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INTERVIEW

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Indian Ball Game as told by
Clarence O. Warren to W. T.
Holland, Indian-Pioneer History.

This game as played by the Indians was one of the roughest games I ever witnessed. I've seen Hockey played and wasn't any rougher than this Indian ball game, as usually one or more of the players were usually badly injured before the game was over.

The game was played on a field about 150 yards long, with goal posts at each end, as in polo, about five men were on each side, and the object was to carry the ball over the other's goal line. This was done by means of two sticks for each player one in each hand. These sticks were made of hickory, usually, and about 4 or 5 feet in length, one end was hollowed out or "Cupped" so when put together formed a "Spoon". The ball was caught and thrown with these sticks, not with the hands, so this accounted for the roughness of the game, as they sometimes didn't get the ball when they made a pass for it, and if an Indian was in the way and got the force of the sticks, he was put out of the game sometimes.

They didn't wear any guards so this made it all the more dangerous. This was played fast and furious and the side carrying the ball over the goal line the most times in a specified length of time, won the game. A common twine or rag ball about the size of an indoors baseball was used in the game. I've seen a lot of these games, and they usually drew a good crowd.