

Sporting News

Kauff Misrepresented Not Showy Player

Benny Kauff's actions on a ball field are far different than is imagined by those who have not seen him disputing on the diamond. When we say that Kauff voluntarily makes himself the most inconspicuous member of the Giants, it may sound like fiction. But it isn't; it's a fact.

Having been fed with Kauffisms all during the chill winter and during the early part of this none too gentle springtime, all of us gained the idea that Kauff would be the superlative as a grand stand player. But we were surprised by the modesty of Kauff in the first game in which he figured—and the surprise has recurred in all the other combats in which Kauff has performed. Honus Wagner and Nap Lajoie are no more humble in actions than is "The Shrinking Violet."

Kauff is Modest.
Kauff, all during the progress of a game, seems oblivious of the fact that thousands are watching him; Kauff on the ball field does nothing else but play the game as best he can. He plays it with an earnestness that is surprising. When he walks to the plate he never turns around to gaze upon the folks in the stands. Oftentimes Kauff has returned to the dugout amid cheers for some play he made, either at bat or afield. Did he slow down as he jogged to the bench so as to drink in the cheers? So as to pose? Not at all.

Whether Kauff comes in to the bench amid cheers or uncheered, he always maintains the same little trot; he always comes hustling in, seemingly anxious to get within the shelter of the dugout as soon as possible. Such an action is the last one would expect from Kauff, because it betrays excessive modesty. "Yet in just that way Kauff has conducted himself and so has shocked—but in an agreeable way—the New York fans, who expected to see in him the greatest poser in the game's history.

Press Agent's Work.

The contrast between the Kauff who is and the Kauff we were led to expect because of the Kauffisms, is explained by the fact that Kauff himself never uttered all the boasts credited to him. They were fanned by a press agent whose remuneration depended largely upon the result of his work.

The press agent had a working agreement with Kauff whereby he was to get a slice of the money in case the Giant owners and Harry Sinclair "kicked in" with \$5,000 each, demanded by Kauff when he was a hold-out late last winter. Mr. Press Agent figured that a boasting attitude on the part of Kauff would catch the public eye and give Kauff national prominence. His mathematics were O.K. Sinclair didn't loosen but the Giant owners came through with \$3,500 bonus to Kauff, deciding that Kauff had been so widely heralded that he'd return that \$3,500 in gate receipts during the first swing through the circuit.

He Has Made Good.
Kauff has made good as a Giant. He has been with the outfit for two months and John McGraw has decided that the \$30,000 paid for him wasn't a dollar too much. Not only is Kauff a drawing card, but he is playing a great all round game.

The maceing mark of the 1915 star of the Feds still is below .300—but Kauff is due for higher levels. He has been handicapped up to now by the fact that he has faced strange pitching in nearly all of the games during the first eight weeks of bat-

ting. He has had to pick his way, so to speak. But from now on he will go back at those same pitchers, having the advantage of knowing what they've got in the way of foilers.

Fast on the Bases.
Kauff has demonstrated that he is fast—marvellously fast, both afield and on the bases. Right now he is among the leaders of the pack that is racing for base stealing honors. It wouldn't be surprising if he led the pilferers when the October flag drops.

He's a pretty fielder, too, this "Shrinking Violet," with splendid judgment concerning fly balls and ability to travel to either side, backward and forward and snare-seeming hits.

And Kauff has a fine wing. He zips in the ball with great speed and accuracy and the foemen of the Giants have ceased testing out that wing. They have been killed too often at the plate to warrant taking further liberties with it.

"Benny Kauff is one of the greatest all-round ball players I have ever seen," says McGraw.

"How did you like the show last night?"
"Great. For the first time I've seen my wife shed tears that I'm not responsible for."
"I don't think that women have always been vain; you know that women were made before mirrors."
"Yes, and they have been before them ever since."

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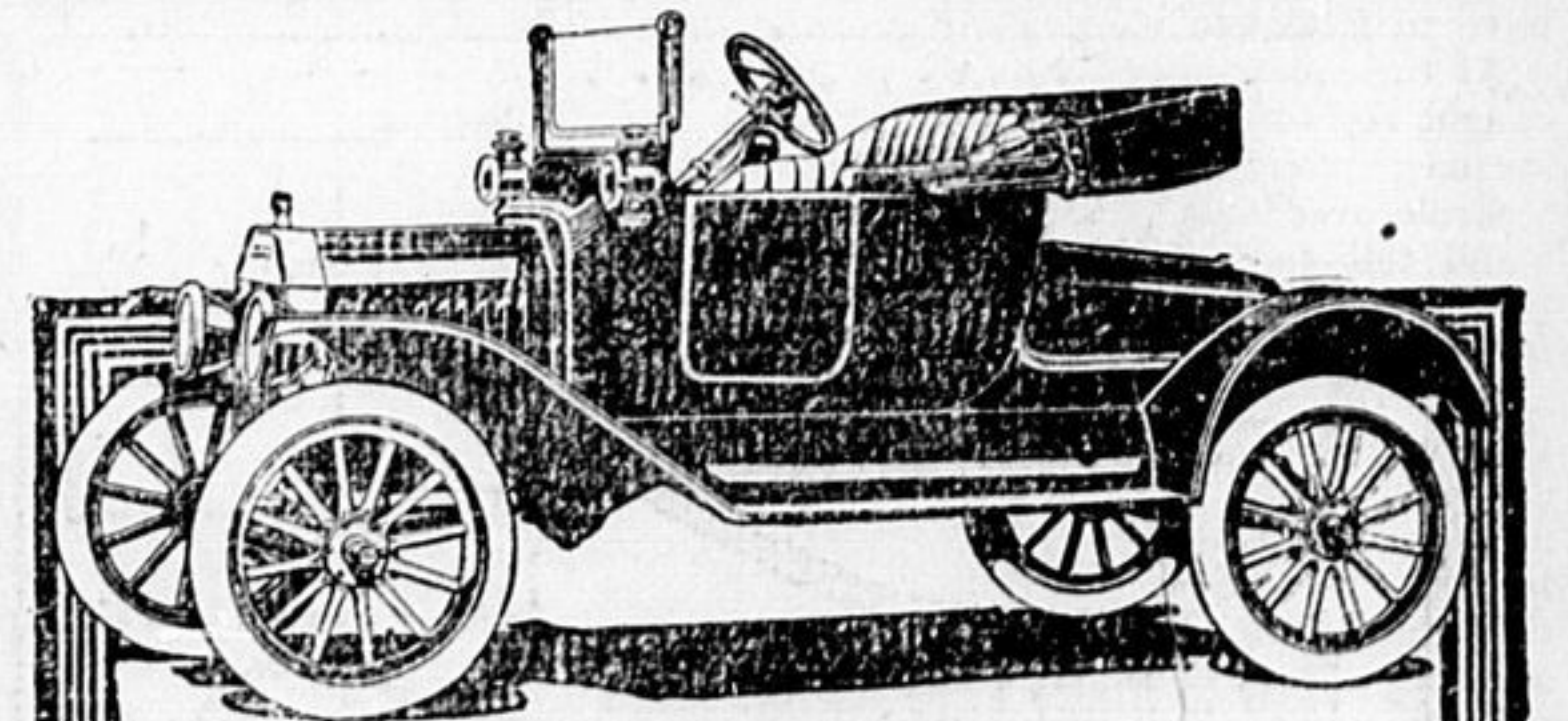
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