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In the World of Sport

BOSTON BRAVES THE BEST OF ALL THE WORLD'S BASEBALL SERIES TEAMS.

According to John McGraw of the Giants, Who Ought to Know, and He Gives Figures.

John McGraw, who knows a lot about the strength of world's series baseball contenders, mostly from adverse experience, was asked which of all the teams since 1905—when the first series under National Commission supervision was played—was the strongest. His reply:

"For effective strength in the box, ours was in 1905, for we had Mathewson and McGinnity, invisible pitchers. Otherwise the Cubs when they were winning pennants in succession or the Athletics when they were beating us in 1911, 1912 and 1913 were the best for all-around strength."

As a matter of fact, the hardest hitting and second best fielding by any world's series winner in the period specified was done by the Athletics in 1910. They beat the Cubs that year, four games to one, and in doing so made a batting average of .318 and a fielding average of .980. That is the best world's series batting average and the second best fielding average.

The best fielding average was also made by the Athletics, .985, in 1913. The two teams were much the same in make-up. Davis, Collins, Barry and Baker were the infield both years, and a great infield they were. The outfielders in 1910 were Strunk, Lord, Hartel and Murphy; three years later they were Murphy, Oldring and Strunk. Bender and Coombs were the pitching strength in 1910, and Bender, Bush and Plank

did the mound work against the Giants three years later.

Schang was the best pitcher in 1913, and Thomas and Lopp did it in 1910. Either was a powerful combination, strong in fielding, batting and pitching, but considering the exceptional batting, sharp fielding and high class pitching alone by the 1910 team and that the Cubs, a hitherto invincible club, were beaten easily, it appears that the 1910 Athletics were the best of all the teams in the world's series. At any rate, they were on figures.

Braves Unbeatable.

That they were a powerful team in reality is a fact thoroughly established and recognized, and yet figures and individual stars to the contrary notwithstanding, I believe the Braves of 1914, managed by Goo, Stallings, for normal, if not for physical reasons, were the most effective team—the best equipped to win the world's series that ever took the field.

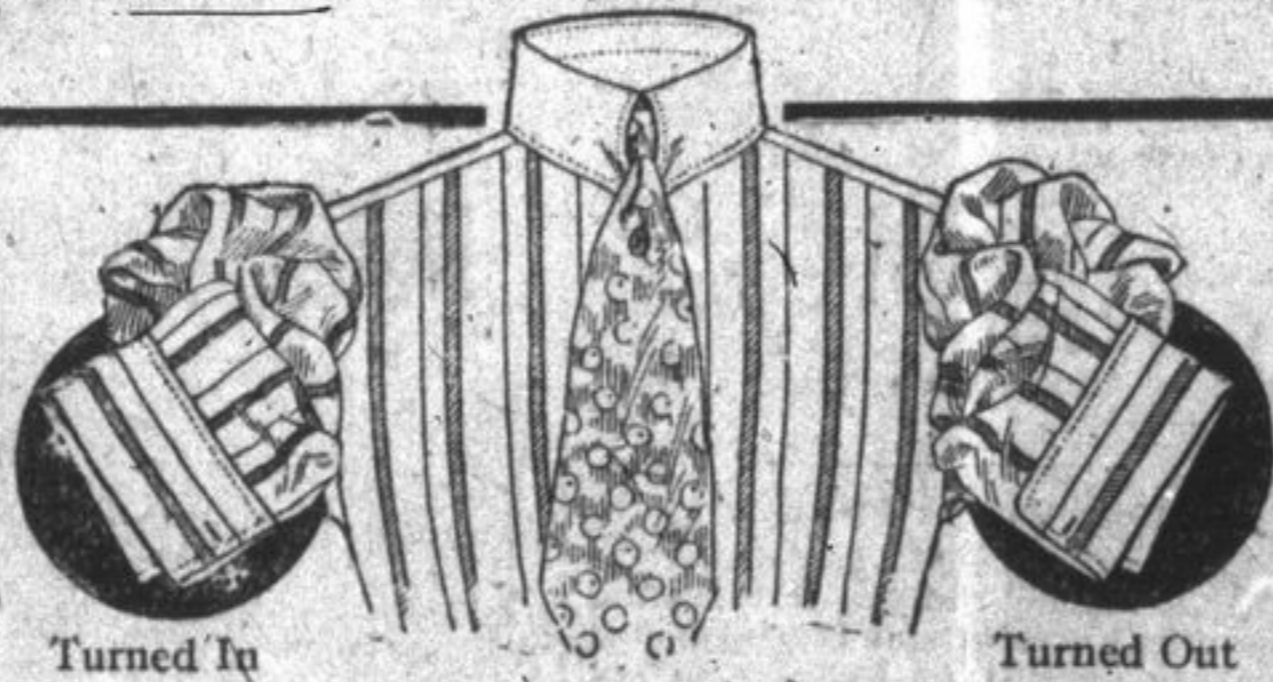
The Braves, when they won four straight from the Athletics, who still

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option of buying or having the has been appointed, with an advance extended for another period ory committee also. The rink will of 21 years. A building committee he erected this season.

presented that old formidable front, batted .244 and fielded .978. They had Gowdy behind the bat, a superb pitching trio in Rudolph, Tyler and James, therefrom getting much of their telling strength for a world's series; Schmidt, Evers, Maraville and Deal on the bases, and in the outfield Whitted, Mann, Connolly and Moran.

Here was real quality in the box, an infield partly class and partly not, consequently unbalanced; a man behind the bat who rose to extraordinary heights and an outfield of mediocrity. Yet there was a determination, a spirit, a fitting poise and confidence about this team, which, added to every man being keyed up to his best, made this the best of all world's series clubs as things turned out. No team before or after, to my way of thinking, with all its physical superiority, could have beaten the Braves in a world's series.

The Cubs rank high. The Cubs of 1905, 1907 and 1908 must always be considered with respect, the kind of team you like yourself. They rank high among the elect, for such top grade players as Kling, Brown, Overall, Reulbach, Pfister, Chance, Evers, Tinker, Steinfield, Holman, Schutz, Slagle and Shockard composed them. They hit .355 when they beat the Detroit in 1907 and fielded .954. In base running in that series they far and away excelled any other contender. They stole eighteen bases, an unequalled number for the October classic. Yet they were beaten in 1906 by the White Sox, who batted below .240 and fielded around .950.

The White Sox of 1906 were another instance of figures being deceptive. With their pitching—they had Walsh, White and Owen—and batters to deliver in a pinch, and send in the few runs they needed, they were as well qualified, notwithstanding the best team in impressive array of material, as anybody to win a world's series.

When the Giants won the series in 1905 they did it with a batting average of only .208 and a fielding percentage of .972. But they did have Mathewson and McGinnity, with Wittie in reserve, just as the White Sox in 1906 had Walsh and White and the Braves in 1914 had Rudolph, James and Tyler.

The Athletics in 1910 and subsequent years when they were winning the series had great pitching strength too—Coombs, Elick and Bender, for instance. How they would have fared against Mathewson and McGinnity, or Rudolph, Tyler and James, or Walsh and White as opposing battery strength is the purest conjecture (save that Plank and Bender couldn't carry the Athletics through in 1914). Yet the Athletics with their own pitching in 1910, the fact that they did the best hitting of anybody in world's series that year, and that against high class pitchers, were the best of world's series aggregations so far as percentages are a guide.

Best Hitting Team. The Giants of 1905 had Bresnahan behind the bat. Therefore no team excelled them in batting strength. They had McGinnity, Gilbert, Dahien and Devlin on the bases, and Browne, Donlin and Mertes in the outfield. They were capable offensively, and though they didn't hit in that series, they won it, and, with their pitching, must be rated as one of the best world's series clubs. The best five, it would appear, were the Athletics of 1910, the Giants of 1905, the White Sox of 1906, the Braves of 1914 and the Cubs of 1907.

In 1912 the Red Sox in their memorable series with the Giants batted .220 and fielded .958. They had Stahl, Yerkes, Wagner and Gardner in the infield, Speaker, Hooper and Lewis in the outfield, Cady and Carrigan catchers, and Wood, Collins Hall, Bedient and O'Brien pitchers. That was a fine outfield, a fine infield of the left in fact, good catching and ordinary pitching. The pitching hadn't the calibre to make them one of the best world's series clubs.

The White Sox in 1917 batted well. Their percentage was .227. Their fielding was .952. They had Schalk behind the bat, Faber, Crotto, Danforth, Benz and Russell to do the pitching; Gandil, Collins, Weaver and McMullen in the infield, Jackson, Felsch, Leibold and J. Collins to do the outfielding. Yet in a world's series way they were not impressive.

The Red Sox in '15, '16 and '18 played deftly and successfully, and had such effective pitchers as Leonard, Shore, Ruth and Mays to help them to victory. With those pitchers and with Hooper, Lewis, Scott and Barry back of them they would be formidable any year, but I don't consider that they demonstrated their superiority at the expense of an efficient team as at least five other series winners have done.

Lacrosse For Hamilton. An effort is being made to revive lacrosse in Hamilton, some players of renown having made this city their home during the past year. Among them are Oscar Anderson, who played senior with London and Wingham, and intermediate with Preston. Elgin Anderson, who played intermediate with Preston; Services Stricker, who played with Guelph and Wingham, and I. Spalding who played senior with Guelph and London and intermediate with St. Mary's. There are a number of other good players in the city and they feel that if St. Catharines and Brantford get back in the game this year, they would be able to figure in a very compact ground, and select dates which would not conflict with the Hamilton professional baseball team.

New Curling Rink for Cobourg. The Cobourg Waverley Curling Club's new rink is now an assured thing. It will be a brick structure, costing about \$5,000, and will be located on Queen street, where the club is leasing a suitable lot, with