

EXHIBITION: LOUIS SOCKALEXIS

A true legend



Courtesy of Abbe Museum

Louis Sockalexis, front row, left, played for the Warren town team in the Knox County summer league in 1895. This photo from the College of Holy Cross Archives is in the exhibit "Louis Sockalexis: Baseball's First Indian" at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor.

The Abbe Museum revisits the life of Sockalexis, a legendary Penobscot athlete who would become the first Indian to play big-league baseball.

By **BOB KEYES**

Staff Writer

BAR HARBOR — It just so happens that Rebecca Cole-Will is a big baseball fan. But even if she weren't, the curator at the Abbe Museum would welcome an exhibition on the life and career of Louis Sockalexis, the first acknowledged American Indian to play major-league baseball.

"We've been interested in Louis Sockalexis for a very long time," said Cole-Will, who organized the exhibition with the help of Orono writer and historian Ed Rice, who wrote a book about Sockalexis in 2003.

"We also recognize that there's a story here that really needs to be told."

The Abbe's mission is to further the understanding and appreciation of American Indian culture, history and archaeology. The museum in downtown Bar Harbor mounted the Sockalexis exhibition for a brief run in the spring, but brought it back this

fall to add to the dialogue of the continuing controversy surrounding the role of mascots in sports.

"Louis Sockalexis: Baseball's First Indian" remains on display through Dec. 31.



Courtesy of Abbe Museum

Images from the Abbe show, clockwise from left: Sockalexis in his Holy Cross uniform about 1894, courtesy of the College of Holy Cross Archives; a formal portrait about 1896, courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame Library; and a postcard photo taken many years after his playing days, courtesy of Ed Rice.



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