls—Off Method, 1; off Krapp, 1. Struck out—By Method, 6; by Krapp, 3. Attendance—2,000. Umpire—O'Connor.

Tecumseh 19-year-old pitcher Gene Krapp is "found" for seven runs in the first four innings by the Kalamazoo White Sox ... from 1907 to 1910, Krapp, a 5-foot-7 righthander out of Rochester, New York, will win 88 games in the Southern Michigan and Pacific Coast Leagues before making the opening day roster of the Cleveland Naps in 1911 ... in four years with the Naps and the Federal League's Buffalo Buffeds, Krapp will go 40-47 with 50 complete games and a 3.23 ERA.

Average Start on Even Basis [4 of 4]:

July 30, 1906

KAZOO NINE LEAVES FIELD

Tecumseh, Mich., July 30.—(Special).—Today's game with Kalamazoo, hard fought, full of snappy plays and wrangling with the umpire, ended in Kalamazoo walking off the field in the eighth inning. The visitors found Doty for three hits in the first inning and scored one run. The locals scored two in the fifth on an error and a home run drive over the fence by Brasley, and one in the seventh on two hits, a walk and a sacrifice.

In the eighth Method got first on an error. Bolin singled, Parker was thrown out at first by Doty, and Method was declared out by the umpire, on the ground that he left third before the ball was caught. Upon this Manager Meyers took his team from the grounds, and the umpire forfeited the game. Score:

KALAMAZOO		TECUMSEH	
AB	HO A E	AB	HO A E
Bolin,r.2	3 2 0 1 0	Preston,l	2 1 2 0 0
Parker,s	4 1 0 2 0	Stark,s.	3 0 6 2 0
Killf,r.2	3 1 2 4 0	Siear,m.	3 0 5 0 0
Pl'ug,m	3 1 2 0 0	W'gn'r,2	3 1 1 1 0
Ad'ws,3	2 1 0 1 0	Beasley,l	3 2 10 2 0
Bensley,l	2 0 2 0 1	W'n'bg,r	2 0 1 1 0
Webs'r,l	3 0 8 0 0	Mitch'l,e	2 0 1 1 0
Walsh,c	3 1 8 1 0	Merkle,3	3 0 1 1 1
Method,p	3 0 1 0 0	Doty,p...	3 1 0 3 1
Felrath,r	1 1 0 0 0		

Totals... 27 5 21 9 1 Totals... 21 5 24 11 2
 Innings..... 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
 Kalamazoo..... 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-1
 Tecumseh..... 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 0-3
 Runs—Bolin 1, Wagner 2, Brasley 3,
 Two-base hit—Killifer, Home run—Beasley,
 Sacrifice hits—Bensley, Preston, Weinberg,
 Stolen bases—Bolin, Killifer, First base on
 errors—Kalamazoo 1, Tecumseh 1, Left on
 bases—Kalamazoo 4, Tecumseh 3, Struck
 out—By Method 3, by Doty 0, Double
 plays—Doty to Beasley, to Mitchell, Wild
 pitch—Method, Time—1:15, Umpire—O'Connor,
 Attendance—396.

August 9

Kalamazoo's Verne Hughey allows only four hits and one walk in a 1-0 shutout of the visiting Mt. Clemens 1-0 ... Tom McCarthy collects two of the Bathers' four hits and yields only six hits in absorbing the loss.

August 10

In a little bit of an oddity, all three Southern Michigan League games extend into extra innings ... Kalamazoo beats Jackson 7-5 in 14 innings ... in a pair of 12 inning games, Battle Creek edges Saginaw 4-3 and Tecumseh hands Mt. Clemens a 2-1 setback.

August 14

Saginaw's Casey Horn allows only five hits in a 7-2 win over visiting Battle Creek before a small Wednesday afternoon crowd of 200.

August 28

Detroit native Archie Neuschafer allows only five hits over 12 shutout innings as Mt. Clemens tops Kalamazoo 1-0.

September 15

Kalamazoo and Mt. Clemens battle to a 4-4 tie in a game stopped at the end of the 11th inning because of darkness ... game umpire Fitzgibbons is followed off the field by an angry mob of White Sox fans and makes his escape by boarding a moving car that was leaving the park.

Joe Jackson's Neat Little State League Ends Its First Season in Very Good Shape.

The initial season of the South Michigan League ended its season September 23 with the Mt. Clemens team as the pennant winner. The season was an unqualified success, thanks to the efficient management of President Joe S. Jackson, the able sporting editor of the Detroit "Free Press." A high grade of ball was played and a number of players were developed for higher classes. Following is the complete season record:

	W.	L.	Pct.		W.	L.	Pct.
Mt. Clemens	69	34	.670	Jackson.....	52	52	.500
Kalamazoo	64	41	.606	Battle Creek	40	55	.421
Tecumseh...	57	47	.548	Saginaw.....	34	60	.362

September 19

Saginaw beats Battle Creek 10-2 behind Louis Maire's nine-hit complete game ... Maire strikes out a season-high 10 in picking up the win ... before the game, Battle Creek player/manager Joe Gansel pays umpire Fitzgibbons his \$25 fine and is ruled eligible to play.

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN.

FINAL STANDING.

	W.	L.	Pct.		W.	L.	Pct.
Mt. Cl'ms	69	34	.670	Jackson...	52	52	.500
Kazoo....	64	41	.606	Battle C'k	40	55	.421
Tecumseh	57	47	.548	Saginaw..	34	60	.362

September 23

On the final day of the regular season, Tecumseh's Fred Merkle makes his pitching debut relieving Sis Hopkins in the third inning ... Merkle strikes out five and allows one run in 3 2/3 innings in a 5-0 loss to Kalamazoo.

NOTES

Heine Steiger, the only southpaw in the league, is sold to the Detroit Tigers ... Infielder Charles Bolin retires from baseball to take up law ... on August 29, David Lajoie, brother of Nap Lajoie, manager of the Cleveland Club and the American League's star player, was released by Battle Creek and left for his home in Massachusetts ... Lajoie is but 18 years old, and while a clever fielder, was unable to make a hit in the three games in which he was tried out ... Joe Jackson's Southern Michigan League ended the season discovering a nice little balance in the treasury.