

Today in Columbus History: On Thursday, May 17, 1888, *The Columbus Enquirer-Sun* announced a baseball game between teams from Columbus and Selma. According to a baseball chronology list compiled by Joan Emens (Whiteley) – from the research of local baseball expert Cecil Darby – organized baseball in Columbus began in 1884 (Columbus Sports Memories, Columbus Area Library Association, 1996). That year, the “Columbus Stars” played a 40/8 season at Wildwood Park. This is probably where the 1888 game took place as well. According to info from the Columbus Museum:

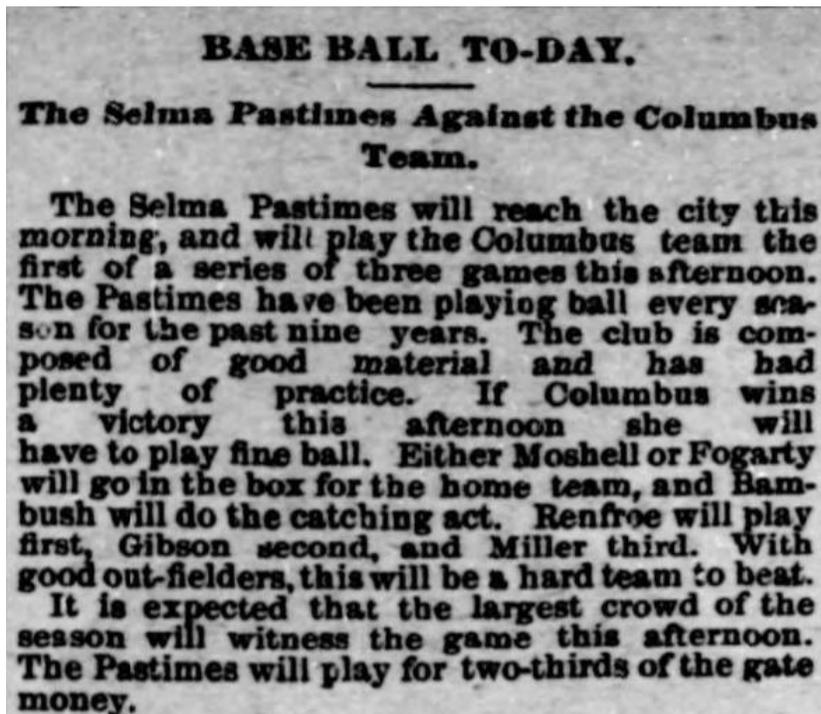
Professional sports in Columbus began in 1884, when the Columbus Stars minor league baseball team played in the Georgia State League against teams from Savannah, Augusta, Atlanta, and Oglethorpe (near Montezuma). In 1885, the city joined the Southern League with teams from Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga, and Birmingham. For decades, squads competed in the infield of the Driving Park, a horse racing track on the south common that was demolished in 1925 to build present-day Memorial Stadium. (<http://columbusmuseum.pastperfectonline.com/.../4B62254B...>)

Compiled by Callie McGinnis, Muscogee Genealogical Society

Our snippets of Columbus history are usually based on a few days-worth of searching through the most popular sources for Muscogee County history. Meant to inspire readers to explore more about Columbus history, they are not exhaustive dissertations on the topic and may contain mistakes. If you have corrections or additional information, feel free to share them with the group.

Clipping from Georgia Historic Newspapers (GALILEO).

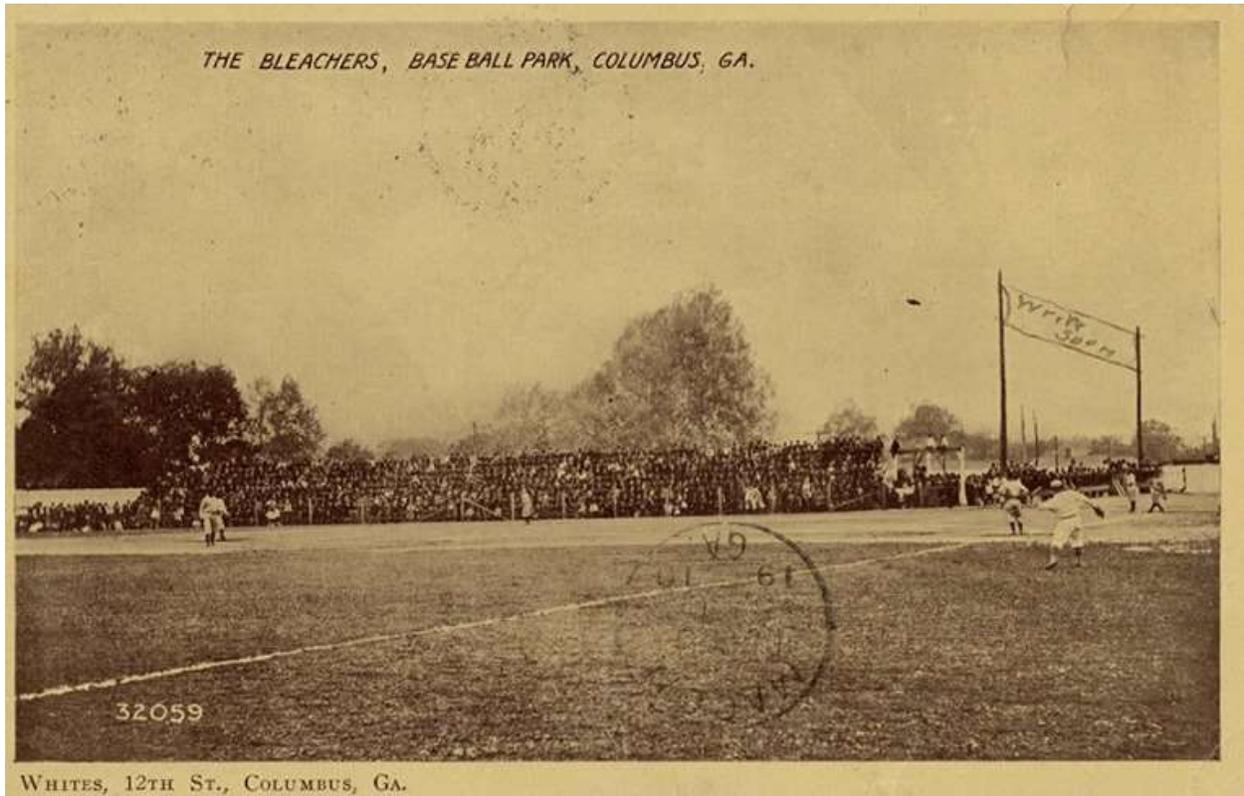
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>



BASE BALL TO-DAY.

The Selma Pastimes Against the Columbus Team.

The Selma Pastimes will reach the city this morning, and will play the Columbus team the first of a series of three games this afternoon. The Pastimes have been playing ball every season for the past nine years. The club is composed of good material and has had plenty of practice. If Columbus wins a victory this afternoon she will have to play fine ball. Either Moshell or Fogarty will go in the box for the home team, and Bambush will do the catching act. Renfroe will play first, Gibson second, and Miller third. With good out-fielders, this will be a hard team to beat. It is expected that the largest crowd of the season will witness the game this afternoon. The Pastimes will play for two-thirds of the gate money.



Postcard from the collections of the Columbus Museum.

<https://columbusmuseum.pastperfectonline.com/.../4B62254B...>