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### Baseball Briefs

The Braves have a splendid centre-fielder in Powell, also a hard-hitting right fielder in Wickland.  
If Guy Morton doesn't weaken, the Clevelanders will be near the top in pitching skill. Stanley Coveleskie and Jim Bagby are the mainstays.  
The Brooklynns are not hopeless. They will do better when their pitchers are in shape. Maybe Zach Wheat soon will see the handwriting on the wall and report for duty.  
Minor Jones, 3rd, a young Florida pitcher, who was with the Braves, has been sent home by Manager Stallings. He has had no experience in professional baseball.  
Roy Schmandt, a first baseman, may be the missing link at Brooklyn's middle bag. He is playing fast ball, although the position is new to him. Dressen is making good as the Tigers' new first baseman. Hugh Jennings says that he is a better fielder and hitter than George Burns, who was turned over to Connie Mack.

### THE SLUGGER.

When he steps to the platter the fans start a clatter,  
And urge him to peel the old onion.  
They expect him to ride the curving-horseshide  
Till the outfielders pick up a bunion.  
They call him a whale with the hickory flail,  
Though his swat mark be much below par;  
He makes the fans smile when he hits 'em a mile,  
And hence he is hailed as a star.  
Though he fumbles the pill till the manager's ill,  
The rooters excuse every muff;  
"Well, he made a swell try," is the fans' alibi,  
That drive took a hop that was tough!  
He isn't to blame if he loses a game,  
Not if we hard to the prattle  
Of fans who excuse the guy who can lose.  
The pill at some stage of the battle.  
So, youths who aspire to set leagues 'afire,  
Slip us your closest attention—  
Belabor the pill with the greatest good will  
And you'll come in for honorable mention.  
Though you stumble and stutter and fumble and putter  
And field all your drives with your shins,  
Just slug 'em a mile—you'll find after a while  
Hard hitting offsets all your sins.  
—BY MATT FOLEY.

### Alexander Well Insured.

The Cubs plan to be fully protected against an accident to Grover Alexander, their famous \$50,000 pitcher. Accident insurance amounting to \$65,000 will be taken out on Alex., according to Manager Mitchell. Mitchell himself outlined the policies, which will be signed as soon as the clauses are ratified by the company. This deal is purely a safety first measure, not a publicity stunt, as were many risk items announced during the days of the Feds.  
Alex is in class 1 of the draft but the Cubs will have to take a chance on losing him to Uncle Sam, as this phase of the case was not touched by the insurance company. The \$65,000 mentioned by Mitchell may be the price paid for Alex, which was not announced. Fred made this significant remark:  
"You know, a ball club insures a star for about what he costs, although later the insurance may be increased as the man becomes more valuable."

### "Matty" Will Remain.

Christopher Mathewson, manager of the Cincinnati Nationals, announced that he will remain with that team for the present at least, and will not accept the invitation extended by the officials of the Y.M.C.A. to go to France and promote baseball among the American soldiers over there.

Clark M. Sherman, widely known as a horseman and a member of the National Trotting Association, is dead.

### TROPHIES FOR OARSMEN

Judge McDonald of Brockville Donates Cups For Fours.

At the annual meeting of the Brockville Rowing Club Judge McDonald presented Charles Curran, Charles Seace, Stanley Barton and W. G. Osmond with cups given by him emblematic of the spring championship fours of last season.  
The Judge will make a similar donation for the next regatta. Largely on account of the membership being depleted by enlistments in the overseas forces, many of whom have won distinction, the Brockville Rowing Club will most likely confine its efforts this season to regattas for spring and summer fairs.

Officers elected were: President, Kirby G. Starr; Vice-Presidents, V. F. Kincaid, W. G. McClellan; Secretary, Dr. Carroll J. Curran, L. C. Dargavel, V. B. Bannerman; Captain, James MacLaren.

### RECORD OFFER MADE.

Unknown Club Bids \$100,000 For Babe Ruth.  
Harry H. Frazee, president of the Boston American League Club, says that since the opening of the baseball season he had been offered more than \$100,000 for George H. (Babe) Ruth, star left-hander pitcher and batter. In adding that he had rejected the offer, Mr. Frazee said: "I might as well sell the franchise and the whole club as sell Ruth. The sum named was three times as much as was paid for Tris Speaker, and, of course, is far and away bigger than any figure that has been used in baseball. But it is ridiculous to talk about it. Ruth is our big ace. He's the most talked-of, most sought-for, most colorful ball player in the game."  
President Frazee would not disclose the identity of the club that made the offer.

### WOMEN AVIATORS.

To Meet In Matches At Sheepshead Bay.

Ruth Law and Katherine Stinson, the world's greatest girl fliers, will meet in a match race for the championship of the Universe at the Sheepshead Bay Speedway on Memorial Day, May 30th. The race will be held in conjunction with the automobile speed carnival, the feature of which will be the Harkness handicap at 100 miles.

The Misses Stinson and Law, while the greatest air performers of their sex, have never met in a match, and this meeting will go a long way toward determining the real "Queen of the air." William H. Wellman, who is conducting the Decoration Day meet in negotiating with the two girls and both have tentatively agreed to the match.

### Soldier Teams Playing Ball.

Ottawa Citizen: Though there will be no professional baseball and very little of the amateur brand in the Capital this summer, the concrete stand at Lansdowne Park is resounding these days with shouts of future diamond celebrities and war heroes. The members of the Depot Battalion, stationed there, have taken to the great American game enthusiastically, and the artillerymen of the 22nd and 24th batteries, with Lieut. Frank Shugrue as coach, have likewise plunged into it. The diamond is drying out rapidly, and every evening sees a big turnout of the khaki clad athletes. Teams are being formed, and baseball will, no doubt, help immensely to make the lives of the soldiers more cheerful.

### Call to Matty From France.

Christy Mathewson, a famous baseball pitcher and manager of the Cincinnati Reds, has received an appeal from the American expeditionary forces asking him to "come over" and take charge of baseball in France.

The appeal to Matty came through the War Personnel Board of the Young Men's Christian Association after his selection by a vote of the majority of the men in France.

A New York despatch gives it out that George Kennedy, the Montreal sport promoter, has made an offer to stage the Willard-Fulton bout in Montreal.

### GIBSON JOINS U.S. ARMY.

Canadian Catcher and Big League Star New Battery Captain.

George Gibson, the veteran catcher, who proved of considerable service to the New York Giants last year, will not play with them this season.

Though Gibson's name has been included in the list of Giants it was learned that he has enlisted in the United States army. He is stationed at Camp Zachary Taylor, near Louisville, and has been made captain of a field battery. No sooner had the catcher reached camp than he got busy organizing a baseball team. There is quite a lot of minor and even major league material at the camp, and Gibson hopes to send his charges against several professional clubs.

Gibson's enlisting at the age of 38, and in spite of having a family, is the greatest sacrifice yet made by a professional baseball player in this season. Gibson came to the Giants last year as a coach of catchers and when called on to play an active role he made good even beyond his own expectations. He proved that he still could handle himself well behind the bat and that he still could hit the ball. At his age, and particularly after he had been given his unconditional release by the Pirates, his opportunity with the Giants was one which mighty few veterans would have given up voluntarily, but the call came and Gibson hearkened to it.

Gibson is a native of Canada, having been born in London, Ontario. And Gibson was accepted despite twisted fingers, gnarled joints, fractured bones and "catchers' squat."

### GERMANS RELEASE BLOOMER.

Famous English International Liberated From Camp at Ruhleben.

Steve Bloomer, the famous English international soccer player, has been released from Ruhleben Camp, near Berlin, where he has been held prisoner since the outbreak of the war, along with Pentland and other notable professionals, and is expected to arrive in England any day.  
The famous player was engaged as coach to a prominent soccer club in Berlin when war was declared. Although his active days in soccer may be nearly over, he will receive a great welcome whenever he reappears in England again. He is also a fine cricketer, and many coach.

### Torontos Want Showdown.

In order to force an issue in the Lajoie case, President McCaffery of the Toronto baseball club has announced that he will not return the \$3,000 paid over to him by the Brooklyn club for the veteran's release. Taking this action he hopes to make the National Commission re-open the case or become parties to a court proceeding. The commission has refused to consider Mr. McCaffery's charges against Owen McGill of Indianapolis club, for alleged tampering. They would give no reasons.

Perry McGillivray, the U. S. swimming marvel, retained his title of 100-yard indoor champion on Saturday at San Francisco.

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