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THERE IS ONLY ONE TYRUS RAYMOND COBB GREATEST OF PLAYERS.

Every vacant city lot and every country pasture raises a new crop of baseball players each spring, all eager to take Ty Cobb's job away from him. Yet, season after season he holds his place as the greatest baseball player the world has ever known. "Ty Cobb is the greatest ball player in the history of the game." That is the great tribute paid to the Detroit star by owner Comiskey of the Chicago White Sox. "In fifteen years that I have been actively identified with the game I have seen some great players; but without hesitation I can say that I have never seen a better all round player than Cobb."

Several years ago Geo. Hildebrand broke into the American League as an umpire. In his day Hildebrand had been a clever player. He was doubled up with me—so writes Empire Billy Evans—when he opened with the Detroit club. It was the first time he had ever seen Cobb, on or off the ball field. It so happened that Cobb had one of his big days. He got four hits, a couple of them for extra bases, and naturally he showed to advantage. He stretched into a two-base hit what would have been a single for almost any other player in the universe. He took three bases on a drive that the average player would have been more than satisfied to regard as a double. Once he stole second and twice pilfered third. Hildebrand was working the bases. Prior to the start of the game I warned him not to take his eye off Cobb any time he reached first base. Tyrus happened to get on every time he came up. He kept Hildebrand more than busy.

"So that is Tyrus Cobb," remarked Hildebrand after the game. "Pretty fair player, that Cobb," I said.

"I should think he was," replied Hildebrand. "Say, do you know, he gave me more close decisions in today's game than I had all last season in the Coast League."

When you remember that the Coast League season consists of a schedule of about two hundred games, you can realize what a strong impression Cobb made on Hildebrand.

"What kind of a fellow is Cobb?" That is the question that is asked me hundreds of times each season. A good many fans, because of his swagger style, get the impression that Cobb just hates himself. That is entirely erroneous. Cobb carries himself just the same on the ball field to-day as he did eleven years ago when he broke into the American League. His present style is his natural style. Any player who is a suc-

cess, who is the big star that Cobb is, naturally must make a good many enemies. It would be impossible for it to be otherwise. There is just enough of the ego in Cobb's make-up to make him careless of what some people think of him. He just goes merrily on his way, doing things that make all people marvel at his ability, both friends and enemies.

When Cobb first broke into the American League, but little credit was given to him for his remarkable feats. The best that Tyrus got for three or four years was, "The lucky stiff!" Now his bitterest rivals regard him as a wonder.

Cobb's "Fall-Away."

No player in the game has a more effective slide than Cobb. A great many players use what, in baseball terms, is known as the fall-away. In sliding into a base, the player, by throwing his body in the direction of either the infield or outfield, tries to make it impossible for the fielder with the ball to have any part of the body other than the foot to touch.

Cobb has perfected the fall-away to the highest degree. Most runners slow up slightly as they prepare to hit the ground, which of course tends to lessen the effectiveness of the slide. Cobb is one of the very few players who hit the dirt while travelling at top speed. And the way he can hook his foot into the bag, swing around on it as a pivot, avoid the touch, and still keep from oversliding, is remarkable. Every now and then Cobb does overslide, because he has figured a bit too finely; but this is the exception.

A great many people labor under the impression that Cobb is a pugnacious individual, because of the various mix-ups he has taken part in. Cobb is a quick-tempered Southerner, but far from pugnacious. Because of his wonderful success, Cobb is a source of concern to American fandom. When he is on the road, his good plays are applauded, but even greater applause greets the home pitcher if he strikes Cobb out.

The bleacherites take great pleasure in testing Cobb to the limit with their chatter, much of which is often not complimentary. It is only natural that there are times when it is impossible for him to restrain himself and not resent the raillery.

There is one pleasing thing about Cobb in this connection: he is game, and he has a heart of oak. He has proved this many a time. Just to show you how hard it is to conquer Cobb, I will repeat a story I have heard a number of Detroit players relate.

Cobb and a certain member of the team got into an argument, which resulted in fist-fights, with Tyrus getting the wrong end of the decision after a hard battle. Ty was not convinced that his opponent was physically his superior. After a short time Ty renewed hostilities, and again the decision went against him. It was evident to everyone but Tyrus that his opponent was too strong for him. Ty insisted on a third meeting, and once again he was defeated. In each case the result was decisive. The day following the third meeting, Ty shook hands with his three-time conqueror and remarked:

"Well, old boy, you have it on me. In the future all you and I are going to do is argue."

Cobb and the player in question became the greatest of friends.

In this connection, I recall another incident in which I was directly concerned. Things had been breaking badly for Tyrus, and it seemed as if every close decision was going against him. It became my painful duty to call him out for interference one day, as the tying run was going over the plate. Cobb insisted I was wrong; I was equally strong in asserting that I was right. Ty expressed the belief that the entire staff was wrong—that a real fellow could whip the entire staff, and that he believed he could turn the trick himself. In turn, I informed Tyrus that he might as well start on me. He said he would immediately at the close of the game.

In the innings that followed, his fellow players proved to him that, under the rules, I had rendered the only decision possible. He cooled down, and at the close of the game he demonstrated to me that he was a real fellow. Here is the conversation that passed between us:

"Well, Bill, I was wrong. I see it now. I lost my head. I want to apologize; but if an apology does not satisfy, I am here to fight."

"There was no battle. I had no desire to engage in one."

Timmins News Items

Official reports state that Privates Dan McClelland and Len Dunsford were wounded on the 13th day of June and are now in the hospital. Both Len and Dan went to the trenches together and were wounded the same day.

Mr. Len Newton entertained a number of the residents to a supper at Sandy Falls last Wednesday evening among those who enjoyed the treat were Misses R. DeLong, E. Peters, M. Lynett, O. McGuire, F. Jamieson, L. DeMers, Gondreau, M. Devine, K. Clark, Mrs. J. T. Newton, and Messrs DeLong, Oakes, Bishop, Montgomery, Newton, Sullivan, Mallette. The party left the river at three thirty and returned at 9 p.m.

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