

LATEST LOCAL

SPORTING

GENERAL REVIEWS

NEWS

TIMELY COMMENTS

AGE DOES NOT DIM THE BATTING EYE

Did Timers in Major Leagues Go as Strong as Ever They Did.

(By Billy Evans.)

Age and service don't appear to dim the battling eyes of the big league stars.

And with the exception of the sluggers of the Ruth type, most of the veterans are mighty hard to strike out.

In the American League Joe Sewall was the toughest batter to whiff last season, striking out only four times, and Eddie Collins, despite 20 campaigns in the big show, was second, striking out only eight times.

Collins has a great eye, isn't bothered by any style of pitching, can catch a ball on the outside hard to left field, fall away on pitches in side and pull them down the right field foul line a mile a minute.

Collins has a pet superstition which he religiously follows relative to striking out. When he steps to the plate he always has a wad of gum on the button of his cap. The moment he gets two strikes on him he puts it in his mouth and starts chewing it. If he reaches first it immediately is replaced on the button of the cap.

Interesting Facts.

A Glance at last year's strike-out column reveals the rather interesting fact that Ty Cobb and Tris Speaker, two of the game's greatest batters, fell victims to the wiles of the American League pitchers only 12 times. Sam Rice, Washington star, fanned on only 10 occasions.

Johanny McInnis of the Pittsburgh Pirates, who earned first base with George Grantham, always a difficult player to strike out, was fanned only once in the 155 times he came to bat in the National League last season.

Yet, on his very first trip to the plate in the world series, facing Walter Johnson at his best, "Stuffy" looked over three fast ones with hardly time to get his bat off his shoulder.

He struck out twice in the series in 14 trips to the plate, while he was a strikeout victim only once during the season. Peculiar.

Aside from the record of having been struck out only once during the 1925 season, "Stuffy" McInnis boasts another unusual performance. During an entire season of play at first base for Cleveland, he made only one error and that an undesired one.

Rubber-Bat Rice.

While Sam Rice has a keen pair

of eyes, he doesn't get anywhere near the bases on balls one would expect.

This might be explained by saying that once Sam gets the pitcher in the hole he begins picking on every crippler, cuts at every ball that looks good enough to hit.

Rice, with his great speed and the fact that he seems to be in motion as he hits the ball, is a most dangerous batsman. He gets what often appear to be fluke hits, due to these assets.

In American League circles opposing players refer to Rice's bat as being made of rubber. When he steps to the plate one often hears the remark:

"Well let us get old 'Rubber-Bat'."

Due to the fact that he is hard to fool, hits lots of balls after they seem almost past him, Rice gets many "Texas Leaguers" on balls just out of reach.

Easy to Whiff.

The free-swingers, the slugger-type batsman, are the easiest to set down on strikes. With them they either do or don't and, when they fall to hit safely, they often are struck out.

Take the three famous sluggers of the New York Yankees—Ruth, Meusel and Gehrig. The Babe whiffed 68 times last season, Meusel 55 and Gehrig 49.

Other free-swingers like McManus of St. Louis, Goslin of Washington, Cuyler of Pittsburgh, Harnett of Chicago and Kelly of New York all were struck out 50 or more times during the season.

A change of pace on the part of the pitcher, which few sluggers can adapt their style to, in part explains the many strikeouts by players who get distance to their drives.

French the Fastest.

Speed is once more becoming a prominent factor in baseball.

With the slugger type game that has been popular for some years, speed lost much of its value.

Now that the teams are resorting to strategy, bringing back some of the inside stuff that has been stored away for many seasons, speed once more comes to the front.

In this connection Billy Evans regards Walter French of the Philadelphia Athletics, the fastest man in the American League.

There are better base runners because French has yet to master the art of getting a big lead. However, no player in the American can step to first or circle the bases as fast as French.

The former West Point star athlete runs close to the ground and travels much faster than his style would make you believe.

The American bison, or true buffalo, has no bump above the shoulders.

SPORTING NOTES AND COMMENT

Victoria and Circle-Six meet again next Wednesday and in the meantime the ardent junior baseball fans are talking over the relative merits of the two teams, their abilities and weaknesses, etc. And "Yummy" Jamieson's pitching also comes in for discussion. Many declare that Jamieson balks nearly every time he throws a ball and others are just as insistent that he doesn't. There is one little paragraph in Rule 84 which will answer the question of whether Jamieson balks or not. Read it for yourself.

When next Wednesday's game comes on hand, we'd like to see Fournier and Buck as opposing pitchers. It's getting monotonous watching Hewitt Smith and Jamieson doing all the throwing. Buck and Fournier have ability but it won't amount to very much in a short time if they are not given a chance. Let's have a change of fingers for once.

The seniors were scheduled to play in Peterboro to-day against the Lift Lock aggregation. It was expected that Heckman and Cairns would be the opposing twirlers. If Heckman is going at all yet, he is apt to start things interesting for the locals.

College-Six and St. Mary's were scheduled in the Midget League game to-day at the Cricket Field, with Dark Horses and Beavers being the attraction in the juvenile game.

Belleville Nationals come back here next Friday evening in a Central Ontario League fixture. With warmer weather there should be better baseball served up than in the first game when miserable weather conditions put a jamper on the play and spoiled what might have been good baseball.

BASEBALL PROBLEMS

(By Billy Evans.)

When two runners are occupying the same base, the situation not being due to any force play, to whom does the base belong?

If the final ending of a play finds two runners on the same base, without any force play figuring in the situation, the base always belongs to the original occupant.

To illustrate: With runners on second and third the batsman hits sharply to the infield which is in close for a play at the plate. The shortstop gets the ball and throws to the catcher ahead of the runner.

In the run-up that follows the batsman gets to second and the other runners are on third before either has been retired, the man from second advancing to third and the other runner getting safely back to his base.

The base belongs to the original occupant. To retire one of the runners standing on the bag it would be necessary to touch the runner who had advanced from second.

If that runner could get safely back to second and the batsman who had reached second could get safely back to first base, everybody would be safe.

BASEBALL SCORES

National League.

Brooklyn 10, New York 1;
Boston 8, Cincinnati 5;
Pittsburgh 5, Chicago 1;
St. Louis-Philadelphia, postponed rain.

American League.

Cleveland 4, Detroit 3;
St. Louis 3, Chicago 0;
Only two games scheduled.

International League.

Toronto 10, Buffalo 3.
The other three scheduled games will be played as double-headers to-day.

STANDING OF CLUBS.

National League.

Club	Won.	Lost.	P.C.
Cincinnati	29	18	.617
Pittsburgh	25	18	.581
Chicago	24	20	.545
Brooklyn	22	21	.511
St. Louis	24	25	.490
New York	22	24	.480
Philadelphia	17	27	.386
Boston	16	27	.372

American League.

Club	Won.	Lost.	P.C.
New York	34	12	.739
Philadelphia	28	21	.571
Washington	24	22	.523
Chicago	25	23	.520
Detroit	25	24	.510
Cleveland	24	24	.500
St. Louis	16	31	.340
Boston	13	32	.289

International League.

Club	Won.	Lost.	P.C.
Baltimore	32	12	.727
Buffalo	35	14	.714
Toronto	31	16	.659
Newark	23	25	.479
Rochester	20	24	.455
Jersey City	18	31	.367
Syracuse	14	28	.333
Reading	12	35	.255

BABE RUTH AIMING AT FIFTY HOME RUNS



THE RUTH OFFENSIVE

Year	G.	A.B.	R.	H.	R.R.	Av.
1919	130	432	103	139	29	.322
1920	142	458	158	172	54	.376
1921	152	540	177	204	59	.378
1922	110	406	94	128	35	.315
1923	152	522	151	205	41	.393
1924	153	529	143	200	46	.378
1925	98	359	61	104	25	.290
1926	?	?	?	?	?	?

Babe Ruth (background) when he established his famous record of 59 home runs and looks to-day.

By Billy Evans.

Babe Ruth would like to make 50 home runs this year.

Even with a less lively ball in use, Babe is an optimistic case and believes there is a chance.

Ruth has set his goal at 50 because he would like to equal or better that mark for the third time in his career.

"Making a half century of four-runners this year would just about give me the win, place and show honors in the home-run derby for all time," is the way Babe explains it.

In 1921 Ruth set his record-breaking mark of 59 homers. The year previous he smacked out 54.

Those two marks make the win and place positions pretty safe and he figures 50 this year would hold down the show honors for some time.

In 1924 Ruth made 46 circuit drives, four more than the best mark ever made in the National League by Rogers Hornsby in 1925. However, the Babe seeks to hit the 50-mark for a third time.

Fandom, in a sense, measures the value of Babe Ruth to his club in the matter of home runs.

This is rather unfair, since Ruth is a remarkable ball player in all departments.

For a big fellow he is fast, covers lots of ground and, next to Tris Speaker, is the best left-handed throwing outfielder in the American League.

And, what is more, Ruth has team success in mind always, rather than individual glory. This year he is more inclined that way than ever.

That fact surely will tend to make his effort to reach the 50-mark in home runs all the more difficult.

Instead of swinging his head off every time he comes to bat, Ruth is upstating the opposition by occasionally laying down a perfect bunt, trying to hit through the spots opened up by the peculiar manner in which most infielders play for him. And every now and then he punches at the ball in an effort to drive it just over the infield.

Ruth, in the first six weeks of play in the 1926 campaign, has kept pace with his schedule of 50 homers for the season. As a matter of fact, he was ahead of his 1921 mark for the same time, the year he made his record of 59.

Regardless of whether Ruth hits his goal of 50, if he can continue his early season form he will have had a great year and made good with a vengeance his comeback threat.

Turkey Dinner

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NOTES FROM DELTA.

Oddfellows Held a Service In The Baptist Church.

Delta, June 5.—The Oddfellows' service was held in the Baptist Church, on Sunday last. Rev. Mr. Davies had charge. A large gathering was present.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Albert Topping and daughters, of Albion, N.Y., were in Delta for the week-end, the guests of Mr. Topping's mother and Mr. Topping's brother, Mr. James Sexton. Mr. and Mrs. Warren and Mr. Carl Teepel and friend were at Mr. and Mrs. William Burns, Sunday last.

Rev. Mr. Keough was attending the conference held in Kingston.

Miss Rachel Johnson was the guest of relatives in Rockport, recently.

Rev. Mr. Lorne Peirce, Toronto, spent a day with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Peirce, Wilfrid Slack and Mr. Gallaher, Toronto, and Miss Marie Slack, of Smith's Falls, were at Arthur Slack's. Mr. Wilfrid Slack purchased a new auto from W. B. Newcome, Plum Hollow, and motored back to Toronto.

Mrs. Girden is nursing Mrs. Benedict at Dr. Kelly's. Miss Mary A. Stevenson of Etba, was the guest of Miss Etta Cardiff. Mrs. Fred Stevens and baby, have gone to Frankville, where Mr. Stevens is employed in a garage.

The W.M.S. was held at the home of Mrs. Robert Freston. Mrs. E. Best is spending a few days with her daughter, Mrs. Dr. Wylie, Bradford, before leaving to spend some time with relatives in Scotland. She will leave Canada on June 17th.

OMPAH FARMERS BUSY.

Mud Lake Bridge Work Completed—Tourists Are Arriving.

Ompah, June 3.—Seed planting is the order of the day here now. Everyone is busy putting in the crops and report the season later than last year.

An enjoyable dance, largely attended was held at M. Hermer's last Tuesday evening. Sunday visitors were William Pennycook and Arthur Stewart, of Trenton, at their homes here; M. Hermer and B. Cunningham at Edward Watson's; Mr. and Mrs. G. Moore at Edward Watson's; Mr. Hermer recently made a business trip to Canoto.

Work is now completed on Mud Lake bridge, making travelling in that vicinity much more comfortable.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Watson, William Watson and William Cox spent a few days in Kingston.

A concert under the auspices of United Church will be held on Friday evening. Mr. and Mrs. T. Burke spent Sunday with Canoto friends.

Already some summer visitors are coming back again to enjoy the pleasure of Ompah scenery and good fishing in Trout Lake.

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