

Website News Clips

"On April 28, 1930, the first night game in the history of Organized Baseball is played in Independence, Kansas."

National Baseball Hall of Fame

<http://baseballhall.org/node/8133>

"Organized Baseball" is the term for Major League Baseball and its associated minor leagues. Not included are amateur leagues, most professional international leagues, the former Negro Leagues and independent leagues. All minor leagues that are part of Organized Baseball are assigned a class - originally A through D, later expanded to include rankings such as AA, A1, AAA and Rookie leagues. The modern structure for organized baseball was originally established in 1902."

Baseball Reference.Com

http://www.baseball-reference.com/bullpen/Organized_Baseball

Note: Exhibition games played by Organized Baseball teams are not considered Organized Baseball games.

"... Independence, Kansas was to be the birthplace of a new era in professional baseball."

Bowman, Larry G. (1996). *I Think Its Pretty Ritzy, Myself*. Kansas State Historical Society. P. 253.

http://www.kshs.org/publicat/history/1995winter_bowman.pdf

"Whatever the reason for the sedate reaction to being the first minor league city to play night ball, Independence obviously had earned an important place in the history of baseball."

Bowman, Larry G. (1996). *I Think Its Pretty Ritzy, Myself*. Kansas State Historical Society. P. 256.

http://www.kshs.org/publicat/history/1995winter_bowman.pdf

In the worst years of the Depression, Americans looking for good news avidly followed the fortunes of their sports heroes. The first official minor league game to be played under lights took place in Independence, Kansas in 1930. The National League president harrumphed that "night baseball is just a step above dog racing," but working-class Americans flocked to join industrial leagues and town teams. The new lights meant that people lucky enough to have jobs could go to games after work, and the extra revenue helped struggling clubs survive. The baseball field gave isolated and apprehensive Americans a place to take comfort in the crowd, and the success of the home team encouraged those in the bleachers to believe in their own dreams.

Exhibition Label, Smithsonian American Art Museum, 2006

<http://americanart.si.edu/collections/search/artwork/?id=12930>

"Down at Riverside Park they had been tinkering for a whole month with the installation of those permanent lights. You see, there had been games under lights before, circus games with portable spotlights, but this would be different. It would be a serious commitment of capital and vision, and it would put Independence on the map."

So Much Depends by C. Ross, chapter 6

<http://authonomy.com/books/48007/so-much-depends/read-book/?chapterid=456970>

"Then Monday night rolled around. When those lights came on and the bugs were buzzing around those artificial orbs, we felt like we were on some kind of spaceship. We hadn't gone to the moon--it had come to us."

So Much Depends by C. Ross, chapter 6

<http://authonomy.com/books/48007/so-much-depends/read-book/?chapterid=456970>