

A Schott From The Bleachers

George Bradley Won Majors' First 1 – 0 Game Over Albert G. Spalding

Major League Baseball's First Pitchers Duel?

by
Arthur O. Schott



Member, Society For American Baseball Research



George Washington Bradley and Albert G. Spalding (at left) were the opposing pitchers when the National League played its first ever 1 – 0 game on May 5, 1876, at St. Louis. Bradley was the winner when those early Cardinals scored the game's only run in the top of the first inning. Cardinals' catcher Clapp reached on an error by Spalding, advanced on a single by Mike McGeary, and crossed the plate on an RBI single Lipman Pike.

Bradley allowed the Chicago White Stockings only two hits and one walk – that to Adrian “Cap” Anson – in the third inning. Spalding, who later founded the well-known sporting goods firm, pitched well enough to win, allowing St. Louis only seven hits.

The pitchers who competed in this game posted the two best records in the National League in 1876:

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pct.</u>	<u>IP</u>	<u>ERA</u>
Albert G. Spalding	47	12	.797	529	1.75
George Bradley	45	19	.703	573	1.23

Bradley's two-hit shutout is better appreciated when one considers the offensive firepower of the Chicago team. In winning the first-ever National League championship, Chicago lost only 14 games out of 66 (.788). They scored 624 runs in the 1876 season, an average of 9.5 runs per game.

In 1876, there were 45 shutouts recorded in the National League books. Only one other 1 -0 contest was played; that was on June 10, when the Brooklyn Mutuals edged Cincinnati by a 1 – 0 score in 10 innings.

ST. LOUIS	AB	H	PO	A	CHICAGO	AB	H	PO	A
Cuthbert, lf	4	1	2	0	Barnes, 2b	4	0	1	2
Clapp, c	4	0	6	0	Anson, 3b	3	0	2	3
McGeary, 2b	4	1	2	4	Hines, cf	4	0	1	1
Pike, cf	4	1	2	0	Spalding, p	4	0	1	3
Battin, 3b	5	0	1	2	Addy, lf	4	0	2	0
Blong, rf	3	1	1	0	White, c	3	1	4	1
Bradley, p	4	2	2	8	Peters, ss	3	1	1	7
Dehlman, 1b	3	1	11	0	Glenn, 1b	3	0	12	0
Mack, ss	3	0	0	3	Bielaski, rf	3	0	3	0
Totals	34	7	27	17	Totals	31	2	27	17

Summary – RBI: Pike. Earned Runs: None. Left on bases: Chicago 5, St. Louis 6. Double play: Hines to Glenn. Struck Out: by Spalding 1 (Blong), by Bradley 1 (Hines). Bases on balls: Off Bradley 1 (Anson). Wild pitch: Spalding.

Umpire: Joe Simmons
Time of game – 1 hour and 30 minutes

Score by innings:								R	H	E	LOB	
St. Louis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	3	6
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	5

How did the National League of 1876 compare with last year (2002)?

	Games	Runs	Runs per Game
1876	260	3,066	11.79
2002	1,294	11,516	8.90

This article appeared previously in *The Bleacher Creature*.

Copyright © 2002 by Arthur O. Schott. All Rights Reserved.