

COLL. PETER W.

INDIAN BALL STICK
INDIAN COUNTRY RECORDS STATEHOOD
RECEIVED PINEA COUNTY
ATOKA COUNTY LANDMARK

#5800
#8619
119 7178
6795

INDIAN BALL STICK

construction of stick
escalation of game
Atoka County
Armin
blue series

1

113

Indian-pioneer History,
Grant Foreman, Director,
211 Federal Building,
Muskogee, Okla.

Pete W. Cole,
Field worker,
May 18, 1937.

INDIAN BALL STICK AND HOW IT IS MADE.

Exact date is not known as to where and when the first Indian ball game was played but the game has been played for some time when first noticed. The Indian ball stick as commonly called is made out of a green, young, solid hickory tree, worked down. The handle can be square or round about three feet long. It must be a pair but usually the handle of one is shorter than the other. A spoon shaped end tied with buck skin, tanned thoroughly to prevent breaking. When a cup shaped end is tied, it is put under weight and remains in this manner until seasoned and dry. By this method it holds its shape and not easily gets out of shape and is ready for use. Very often a melted lead is poured in the bored end of the handle about four inches deep which gives the weight and is unbreakable.

The game is played more of a foot ball style, and proper coaching as football would be very interesting. The only understanding or rule which governs the game is that they do not lose their temper and get into free for all fight. Although that is usually the case but more so when some of the players have some intoxicating liquor in their system. It has been shown that one would try to bluff the other player by some handling which is unnecessary. If each offense player would force interference for the one showing the ball, and only the man with the ball to be tackled, it would be up to the safety man who usually watches his goal to get his man out instead each man is allowed to hold his man and of course he wants to free himself and usually they handle each other too rough and usually ends in a fight.

There can be two goal posts at so many yards apart, as agreed by field man or captain on each side or have one goal, a board about eight feet long and eight or ten inches high painted white on one side and another color on the other side. This is to distinguish which color is for each side.

3

any equal number of players in each side can play the game, after the referee toss the ball up as in basketball game. The scramble begins. No player is allowed to catch or touch the ball with his hand or kick the ball. There is no rest between times and only time one can rest for a moment is after a score is made by hitting the goal with the ball by any of the players. There is no chance for a tie game, because a certain point whether it may be 10-12 or 20 points as agreed by field managers and the first side that scores the required tally wins the game. If trouble starts before the required score is made, the game breaks up and is considered "No-Game" and neither sides can be given the honor as winner of the Indian Ball Game.

EDITOR NOTE:

This manuscript has been typewritten without change of Indian manner of speech. It is believed a part of its value lies in the mode of this Indian's expression of thought and idea.