

The First Night Game in Organized Baseball

The first night game in Organized Baseball took place in Independence, Kansas on April 28, 1930. The Independence Producers were a Western Association Class C team, and lost to Muskogee by a score of 13-3 at Producer Stadium. Around 1,000 fans witnessed the game. Producer pitcher Ron Vance pitched the first ball.

Previously the Producers had played a night exhibition game at Producer Stadium on April 17, 1930. In that game Independence defeated the House of David by a score of 9-1. About 1,200 fans were at the game.

The 3/13/30 Independence Daily Reporter says there were six sets of floodlights ordered. The 3/17/30 Reporter says the lights were shipped from Council Bluffs. The 3/28/30 Reporter also says the light towers will be sixty feet tall. The 4/10/30 Reporter says the lights were received from Giant Manufacturing Co. of Council Bluffs. The 4/10/30 Reporter also says there were five light towers. The 4/10/30 Reporter says a light is mounted on the center of the grandstand. Since a photo of the game shows light from the grandstand, it seems that one set of lights were mounted to it. The 4/18/30 Reporter says there were 90,000 watts of electricity for the lighting.

The lights were permanent, and the light towers can be seen in 1930 photo. The same light towers can be seen in the 1948 and 1949 Yankee team photos, 1944 IAAF photos, and 1957 Atlas photos.

There were 55 scheduled night games at the Independence stadium in 1930. The system was not temporary, but permanent lighting.

The March 20, 1931 Independence Daily Reporter says M.L. Truby said several more light units would be added before the season opened, making the field a little brighter at night. This further shows the lights were permanent. The 4/28/31 Reporter says the first night game of the season at Independence was played the day before.

The Independence Museum has a light bulb from the April 17th game. On the bulb is "Sylvania, 1500 W, 120V". On the glass shield it has "T.M. Reg, Pyrex, USA, U.S. Pat. Off."