

# **BIGGEST SERIES IN BOSTON HISTORY TAKES PLACE**

## **TOP TWO IN COASTAL GO HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH BEST RECORD IN NEL ON THE LINE**

BOSTON (June 22-26, 1870) – With the city housing two of the three best teams in the Northeastern League never has the baseball in Boston been of a higher quality than it has been so far in 1870, and that is why the recent series between Massachusetts Bay & Shamrock was the biggest five-game set in the history of Boston baseball.

The Coastal Championship standings going into the series looked like this:

- #1: Shamrock – 27-8 (+113 RD)
- #2: Mass. Bay – 26-9 (1 GB; +120 RD)
- #3: Quaker St. – 24-11 (3 GB; +80 RD)

To take the Coastal lead back from Shamrock, Mass. Bay, Coastal leaders on June 1st, would need to win four of the five games. Shamrock would need to win the series 3-2 to preserve their Coastal lead. A 3-2 Mass. Bay series victory would result in the two teams being tied for 1st place.

The results:

- GAME 1: MB 9-6 SHA – Hugh Harris (3B, M.B.) 3/4, 2B, 2 R, 3 RBI, BB, 4 TB
- GAME 2: MB 5-12 SHA – James Burke (CF, SHA) 3/4, 3B, 2 R, 1 RBI, BB, SB, 5 TB
- GAME 3: MB 11-4 SHA – George Carver (1B, M.B.) 2/3 (both 1B), 1 R, 3 RBI
- GAME 4: MB 4-8 SHA – Tom Ricks (P, SHA) CG, 10 HA, 4 RA (3 ER), 1 BB, 2 K; 2/3, 2B, 2 R, SAC BUNT
- GAME 5: MB 2-5 SHA – Ernest Duncan (P, SHA) CG, 7 HA, 2 RA (0 ER), 1 BB, 1 K

Mass. Bay won the opener by scoring all nine of their runs over the middle innings, with Harris, Leslie Arnett (2B), Daniel Flynn (P), & Franklin Skaggs (RF) responsible for the run production. Game Two was decided in the opening innings as a miserable outing by Mass. Bay pitcher Richard Hahn (1.0 IP, 10 HA, 10 RA, 7 ER) meant Shamrock was ahead 12-2 after

the 2nd inning and could ease up after that. Mass. Bay took the series lead back on Friday with their own barrage during the opening innings – eleven runs over their first four times to bat – with Carver being the key man. Shamrock evened the series again in Game Four after Ricks did a bit of everything and enough teammates pitched in to keep Mass. Bay from becoming a threat.

The series decider was a tense, defensive affair. The teams committed only two errors each (NBBO Avg: 5.5), and Shamrock's five runs over the first five innings would prove to be enough as hits and runs came at a premium for both sides. Shamrock took the series 3-2 and kept their lead in the Coastal Championship.

The Coastal standings after the end of the weekend:

- #1: Shamrock – 30-10 (+117 RD)
- #2: Mass. Bay – 28-12 (2 GB, +116 RD)
- #3: Quaker St. – 26-14 (4 GB; +74 RD)

Shamrock had gained a full game on both teams hot on their heels, because Quaker St. went a disappointing 2-3 at home against the now 16-24 Trenton United.

The series between Mass. Bay & Shamrock was their second, and final, series of 1870. Over the ten games between the two teams, both won five games.

The last six weeks of play in the Coastal Championship figure to be very exciting as far as the top three teams are concerned, and the city of Boston will be at the center of it all.