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## MONUMENTS

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# In The World Of Sport

## M'GRAW IS OVERRATED

SHOULD CHANGE HIS TACTICS OR BE DROPPED

Did Not Earn Praise—Mathewson Was Responsible For Much of the Giants' Success.

"Muggsy" John J. McGraw, the most over-rated man in baseball, should be made to change his tactics, or be driven out from the game by his disgraced times without number. "Muggsy's" whole baseball career, covering more than two decades, is spotted with acts of rowdiness, including assaults upon umpire and players. He was called "a dirty ball player" when he was an active athlete and since his elevation to the rank of manager his conduct has been infinitely worse.

Exaggerated ego of the worst kind—that is McGraw's ailment. He always has felt that he "made" the National League. In the past seven years or so he thought he had become the highest power in that organization. He attempted to show it following the assault on Umpire Byron, found himself in a precarious condition, as far as his job was concerned, and then deliberately repudiated his own statements and threw over his friends to save himself—the action of a coward.

### McGraw's Career.

An analysis of "Muggsy's" career as a baseball leader would indicate that instead of being a really great manager he had been something entirely otherwise. He has been given credit for leading the Giants five times to the crest of the National League—credit that never should have gone to him. It was Mathewson who made the Giants formidable over a stretch of nearly fifteen campaigns—it was Mathewson who won pennants and not McGraw. Eliminate Matty from the lineup of the Giants ever since McGraw became manager of the club, and what would have happened?

While Matty was a twirling star, the Giants were great; as soon as Matty began to slip, the Giants slipped, too; Matty's final work of first-class character was in 1914. That was the last good year for the Giants. They landed in second place that year. In 1915 Matty was through—and so were the Giants. Unable to get aid from the man whose mighty right arm had helped him so tremendously in the other years, McGraw was helpless—and his team finished absolutely last.

Without Mathewson in 1916 the Giants finished fifth. A ton of money had been spent to give McGraw the greatest club in baseball. Other teams were depleted of stars so that the Giants could have them. But despite all the preponderance of baseball talent, the Giants landed in fifth place.

That in itself is the best kind of a "tip-off" as to what sort of a manager is this "Muggsy" McGraw.

The Giants, owners, at the behest of McGraw, spent something over \$2000,000 for players in 1914, 1915 and 1916. The Phillies have spent about \$8,000 in that time, the Dodgers \$15,000, and the Braves about \$30,000. Each won a pennant since 1914—and the McGraw mis-managed haven't. Robinson, Moran and Stallings took cast-off players and built flag-winning machines; the great McGraw, with the greatest collection of ball players in captivity, failed miserably.

### This Season.

And now, in 1917, with the same team, the Giants are having a terrific fight to hold the lead. Those who studied the strength of the Giants before the season began and compared it with that of the other clubs, announced that "the Giants will be so far out in front by July 1st, that the race will be over." But July 1st has skidded into the vale of yesterday, and the Giants are battling to save themselves from being overwhelmed by the "misfit" Phillies and the "hopeless" Cubs.

McGraw has made many horrible blunders in his judgment of baseball talent. He has been such a poor judge that he has let loose some players who rose almost immediately afterward to the ranking of stars.

McGraw owned Eddie Roush. He didn't think much of him, so he turned him over to the Reds. Roush today is batting about 30 points beyond the best man in the McGraw lineup, is as fast if not faster on the bases than any man on the Giant

roster, and has been fielding with a brilliance that dims that of the men that McGraw kept.

Dick Rudolph, Hank Gowdy, and Ernie Shore once were under McGraw's domination. "Muggsy" couldn't see them. So he turned them loose. Shore has developed into one of the greatest right-hand pitchers in the game—a performer whose work outshines that of any starboard beaver in the Giant lineup. Rudolph is the mainstay of the Braves, pitching staff, and Gowdy developed into a really great backstop. The "great leader" let Charlie Herzog go to the Reds, and soon realized the horrible blunder he had made, and was forced to pay heavily to secure his return. He turned over Milton Stock and Al Demaree to the Phillies. Stock soon developed into a mighty good first baseman, whereas, Lobert, the man McGraw too proved of no help whatever. Demaree, released from the heckling domination of McGraw, has developed wonderfully.

Heinie Groh was another player that McGraw had, and pronounced "N. G." as far as the Giants were concerned, and he was turned drift. The Reds got him and Groh stands out today as one of the best third basemen of the last decade.

The best thing that could happen to baseball in general, and the National League in particular, would be the immediate "firing" of "Muggsy" McGraw whose rowdiness has disgraced it, and whose supposed genius as a leader is proven, in an unbiased analysis, to be largely a myth.

### COBB NEARS 400 MARK.

The Detroit Tigers in the Best Hitting Club.

Ty Cobb is nearing the 400 mark. The Detroit star, piling up 24 points in his last ten games, is batting .382, according to unofficial averages released yesterday. Including last Wednesday's games, he has driven out 100 hits for a total of 153 bases. Three home runs, twelve triples and twenty doubles stand out in this remarkable batting performance. In addition, the Georgian is showing daring speed on the bases. Overcoming a big lead, Cobb tied Weaver of Chicago for the honors in runs scored, having crossed the plate 47 times. He has stolen 20 bases. Chapman and Roth of Cleveland continue to show the way in sacrifice hitting and base stealing with 36 and 28 respectively. Roth has stolen home four times this season. Pipp of New York is in possession of home-run honors with six. Detroit retained its lead in team batting with .251.

Leading batters for half their club's games: Cobb, Detroit, .383; Speaker, Cleveland, .350; Sisler, St. Louis, .329; McInnis, Philadelphia, .329; Sloan, St. Louis, .316; Milan, Washington, .308; Chapman, Cleveland, .304; Heilmann, Detroit, .297; Jacobson, St. Louis, .288; Felsch, Chicago, .284.

The leading pitchers among those participating in fifteen or more games, rated according to earned runs per game, is Cicotte of Chicago. He has taken part in 23 games, won 12 and lost 6, with an earned run average of 1.19.

Cruise of St. Louis and Roush of Cincinnati are still fighting it out for batting honors in the National League. Cruise, with an average of .348, is leading by one point. Hans Wagner is batting .324 for twenty-seven games. He has made 24 hits. Carey of Pittsburgh deposed Robertson of New York for honors in base stealing with eighteen. Hornsby tied Cravath of Philadelphia for home-run hitting. Each has made seven. Cincinnati displaced Philadelphia for honors in team batting with 266.

Leading batters for half of their club's games: Cruise, St. Louis, .348; Roush, Cincinnati, .347; Hornsby, St. Louis, .323; Fischer, Pittsburgh, .315; Rawlings, Boston, .312; Wheat, Brooklyn, .310; Cravath, Philadelphia, .308; Neale, Cincinnati, .308; Zimmerman, New York, .305; Olson, Brooklyn, .301; Anderson, New York, is rated as the leading pitcher, having participated in 15 games, won 8 and lost 5, with 167 earned runs per game.

### One-Mile Swim Record. Broken

At San Diego, Cal., Norman Ross, of the Olympic Club of San Francisco broke the national A. A. U. record for the mile swim, making the distance in 24 minutes and 10 seconds. The record was held by Ludy Langer, whose time was 24 minutes 59 1-5 seconds.

### THE REASON RUTH GOT OFF LIGHTLY

Ban Johnson Was Afraid He Would Jump to the Outlaws.

Fans wherever baseball is talked are still discussing how Ban Johnson let "Babe" Ruth "down with a little fine of \$100 and one week's layoff after making a more flagrant attack on Umpire "Brick" Owens than "Muggsy" McGraw did on Lord Byron's jaw. But there is a strong reason for Ban Johnson's act.

Late last week Frank Miller, manager of the Upland Delaware County League team, in his wild scramble to find a man for Chief Bender's shoes to hurl against Chester, Pa., stepped off the train in Boston armed with a satchel of John P. Crozer's yellowbacks. One hour later Miller was in private conference with "Babe" Ruth at his apartment in a residential suburb of Boston. The conference was arranged by telegraph.

Ruth listened to the story painted of the Delaware County League made famous by Frank Baker and the millionaire backers of the circuit. After hearing this, Miller asked Ruth what his salary was in the American league. After Ruth submitted the figures, Miller, to the surprise of the suspended player, said: "I will give you the same and you will have only to pitch once a week."

"Give me time to think," replied Ruth, and it was agreed the terms would be laid over until Friday evening. Ruth, still loyal to Manager Jack Barry, got his manager on the telephone. The consequences was Johnson was advised what was going on.

Miller had returned to Upland and got in conference with John P. Crozer and Albert R. Granger, president and vice-president of the club. A few hours later Ruth received a telegram stating that the American League salary of the Upland team would pay his wife's expenses here and pay whatever fine the American League imposed at the end of the season for his jumping to the "millionaire" circuit. Ruth took this telegram to Manager Jack Barry and again Ban Johnson was advised. Late Saturday night the American head handed out Ruth's mild punishment.

### PROVE PHILLIES BETTER.

Moran's Men Hit and Field Better Than Giants.

Just as the averages are daily proving, figures of the half season mark show that in the American League Boston and Chicago are working toward the same end with such concentration that there is little difference in their accomplishments. However, by using the same process of figuring with the Phillies and Giants the subjects, the Phillies should be leading.

Including all games to date the champion Red Sox have scored 1245 runs, have hit safely 513 runs, have accepted 2,644 chances in the field, and have committed eighty-five errors. Against this record the White Sox have scored 256 runs, have 518 hits to their credit, have accepted 2,644 chances and have perpetrated eighty-six errors.

As a scoring machine and as a hitting force the White Sox show slightly more punch at this stage of the drive, but otherwise there is little to choose between the teams. The Giants have scored 246 runs, have accumulated 516 hits, have accepted 2,427 fielding chances, and have ninety errors charged against them. The Reds probably wonder what new country it is they have invaded since they entered the first division.

### SHOCKER BURT.

Yankees' Spit Ball Pitcher Injures His Arm.

Urban Shocker, the Yankees' young spit ball pitcher, fell victim to the hoodoo that trips faithfully in the wake of the team. Shocker injured his arm in the eleventh inning of the game with the Red Sox. An X-ray has revealed a fracture near the elbow. He will be out of the game for at least a month.

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