

FIFE, DAWES.

CREEK INDIAN BALL GAMES.

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FIFE, DAWES.. FIELD WORKER.
INDIAN PIONEER HISTORY.
April 22, 1937.

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INDIAN BALL GAMES
CREEK INDIANS.

Interview with Timmie Fife, Creek Indian.
Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Two Indian towns would have a matched game of Indian ball at a certain date once a year. Each team consisted of 40 or 50 players. All clothing was removed except a breech clout. They used sticks about 2½ or 3 feet long with cup-shaped pockets at one end made of buckskin. These were used to catch and throw the ball, which was made of buckskin. Each player used two sticks. The sticks used were made of hickory when green.

The score of the game was twenty. Two poles were erected fifty yards apart. The poles were the goals, each side, having a goal.

Before the game two medicine men of each team went around the goals singing a song four times. Before playing the Indians took medicine four days; on the fourth day they played. After the medicine men sang the songs four times one of them went to the center and threw the ball into the air, starting the game. A score of one was counted when a

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goal was hit by the ball.

A score keeper kept score by placing a wooden peg in the ground for each score; when the number of scores reached ten he would start taking the pegs out of the ground until all the pegs were out; that being a score of twenty.

The team that scored twenty first won the game.

The games are very rough resulting in injuries to the players, -bruises, cuts, gashes and sometimes broken bones.