

Preface to the In-Season Exhibition Game (ISEG) Spreadsheet
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(See the following two files (1871-1920 and 1921-2012) for detailed listing of ISEGs discovered to date. For technical reasons related to the website, they must be presented as separate lists.)

First of all, I would like to thank Dave Smith for giving me the opportunity and venue to present my research findings on the greatest site on the web, Retrosheet! Also, I would like to thank those who assisted me with this project. Their names are presented on page 4 of the updated research article. A brief explanation of the ISEG spreadsheet is in order. There are exactly 5,000 games listed as opposed to 2,800 presented in 2008 and are arranged in eleven different columns:

Column 1—Day of the week is self-explanatory. This information was obtained using the year-by-year calendars provided on Retrosheet. The addition of these calendars to the site was a brilliant idea and it greatly facilitated my research!

Column 2—Year and date is presented as an eight digit number. The first 4 digits are the year, followed by the month for the next two digits. The last two digits are the dates within the month. For example, 19490511 is the year 1949 and the date is May 11th.

Column 3—Listed here are the 1st or 2nd games of a doubleheader, if applicable. It is shown as either 1st game or 2nd game. If a cell is blank in this column, only one game was played that day. For a few instances, two games were played on the same day and not really doubleheaders and are noted as “same day”. The word “see” may be given. This refers to some of the traditional rivalries that played each other twice in a season in a home and home series. Cincinnati (N) and Detroit (A) did this several times. For an example of this, find the spreadsheet date of 19490627. There you will “see 8/22 Cin” referring to the *next date* that Detroit will play at Cincinnati. Then, looking at the 19490822 entry, you will find “see 6/27 Cin”, which gives the date of the *prior meeting* of Cincinnati at Detroit. This is merely a cross-reference of playing dates for these two clubs. The other item is a game postponed and then played at a later date. An example is the 19810430 entry revealing that the earlier game of the Philadelphia Phillies (N) was “postponed on 4/14” and played on 4/30.

Column 4—Extra-inning games, those of less than 9 innings and ties are found here. In the case of the 123 tie games found so far, the inning total is always given, except eight games where the *inning totals are unknown* and are designated as such on the master spreadsheet.

Column 5—Name of the major league club involved with nickname and league designation. If only major league clubs are involved in a game, they are listed alphabetically with the team from this column listed first and the opponent listed in column 7. The manner in which major league clubs are listed in specific columns has

neither to do with the winning and losing teams nor the home or road teams. It has to do only with an alphabetical listing.

For columns 5 and 7, here are the abbreviations for the seven leagues in Major League Baseball history: National Association (NA), National League (NL), American Association (AA), Union Association (UA), Players League (PL), American League (AL) and Federal League (FL).

Column 6—Run total of the major league club listed here. Non-major league run totals are never listed in this column and are given in column 8.

Column 7—Name of the opposition. If another major league club was the opponent, the team name and nickname is given with its league designation. If a non-major league club is the opponent, it is listed by the name given in the newspaper narrative, along with its nickname, if known.

Column 8— Run total of the opponent is listed here. The run total here refers to either those of a major league or non-major league team.

Column 9—State and city. For the game sites of states, the standard 2-letter postal abbreviation is used, as well as for the provinces of Canada. The abbreviation UK is used for some ISEGs of 1874 that were played in the United Kingdom, referring to only England and Ireland in this case. For the city, this is the name given in a game account, if applicable. There were instances when only a score was found with no city or state provided. Thus, some game sites may not be known or be “official” and are designated by the use of the symbol ?zz. Such games can be found on the Excel spreadsheet by a “find” search using the query ?zz.

Column 10—An opponent description refers to items listed in column 7 and include examples such as: “Major League both”, the league of the club (if known), military teams, college teams, amateur, semi-pro, etc.

Column 11---Description of game information found though research and presented here. This includes such items as boxscores, linescores, runs-hits-errors and scores only.

For a more detailed analysis of the many aspects of ISEGs, refer to my update article located elsewhere on this site.

Happy reading!!
WL