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Ball games--Kuchee

Rufus George  
Research Worker  
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Interviewed McCoullough Jones  
(Euchee man) 7 miles west of Kellyville  
as given to Rufus George, field worker.

Mr. McCoullough Jones is telling me about the old Indian ball game. In early days the Indian would match one another in an Indian Ball Stick game. The Creeks were noted for such games. There was a game between Dustin Indians and Cussetha Band of Indians. The way the Indian Ball players would do is like this: The Indians would take medicine for four days. There would be a medicine man to doctor the ball players, and he also would doctor the buckskin ball too so that his band of Indians would win the game. The other band of Indians would do the same. The ball games would be played in the mornings. The Indians would play ball on the prairie. They would erect goals like a football field and that is how they put up the ball goals. The Dustin Band of Indians would defend their goal and also the Cussetha would do the same with theirs. The Indians would dance around their goals four times and when they were dancing, the ball players would whoop and gobble and rattle their ball sticks. After both bands of Indians have done that, they would meet in the middle of the ground. The medicine man would throw the

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ball up and the game was started. They would hit one another with those ball sticks and sometimes would hurt one another with those ball sticks.

The people on the side line would bet one another with blankets and other numerous things, sometimes those that are on the side line would get into a fight too when one side of the ball players were winning. The player would get the ball in the sticks. The ball sticks are made of hickory wood and are made into a spoon shape and that is how they carry the ball in those sticks. They throw the ball through the goal. Some of the players would be wounded bad and blood would be running from them. The one that got most of scores would win the game. That is how they played and still do yet.