

T.W.C. IX: KNICKERBOCKER VS THE FIELD

NORTHEAST U.S.A. (Aug. 9-18, 1865) – Tucker-Wheaton Cup VIII, the first edition of the new format to go to a single-game playoff, would be a tough act to follow. This was especially true given that the headliner of this year's edition was the record-setting Knickerbocker B.B.C, which not only had the best record in league history at 57-13 but also set another record by finishing the season ten wins better than any other team in the N.B.B.O.

None of the six entrants were in last year's T.W.C, but five of the six had postseason experience. Shamrock was entering the playoffs for the fifth time and won the first Round Robin version of the cup. Alleghany was in its fifth postseason and was runner-up in the final playoff version (1861), losing in five games to Kings County. Knickerbocker was runner-up in the famous 1858 edition of the cup, in which they lost at home in Game Five to St. John's. Jim Creighton and Excelsior took part just two years ago, and Minuteman was a New York League semi-finalist in 1859. Sons of the Ocean was the only team playing extra base ball for the first time, but that was a given since they were a New England team not named St. John's.

Knickerbocker did enter the cup with that 57-13 record, but that was due to a 31-4 first half. They were "just" 26-9 over the second half, which meant that while Knickerbocker was the clear favorite the competition had a little sliver of hope. Three of the other five teams – Alleghany, Excelsior, & Shamrock – were 7-3 over their final ten games, so they had some good form backing them up as they began the competition. The two teams who had reason to worry were Minuteman & Sons of the Ocean, who were both 5-5 over the final two weeks of the season.

Last year's cup featured offensive juggernauts. Flour City, Kings County, & St. John's entered as three of the five clubs ever to score 600+ runs in a season, and K.C. had just set a new single-season record with 645 (9.2 R/G). This year's cup was all about pitching & defense. Knickerbocker had just set the new record for fewest runs allowed with 317 (4.5 R/G) and had the legendary John McGowan pitching for them along with five-star newcomer Peadar Daly. Excelsior, of course, had Jim Creighton, but they also had one-time 23-game winner Harry Nilsson. Minuteman had James Goodman, who had finally figured it all out. Shamrock had All-Star Rainer van der Hout. Alleghany had a pair of 20-game winners: Fred Richards & Willie Hall. S.o.t.O's Charlie Mitchell had won 23 games with a sub-3 E.R.A.

When it came time to play ball, there was one obvious question: Who would win, Knickerbocker, or the field?

1865 TUCKER WHEATON CUP STANDINGS

TEAM	W	L	R	RA	RD
KNICKERBOCKER	7	3	67	35	+32
EXCELSIOR	6	4	54	43	+11
ALLEGHANY	6	4	82	67	+15
S.o.t.O.	6	4	57	65	-8
SHAMROCK	5	5	55	55	0
MINUTEMAN	0	10	39	90	-51

Excelsior was 3-1 vs Alleghany & S.o.t.O.

Alleghany was 2-2 vs Excelsior & S.o.t.O.

S.o.t.O. was 1-3 vs Alleghany & Excelsior

M.V.P: John McGowan (P, KNI) – 5-0, 1.80 ERA, 50.0 IP, 5 CG, 2 BB, 6 K, 1.06 WHIP, 0.4 BB/9, 1.1 K/9
194 ERA+, 3.14 FIP, 0.6 WPA, 1.0 WAR, 2.4 R9-WAR in 6 GS

Knickerbocker did indeed beat the field but it was the closest Tucker-Wheaton Cup to date, with no less than five of six teams in contention until Gameday Ten, when Knickerbocker finally sealed its first cup triumph by crushing Minuteman.

For neutral observers who found last year's cup competition to be the most exciting, this year's Tucker-Wheaton Cup put that one to shame. Aside from the incredibly unfortunate Minuteman, five teams were 3-2 after Gameday Five and the top five were all within a single win of each other after Gameday Six, Seven, Eight, & Nine. Only two times after Gameday Two was there a sole leader: Sons of the Ocean at 5-2 after Gameday Seven and Knickerbocker at the end of the final day.

As expected, Tucker Wheaton Cup IX was a *much* more defensive affair than its predecessor. The historic offenses on display last year resulted in an average of 8.7 R/G, a full 20% above the N.B.B.O's regular season average of 7.2. This year's edition saw the teams average just 5.9 R/G, nearly 15% *below* the regular season average of 6.9. Every team except Minuteman allowed fewer runs than any of last year's entrants. Single-game pitching records – regular season included – were broken, and on one day all three Player of the Game winners were pitchers.

As they did in the regular season, Knickerbocker defeated the competition with pitching & defense, setting the Round Robin record by allowing 3.5 runs per game. Their team E.R.A. during the competition was also record-setting at 2.04, and they held opponents to three or fewer runs in four of the last five games, including a shutout on Gameday Nine.

Excelsior, as one might imagine, was led by Jim Creighton, who struck out an unbelievable 32 batsmen in 40.2 innings of work, including an all-time record nine in a single game. He was also 6/14 with the bat. Excelsior came in to the competition with the best offense in the N.Y.L. but were actually fifth out of six in runs, which was ultimately their undoing as they scored a total of seven runs across their four losses.

Alleghany was the opposite of Excelsior. Their offense was great, with a cup-leading 82 runs, but what doomed them was their pitching. They lost twice via walk-off runs, the difference between a 6-4 3rd place finish and an 8-2 cup triumph. They were led by first-year star Royal Altman, who put in the best batting performance of any player under the new format. Arran Duffy (18/43, 12 R.B.I.) & Samuel Kessler (17/48, 9 R.B.I.) were also excellent.

Sons of the Ocean finished fourth, but they were even with Knickerbocker atop the standings going into the final day. Their pitching & defense was brilliant in their wins, only allowing 20 runs across their six victories. A 17-4 bludgeoning by Alleghany made their final cup product look worse than it really was, and for six innings on Gameday Ten it looked like the playoff debutants just might force their way into a one-game playoff for the cup.

Shamrock was a dead-even cup team: five wins, five losses, 55 runs scored, & 55 runs allowed. They were 1-1 against Alleghany, Excelsior, & S.o.t.O. while winning both games against last-place Minuteman and losing both against 1st-place Knickerbocker. Rainer van der Hout (4-1, 2.66 E.R.A, 1.09 W.H.I.P.) was outstanding, but their other pitchers really struggled. Old hand Daragh Adams (9 R.B.I.) was their best batsman.

Minuteman suffered a number of close defeats in the first half of the competition, it ripped the confidence out of them, and they then proceeded to be crushed at the end of the Tucker-Wheaton Cup. They suffered no less than five one-run losses – three in the first five games – and a pair of two-run losses, and as a result they were mentally drained and ready to go home.

The Most Valuable Player of Tucker-Wheaton Cup IX was, not surprisingly, a pitcher: the legendary John McGowan of Knickerbocker. He was 5-0 with an E.R.A. under 2.00, which raised his record in T.W.C. Round Robin play to a simply unimaginable 15-0. His statistical record since the new format began:

- 1862 (STJ): 6 GS, 5-0, 2.89 ERA, 53.0 IP, 5 CG, 10 BB, 9 K, 1.30 WHIP, 137 ERA+ 0.7 WAR, 1.4 R9-WAR, Runner-up
- 1863 (STJ): 5 GS, 5-0, 3.07 ERA, 44.0 IP, 4 CG, 9 BB, 5 K, 1.30 WHIP, 129 ERA+, 0.8 WAR, 1.7 R9-WAR, Champion
- 1864 (KNI): *Knickerbocker did not make the Tucker-Wheaton Cup*
- 1865 (KNI): 6 GS, 5-0, 1.80 ERA, 50.0 IP, 5 CG, 2 BB, 6 K, 1.06 WHIP, 194 ERA+, 1.0 WAR, 2.4 R9-WAR, Champion
- TOTAL: 17 GS, 15-0, 2.57 ERA, 147.0 IP, 14 CG, 21 BB, 20 K, 1.22 WHIP, 154 ERA+, 2.5 WAR, 5.5 R9-WAR, 2x Champ

The fact that McGowan has now gone 5-0 at the Tucker-Wheaton Cup with two different teams has cemented his status as an undeniable base ball legend.

If McGowan had not gone 5-0 yet again, or a couple of results had swung Alleghany's way and they were lifting the cup instead of Knickerbocker, the M.V.P. award would have gone to Royal Altman. The first-year outfielder showed zero nerves whatsoever, putting in what was the best ten-game performance by a batsman seen in Round Robin play:

- .521 AVG (25/48), 1.281 OPS, 9 2B, 1 3B, 0 HR, 14 R, 11 RBI, 1 BB, 4 SB, 226 WRC+, 257 OPS+, 0.85 WPA, 1.0 WAR

He had hits in all ten cup games, multiple hits in seven of them, and 3+ hits six times. He scored four runs on Gameday Eight, and scored multiple runs in five games. It was a historic performance overshadowed by a legendary one.

GAMEDAY ONE (August 9th)

S.o.t.O. 6-5 MIN – P.o.t.G: Charlie Mitchell (P, S.o.t.O.) – CG, 10 H, 5 R, 2 ER, 1 K

ALL 6-7 SHA (10 Inn.) – P.o.t.G: Royal Altman (LF, ALL) – 3/6, 2B, 2 R, 3 RBI

KNI 4-2 EXC – P.o.t.G: James Hoyt (RF, KNI) – 3/5, 2B, 1 R, 1 RBI, 1 SB

NOTE: Jim Creighton (P, EXC) – set new record with 9 K

Sons of the Ocean opened the competition with a victory in Albany in which all of the action came late. It was just 1-1 going into the top of the 8th before S.o.t.O. scored five runs thanks to multiple Minuteman errors. Minuteman responded with two runs in the 8th and two more in the 9th, and they had the tying run on 2nd when a fly ball to left field ended the game.

Royal Altman was the player of the game in helping Alleghany climb out from a six-run hole after the 2nd inning at Shamrock, but in the end the hosts walked off winners. Altman scored the tying run in the 9th on a walk with the bases full, but in the bottom of the 10th pinch hitter George Coffman singled in 2B Charles Weiss to win the game for Shamrock.

Knickerbocker won their opener with...what else...pitching & defense. They held Excelsior to six hits and committed only two errors while doing just enough against Jim Creighton to come away with the win. Creighton set an N.B.B.O. record – regular season or postseason – with *nine* strikeouts, but he still could not overcome John McGowan and a fine performance by RF James Hoyt, who finished with three of Knickerbocker's seven hits.

GAMEDAY TWO (August 10th)

ALL 5-4 KNI – P.o.t.G: Samuel Kessler (3B, ALL) – 4/5, 2 R, 1 RBI, GW RUN

S.o.t.O. 9-5 SHA – P.o.t.G: Daragh Adams (1B, SHA) – 3/5, 3 2B, 2 2B, 2 RBI

M.M. 3-4 EXC – P.o.t.G: Jerald Hughes (LF, EXC) – 3/5, 1 R, 1 RBI, 1 SB, GW HIT

Alleghany got the better of Knickerbocker in a back-and-forth affair. Knickerbocker was up 3-0 after the 3rd, but Alleghany evened the score in the top of the 6th on a throwing error. They took the lead in the top of the 7th, Knickerbocker made it 4-4 in the bottom half, and the 9th inning decided the game. With one out in the top half 2B Arran Duffy sacrificed Samuel Kessler home, and in the bottom half Knickerbocker failed to move the tying run past first base.

Daragh Adams took P.o.t.G. honors thanks to his three doubles, but S.o.t.O. had the superior team effort in their four-run victory in Boston. Al Gore, Frank Krillenberger, & Jerald Peterson had two R.B.I. each, while Jesse McCoy pitched the full game and allowed just one Earned Run to leave S.o.t.O. the only 2-0 team in the competition after Gameday Two.

Excelsior was behind 3-1 after six innings at home against Minuteman, but runs on an error and a sacrifice in the 7th tied the game before a Jerald Hughes single in the bottom of the 8th gave Excelsior the lead. Harry Nilsson set Minuteman down 1-2-3 in the 9th inning to leave Minuteman the only 0-2 team in the competition after Gameday Two.

GAMEDAY THREE (August 11th)

KNI 6-4 MIN – P.o.t.G: Edward Huntley (SS, KNI) – 3/5, 2B, 2 R, 2 RBI
ALL 17-4 S.o.t.O. – P.o.t.G: Willie Smith (1B, ALL) – 4/6, 4 2B, 4 R, 2 RBI
SHA 14-3 EXC – P.o.t.G: Walter Williams (SHA) – 3/6, 2B, 3 R, 3 RBI, SB

NOTE: Willie Smith's 4 2B set a new postseason record

Jonthan Goodman bamboozled Knickerbocker over the first seven innings in Albany, allowing just five hits while striking out six batsmen. Everything fell apart in the 8th, with Goodman allowing six hits, the defense committing four errors, and Knickerbocker scoring five runs to take a 5-2 lead. Another run in the 9th was more than enough to ensure victory for visiting Knickerbocker and drop Minuteman to 0-3.

Well, S.o.t.O. *was* 2-0. Alleghany was ahead 4-2 going into the 7th inning, but half a dozen runs in the 7th and seven more in the 9th made absolutely sure there was no way the result would be in doubt. Seven Alleghany players had multiple hits and/or multiple R.B.I, and they were led by 1B Willie Smith's postseason record of four doubles.

Excelsior's early defense was a disaster against Shamrock. The result: Jim Creighton left after 4.2 innings having allowed nine runs with just two being Earned Runs. SS Frazer Sweeney was the worst culprit, committing four errors during the first half of the contest. Shamrock could have let up and enjoyed an easy victory, but they scored five more runs in the 9th.

GAMEDAY FOUR (August 12th)

EXC 8-1 ALL – P.o.t.G: Harry Nilsson (P, EXC) – CG, 7 H, 1 R/ER, 1 BB, 1 K
S.o.t.O 5-6 KNI – P.o.t.G: Hames Hoyt (RF, KNI) – 2/4, 2 R, 2 RBI
SHA 6-5 MIN (11 Inn.) – P.o.t.G: Walter Williams (CF, SHA) – 1/6, 2 R, 5 SB, GW RUN

NOTE: Walter Williams' 5 SB set a new postseason record

Excelsior's four-run 6th, thanks in no small part to multiple errors by the hosts, effectively ended the game in Pittsburgh. They were already ahead 2-1, but going ahead 6-1 with Harry Nilsson looking great and the defense excelling meant Alleghany did not have a chance.

Knickerbocker scored twice in the 1st to take an early lead against S.o.t.O, but two runs on a Charles Christensen triple evened the score before a wild pitch let S.o.t.O. take the lead in the 3rd. Knickerbocker leveled the score on a sacrifice in the 4th, and they took the game thanks to three runs on a combination of hits, errors, and errant pitches in the 7th.

Shamrock at Minuteman was 3-3 after the end of the 6th. Minuteman went ahead in the 7th on a Sullivan Jackson single, and Shamrock made it 4-4 in the 8th on a George Coffman hit. Both teams traded single runs in the 9th, and it was time for extras innings. In the top of the 11th Walter Williams tortured Minuteman, stealing second & third after reaching via error before scoring on another error to give Shamrock the victory, relegating Minuteman to an excruciating 0-4 start.

GAMEDAY FIVE (August 13th)

KNI 7-8 ALL – P.o.t.G: Arthur Waltrip (CF, ALL) – 2/3, 2B, 2 R, 2 RBI, 1 BB

SHA 4-7 S.o.t.O. – P.o.t.G: Albert Gore (2B, S.o.t.O.) – 3/5, 2B, 2 R, 2 RBI

EXC 17-2 MIN – P.o.t.G: Wesley Leone (3B, EXC) – 3/6, 2 R, 4 RBI

In the second meeting between the season's top two teams, Alleghany won again, and again by a lone run. Three runs in the 3rd and three more in the 4th – the key hit a 2-run Arthur Waltrip double in the 4th – gave Alleghany a commanding 7-2 lead. However, Knickerbocker scored twice in the 5th and three times in the 6th on a combo of hits, errors, & sacrifices to make the score 7-7. Alleghany's winning run came in the bottom of the 7th, when 1B Willie Smith sacrificed in Arran Duffy.

The key inning in Shamrock at S.o.t.O. was the 5th. The score was 2-2 entering the inning before Shamrock scored twice on singles from Charles Weiss & William Gillette to take the lead. S.o.t.O. then scored three times via singles by Albert Gore & Charles Patterson and a throwing error to take a 5-4 lead that they never relinquished. S.o.t.O. scored two more times in the bottom of the 7th to give the contest its final score.

Excelsior demolished Minuteman to send them into the pit at 0-5. It was 3-0 after the 3rd and 8-1 after the 6th – the hosts never looked like they had a chance. Jim Creighton struck out eight. Uwe Schneider was 4/5 with a pair of runs. Wesley Leone was 3/6 with two runs & four R.B.I. Frazer Sweeney was 3/5 with three runs. It was brutal.

The standings after Gameday Five of the Tucker-Wheaton Cup were as follows:

TEAM	W	L	R	RA	RD
EXCELSIOR	3	2	34	24	+10
ALLEGHANY	3	2	37	30	+7
SHAMROCK	3	2	36	30	+6
KNICKERBOCKER	3	2	27	24	+3
S.o.t.O.	3	2	31	37	-6
MINUTEMAN	0	5	19	39	-20

Never had the Tucker-Wheaton Cup looked like this after Gameday Five. With five teams tied at 3-2, just about everybody had a chance to lift the cup. Naturally, Knickerbocker had the best team pitching & defense, but their problem was the other four 3-2 teams had met the challenge with excellent pitching & defense of their own, with only Sons of the Ocean allowing more than the N.B.B.O. average of 6.9 R/G, and only then because of their 17-4 loss against Alleghany. This was exactly why the competition went to the Round Robin format. The next five days would be absolutely riveting.

It might be best to simply not speak about Minuteman, but after three one-run losses and a two-run loss left them 0-4, looking up at everyone else, and devoid of confidence, they hit bottom with the 17-2 loss to Excelsior.

GAMEDAY SIX (August 14th)

KNI 5-3 SHA – P.o.t.G: Hugh Harris (3B, KNI) – 3/4, 2 R, SB

EXC 2-5 S.o.t.O. – P.o.t.G: Charles Patterson (CF, S.o.t.O.) – 3/4, 2 R, 1 RBI, SB

ALL 16-7 MIN – P.o.t.G: Samuel Kessler (3B, ALL) – 3/5, 2B, HR, 5 RBI

The 4th inning made the difference in Boston. Going to bat up 1-0, Knickerbocker scored three times on a 2-run double by Willie Love and a ground ball out by Wilbert Schrader. The 4-0 lead was more than enough, although Knickerbocker added an insurance run in the 9th when P John McGowan helped himself by singling in CF Curtis Bowman.

Harry Nilsson looked in control for much of the contest at Sons of the Ocean. Excelsior scored twice in the first on a double and a sacrifice, and 2-0 was the score going into the 7th as Nilsson and the defense looked to be in great shape. However, S.o.t.O. tied the score on their own double & sacrifice combination in the bottom of the 7th, and the 8th decided the game. In the bottom of the 8th, CF Charles Patterson singled in Jerald Peterson, Harry Lewis singled in Frank Krillenberger & Charles Patterson, and a 2-2 tie became a 5-2 S.o.t.O. win after Excelsior went down meekly in the top of the 9th.

Alleghany mauled Minuteman in a game in which the hosts looked like a team whose morale was completely non-existent. It was 5-0 after the 3rd, 6-4 after the 4th, and 14-7 after the 6th. Samuel Kessler was Alleghany's key player, but a number of his teammates were excellent and Minuteman never made it a true contest.

The results of Gameday Six left Alleghany, Knickerbocker, & Sons of the Ocean tied for first at 4-2.

GAMEDAY SEVEN (August 15th)

KNI 2-5 S.o.t.O. – P.o.t.G: Charlie Mitchell (P. S.o.t.O.) – CG, 7 H, 2 R/ER, 1 BB, 3 K
MIN 1-3 SHA – P.o.t.G: Rainer van der Hout (P, SHA) – CG, 4 H, 1 R, 0 ER, 0 BB, 1 K
ALL 3-4 EXC – P.o.t.G: Jim Creighton (P, EXC) – CG, 6 H, 3 R/ER, 0 BB, 8 K

The result in the Knickerbocker at Sons of the Ocean contest turned in the bottom of the 6th inning. With the visitors up 2-1, S.o.t.O. went up 3-2 on a 2-run single by 2B Albert Gore and then 4-2 on a sacrifice by CF Charles Patterson. An insurance run was added via error in the bottom of the 8th. S.o.t.O. only needed four hits in their victory thanks to an uncharacteristic seven Knickerbocker errors, with three each committed by Hugh Harris & Juriaan Kerstens.

Another game, and another lifeless performance by Minuteman. Shamrock scored runs in the bottom of the 5th via error & wild pitch to go up 3-1, and that was all they needed as the visitors could only muster four hits against an excellent Rainer van der Hout and the Shamrock defense.

Alleghany at Excelsior was the game of the day. The visitors took the lead in the 1st on a Royal Altman single, with Excelsior evening the score in the 4th on a single by Benjamin Lovette. 1-1 was the score until the 7th, when Excelsior went in front on Jim Creighton's single. Alleghany tied the game in the 8th on a double by Arthur Waltrip after fending off three

straight Creighton deliveries into foul territory, and went back in front on a Samuel Kessler triple. 3-2 was the score in the 9th when Excelsior tied Alleghany with Jerald Hughes' double, and Archie mask won the game with a sacrifice fly.

Gameday Seven was the first time in the Round Robin format that every Player of the Game was a pitcher.

The standings were still incredibly tight:

TEAM	W	L	R	RA	RD
S.o.t.O.	5	2	41	41	0
ALLEGHANY	4	3	56	41	+15
EXCELSIOR	4	3	40	32	+8
SHAMROCK	4	3	42	36	+6
KNICKERBOCKER	4	3	34	32	+2

Two of the five teams had distinct advantages at this point: Alleghany & Knickerbocker, who were both hosting their final three games, and both teams also had one game left against woeful Minuteman.

Minuteman (0-7, -31 R.D.) was eliminated from cup contention at the end of Gameday Seven.

GAMEDAY EIGHT (August 16th)

MIN 9-10 ALL – P.o.t.G: Arran Duffy (2B, ALL) – 4/5, 3 2B, 3 R, 3 RBI

SHA 2-11 KNI – P.o.t.G: Edward Huntley (SS, KNI) – 2/3, 3 R, 1 RBI, 2 BB, SB

S.o.t.O. 2-7 EXC – Jerald Hughes (LF, EXC) – 1/2, 2B, 1 R, 3 RBI, 1 BB

Minuteman continued to have both the worst and most snake-bitten T.W.C. ever, suffering their fourth 1-run loss of the competition and their sixth by 1-2 runs. After taking a 9-8 lead via three-run rally in the 7th inning, Alleghany plated the winning runs in the bottom of the 8th with a Dennis Pruitt run-scoring triple followed by a Clive Stock single that brought in Pruitt to make the score 10-9. Minuteman had the tying run on third with one out in the 9th but could not even the score.

Knickerbocker secured the result quickly against Shamrock in their first offensive outburst of the competition. The hosts scored seven times on nine hits over the first two innings, and they coasted on in from there as John McGowan & the defense put in a fine winning effort.

Excelsior did all their work to beat Sons of the Ocean in the bottom of the 7th inning. Up until then it was a tight game, with S.o.t.O. having just taken a 2-1 lead via sacrifice by P Jesse McCoy. In the bottom of the 7th, Excelsior scored on a Wesley Leone double, passed ball, Frazer Sweeney single, and Jerald Hughes double with the bases loaded double to turn the 2-1 deficit into a 7-2 lead. S.o.t.O. then went down 1-2-3 in the 8th & 9th.

All five teams were still only one game apart after Gameday Eight:

TEAM	W	L	R	RA	RD
ALLEGHANY	5	3	66	50	+16
EXCELSIOR	5	3	47	34	+13
KNICKERBOCKER	5	3	45	34	+11
S.o.t.O.	5	3	43	48	-5
SHAMROCK	4	4	44	47	-3

Never had Round Robin play looked remotely like this so close to the end of the competition.

GAMEDAY NINE (August 17th)

MIN 2-3 S.o.t.O. – P.o.t.G: Frank Krillenberger (1B, S.o.t.O.) – 2/3, 1 R, 2 RBI, 1 BB
ALL 5-1 SHA – P.o.t.G: Rainer van der Hout (P, SHA) – CG, 3 H, 1 R, 0 ER, 1 BB, 1 K
EXC 0-3 KNI – P.o.t.G: Peadar Daly (P, KNI) – CG SHUTOUT, 5 H, 0 BB, 1 K

Minuteman opened scoring at Sons of the Ocean in the top of the 3rd on a wild pitch, with S.o.t.O. taking the lead in the bottom of the 4th on a Frank Krillenberger single followed by a Charles Patterson double. It was 2-2 in the top of the 5th when Minuteman 3B Sullivan Jackson singled in Sam Jones, but S.o.t.O. came back and scored the winning run in the bottom of the 6th when Frank Krillenberger singled in Charles Christensen. It was Minuteman's fifth 1-run loss of the T.W.C.

Shamrock won the game against Alleghany in the 3rd inning. With the score 1-0 to Alleghany, Walter Williams singled in William White before stealing second & third, William Lowe brought in Williams with a triple, and Lowe scored on an error to bring the score to 3-1 in favor of Shamrock. That was more than enough for the visitors as Alleghany could only manage three hits over the entirety of the game thanks to another wonderful performance by Rainer van der Hout.

Knickerbocker painted a masterpiece on Gameday Nine. Facing the New York League's best offense, Knickerbocker held Excelsior without a single run and allowed just five hits, meaning their run on Albert Jones' triple in the bottom of the 3rd was enough for the win. They added single runs in the 4th & 8th, and P Peadar Daly had a fantastic afternoon.

Incredibly, all five teams were still just one game apart after Gameday Nine:

TEAM	W	L	R	RA	RD
KNICKERBOCKER	6	3	48	34	+14
S.o.t.O.	6	3	46	50	-4
ALLEGHANY	5	4	67	55	+12
EXCELSIOR	5	4	47	37	+10
SHAMROCK	5	4	49	48	+1

Knickerbocker would be hosting 0-9 Minuteman on Gameday Ten, while Sons of the Ocean would be playing at Alleghany. Obviously, the schedule gave Knickerbocker a huge advantage for the T.W.C's final day.

GAMEDAY TEN (August 18th)

MIN 1-19 KNI – P.o.t.G: Hugh Harris (3B, KNI) – 3/6, 2 R, 6 RBI

EXC 7-6 SHA – P.o.t.G: Ruby Watson (C, EXC) – 2/5, 2 RBI, GW HIT

S.o.t.O 12-15 ALL – P.o.t.G: Arran Duffy (2B, ALL) – 3/5, 2B, 3 R, 3 RBI

Knickerbocker opened Gameday Ten with the single most important game of base ball the team had taken part in since its infamous home disaster against St. John's in Game Five of the 1859 Tucker-Wheaton Cup. Knickerbocker exercised the demons in this one, destroying Minuteman and giving the Round Robin competition's first winless team what amounted to a mercy killing. It was an extraordinary performance by Knickerbocker when they absolutely needed it.

Knickerbocker put the game to bed in the bottom of the 4th inning, during which they scored FOURTEEN times on thirteen hits & four errors while no less than twenty men came to bat. They allowed a lone run to Minuteman in the 9th, seemingly out of pity. The victory meant John McGowan had gone 5-0 for the third time in Round Robin play at the T.W.C.

The result at the Elysian Fields put Knickerbocker at 7-3, eliminating Alleghany, Excelsior, & Shamrock.

The second contest of Gameday Ten no longer mattered after the Knickerbocker victory. It was still an exciting affair, with the two teams trading the lead four times. Most of the action took place late. With the score even 3-3 going into the 8th Excelsior took the lead on an Archie Mask double. In the bottom half Shamrock took control with runs on a sacrifice by CF Walter Williams, a single by 1B Daragh Adams, and a passed ball. Excelsior turned right back around and scored three runs in the top of the 9th on a wild pitch, a throwing error, and finally Ruby Watson's single to go up 9-8. Jim Creighton then came in to pitch and earned the save with an easy 1-2-3 inning.

The finale of Gameday Ten would decide if there would be a one-game playoff. Unfortunately for the Sons of the Ocean, a playoff was not in the cards. S.o.t.O. took an early 6-0 lead, but Alleghany roared back with multiple runs of their own. S.o.t.O. kept up the pressure and took an 11-4 lead going into the bottom of the 5th, but Alleghany would put up run totals of 2, 2, 5, 2, & 2 over their next five times at bat to turn an 11-4 deficit into a 15-11 lead. S.o.t.O's hopes were crushed, and that meant that base ball's second-oldest club, Knickerbocker B.B.C, would lift the cup for the first time.