

Santa Cruz Yesterdays



SANTA CRUZ ON BASEBALL MAP IN '97

(From the Preston Sawyer Collection)

Bobby Williams, son of Dan Williams, the harness maker, was short-stop and heavy hitter of the Santa Cruz baseball team in 1897. He had a batting average of .444. But Ed Daubenbis, a Capitola boy, was the iron-man pitcher.

Seven of the team were above the .300 mark in batting, giving a team average of .348. The team was strictly a home town aggregation with the exception of Bill "Brick" Devereaux, who had been brought out from Lincoln in the Western league. He was captain, manager and first baseman.

Ed Daubenbis' offerings were caught by his brother, Charley.

Abe Arellanes was on second, batting .378. Frank Nash of Soquel was the third sacker. In the outfield were Julie Streib, Bill Burge and Tom McGrath. Charley Wilson (a brother of Frank and Dave Wilson, today's real estate men) and Pat Morrissey were substitutes.

State-Wide Tourney

The San Francisco Examiner backed a state-wide round robin tournament. Two defeats put a team out of the running. Santa Cruz, always with Daubenbis hurling, eliminated Monterey, Hollister, an Alameda team and a couple from Oakland.

The tournament narrowed, with Santa Cruz, the Fresno Tigers (with Frank Chance captain) and the Reliance team of Oakland on top. Play was in Central Park at Seventh and Market, in San Francisco. The site is today's Crystal Palace market.

Santa Cruz met Fresno in two

games on successive days. The battery of Daubenbis and Daubenbis worked both games. Fresno was eliminated.

In Santa Cruz crowds gathered at Church and Pacific to get inning bulletins over the wire into the Postal Telegraph office in the front corner of Lamb's Hardware store. (Today the building is occupied by Mock's Drug store.)

Demand Was Too Heavy

A week later the Santa Cruz team went back to San Francisco to meet the Oakland Reliance nine. Ed Daubenbis started both contests but four games in nine days, even with Devereaux relieving him, were too much. The Reliance team took the

second contest by an overwhelming 20 to 4.

The games were the turning point although the tournament ran until the end of December, when a Santa Clara team eliminated Santa Cruz 4 to 3 and, on New Year's day of 1898, went down 6 to 4 to the California Market team of San Francisco, which was declared the tournament winner.

Helms Was Manager

The handsome man with the mustache, in the middle, is Under Sheriff J. Frank Helms, who later served the county for three decades as treasurer and tax collector. His job was the finances and business arrangements.

The players are, left to right, top row: Bill Devereaux, Julie Streib, Tom McGrath, Charles Wilson, Frank Nash and Bill Burge. Middle row: Abe Arellanes, Frank Helms, Bob Williams. Bottom row: Charles Daubenbis, Tommy McNeil (son of Tom McNeil, the S. P. conductor) as mascot, and Ed Daubenbis.

(The original of the picture is owned by Tom Arellanes, 128 Redwood street, a brother of Abe Arellanes, the crack second sacker of half a century ago.)

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