

Vintage baseball makes a return to Lewes

Game has changed over the years

By Ron MacArthur

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Vintage baseball recently returned for a second time to Lewes. This time, the Lewest-owners, sponsored by the Lewes Historical Society, held their own and at least understood the rules prior to stepping up the plate. The seasoned Diamond State Base Ball Club from New Castle County beat Lewes 25-6 April 30 on the Virden Center grounds.

In the inaugural game last year, the Lewes team had to learn the rules before play could start. Many of the rules are far different from the rules of the modern game.

The Diamond State team, formed in 2008, plays by 1886 rules and wears uniforms based on original club designs. The first team in Delaware dates back to 1865. In the 1886 version of base ball (the words were separated then), no gloves are used; pitchers throw underhand; bat-



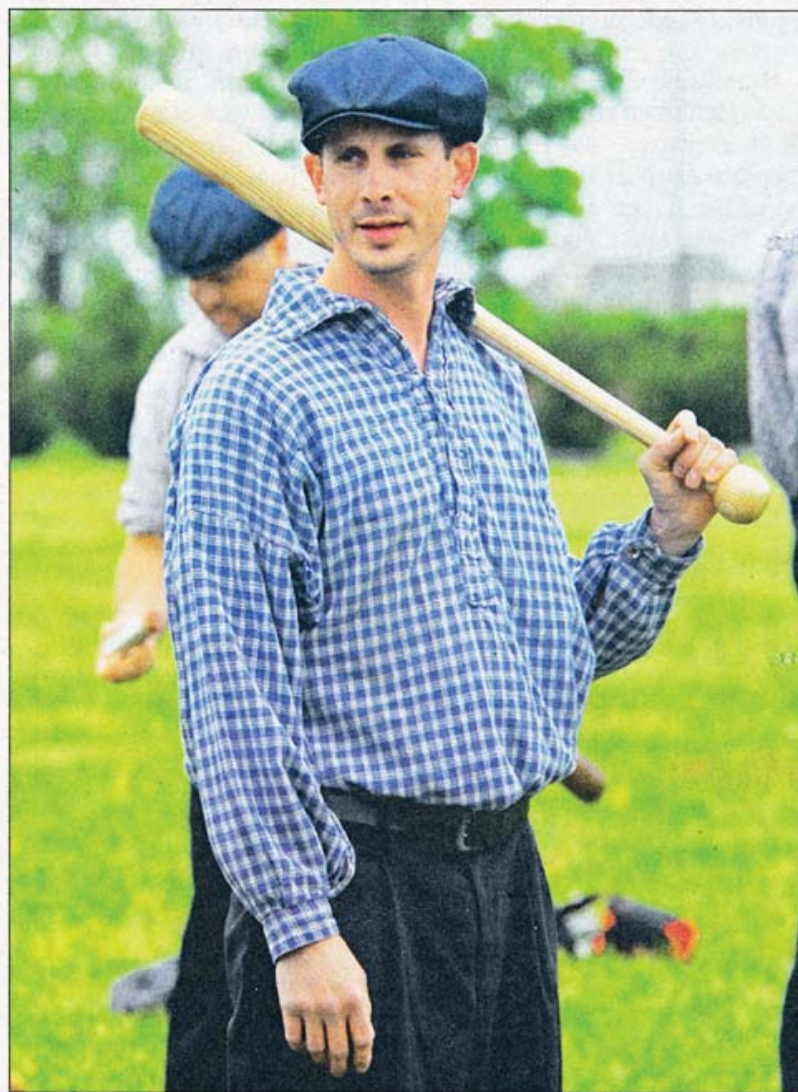
RON MACARTHUR PHOTOS
LEWES' MIKE DIPAOLO, executive director of the Lewes Historical Society, reaches third base as the ball gets away from Diamond State's Garrett "Steady" Perdick.

ters are called strikers; strikes are called when a striker does not attempt to swing the bat after a warning from the umpire; and foul balls can be caught on the bounce for an out.

"Despite the outcome, we're excited about our prospects and are planning to schedule more

games with other Mid-Atlantic Vintage Base Ball League teams for the summer," said Mike DiPaolo, executive director of the historical society.

Anyone interested in participating can contact Mike DiPaolo at 302-645-7670 or at info@historiclewes.org.



Like a scene from yesteryear, Diamond State's Ken "Buzzsaw" Bonsall gets ready to step up to the plate.