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'Reds Is NOT Dead,' Chirps Bill DeWitt

'Golden Chance for Catchers'--Schalk

Hall-of-Famer Cites Dearth of Top Backstops

'Field Wide Open for Youth Who Has Desire,' Asserts Old-Time White Sox Star

By DAVID CONDON CHICAGO, III.

Baseball today is wide open for the players willing to pay the price of becoming a catcher. The down payment on that price is the desire to catch.

Such is the appraisal of Ray (Cracker) Schalk, all-time White Sox gamecock, who left a king-sized impression on the big leagues.

Schalk's appraisal is made with authority, plus a proud reverence for the great game that made him famous. Now nearing 70, the Hall of Fame catcher of four no-hit games has remained close to baseball as the agile coach of youngsters and collegians. Schalk was an awed farm youngster when he made his major league debut by catching Guy Harris (Doc) White, a White Sox lefty, in Chicago on August 11, 1912—the day before Ray's twentieth birthday. Nor is Schalk ashamed that baseball continues to awe him. He says:

"I still get a thrill just walking into Comiskey Park."

Schalk is a popular figure wherever Chicago sport fans gather, and he enjoys long sessions of conversation about baseball of yesterday and today. He is reticent, however, on two subjects. One is the Black Sox scandal of 1919, which saw eight of his White Sox teammates barred from O. B. for life.

"Tortures of the Damned"
"Those men went through the tortures of the damned," Ray always explains to the curious. "I see no sense in fanning coals that should have been dead for years."

To the many publishers who have offered fancy prices to have a Hall of Famer give "inside information" on the Black Sox players, Schalk always has been curt. "No!" is his stock answer.

The second type of interview that Schalk shuns is one comparing yesterday's players with the stars of today.

"I'm not catching today, so how could I compare the modern pitchers and stars of my day, like Ed Cicotte and Ed Walsh? All I can tell you is that Cicotte threw every pitch baseball has seen. We called his slider a sailer. And Walsh was the master of all spitball pitchers. Walsh would throw a spitter on 3-and-0. If they hit Walsh's spitter at all, they hit it down. So Ed had an unusually high number of assists for a pitcher.

"Walsh won 27 games in 1912, the

Receiving Royalty ∴ by Amadee

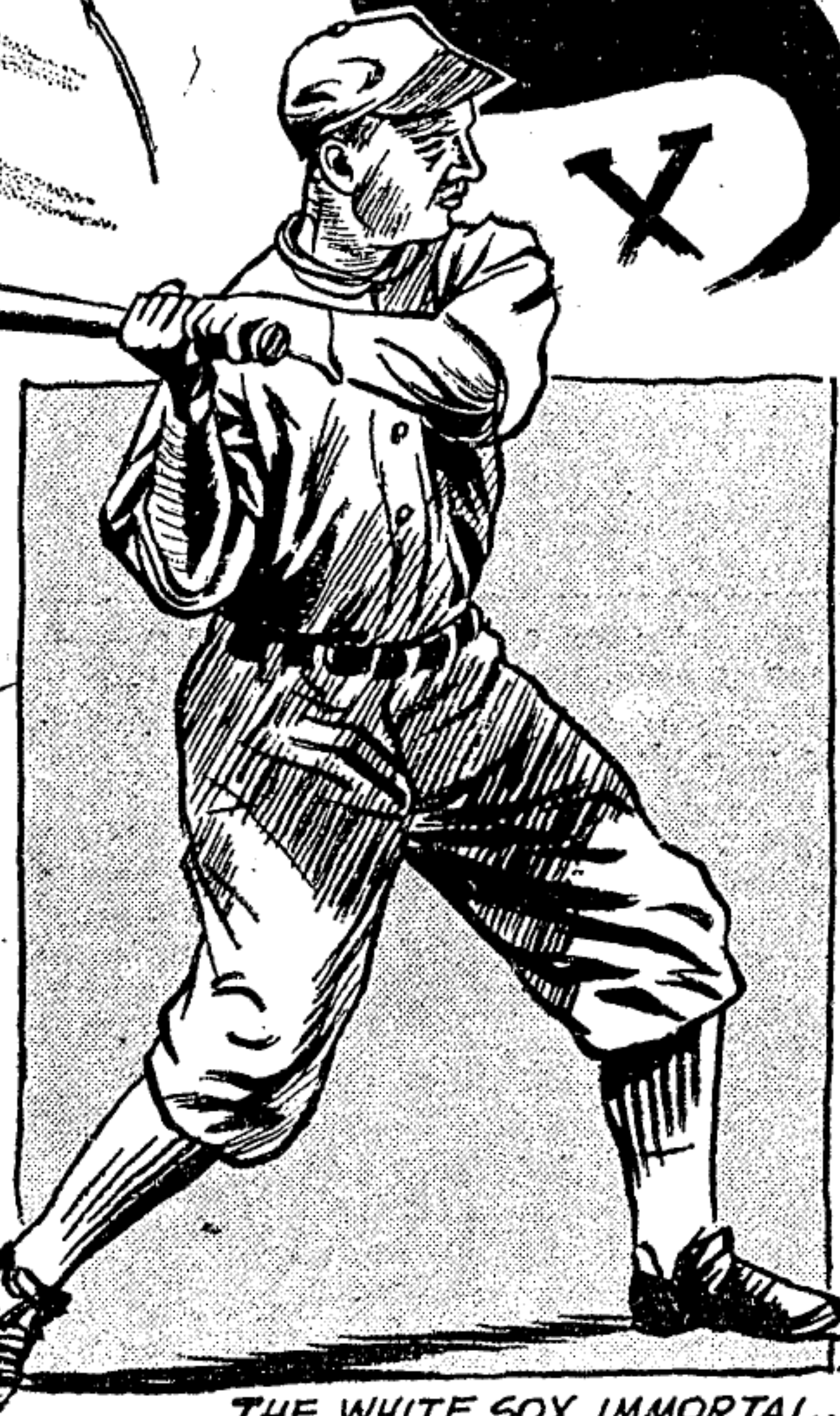
THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT PAVING BLOCKS ON THE ROAD TO CATCHING SUCCESS, ACCORDING TO Ray (CRACKER) SCHALK, HALL OF FAME BACKSTOP,

ARE COACHABILITY AND COMPETITIVENESS.

WITH THAT FOUNDATION, THE DESIRE TO EXCEL, SO ESSENTIAL IN ANY PROFESSION, IS EASY TO DEVELOP



SCHALK WAS ONE OF THE GAME'S TOP MITT MASTERS. HE NOT ONLY "CALLED THE SHOTS" ON FOUR NO-HITTERS, BUT HOLDS NUMEROUS RECORDS FOR HIS DEFENSIVE WIZARDRY IN HIS DISTINGUISHED BIG-TIME CAREER.



THE WHITE SOX IMMORTAL, ALTHOUGH STANDING ONLY 5-7 AND WEIGHING 155 POUNDS, WAS A TOUGH COOKIE AT THE PLATE, AS WELL AS BEHIND THE DISH. IN TWO WORLD'S SERIES, HE POSTED MARKS OF 263 AND 304

'Freese Injury Won't Wreck Us'--Says G.M.

'We Have Others Who Can Carry HR Load,' Asserts Prexy of N. L. Champions

By RAY GILLESPIE CINCINNATI, O.

"The Reds is NOT dead—they are very much alive!"



Bill DeWitt

That's what Bill DeWitt, new owner of the Reds, told THE SPORTING NEWS as he lowered the boom on an article in a national publication, entitled "The Reds Is Dead," that declared that this year's flag chances of the 1961 N. L. champs were practically nil.

The story was written after the Reds had lost their hard-hitting third sacker, Gene Freese, who suffered a broken ankle sliding into second base in a recent intra-squad game.

"It's true that Freese was an important member of our club last summer, but I would like to point out that the Reds' pennant victory wasn't a one-man effort," DeWitt insisted. "Gordon Coleman, our first baseman, hit the same number of homers as Freese, 26; Vada Pinson had the most hits of any batter in the league, 208; Frank Robinson, by his all-round play, was named the National League's Most Valuable Player."

Cliff Cook to Get Chance
Fortunately, Freese is expected to be able to play again in three months, perhaps early in June. In the meantime, DeWitt said, the Reds are fortunate to have so many good infielders, one of whom will give them a strong replacement at third base.

"Look at it this way," Bill said, philosophically. "We've got a whale of a third baseman in Cliff Cook, who earned the Most Valuable Player honors last year in the American Association. Didn't the Tigers hold up well last summer with Steve Boros, the 1960 MVP in the American Association, at third base? Why shouldn't we believe and expect that Cook will fare just as well for us, if given the opportunity?"

"Should Cook fail, Manager Hutchinson can shift Eddie Kasko to third and let Leo Cardenas, an excellent fielder and hard-hitter, play shortstop. We also have another whiz in Chico Ruiz, who could be used if needed. But for the time being, Cook will get a real shot at the job, and I'll be mightily disappointed if he fails."

Then, calling attention to the Yankees, last year's American League champs, DeWitt said: "Aren't they in the same boat that we are? Haven't they lost their star shortstop, Tony Kubek, to the military service? Didn't

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'Catching Toughest Job of All,' Schalk Says

'Only Player Who's Facing Whole Field'

Good Pair of Hands, Strong Flipper Are Essential to Success Behind the Plate'

By

Ray Schalk

As Told to Paul Rickart

The job of catching, in my estimation, is the toughest assignment on the field of play. It has always been my claim that baseball is played for the benefit of the catcher. By that I mean that he is the one player who has the game squarely in front of him; he faces both the infield and the outfield and also has the base runners in full view. Thus, he is the one player in position to see everything that is going on.

For a young player seeking to make good as a catcher, adequate physical equipment is the first requisite. By that I not only mean a sound body, but a good pair of hands and a strong throwing arm. Also, it is necessary to have a cool head, as well as the ability to think quickly. A catcher must be able to take all the knocks that come with his job, day after day; banged-up and broken fingers; the split and bruised hands; the bumping and the cuts from collisions.

Aside from nature's equipment, the young player aspiring to success as a catcher cannot be too careful about his choice of equipment—mitt, protector, mask and shoes. All should fit him snugly and comfortably.

Complicated Signs Costly

It was always my firm conviction that the catcher and pitcher should have no more than two or three sets of signals, and the simpler these signals, the better. The battery should function as flawlessly as possible, and nothing can prove more costly than for the pitcher and catcher to get crossed up in their signs. From experience I have found that this frequently happens when the battery is working with more than two or three sets of signs.

The catcher can use a glove sign or a knee sign, along with his finger wig-wags. Use of the glove or knee in flashing the sign to the pitcher eliminates the maneuver of going into a squatting position and then standing erect, thus saving plenty of energy over a period of years behind the bat.

Footwork around the home plate is

Ray Caught Perfect Game, Three Other No-Hit Gems

CHICAGO, Ill. — Ray Schalk caught four no-hit games during his long career with the White Sox. One was on April 30, 1922, when Charles Robertson blanked Detroit, 2 to 0, in the last regular-season perfect game hurled in the majors until Harvey Haddix of the Pirates tossed his 12-inning perfect game against the Braves in 1959, but lost in the thirteenth.

Other Schalk no-hit games: Pitcher Joe Benz, Chicago over Cleveland, 6 to 1, on May 31, 1914. Pitcher Ed Cicotte, Chicago over St. Louis, 11 to 0, on April 14, 1917.

And one he lost. On May 14, 1914, Pitcher Jim Scott held Washington scoreless through nine innings, but lost in the tenth, 1 to 0.

a most important factor in a catcher's play. Shifting requires alertness, and if a catcher can go to his right as effectively as to his left, that is all in his favor and adds to his value to the club.

The catcher should move out in front of the plate when a throw is coming in from the outfield and, whenever possible, receive the ball on the fly. Then the catcher can slide back to the plate with the base runner, keeping ahead of him so as to complete the tag and retire him. In my opinion, this is one of the most effective plays a catcher can make and, from the viewpoint of the fan, one of the best to watch from the stands.

Can't Afford to Flinch

Completing this play requires gameness on the part of the catcher. He does not have a bag to touch with any part of either foot, as the first baseman has when he receives a thrown ball from an infielder, or as one of the other infielders has on a force play. Unless the bases are full, making it a force play, the catcher must charge the base runner, who is coming into the home plate at top speed, hitting the ground in his slide, his spikes flashing and with the one thought of knocking over the catcher and scoring his run. On such plays, the catcher is like the fullback on the gridiron bucking the line. That is why it is advisable for the catcher to move well up in front of the plate whenever it is safe to leave his position after a ball has been hit and base runners are racing around the bags.

I repeat—the throw-in to the plate should be received on the fly, when possible, so the catcher will be in position to slide into the plate with the runner attempting to score, keeping ahead of him in tagging him out.

Learn to go after pop fouls from all angles, the high ones behind, or to either side of, the home plate, and those in the vicinity of first or third base. Learn the trickiness of shadows, for they differ in all ball parks. Allow for the wind. To become adept

Old Master



RAY SCHALK has been a Hall of Fame immortal since 1955, having been selected by the Committee on Veterans.

In this all-important department of catching, one has to practice constantly. I cannot emphasize this too strongly.

When a bunt is in order, the catcher must be especially alert. By retiring the front man on the bags and making a force play on a bunt, a catcher often can reverse the result of an inning and oftentimes of a game. Therefore, it is vital for a catcher to sense the likelihood of a bunt, and make himself a fifth infielder (sixth, counting the pitcher). In this situation, the catcher is the one player who has the base runners in front of him, and, therefore, in fielding a bunt, he is able to see where the most advantageous play can be made. This requires quick thinking and gameness. You cannot waste the fraction of a second in making up your mind to which base you are going to throw.

Back Up First Base

With the bases empty, the catcher should race over to back up first base the instant a ball is hit to an infielder, in order to prevent an advance should the throw to first be wild or escape the first baseman.

The most difficult play for a catcher, in my opinion, is on the double steal, especially with smart runners on first and third. I usually dealt with the double steal by glancing at the runner on third, perhaps cocking my arm as if to throw, thus causing him to stay at the bag, frequently sliding back into the station and thus not being in position to come in from third if something should go wrong, and then throwing to the second baseman or shortstop, retiring the runner trying to advance from first, or

Schalk's Tips to Catchers Published in 'How to Play'

The accompanying article on catching tips for catchers by Ray Schalk is taken from "How to Play," published by THE SPORTING NEWS and available for \$1 from the offices of C. C. Spink and Son, 2018 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

Other chapters in the publication give instructions on pitching by Carl Hubbell, batting and second base play by Rogers Hornsby, base-running and outfield play by Ty Cobb, first base by George Sisler, shortstop by Honus Wagner, third base by Pie Traynor and umpiring by George Barr.

driving him back to the initial bag.

While I have pointed out the value of leaving home plate and stepping into the infield in some situations, a catcher should never make this move unless it can be done safely. With men on the bases, NEVER leave your position unguarded. The catcher should remember that home plate is his station and that there are no players behind him. Get into a play with the idea of chasing runners back to their bases. The thought for the catcher to bear constantly in mind is to keep runners on the bases away from home plate.

Should Encourage Hurler

It always was my idea to give the pitcher as much encouragement as possible. I caught some of the best, and cannot emphasize too strongly the value of this point. However, the catcher must remember that few, if any, pitchers have the same temperament. The catcher is forced to "carry" some pitchers. Others, it is necessary to "baby." Some will go 50-50 with the catcher. A few, like Ted Lyons, will give the catcher practically an afternoon off, rarely making a mistake.

I was paired with Urban (Red) Faber on the White Sox for 15 seasons. In the 1917 World's Series against John J. McGraw's Giants, we became one of the few batteries to win three games in the fall classic. However, I had many a hectic afternoon with Faber out on the diamond. He sometimes became mad, and the madder he grew, the better and smarter he pitched, and the more smoke there was on his fast ball and spitter. Faber kept me alert. I would wait for him to get his dander up; to get mad. Then I would do my stuff. I would bark at him and fire the ball back at full speed.

Naturally, there must be perfect harmony between the pitcher and catcher. A smooth-working battery is all-important to a club's success and even more necessary than a perfectly-knit pair working together at second base and shortstop.

As I already pointed out, the catcher is the one player on the field who has the entire game in front of him; he can see or sense what the base

Limit Signals, Avoid Mixups With Twirler

'Make Your Signs as Simple as Possible,' Ray Advises; 'Practice Nabbing Popup'

runners and coaches are planning, and also can glance over to the bench and keep on the watch for the wig-wagging. The catcher must know what the batter likes, and doesn't like, and thus signal the pitcher the proper ball to deliver while watching the base runners and sensing whether a steal, the hit-and-run, a bunt or straight-away hitting sign is on.

The catcher also must work on the supposedly weak hitters, using the same care as he does on the good hitters. Remember, never take anything for granted. Don't consider the inning over if you get rid of the tough hitter in a pinch. The supposedly weak hitter may cross you up and come through with a surprise hit that will break up the game. I have seen this happen many times. My theory always was that there were no poor hitters among the regulars on any American League club. It was fine to get rid of Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, George Sisler or Goose Goslin after you and the pitcher had collaborated and given him the works. However, I always kept tightened up to go after the next batter, even if he was hitting .150 or 200 points under the man just retired. Any batter is dangerous as long as he remains in the batter's box.

Work on First Batter

It is especially important for the battery to work hard to keep the first batter in every inning, particularly when the score is close, from reaching first base. Work your hardest to get that first batter, even if he is the pitcher, or a supposedly weak hitter. Fully 50 per cent of the inning has been completed if you get rid of the first batter.

A catcher greatly improves his usefulness to his club if he can field bunts capably. With only first base occupied, the catcher can safely leave his position if a bunt is laid down. On bunts close to the home plate, or only ten or 15 feet up the first or third base line, the catcher is in much better position than the pitcher or an infielder to field the ball, as the play is in front of him and he is not forced to wheel around and get into position to throw after fielding the ball.

I advise the catcher to keep an eye on the scoreboard, in order to be cer-

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Ray Schalk

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

last big year of his career. But even not counting Walsh, I'll bet I caught more spitballs than any four or five catchers of my time. I loved to catch.

"I love to talk about catching. But you will not get me to make comparisons. I can say, though, that in past days we had a much greater quantity of good catchers.

"I can't understand why there are so few great catchers coming up. Millions of kids are playing baseball, so you'd expect a natural reservoir of catchers. I think the problem may be that most boys don't want to catch.

"Here's an example: I'm with Mayor Daley's Chicago Youth Foundation, and lecture at three or four parks a day. It's the job Rogers Hornsby used to have. Anyhow, these kids I meet all know of Babe Ruth, the hitter. Yet even the kid catchers have to be told about Ray Schalk. When they find out that I'm in the Hall of Fame,

Cracker Often Goes to Field Two Hours Before Practice

CHICAGO, Ill.—The athletic department at Purdue University says that Ray Schalk, assistant baseball coach, is the champion grouser among the coaches.

"He's often dressed and on the field two hours before the players can show up. They can't come out early, of course, because of classes," explains one coach, "but all Ray says is that this is a heckuva way to run a baseball team!"

they're impressed, all right—they want to know how many home runs I hit!

"Catching jobs are wide open for today's young players. I just can't understand why the crop isn't greater. You'd think players would be fighting to be a catcher. The ball game is played for the catcher's benefit—he has the entire game in front of him. "My father and mother were old-

country Germans. How I ever got to be a ball player, I'll never know. Yet I came up because I wanted to play. We had lots of good catchers in the days when there was little supervision for the real young players. Today, when we have so many supervised programs to bring the boys along, we shouldn't be lacking catchers. But name me a big league team that wouldn't be happy to add another top-flight catcher to its roster."

Offers Tips to Kids

Raymond William (Cracker) Schalk is doing his part to encourage an interest in catching. The author of the catching chapter in "How to Play Baseball," published by THE SPORTING NEWS, he is particularly partial to any youngster wearing a mask and chest protector.

"When I find one of those kids," Ray said, "I call him aside and get his telephone number. I give him my telephone number and tell him that if I don't get in touch with his dad, the father should call me. When I get hold of pop, I encourage him to help the boy become a catcher. Usually I offer a few suggestions, and probably recommend 'How To Play Base-

Ray Lamped Gridder as Picket Prize

CHICAGO, Ill.—Ray Schalk is assistant baseball coach at Purdue University.

The Boilermakers are renowned for strong football teams. In Schalk's first year with the Boilermakers, he came down for one football game and sat in the press box.

That particular day a Boilermaker back named Mateja had a

brilliant afternoon of pass interceptions, punt returns, kickoff returns and pass catching. At a postgame victory party, Athletic Director Guy (Red) Mackey asked what Ray had thought of the football game.

"Didn't understand a thing about it," said Schalk, "except that Mateja sure can play the outfield."

ball' from THE SPORTING NEWS Library.

"If the kid is small, I remind the dad of my own size. Muddy Ruel is another example I use.

"I remind the father that the more a boy is encouraged to catch, the more he'll have that desire. You can instill desire. You can develop catching ability. There are two basic ingredients, though, that the boy must have to start.

"First, the boy must be coachable. Second, he must want to compete. It's sad to say, but in touring Chi-

cago's parks I've found that underprivileged boys have the greatest sense of competition. After I run them and run them in races, they ask me to race some more."

Schalk's Chicago park duties, plus his post as assistant baseball coach at Purdue University, prevent him from seeing as many major league games as he'd like.

"And for that reason I wouldn't want to analyze today's catching," he explained. "I really don't think

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Druggist Yelled for Posse to Oust Braves From Store

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

In Valdosta, Ga., waiting for an engine to pull us over to another track. And the Braves found a quaint way of spending the 60 minutes. Leading a whiskered snake dance through Valdosta, Maranville found a drugstore perfect for his purpose. It had a front door on one street, and a side door on another. With hands on each other's shoulders, the Braves formed a continuous moving chain as they exited through one door and returned through the other, at the same time giving full-lunged Indian war whoops.

The druggist wound up his old-style telephone of that period and made a frantic call to the sheriff's office. "There's a bunch of nuts in my store; they must have escaped from somewhere," he yelled into the mouthpiece. "You better come quick with a posse. There's lots, and lots—and lots, of 'em." The Braves scampered into their nearby Pullmans a few minutes before the posse arrived at the drugstore.

Yanks Aloof From Antics

The Yankee players didn't join the Braves in "mugging" the trip, nor did most of them approve of the Braves' antics. They took pains to dress in their best duds.

Bob Shawkey, the pitcher, especially voiced his disapproval. "I am a ball player, and proud of it," said Bob. "What kind of an impression do these fellows (the Braves) make on the people down here as representatives of the big leagues?" Stallings, the Braves' manager, got the point, ordered shaves, clean shirts, ties and no more little sailor hats for his athletes.

As Hapgood was paid off in cash, he carried the growing receipts of the 1917 trip in an old-fashioned satchel. He would take it everywhere he went, to the ball park, the dining car, and at night he would tuck it next to his pillow in his berth.

Several times prankish Braves tried to snatch the satchel. One morning in Cordele, Ga., Hapgood stood on the hotel veranda with the precious bag beside his right foot. He admonished a group of grinning ball players who stood around him.

"I know one of you monkeys is trying to grab this bag," he said; "but you'll have to get up early in the morning to put anything over on Walter Hapgood." As he was talking, the players erupted in a series of belly-laughs.

"What is so funny? What are you clowns laughing at?" Walter demanded. He reached out with his right leg to reassure himself that the satchel was beside him, but the foot kicked up only a zephyr of Dixie air.

Rabbit Snatched Satchel

While Hapgood was bragging to the players, Maranville, on hands and knees, crawled silently behind the baseball secretary, got off with the satchel, and hastily sneaked around the corner of the hotel. The Rabbit filled the bag with Georgia soil, and later put it in a place where Hapgood would find it. In the meantime, he turned the bank notes over to Stallings, explaining, "I found this somewhere; I believe it belongs to the club."

After the Yankees acquired Babe Ruth in 1920, the New Yorkers switched from the prankish Braves to the old Brooklyn Dodgers as partners on the exhibition jaunts through Dixie.

Enough amusing incidents happened in these Yankee-Dodger trips to fill a complete chapter. We almost had a knifing in Jacksonville in Babe's first swing with the Bombers. He was having a poor spring, had hit few homers, and on this day was having a particularly difficult day with Al Mamaux' twisters. A fan in the right field bleachers was giving the Babe a rough time, and after Mamaux fanned him for the second time, the rooter became particularly abusive.

Babe jumped over the bleacher railing and started up the seats after

Easy Target



WHEN COUSIN DAZZY was kissin' cousin to Yankees.

his tormentor. The man, a little Cuban, did not retreat; instead he pulled out a knife almost as big as himself. He had it poised for Babe's attack.

However, one of the Yankee owners, Col. T. L. Huston, then recently returned from World War I, sensed the situation. Huston, wearing his iron hat, a derby, also leaped over the rail, and clamored up the bleachers in the wake of his Babe. He eventually got between the jawing pair, as Jax gendarmes disarmed the Latin.

Pegler Rapped Yanks

After the Yankees finished seventh in 1925, they had an indifferent early training season here in 1926. Westbrook Pegler, then a sports writer, took them severely to task. He wrote disparagingly of Manager Miller Huggins, said Babe Ruth was on his last legs, and that the Yanks were a team of spoiled play boys.

Huggins pinned the column on the clubhouse bulletin board here; Ruth and Meusel threatened to tear Pegler limb from limb, and the entire club was fighting mad. They cleaned up the Braves in their remaining games in St. Petersburg, and on the hike north, they knocked over the Dodgers 12 straight.

There was a most amusing incident in Atlanta, where Dazzy Vance, Brooklyn ace, was Wilbert Robinson's starting pitcher. Ol' Dazzy had invited a young cousin, living in that locality, to see the game. Prior to hostilities, Vance amused himself by telling the boy what he would do to the powerful Yanks. "I'll make that Combs pop up; Gehrig will be easy for me; I'll strike out that Lazzeri, and just watch that Babe breaking his back trying to hit my fast one," Dazzy said cheerfully.

Bombers Lowered Boom

Once the game got underway, Vance did get Combs on a pop-up. Then came one of the finest pyrotechnic displays the Yankees ever put on in the South. Koenig doubled, and Gehrig followed with a booming triple.

Then Babe whacked one over the right field fence. Meusel hit one for three bases, and Lazzeri hit one far over the left field fence. By that time Wilbert Robinson, the Brooklyn manager, had had enough, and wildly motioned for Dazzy to get the heck out of there.

After the game, Vance again caught up with his young cousin. "My pop says you make \$25,000 a year. Is that right?" asked the lad.

"I guess that's the truth," replied Vance.

"Well, Cousin Dazzy, I got to say

Ray Caught in First Major League Game He Ever Saw

CHICAGO, Ill.—Ray Schalk never saw a major league game before he reported to the White Sox on August 11, 1912, a few hours before the start of a double-header with the Athletics.

Schalk, who handled the slants of Doc White in the first game, faced Chief Bender on his first trip to the plate and grounded out to Shortstop Jack Barry.

On his next appearance, the young catcher rapped a single through the infield. Despite Schalk's efforts, the White Sox lost the game, 3 to 1.

that's the easiest way to make \$25,000 that I ever heard of."

Ruth always was a show on these trips. Of all the places we visited, none ever turned out for him as did the fans of Chattanooga. And that was long before the Joe Engel period!

I recall one game in which the crowd was so thick, all over foul territory and behind the plate, that the reporters had to shoulder their way through this mass of Tennesseans to get near the Yankee bench. Somehow a whiskered native, driving a young boy with little horse lines, got on the playing field, and drove the lad right to where Babe was sitting.

"I just wanted the boy to see you close up, Mr. Babe," explained brother Whiskers.

Babe Broke Loose

"That's okay, kid," said Babe obligingly.

"No, you've got it wrong," said the native, "I'm not the kid; I'm the grandpop. He's the kid."

It was in Chattanooga that Babe hit some of his longest home runs. One comes particularly to mind. Though Babe was usually a dead right field hitter, he belted this terrific shot to left and it banged into a tall tree well in back of the park. As the ball neared the tree, a bunch of young colored boys came tumbling out of the tree like falling ripe persimmons. In 1925, Ruth came out of a sick bed in Chattanooga on a Sunday to belt two of his longest. The next morning he collapsed in the Asheville, N. C., railroad station with "the stomach ache that was heard 'round the world."

The Giants also were an interesting club to barnstorm with, especially in the John McGraw days. For years, visits to Houston brought about annual renewals of the feud between McGraw and Pat Newman, the Houston manager, that several times broke out in fisticuffs.

Big Crowd at Spartansburg

In 1919, the first spring after the Armistice, the Giants trained in Gainesville, Fla., and the Red Sox in Tampa, and the two clubs moved up the Atlantic Coast for some ten exhibitions. A most amusing incident happened in Spartansburg, S. C. The stands were crowded, the little press box was jammed, and the writer, covering the game from the Red Sox bench, got an inside view of it.

About the fourth inning, the Spartansburg chief of police came to the Boston bench and told Manager Ed Barrow, "I've got one of your boys down in the lockup. If you want to get him out before you leave town, you better get some one down there and post bail."

Barrow and one of his coaches checked all the players who were on the field. Everyone was accounted for.

"I'm sorry, Chief, but all of my men are right here on the field," said Barrow.

"They may be all here on the field, but just the same I've got one of 'em in my lockup," insisted the Chief.

Eventually, Barrow learned the "boy in the lockup" wasn't a Red Sox player, but Larry Graver, the road secretary. He had pushed a Spartansburg physician who had tried to come through the press gate on a pass without paying the ten cents which the government then levied on Annie Oakleys. The doctor made a charge of assault, and Larry was released on \$100 bail. He never went back to stand trial.

Yes, the carefree days of the old long exhibition jaunts through the South are gone forever.

'Make Beef--Then Forget It' --Schalk's Advice to Catchers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

tain of the number of balls and strikes on the batter, the number of outs and the inning that is being played. Unlike the days when I broke in, scoreboards now show more, and are operated with care. The catcher should be constantly checking the count on the batter, the number of outs and the inning, especially in important stages of games, and late innings.

Don't "ride" the umpires. If you have a kick coming, register it to the best of your ability without going too far. Then forget it. Don't carry the argument along, inning after inning. Each inning is a new one, a new game. I always figured, and so did Kid Gleason, the greatest manager I ever worked under, that you are only confusing yourself if you carry your peeve throughout the game, inning after inning.

Always follow the orders of your manager. If he flashes you the sign to walk a certain batter, do so. Forget your own opinion, even if you think the manager's judgment is at fault. After all, he's the boss and you must be loyal.

Watch Rivals for Tips

Keep watching the opposing catcher when you are on the bench. You are certain to learn things. I consider this particularly valuable advice to young catchers who have made good on semi-pro clubs and are entering Organized Ball via a small minor loop. Even if you are as good as the opposing catcher, it will help to watch him, for he may uncover a play, or trick, that will be worth noting.

If you make a trip to training camp with a club, you should report in the best possible condition. That will make your work at the camp all the easier.

If you succeed in entering professional ball, go out of your way to seek advice from teammates and opposing players while you are around the hotel, mornings and evenings, and on rainy days. Remember, you can pick up practically as much off the field as you can on the field. Talk baseball, eat baseball, sleep baseball.

When I broke into professional ball, most of the catchers, especially those in the major leagues and in the ace minor loops, were big, husky fellows. My small size was considered a handicap. But it actually wasn't, I can say in all fairness, after looking back at my years with the White Sox, during most of which I served as first-string catcher. So if catching is the position you have picked out, height and weight will be no barrier. It is more important to have the urge to show you have a good head on your shoulders, to take the manager's orders and lay off the umpires. I had pretty good luck in baseball. So did Muddy Ruel, who was just about my size.

It's the ability, not the build, that will help you the most.

Use Epsom Salts for Bruises

It is true the catcher gets more fingers and thumbs bunged up and hands dented in the course of a game than any other player. That's only natural. What is the best thing to use in doctoring such bruises? I recommend epsom salts in hot water. It is the prescription that worked for me and brought quick relief from pain that was hard to bear.

My final advice to the young player is this: Contact the best people as you advance through baseball, and save your money. Like all others, I made progress, and also mistakes, when I was in the game. It's mighty fine to have your own business and some money in the bank after your baseball career is over.

I hope my advice to young players will prove helpful. Just keep in shape, follow orders, lay off umpires and talk, eat, think and sleep baseball. Also cash in on the chance you get to meet some real people all over the country.

And be smart enough to bank some of your pay check on the first and fifteenth of every month.

'Ed Collins Brainiest Man in O. B. Annals'—Schalk

CHICAGO, Ill.—In Ray Schalk's book, Eddie Collins "was the smartest man who ever played baseball."

According to Ray, "He could sense plays. When he suspected the hit-and-run was on, his sign to me was his glove hand on his cap. Then I'd crouch to give the pitcher the waste-ball sign and I'd whip the ball down to Collins."

"Eddie was right 90 per cent of the time, and his judgment was one of the reasons I had 1,810 assists during my major league career. Look at my assist record; in four consecutive years I had 153, 183, 159 and 166! Putouts? In four seasons I had a string of 613, 655, 653 and 624. I'm proud of my catching records, but I've always given credit to the teammates who helped me compile them."

Ray Schalk

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Carrigan, the catcher, was on second. Harry Hooper was the batter. Hooper hit sharply to Weaver at third. I took Weaver's throw and waited for Wagner to come in.

"Wagner came in, all right. He knocked the ball from my hand and scored. I retrieved the ball and got set to block Carrigan from scoring. He also knocked the ball from my grasp. Kid Gleason lauded my game-ness—a little kid showed spunk to try and block. But he also said I'd learn.

Picked Speaker Off Third

"Two errors on one play. You know, I sort of like to remember that. I think a player should recall his bonehead experiences as well as his great days.

"As a rookie in '12, I had some good publicity for picking off Tris Speaker at third and for picking off Hal Chase twice in one game. But it's that bad afternoon in Boston that stands out in memory."

One of the most fascinating facets of baseball is the sign code. Schalk had touched on this subject earlier in the interview, and now we asked him to go back to it.

"I stressed simple signs—signs that can be given without crouching. My sign to Red Faber for a spitball was a finger on my chest protector. If Faber wanted to shake me off, he didn't shake his head. He drew his hand across his chest.

"I gave lots of signs with my right hand on my knee. If the fingers were closed and the thumb was open, it was to be a breaking ball. All fingers closed, a fast ball. Another curve ball or breaking ball sign was all fingers spread.

"Gleason is the one who stressed simple signs."

Before closing the notebook on the interview, we asked our long-time favorite to talk of a catcher's responsibilities. Perhaps he had some ideas not incorporated in his catching lesson in "How To Play Baseball"?

Should Warm Up Pitcher

"Well, I'd like to touch on a few things," Schalk replied. "I believe a catcher should warm up his pitcher and get an immediate idea of what the fellow has on a particular day. Once the game is underway, he should size up how far the pitcher is missing and let him know. If the pitcher does not have it, the catcher should tip off the manager.

"If the pitcher wants to shake off a sign, I feel that the catcher should accept it. I never minded when Faber shook me off, or gave me the shake-off sign I told you about."

The notebook was now almost full. Did Schalk have anything more he wanted to make certain in this feature on catching?

"Yes," he concluded. "You can put in that Ray Schalk says that the finest gift a father can give his eight-year-old, or nine-year-old boy, is a catcher's glove."