

# The Day I First Played Ball - song lyrics

American Old-time song lyrics from [www.traditionalmusic.co.uk](http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk)

THE DAY I FIRST PLAYED BALL.

Tune- "The Day I Played Base Ball."

By John E. Shea.

My name it is O'Gallagher,  
I'm a ball player by trade;  
I play now with a crack team,- boys,  
And a large salary I'm paid.

I rank among the best of men.  
And deserve the praise of all;  
But I tell you what, it was no fun,  
The day I first played ball.

Oh, first I tried the catcher's mask,  
Sure I thought myself in a powder flask,  
And they struck me with a cobbler's last,  
The day I first played ball.

Then next I tried a "home run "bat.  
And hit the ball such a terrible smack,  
That it knocked a horse-car off the track,  
The day I first played ball.

They put me behind the plate.  
And said it I caught a ball they'd treat;  
But I showed them I couldn't be beat,  
The day I first played ball.

So then I tried to steal a base.  
Sure I fell down and broke my face;  
Oh, it was worse than a six-days race,  
The day I first played ball.

Sure then I tried to throw a "fly,"  
And it struck the manager in the eye;  
And they all jumped over the fence to die.  
The day I first played ball.

The people then took off their hats,  
And the kids they all did holler "rats;"  
And they gave me all the broken bats,  
The day I first played ball.

The ladies all appeared so gay.  
And presented me with a fine bouquet;  
And said I'd be worth 10,000 some day,  
If I'd learn to play base ball.

Then I met a gang-one's name was Luke,  
He said, "old man, go take a fluke;"  
I turned and hit him a rap in the snute.  
The day I first played ball.

The gang then gave me a bottle of rye,  
And said, "old man, you've got to die;"  
And they hung me on the gallows high.  
The day I first played ball.