



Sox, who served as umpire of the game: “[Smith] gave him a strike on anything that passed within eight feet of either side or above the plate. This was done advisedly, as we wanted to catch the 10 o’clock train for Tucson and we did not care to play all night.” The White Sox pitcher who threw a complete game for the visitors was Jim “Death Valley” Scott. The position players for the Chicago team that faced Yuma are not well known today—none of the infamous “Black Sox” of the 1919 team had yet joined the squad—but pitcher “Big” Ed Walsh would later be elected to the Hall of Fame.

The White Sox were back in Yuma to play an exhibition game the following year, but in 1911 and 1912 the nomadic Chicagoans were absent due to their latest spring training move to Texas. However, from 1913-1915, when the team trained in Paso Robles, California, Yuma was again able to host exhibition games versus the White Sox. For the next several years the Chicago squad held spring training in Texas before finally returning to California (Pasadena) in 1933. During the 1930s Major League exhibition games became an annual tradition at Yuma High School’s Doan Field, and the White Sox were again the most frequent of these visiting ballclubs (1935-1939, 1942). By this time Charles Comiskey had died, but the team, now owned by his son and daughter-in-law, maintained its friendly association with Yuma.

Prior to 1950 when it first became home to its own minor league and spring training teams, Yuma hosted an impressive array of barnstorming or visiting teams, including the Boston Bloomer Girls, the Tokyo Giants, the Kansas City Monarchs, the House of David team, and numerous major and minor league clubs. Today the White Sox are the most fondly remembered of these visiting teams by virtue of their repeated stops in Yuma during the early years of the rise of a baseball town.

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