

EVENTS

It's 1864 again at old-time base ball festival

Delaware event one of the largest held

Delaware has been chosen as the site of a weekend-long 19th century base ball festival, the First State Festival. A 14-team amateur vintage base ball competition is scheduled to be held the weekend of May 22-23. The historic venue for the festival is Fort DuPont State Park in Delaware City.

The Mid-Atlantic Vintage Base Ball League has sanctioned the festival, which will be hosted by Delaware's Diamond State Base Ball Club. The event is free and open to the public.

The First State Festival will be one of the largest vintage base ball competitions of its kind and feature Vintage Base Ball Association clubs representing each state along the Eastern Seaboard, from Connecticut to Virginia. Participating clubs include: hosts the Diamond State BBC; the Waterbury (Conn.) Connors BBC; the Atlantic BBC of Brooklyn (N.Y.); the Resolute BBC of Elizabeth (N.J.); the Flemington (N.J.) Neshanock BBC; the Frosty Sons of Thunder (Somerset, Pa.); the Athletic BBC of Philadelphia (Pa.); the Eclipse BBC of Elkton (Md.); the Dauntless BBC of Havre de Grace (Md.); the Chesapeake BBC (Baltimore, Md.); the Excelsior BBC of Arundel (Glen Burnie, Md.); the Fair Play BBC of Talbot County (Easton, Md.); the Potomac BBC (Washington, D.C.); and the Pastime BBC of Williamsburg (Va.). The weekend festival includes 19 vintage base ball matches played according to the rules and customs of 1864.

First State Festival information, including a schedule of matches, a festival area map, directions to Fort DuPont State Park, rules and customs to be used during festival play, and other information can be found at the First State Festival's Web site: www.festival.diamondstatebaseball.org.

The nearby town of Delaware City will also be hosting an Old Fashioned Sidewalk Sale to coincide with the First State Festival. Free jitney transportation during festival hours will be available between the Fort DuPont Parade Grounds and Delaware City's business district shops and restaurants for all spectators and festival participants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Vintage Base Ball
Association**
www.vbba.org

**Mid-Atlantic Vintage Base
Ball League**
www.mavbbl.wordpress.com

**Diamond State Base Ball
Club**
www.diamondstatebaseball.org

Delaware City
www.delawarecity.info

About Vintage Base Ball
Vintage base ball is competitive baseball played according to the rules and customs of earlier times, typically the 19th century. Players and participants wear period uniforms and reproduction equipment in an effort to recreate the spirit of the National Pastime as it existed in the era before professionalism forever changed the sport.