

LATEST LOCAL

SPORTING

GENERAL REVIEWS

NEWS

TIMELY COMMENTS

THINKERS



From left to right of the picture we have: Dauss, Smith, Thurston, Shocker, Rommel, Mogridge, Ehmke, Pennock.

BY BILLY EVANS.

In baseball the term "smart pitcher" is applied to the twirler who uses his head as well as his arm.

A smart pitcher does not necessarily have the most ability. In a great many cases it is lack of stuff that causes him to resort to strategy.

Pitchers with much natural ability usually depend entirely on their stuff to get them by. Often such pitchers do not resort to headwork until the arm starts to give way under the strain.

Walter Johnson and Grover Cleveland Alexander, two of the greatest

pitchers of all time, frankly confess they never gave much thought to brain stuff until they first suffered a lame arm.

Of the present-day crop of pitchers in the major leagues, Urban Shocker of the St. Louis Browns is generally conceded to be the craftiest.

Here is the all-star "gray matter" pitching staff of the American League:

St. Louis Browns—Urban Shocker. Chicago White Sox—Hollis Thurston.

Cleveland Indians—Sherry Smith. Washington Nationals—George Mogridge.

New York Yankees—Herb Pennock. Philadelphia Athletics—Ed. Rommel.

Detroit Tigers—George Dauss. Boston Red Sox—Howard Ehmke.

While every successful major league pitcher must use his head as well as his arm, these eight pitchers stand out.

Walter Johnson, perhaps the greatest pitcher of all time, now goes in strongly for the smart stuff. Once upon a time Walter simply threw the ball by the better. He worked on the theory that you couldn't hit what you couldn't see.

To-day Walter Johnson is rated one of the wisest pitchers in the game. When his arm wavered he called on his brain for reserve power.

In selecting these eight smart pitchers, natural ability has been put in the back ground to a certain extent. There are any number of right-handers in the American League who have more stuff than Hollis Thurston and plenty of left-handers with more natural ability than George Mogridge.

"The wise pitcher of to-day is the fellow who uses his head no matter how much stuff he has," says the great Walter Johnson.

THINK TIME RIPE FOR NEW LEAGUES

London Free Press Comments on "Knotty" Lee's Alleged Plans for Pro. Body.

With reference to the story of Knotty Lee's intention of forming a new Canadian pro. league the London Free Press says:

"With the Michigan-Ontario League facing the darkest period in its six-year history, due to the orphaned Grand Rapids club, and general financial difficulty throughout the circuit, rumors of the organization of a Canadian loop have again arisen. "It was pointed out that London and Hamilton have little in common with other members of the league. There is no intercity rivalry, but there is a long jump and financial losses to those cities to carry out the schedule. Proponents of a Canadian league believe there is intercity baseball rivalry between cities which they name as candidates for such a circuit.

"Those who are on the inside of things believe that London, St. Thomas, Kitchener, Guelph or Peterboro, Brantford and Hamilton could form a six-team league that would stir up sentiment, prove a go and bring money into the coffers of the club.

"It is also said in reliable sources that Knotty Lee, former business manager of Toronto, in the International League, will organize such a league this winter. He succeeded in forming the Mint League in 1919, when the wise-acres thought it couldn't be done, and he may have similar success in Canada.

"Rumors of the founding of a Canadian league among these cities are based on the following facts: "That all are good baseball towns, supporting independent teams which have large followings.

"That all are within a radius of 120 miles, making possible two-hour

inter-urban jumps to most of them and thus eliminating the cost of long road jumps

"That for two years before the war such a league thrived and was only disbanded because the war finally detracted interest from baseball.

Should such a league be formed it would be in either Class D or C, it is reported, providing for small salary limits, in accord with the size of the cities."

PLAY-OFF ANNOUNCED FOR CENTRAL GROUP

First Game in Kingston on Wednesday Next With Second in Peterboro.

Late Thursday afternoon President B. N. Steacy of the Kingston Central Ontario League club telephoned that word had been received from Oshawa concerning the playoffs in that circuit.

The first game is scheduled for Wednesday next in Kingston and the return game for the following Saturday in Peterboro. Umpires Dell, Thorne and Hallinan have been slated to handle the games.

Just how the teams will shape up in a playoff contest is problematical but they should certainly put up a lively series. The Ponies romped home to a glorious finish when they trimmed up Belleville 12-2 in Belleville, and Peterboro won eight straight games to wind up the second half and win it, being saved the necessity of playing off a postponed game with Belleville by Kingston's victory.

Serrh, Heckman, Harrison, for Peterboro and Gallagher, Kelly and Cherry, for Kingston are the boys who will tell the tale. If Heckman can stand every game, which he will very likely be called upon to do, it will be a hard row for the Kingstonsians.

However, with the batting spurt they have taken lately, hitting four-

teen safeties for twenty-eight bases in their second last game and eleven hits for sixteen bases in their last one, the Ponies should give Al. Heckman lots of trouble for once he "goes up" he usually stays there, lacking the comeback ability of Oulette, the Belleville ace.

BASEBALL SCORES

THURSDAY'S GAMES.

National League. New York 1, Pittsburgh 3. Brooklyn 5, Cincinnati 0. Cny games scheduled.

American League. St. Louis 8, New York 5. Cleveland 0, Washington 1. Detroit 5, Philadelphia 11. Chicago 3, Boston 4.

International League. Toronto 5-4, Newark 6-3. Syracuse 6, Baltimore 13. Rochester 4, Reading 0. Buffalo 8, Jersey City 4.

THE STANDING.

National League.			
	Won	Lost	P.C.
New York	70	40	.636
Pittsburgh	63	44	.588
Chicago	59	48	.551
Brooklyn	60	50	.545
Cincinnati	58	55	.513
St. Louis	45	63	.417
Philadelphia	40	66	.377
Boston	39	68	.364

American League.			
	Won	Lost	P.C.
New York	64	49	.566
Detroit	62	49	.559
Washington	62	51	.549
St. Louis	58	53	.523
Cleveland	53	59	.473
Chicago	51	59	.464
Boston	48	62	.436
Philadelphia	48	64	.429

International League.			
	Won	Lost	P.C.
Baltimore	86	33	.723
Toronto	72	49	.595
Newark	61	59	.508
Rochester	62	60	.507
Buffalo	57	53	.475
Syracuse	55	64	.463
Reading	45	69	.395
Jersey City	38	79	.325

DO YOU KNOW BASEBALL?

By Billy Evans.

Questions. 1. With runners on first base, batter hits a ground ball that strikes the base umpire and bounds into the shortstop's hands. A double play was completed and umpire allowed same.

The ball went directly from the bat to the umpire, no play being made on it.—J. E. D.

2. Batter hits the ball to deep centre field and beats the relay to the plate for a home run. As the runner rounded third, the catcher slapped him on the back. The team in the field insisted that the catcher pushed the runner, thereby making him try for the plate.

The umpire called the runner out for interference on the part of the catcher. Please explain the coaching rule relative to this play.—S. R. E.

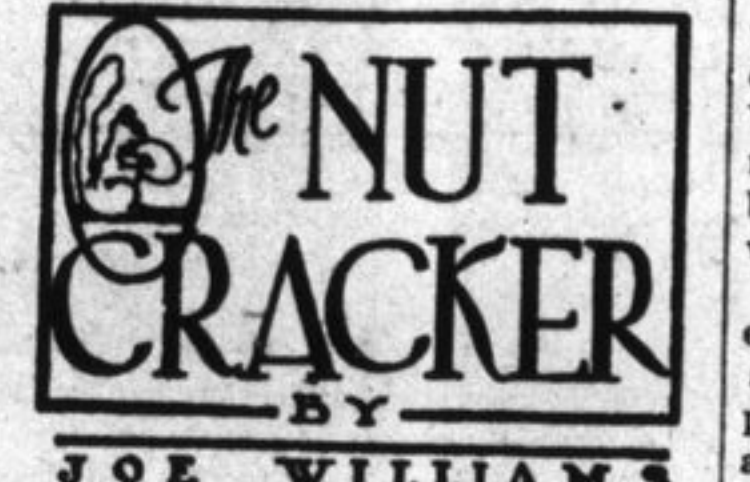
Answers. 1. When a batted ball on which no play has been made hits the umpire, the batsman is entitled to first base. No runner can advance unless forced.

The umpire erred in allowing a double play. Batter goes to first, runner on first to second.

2. Coacher must not come into contact with baserunner rounding third on a hit where there is a chance for a play.

When a home run is made on a ball hit over the fence, no attention is paid to any act of the coacher, as no play is really possible. However, when ball remains in

field of play, any act of the coacher in touching the runner rounding third can be construed as interference by the umpire.



Despite the fact that the British-American polo matches are set for September, the annual clambake of the Paper Hangers' Union will be carried out as per schedule.

Some gifted alienist may yet take the stand and prove to our complete satisfaction that the defeat of the White Sox in 1919 was merely the outgrowth of a "childish fantasy."

It is broadly hinted that Firpo does most of his road work lying



The Canadians can not understand why Hagen declined to compete in their championship... Maybe he's still got some left.

There is this to be said in favor of barn-yard golf... You never hear the players crab about missing three-foot putts.

The French race horse, Epinard, likes to be petted... But please don't try to hold him in your lap, girls.

Out in Seattle the other day the fans gave old Yvan Gregg a clock and Mr. O'Goofy feels sure it must have been a grandfather's clock.

Ten golfers have been picked to defend the American bowl... We didn't know there was a bowl in this country worth defending.

Now that the lawn tennis officials have shut up, Bill Tilden hasn't any opposition at all.

Willie Ritchie is coming back... This is further proof that the fighter who retires always buys a round-trip ticket.

Al Reach was the first ball player to be paid a salary... A lot of folks think Cobb was the first to earn one.

Mountain climbing is the most popular sport in Austria... Social climbing is the most popular sport in this country.

May Escape Cellar. It begins to appear that the Phil- lies, chronic tallenders, will land in a more sedate position this season. Fact is, they stand a good chance to get as high as sixth, something unusual for the Quakertown gang.

Fletcher has his men playing the best brand of pastime; they have exhibited in quite some time.

After Fifth Championship. "Big Bill" Tilden, national tennis champion, will seek his fifth consecutive crown this summer. Tilden first won the American honors in 1929. He has held them thus far, winning with comparative ease in 1921-22-23. It ranks as a modern record for the classic.

A heated temper seldom warms other people toward us.

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NOTHING NEW

By Billy Evans

"The boys of to-day haven't shown me anything new in baseball.

"It's just the same old game. No faster than when I quit the big show. "In some respects, it seems to me that it has gone back considerably, pitching for instance.

"The crack batters of today are not any better than those of 10 to 15 years ago. The ball is livelier and the pitching poorer."

Billy Sullivan, famous catcher of the Chicago White Sox in the days of Fielder Jones and the "Hitless Wonders," so expressed himself to me the other day. Since retiring from baseball he has lived in the far north-west.

This fall two of Billy's sons will enter Notre Dame. Both are star athletes. One of the boys gives promise of being as great a catcher as his father. Accompanied by the boys he made the trip from Oregon by auto.

Sullivan had been watching the White Sox for several days and rather wished that he had been born 10 years later.

It was Billy Sullivan who handled the delivery of Ed. Walsh when the premier spitball pitcher was at the top of his game. Other great pitchers on the Sox staff at that time were "Doc" White, Nick Altrock and Frank Smith.

"Not having seen a big league game for years I was anxious to learn the cause of the slugging that now features major league baseball," said Sullivan.

"Twenty years ago if a dozen hitters finished the season with an average of .300 or better it was considered a big year from a batting standpoint. Now there are three times that many, often more.

"After watching the 1924 model big league teams in action I am positive that the batters of to-day are no better than hitters like Lajoie, Wagner, Delahanty and others.

"The great increase in batting is due to a decided falling off in pitching. However, I can offer no reason for the apparent slump in the work of the pitchers."

Sullivan is of the opinion that less inside baseball is being played to-day than when he was a star. Incidentally he believes that catching is a far easier task than when he was guiding the destinies of the White Sox pitchers.

"It strikes me that the slugging game has changed the job of the backstop considerably. No longer does the opposition keep the catcher worried.

"When I was catching it was a constant battle of wits between base runner, catcher and batter. On every ball pitched the catcher had to have his head up.

"In those days one run meant a great deal, often the ball game, naturally more inside stuff was pulled in an effort to put over a tally.

"Trying to break up the hit-and-run seems to be the biggest task of the modern catcher. The old-time catcher had a dozen worries to this one."

Sullivan can't see that the game has changed any for the better, and says he would like to be playing with the White Sox of 1906 in the present American League race.

"I would start spending some of the world series money right now," is the way he puts it.

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