

# A Schott From The Bleachers

## Meet the New Orleans Pelicans of 1901

by

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May 7, 2001 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first home game of the 20<sup>th</sup> century New Orleans Pelicans. Actually the club had opened the season in Shreveport on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and after losing two of three games played there, returned home to inaugurate the 1901 season against Memphis at Athletic Park.

In the first inning, catcher Fred Abbott bunted for a single, New Orleans' first hit in a home game. It was in the second inning that the Birds displayed some firepower by blasting two home runs in three at-bats. McKevitt opened the frame with a home run. Herbert grounded out to first, and Meyers followed with the second homer of the inning. The New Orleans *Daily Picayune* commented on this performance as follows:

*"The home run drives by Meyers and McKevitt in the second inning were without doubt the longest ever seen at Athletic Park. Both went sky high over the chutes and fell on the fly into the lake."*

After that uprising, it was all Memphis as those "old Chicks" went on to an easy 10 – 3 victory. Both pitchers went the distance and the game was completed in one hour and 55 minutes. There was no mention of attendance in the published account, but credit was given to the accompanying brass bands that performed before the start of the game.

You may notice from the box score that home-standing New Orleans batted first. It was not uncommon in that era for the home team to bat first because the home team was given the choice of batting first or last.

In the final standings of 1901 the New Orleans Pelicans finished fourth, with a record of 68 – 56 (.548).

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At Athletic Park, New Orleans, May 7, 1901

NEW ORLEANS					MEMPHIS				
	AB	H	PO	A		AB	H	PO	A
Hagerty, 3b	4	2	0	0	Beecher, ss	4	0	4	3
Dowie, 2b	4	0	1	1	Gfroerer, rf	4	1	2	1
Abbott, c	4	2	5	0	Martin, cf	4	2	2	11
McDivitt, cf	3	1	5	0	Frank, lf	5	2	0	0
Anderson, lf	4	1	1	0	Handiboe, 1b	5	1	0	3
McKevitt, rf	4	2	3	1	Swancina, c	5	3	6	2
Herbert, ss	4	0	5	2	Bussey, 1b	5	4	12	0
Meyers, 1b	4	1	7	0	Frost, 2b	4	1	1	3
Mulkey, p	4	0	0	5	Robb, p	3	1	0	2
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Totals . . . . .	35	9	24	9	Totals . . . . .	39	15	27	15

**R** – Abbott, McKevitt, Meyers, Beecher, Gfroerer, Martin (2), Frank (3), Swancina, Bussey (2). **E** – Dowie, Meyers, Mulkey, Bussey. **ER** – New Orleans (2), Memphis (4). **2B** – Bussey (3), Frank (2), Swancina (2), Gfroerer, Martin. **RBI** – Meyers, McKevitt, Swancina (4), Handiboe, Robb, Martin. **SB** – Robb (2), Bussey, Abbott. **SH** – Gfroerer. **HR** – McKevitt, Meyers.

Umpire – Mr. Mauck  
Time: 1 hour 55 minutes

									R	H	E		
New Orleans . . . . .	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-	3	9	3
Memphis . . . . .	1	1	3	0	2	1	1	1	X	-	10	15	1

