



PELICAN BRIEFS

by

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Largest Opening Day Crowd

April 19, 1938

The Pelicans were set to do battle with the Memphis Chicks on Opening Day 1938 before a home crowd at Pelican Stadium. Since 1910 there had been a friendly competition among Southern Association teams to see who could draw the largest Opening Day attendance, with the winning city being awarded a gold trophy and considerable bragging rights.



Mayor Robert Maestri (left) rallied New Orleans baseball fans and the city responded by packing the ballpark to the hilt – 26,261 fans jammed into Pelican Stadium to see *Hizzoner* throw out the first pitch.

Not only would New Orleans capture the cup for the 1938 Opening Day attendance, they set a league record for the largest crowd ever to witness a Southern Association game.

Pelican Stadium officially held 10,000 fans which ranked third behind Atlanta and Memphis. Most of the other ballparks around the league held considerably fewer:

- Atlanta: 15,000
- Birmingham: 10,000
- Chattanooga: 6,000
- Little Rock: 6,100
- Memphis: 11,000
- Mobile: 7,500
- Nashville: 8,500
- New Orleans: 10,000

On April 19, 1938 the Pelicans packed fans in every available nook and cranny – perhaps with a wink and a nod to the fire marshal – to see the Pelicans defeat Memphis 7 – 2 behind Red Evans who held Memphis to 8 scattered hits.

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Box score from game on April 19, 1938 at Pelican Stadium:

MEMPHIS

	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Bush, 2b	3	0	2	1	4	0
Bates, cf	4	0	1	4	0	0
Grace, rf	4	0	0	0	0	0
Reese, 1b	4	1	1	10	0	0
Mongo, c	4	0	1	4	1	0
South, lf	4	0	0	2	0	0
Peerson, 3b-ss	4	1	2	1	2	0
Blakeney, ss	3	0	0	1	4	0
Kinzer, 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casey, p	2	0	1	1	3	0
Doyle, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
a – Veverka	1	0	0	0	0	0
b – Bottarini	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	34	2	8	24	14	0

NEW ORLEANS

	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Scalzi, 3b	6	0	2	0	1	0
Gilbert, 2b	3	0	0	6	6	0
Carlyle, cf	4	1	2	2	0	0
Shilling, rf	4	1	1	0	0	0
Sulik, lf	4	1	1	2	0	0
Gugler, 1b	4	1	3	8	0	0
Marshall, ss	2	1	1	2	5	0
George, c	2	1	1	7	0	0
Evans, p	4	1	1	0	1	0
Totals	32	7	12	27	13	0

a – batted for Blakeney in the eighth
 b – batted for Doyle in the ninth

Score by innings:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Memphis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	-- 2
New Orleans	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	X	-- 7

Summary: Two-base hits – Casey, Gugler, Carlyle, George, Peerson, Reese, Shilling, Sulik, Marshall, Evans, Scalzi. Stolen bases – Scalzi, Carlyle. Left on base – Memphis 9, New Orleans 8. Double plays – Blakeney to Reese, Gilbert to Marshall to Gugler, Bush to Peerson to Reese. Bases on balls – off Evans 4, Casey 7. Struck out – by Evans 8, Casey 3.

Umpires – Kober and Grant. Time of game – 2 hours, 7 minutes