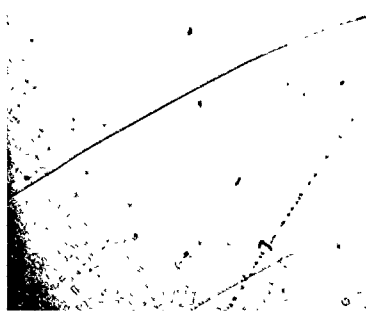


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Miss Ella Robinson,
Research Field Worker,
June 11, 1937.

Indian Ball Game
July 3, 1878

A ball game between a picked 24 of Arbeka Town and the Eufaula 24 was played on the ball ground located about half way between the two places. The result was a score of 20 points for Arbeka Town and 13 for Eufaula. The game was hotly contested and resulted in a number of bloody scalp wounds and bruises.

The players were all of the old time Indians and one of their old superstitions was brought out with its peculiar influence. The men of Arbeka Town were encamped about a half mile from the grounds the evening before and engaged in preparing and taking medicine to toughen their muscles and sinews and make them more lithe and active for the coming contest.

Some were ^{arranging} ~~raising~~ eagle and hawk feathers and fox tails when a large rattle snake made its appearance in the camp. This was looked upon as a favorable omen and his "snakeship" was greeted with a friendly welcome.

They danced around him with great glee for a time then drove him gently from the camp unharmed. During the battle the next day (for it looked more like a battle than a play) the same snake or his twin appeared in the camp of the opposing team. The game was stopped until the snake could be carefully driven off. Someone volunteered to pick it up and it was gently carried off the ground beyond the reach of harm.

The drum, consisting of a raw-hide tightly drawn over an iron pot and allowed to dry, was beaten with renewed vigor. Taking courage from their welcome augury, the game was rushed on to victory.

Arbeka Town under the auspices of the rattle snake, won the game and the day.

This information was furnished Miss Robinson by Mrs. Eck E. Brook of Muskogee.