

by S. Derby Gisclair

Unassisted Triple Play

August 8, 1916

After dropping an easy toss from pitcher Popboy Smith while attempting to cover first base, veteran infielder Henry "Cotton" Knaupp returned to his position at second base and surveyed the situation: top of the 6th inning, bases loaded for Chattanooga, no outs. Lookouts shortstop Joe Harris dug in at the plate as manager Kid Elberfield called for a hit and run on the first pitch. Harris pelted a line drive to the right-side of second base that Knaupp snagged for the first out. He then turned toward first base to catch Jake Pilter on his way to second base from first for the second out. A stunned Bob Messenger was standing between third base and home as he realized that Knaupp had caught the line drive, tagged Pilter and now stepped on second base for the third out. This marked to only unassisted triple play in Southern Association history.

| CHATTANOOGA | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------|---|-----------|---|---|---|----|--------|----|---|
| | | | | AB | R | | H | PO | | A | E |
| Messenger, rf | | | | 4 | 0 | | 1 | 4 | | 0 | 0 |
| Pitler, 2b | | | | 3 | 0 | | 0 | 5 | | 0 | 0 |
| Harris, ss | | | | 4 | 0 | | 0 | 5 | | 3 | 0 |
| Hyatt, 1b | | | | 3 | 0 | | 0 | 6 | | 1 | 0 |
| Jantzen, If | | | | 3 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Graff, 3b | | | | 3 | 0 | | 1 | 1 | | 0 | 0 |
| Peters, rf | | | | 3 | 0 | | 0 | 2 | | 1 | 0 |
| Kitchens, c | | | | 3 | 0 | | 0 | 1 | | 5 | 1 |
| Marshall, p | | | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 0 |
| Knowlson, p | | | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Johnson, p | | | | 3 | 0 | | 1 | 0 | | 3 | 0 |
| Totals | | | | 29 | 0 | | 3 | 24 | | 14 | 1 |
| • | | OR | | ANS AB | R | | н | РО | | A | E |
| Allison, cf Knaupp, 2b Edmondson, rf Stansbury, 3b Sylvester, lf Thomas, ss Bluhm, 1b DeBerry, c Smith, p | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | | | | 25 | 2 | | 8 | 27 | | 13 | 2 |
| Score by innings: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | 0 |
| Chattanooga | 0 | 0 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 x | | 2 |

Summary: Runs batted in – Stansbury. Sacrifices – Pilter, Knaupp, Bluhm. Stolen bases - Graff. Triple play – Knaupp. Left on bases – Chattanooga 2, New Orleans 4. Bases on balls – off Marsall 1, Knowlson 1. Wild pitch – Knowlson. Hits – off Marshall 1, Knowlson 3, Johnson 4. Time of game – 1 hour and 35 minutes. Umpires – Breitenstein and Rudderham.