The Sporting News

A WEEKLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO ORGANIZED BASEBALL Published by

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Advertise the Pitchers.

No. 12

the timely suggestion that more atten- semi-pro teams. tion be paid by the magnates to ballyhooing the twirlers this season. The said: crowds, in other days, followed the

Why not set aside certain days for these hurlers and make public announcements that they will hurl on to junior baseball." specified afternoons? We know, of managers to name their pitchers ing to pitch anyway-but the rule has the other clubs in the circuit are still still is a deterrent, let's get rid of it.

of the fans.

the fans should not know when their favorite hurlers are going to work and no logical excuse why the magnates expense to themselves. should not cash in on the public desire to see those mound performers in ac- sources of Mr. Wrigley, but it does aption. Everyone will admit that it was pear that the larger leagues could go ballyhoo that made Babe Ruth, plus, into this phase of the game on a broadof course, his own ability to produce. er scale than heretofore. There is no before. Seems to be getting along. Any-Why not employ a little of that same reason why several minor leagues could how, his hostelry gets lots of baseball trade promotion to boost the pitching era not be developed in California and along through him. and those hurlers who are making it the Pacific Coast. Some such plan possible?

Bouquets for Two Umpires.

con, regarding the recent battle be- it appears so far that the Dixie not tween Washington and New York play- only will break even, but also net a ers, emerges one feature which has little profit on the side. In addition, been overlooked in the arguments as the Texas has found a proving ground to who was to blame. That is the con- for its promising surplus talent and duct of the two umpires on the field- will have a source from which to draw George Moriarty and Harry Geisel, its future players without any expense Less experienced and less competent to itself. umpires might have lost their heads. As times frow better, this, or some but Moriarty and Geisel kept theirs, similar system, should be seriously con-They conducted themselves in splendid sidered by Class AA and Class A fashion in an extremely trying situa- leagues. And there is no time like the day the Iron Duke got back he batted

the fight at second base and when the perfected before the next annual meetmajor engagement got under way in ing of the National Association. the dug-out, they were a greater fac- would appear that Mr. Wrigley and the tor in the restoration of peace than Texas League are paving the way for were the police. It is said that Geisel a real regeneration of the national passaved Vernon Gomez from being black- time. jacked by a detective, whom Lefty had punched, and then talked the cop out of placing the left-hander under ar-

rest. Umpires are blamed for a lot of things—it is one of the penalties of their profession-therefore, it is no more than fitting that they should be praised when praise is due.

Iron Hand, but With Reason.

the offenses clearly defined.

toward making the umpire complete the full fare. Offering a cut rate, when dictator on the field-the lord of all the youth is accompanied by an adult, he surveys. Fans and players, alike, ought to help in solving both problems resent such an attitude and The Sport- -that of the club and that of the ing News does not believe that the father. majority of umpires want to be cast in that role, either. There is such a thing as autocracy too severely enforced and

murderous use of spikes without go- mother-and-daughter, or other combina- ing gum on the button of his cap, but ing to the other extreme of making tions, offer a step in that direction. whenever he got in a hole with two strikes, the game wholly sissified. There are Bob Connery, so far as we know, is he would take the gum off his cap, put no valid reasons for making fists the pioneer in the move. There is no it in his mouth and start chewing. In this wholly taboo, if they do not become en- reason why others should not follow way Eddie sought to forestall striking out. tirely too prominent. The Texas and suit to their advantage. Pacific Coast leagues seem to get along pretty well with an elastic set of regulations regarding conduct on the field. and we have yet to learn of anyone who City, Mo., baseball-minded. They are considers the contests in those circuits the up-and-doing new management of rowdy affairs. Enough spice is left in the American Association club and the the game in those leagues to keep the officers of the Ban Johnson League, an fans on their toes, and a little fight amateur organization. The latter not ing for Cleveland. Mails had been some-

tators. plaints that baseball was becoming too number of boys to play the game. automatic, too drab and too formalthat neither the umpires nor the players could take a little riding and that when anybody did open his mouth or the 1932 season and who recently was He was wild, too. Spoke had Covcleskie all show a little aggressiveness, he was named manager of the St. Joseph Westejected from the game, or subjected to ern League club, is the president of the a fine. Some truth is to be found in Ban Johnson League and is retaining these charges and they should be considered along with those of flagrant Organized Ball, rowdvism. There is a happy medium that can be employed. We hope that one end will not be sacrificed for the Kansas City this fall to determine the to face in a situation of this kind that I other.

Special Days Stir Interest.

can quicken interest during the week petition. It is an excellent way of fos- ed up for his gum and started chewing. might take a lesson from the results tering interest in baseball among the Three on base, three and two on Collins, of several special days held this sea- youth of the land and The Sporting two out, score 2-0 in our favor.

Brooklyn gave Hans Wagner a day, League as a fine example of what can swish went Eddie's bat-but all he hit was

ers and Pirates play, but chiefly to see

the great shortstop of other days. The Philadelphia Nationals observed the fiftieth anniversary of their membership in the National League and 20,000 fans were present. Joe Brown, movie comedian and part

owner of the Kansas City Blues, announced his personal appearance on the coaching lines in uniform at Kansas City on a week-day and 4,000 fans turned out. maybe it is too bad some of them bers successful in business now. The pair

brate a golden anniversary and Hans Mack at Philadelphia in 1902. special occasions that could be ar- 55 West Forty-second street (in the same ranged. They lend a little diversion, building with the Yankees, but not on the certainly attract the cash customers same floor with them) in New York City, and make everybody feel that they are form the battery alluded to in the opening fellow participants in something worth- paragraph. The school the catcher prepped

The players are doing their part to make the game interesting for the fans. A little more enterprise on the part of the front office also would help.

Wrigley Plan for Youngsters. cago Cubs and the Los Angeles Angels, at the last minute Noonan's father told him Pointing out that it looks like a is helping his clubs to develop their own pitching year that will recall some of material and at the same time is propathe glories of Christy Mathewson, Wal- gating the game in his plan to send ter Johnson, Cy Young, Miner Brown young talent to the Catalina Islands, to and other hurling greats, an observant provide them with a professional coach. writer in the Brooklyn Eagle makes and to back them in games against

In explaining his plan, Mr. Wrigley

"Semi-pro teams will have a chance pitchers in much the same way as they to compete against the more experi- Kansas, possibly—and that his front initial have paid homage in recent years to enced players, and more important than was J. One individual not concerned at Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and other slug- that, have the advantage of the train- all with the newcomer's pedigree was Bill ing by a professional coach. The fans, Coughlin, then Washington's third baseman, This season has been productive of play and try to judge for themselves Either the first or second time Bill batmany low-hit games-one-hit and two- the future possibilities that they may hit masterpieces. These are remind- have. Also, it is every young player's ful of the days when fans thronged ambition to play real ball under the hit him on the head and he was carted the park to see Matty; when the ec- eye of a trained coach, who can show off to the nearest hospital. centric Waddell was a magnet and him his weak points and how to overand others, by sheer personal appeal, able angles. In the first place, I believe that the Angels have hit upon the right A made his debut and came through that the Angels have hit upon the right A win. He fashioned another on the mound "big days" for the fans, idea in developing young players. We victory for C. Mack before Holy Cross Perhaps there are no Mathewsons or want to groom as many rookies as pos-Browns today, but there are such sible for future seasons. We can form mound. Earned his \$100 anyhow. Began to colorful boxmen as Dizzy Dean, Lefty a team of youngsters not yet good pitch for Mack under his right name in G. S., ST. LOUIS. MO., WANTS THE Gomez, Schoolboy Rowe and Lon War- enough for Class AA ball, keep them 1903. College authorities had learned of address of Oscar Roetiger of Montreal. neke and such skilled workmen as at Catalina Island all season and im- his appearance in the leading role of "Alias Tommy Bridges, George Blacholder, port strong semi-pro teams to play Jimmy Valentine" and during the last part Ted Lyons, Lefty Grove, Wes Ferrell against them. Doubtless, we will be of his stay in Worcester he was not repand Carl Hubbell to strike the fancy able to develop some rookies who in the resenting Holy Cross on the diamond. future will become major league play- Hotel New Yorker was. He caught up ers. And further than that, I am hop- with Coakley at Philadelphia in 1904, haning that the plan will be a stimulus died Waddell's shoots in several games that

The Angels had hoped to send some course, there is some silly rule, en- as-New Mexico League, but that circuit of their surplus talent to the West Texacted several years ago, forbidding failed to function. The Los Angeles club, therefore, found itself with a lot ahead of time, because such bad men of promising material and no place to as gamblers would find it out-just as put it. The Wrigley system solved the if that gentry didn't know who was go- question for Los Angeles at least, but been more or less a dead letter. If it faced with the same problem. However, the plan does give a number of youths There is no legitimate reason why a chance to develop such talent as they may have, under skilled instruction and in delightful surroundings, at no

All club owners have not the rewith the Dixie loop might be worked out. Although it is too early in the Out of the controversy, pro and season to draw any definite conclusions,

present to survey the field and get The two umpires quickly broke up plans under way so that they can be

Giving Kids a Break. In line with the plan advocated in The Sporting News, President Bob Connery of the St. Paul American Association club, has announced that children, when accompanied by an adult, will be John Doyle) in Bill Plau's favorite league admitted for 25 cents to Lexington Park. He makes the bargain rate offective on Sundays and holidays, as

Penalties for unnecessary roughness, is profitable to the club, but whether of former team magnates on the premises. hitherto confined to football, soon will it is or not, it should help to quicken The principal reunions of the Coakleybecome a part of the American League the interest of the youths and to incode, it is understood. Considering fluence father to take son along to the large number of spiking incidents the game. As has been pointed out, that have occurred in the majors and there are many days throughout the minors this season, perhaps such regu- week when numerous vacant seats are lations are necessary, but care should found in the best-attended of parks and be exercised in their application and there are a lot of fathers who would like to take their youngsters out to There has been a growing tendency the game, but who cannot afford to pay

Big league clubs could employ the whether a certain move is "verboten." ing for the future of the game and However, a stop should be put to the their clubs. The father-and-son, or

Kansas City in Van.

Two big factors are keeping Kansas now and then seems to please the spec- only is keeping alive the name of the what of a sensation that fall. Coming American League founder in baseball, up from the Pacific Coast League, he There have been plenty of com- but is giving opportunity to a large won six straight games. Mails had shut

> Dutch Zwilling, who managed the Kansas City entry in the American Association from 1927 until the close of ager Speaker tearing in from center field. the position despite his active duties in two batters, and who should step to the

championship. Thousands of fans are News recommends the Ban Johnson May 4, and some 10,000 fans turned be done in maintaining enthusiasm for the air. And so ended a very dramatic out on a Thursday to watch the Dodg-the game.



ever decide to have an old (or near old) timers' game in New York, they can locate a battery without much trouble. All magnates are not Joe Browns- Pretty good battery, too, with its memare not comedians, under present cir- reported at Holy Cross one fall day in 1900 cumstances-not every club can cele- and almost reported together to Connie

Wagner cannot make his debut every the Hotel New Yorker, and Andrew Jackday of the season, but there are many son Coakley, in the insurance business at at was Housatonick High, the pitcher was routed to Holy Cross from Central High at

Coakley arrived at old Columbia Park at Philadelphia in September, 1902, to assist C. Mack in the Athletics' pennant drive, He thought he would have as his traveling companion on the trip from New England Philip K. Wrigley, owner of the Chi- to Pennsylvania his college catcher. But not to make the trek-and he obeyed par-

ental orders. Do you know what amount this crack college battery was to receive for playing three games with the White Elephants? One hundred dollars, each.

You won't find any mention of Coakley in the 1903 guides, for Andrew J. was Mr. McAllister during his stay at Columbia Park. C. Mack rather led the seekers after information on the new pitcher to believe the rangy right-hander came from the West

ter against McAllister, when Coakley was breaking into professional baseball while still enrolled as a collegian, a pitched ball

was to open and got properly banged round year and expected great things of himself

the following season But, in the spring of 1905, Noonan's arm began troubling him and Mack shipped Pete to St. Paul. The Cubs retrieved him from the American Association and during 1906 used him in a trade with Fred Beebe, so they could get the experienced Jack Taylor from the Cardinals. First based some that year in St. Louis and caught for John McCloskey the following season. Arm got worse in 1909 and he quit the pastime, studying law at Georgetown and coaching Catholic U. Was in the New York State League later and once owned the Wilkes-Barre club. War arrived, shooting investment to pieces, and he went over on the other side for the Knights

of Columbus. Went into the real estate business in New

as is employed by the Texas League TYTHEN Noonan's battery partner was on the major league circuits he was alfavorite route to the National League when Owego, N. Y.

cinnati and Coakley arrived there in 1907. Jack Ryder saw Coakley pile up a world's record early in Andy's first season in Redfor several minutes and when play began Bill against Coakley and hit the first pitch to center for a clean single. Roger wasn't plate shy, like Bob Allen, after Elton Cham-

Coakley, in 1908, repeated his specialty of helping out a club that was in a pennant fight, joining the Cubs and furnishing them with a couple of needed victories. He was a Bruin for a time in 1909 and, I think, ended his hig league career as a Yankee in 1911. Before 1911, though, Coakley ran an independent team in New York, possibly in the section Heinie Zimmerman always called The Bron-ix. Later he managed a team for Springfield John Doyle (not Holyoke -the Atlantic. 'May have been a stockholder in that club. Anyhow, Coakley did nut his money in baseball in an independent club, so when the battery of Coakey and Noonan gets into action in that Walsh and Clarence Fieber at Oakland. Time will tell whether the scheme future phantom game there will be a pair the New York chapter of the Baseball Writ-

Personalities

By BILL WAMBSGANSS

HIS writer is happy to count Eddie Collins, the new business manager of the Boston Red Sox, as a personal friend and a one-time second base rival. Back land, I was pitted against Eddie in many a close and thrilling game, and his finished plan as well as the minors. As we and masterful playing at the keystone sack understand it, there are two problems was always an inspiration to me. In fact, the players can show no spirit on the always before club owners-first, mak- I always looked forward to the Indians' field if they have to stop and think ing their own clubs pay; second, build- games against the Athletics, and later the White Sox, as his great hitting and fielding skill afforded a daily lesson to me.

I remember only once seeing Collins strike out, and I'll bet he remembers it, too, It was in a game between the White Sox and Indians that this famous strike-out occur-

Let me take you back to the time just previous to the exposure of the White Sox scandal in the fall of 1920. Chicago was playing in Cleveland, and in this particuout the Sox for seven innings. In the eighth, with the score 2 to 0 in our favor. first three batters. I can remember Manwarmed up ready to shoot in there, but Mails begged to be allowed to pitch to the next batter. Speaker finally gave in. Mails bore down and struck out the next plate with his jaw sticking out a mile, but A similar league functions in Kan- our old friend Eddie Collins. Next to Cobb sas and the two winners will meet in and Ruth, Collins was the toughest fellow ever saw. On top of it there were rumors attracted to the games and hundreds of Never did Eddie try harder to come through. of scandal among the White Sox players, youths have found the way opened to But Mails was bearing down, too. The Club owners wondering how they them to play the game in actual com- count reached three and two. Collins reach-

Mails wound up, the runners started running, the ball sailed true for the plate, 'moment in baseball history.

20 YEARS AN UMPIRE, HASN'T MISSED A DAY



George Hildebrand

TTTHEN Cy Pfirman, National League umpire, developed stomach trouble before the game of May 2 and was unable to go on the field, it marked the first break in his fulfillment of assignments in 1710 games and reminded George Hildebrand, on duty at St. Louis at the time, that he had participated in almost twice that number of consecutive games. The American League arbiter officiated at his 3.097th consecutive contest that after-

"Well, I never thought much of it," remarked Hildebrand when his attention was called to Pfirman's record and he recalled his own, "but I guess I've been lucky. Think of it-in 20 years I have not missed a single inning of a single game, never missed a train and went through with every game to which I was assigned."

Kingshighway, St. Louis, Mo.

requires too much space to be answered gladly forwarded you upon receipt of selfaddressed, stamped envelope, W. L., ADA, MINN.: INFORMATION

you will forward self-addressed, stamped envelope, it will be sent you by mail. IS BATTING MORE IMPORTANT THAN fielding in baseball? inquires T. B. G.

is not revealed generally by clubs, but if

This is a question of opinion, but from the present style of play it might be said batting is the more important. WITH WHAT CLUB IS DAN JESSEE who also wants to know if both the

San Francisco Scals and Missions play their home games at Seal Stadium. Jessee is a free agent at present. Both San Francisco clubs play their home games at Seal Stadium. B. J. S. OF WHITING, IND., ASKS

Some of the clubs in the two majors pay for the laundry of the players, but this practice is not general. When team is at home, no expenses are paid.

extracting victories from the opposition. A him. Is runner on second out? asks A, T., and runner on second is safe.

Barrett, catcher for Danville, Va., in again Coakley's next pitch broke the wrist 1925, is supposed to have hit a ball 502 feet of Dan McGann. Two pitched balls, two seven inches, which many claim is a record. Swift never was in the Georgia-Alabama

> Bluege, Gillis, Stan Harris, Joe Harris McCann, Mycr, Reeves, Stewart ullop, Goslin, McNeely, Neis, Rice, Tuck West, Berger, Ruel, Tate, Burke, Braxon, Carroll, Coffman, Coveleskie, Crowder, Hadley, Johnson, Jones, Lisenbee, Loftus, McEvoy, Mangum, Marberry, Morrell, Murray, Ogden, Stewart, Thurston, Thomas, Van Alstyne and Speaker were on the Washington club's roster in 1927.

WEIGHT AND HEIGHT OF DICKIE Cerr and the players the White Sox have

Kerr was five feet eight inches tall and weighed 150 pounds. The White Sox have Fabian Gaffke, William Chamberlain and oe Bartulis and Phil Gallivan with Buffalo, Grant Bowler and Leslie Tietje with Dallas, Willis Norman at Louisville and Ed

ond? inquires B. D. P., Robstown, Tex. Ball must be thrown to second base first for a force out and then relayed to first to complete a double play, because if it is thrown to first base first the force is removed and runner must be tagged out at second to complete a double play.

E. B., PARADISE, PA., WANTS THE line-up of the Washington team in the last that Walter Johnson pitched for he Senators, also the line-up of the opposng team, and whether he won or lost the

Johnson was knocked out of the box by he Browns on September 22, 1927, in the last game he pitched for Washington, Though he Senators won out, 10 to 7, Johnson was not credited with the victory. Line-up-Washington: S. Rice, rf; Harris, 2b; Ganzel, f; Goslin, cf; Judge, 1b; Tate, c; Bluege, 3b; Gillis, ss; Johnson, p; Burke, p; Braxon, p; Speaker and McNeely, pinch-hitters, St. Louis, O'Rourke, 3b; Melillo, 2b; H. Rice rf; Sisler, 1b; Williams, If-cf; Bennett, cf-lf Dixon, c: Adams, 2b-3b; Gerber, ss; Jones,

PAUL STRAND'S CAREER IS DESIRED by A Scribe, Seward, Alaska, who also asks whether Paul played center field for the Athletics, o Boston Americans, May, 1911; never claimed by Boston and returned to cane, 1912; San Francisco, February, 1912; farmed to Walla Walla for 1912; Spokane August, 1912; drafted by Boston Nationals, August, 1912-13-14-15; Toledo, April, 1916 Worcester, 1916; Scattle, March, 1917-18-19 Peoria, May, 1919; Joplin, September, 1919 released, April Yakima, May, 1920; Scattle, January 1921; Salt Lake, June, 1921-22-23; sold to Philadelphia Americans, December, 1923-24; Toledo, July, 1924-25-25; traded to Columbus, February, 1926; Portland, June, 1926 27; Atlanta, December, 1927-28; Little Rock June, 1928; refused to report, July, 1928; suspended, 1928; reinstated, April, 1932; released. April, 1932. Strand played center field for the Athletics early in 1924.

CAREERS OF WILBUR SWANSBORO, Frank Wotell and Bill Morgan are wanted by F. P., Wyandotte, Mich. Swansboro began with Kalamazoo, April 920: Muskegon, May, 1920-21,22; Lansing September. Juskegon, June, 1923; Saginaw, September 923: Syracuse, September, 1923-24-25-26 Hartford, May, 1926; Syracuse, June, 1926; St. Joseph, July, 1926; Oklahoma City, September, 1926; sold to Amarillo, December, Tulsa, February, 1932; released, April, 1932; St. Joseph, April 1932. Wotell began with Muskegon, 1917; released, April, 1917; Warren, Minn., May, 1917; Flint, May, July, 1920; Flint, June, 1921; January, 1922-23; Scranton, August, 1924; Rochester, August, 1924; Bridge-February, 1925-26; Waterbury, May, released, June, 1926. Morgan began Chambersburg, 1926; York and Cumberland, 1927; Cumberland, 1928; Williams-January, 1929-30; released, March, Scranton, May, 1931; released, June, Harrisburg, June, 1931-32-33.

Scribbled by ScribeS

F THE club-owners and their managers. in or out of the big leagues, have their ears to the current ground-swell of public opinion, they will take sufficient heed to steam up the ballyhoo for their pitchers, now giving fans the most alluring entertainment they have had since the craze for slugging started to fade out, declares the Brooklyn Eagle, "Ruth, Foxx and their fellow blasters still are No. 1 attractions, of course, but the pitcher is fast coming back into his own, especially in the big leagues. There have been more well-pitched ball games this spring than at any time since the peak days of Mathewson or Johnson, "No matter what the explanation now is;

whether the pitchers have simply got the even less liveliness in the official ball than last year, the fact is that the flinging duels are ready-made for more and better buildup. Instead of keeping it a dark secret, why not make public announcement when Schoolboy Rowe is going to twirl against Lefty Grove, when Wes Ferrell is due to hook up with Earnshaw, or when Dizzy Dean is booked to oppose Carl Hubbell? "In the old days, a tussle between Miner Brown and Christy Mathewson, advertised in advance, was sufficient to bring the fans to town from all nearby points. One recalls that President Taft once made special arrangements to be on hand for a renewal of that famous rivalry. It isn't necessary to go into all the details, or examples of shortsightedness on the part of baseball men. However, on this particular subject, they and their managers can do the game and its following a service by putting their pitching cards on the table and, may we suggest, in the advertising column, too."

Bill Corum of the New York Journal tosses a bouquet to Manager Max Carey of the Brooklyn Dodgers for the success of the deals he has made since becoming said to be a millionaire, . . . Mac is from manager of the club. "There is this to say for Max Carey's regime as pilot of the Brooklyn Dodgers-he's made his trades look good," declares Corum, "I was thinking about this when the scoreboard showed that Owen Carroll had hung up his third straight win. Carroll came to the Dodgers in the Vance trade, which puts Carey three games up on Branch Rickey, who made the the deal for St. Louis.

"The old Daz never was much of a team man at best. What gray hairs he used to put in Uncle Robbie's hair, with his miserwhen the time came to face a tough team. J. W., CHICAGO, ILL. YOUR QUESTION Grimes than a park full of Sir Arthurs. ager Carey seems to have got the better

> "Every now and then you hear that baseball's old-time popularity is fading out," writes Grantland Rice for the North American Newspaper Alliance. "This comes from some of those who have lost their early interest for baseball because of golf, tennis, motoring and such. They forget that another generation is coming on. They also forget that today almost an entire population is interested in some form of sport, where 20 years ago only a few games caught the fancy of the crowd."

Pop Boone of the Fort Worth Press praises VAN PETERMAN, who is traveling around |... players. "It was a magnificent gesture, even if Billy was pulling some wrestling strategy," commented Boone, "We hear the wise guys asking what ails baseball when mulgated his famous manifesto that any ball player who hopped onto an umpire would draw at least a year's suspension. he struck a death blow to the game.

fact that nobody ever saw an umpire injured by a ball player. In most of the scraps, I've seen the umpire got the best of it, if anything. In the old days when day and the fans had a big thrill out of game. I've seen many scraps between players, too, and up to now haven't known of any serious injury. Too many players are around the place to separate the scrap-

pers; too many police are handy."

John Connolly of the Los Angeles Examiner says President Hyland Baggerly of the Pacific Coast League is one league president who has been preaching for more fight in the game and has shown that he when it comes. "Rather he warns both clubs and lets it go at that," reports Connolly. "There is a certain type of fan who attends ball games who likes to jaw with the men on the field. Some of these each other, it doesn't take much to make Ole Joe Fan, who fights and bleeds for the

would want to suspend players, or put muzzles on them, because they happen to be WITH RUNNER ON FIRST, BATTER willing to fight in order to win ball games. hits to the infield and ball is thrown to Rather, I suspect that it is an indication between the players, the better, for it was can it be thrown to first and then to sec- arguments among the early-day players that made baseball

Shirley L. Povich, sports editor of the Washington Post, believes that the Mycr-Chapman-Whitehill brawl in Washington was the tenic needed to remind fandom that the game isn't entirely populated by business men ball players who think only in terms of wages, contracts and personal safety, and that the "fans may expect a bit of spice along with their baseball fare, which, for too many years, has consisted of home runs or pitching performances.

"There is no case on record of any ball player being seriously hurt in a fight on the field and such squabbles would better be taken as mere incidents of the game. It is difficult to blame the fans for pouring on the field as they did in Washington, Fights among the ball players have come so infrequently that when one does occur there is bound to be excitement among the spectators. If the battles were the rule, rather than the exception, the fans would soon learn to stay in their seats."

Ed Bang, sports editor of the Cleveland News, has come to the conclusion that pitching is going to be a big factor in deciding the major league flag races this season. is my humble opinion," Bang writes, "that played in 147 games last season. the heavy clubbers will not dominate baseball, as has been their custom in the past dozen seasons or so, or ever since Babe Ruth showed the way in the manufacture

"No official announcement has been made by the heads of baseball, but it is my hunch that a little more of the rabbit has been removed from the balls in use in the major leagues. This would naturally mean that there will be a falling off, not only in home runs in particular, but base hits in general. Perhaps there will be a return to the days when baseball was baseball It was a better brand of baseball, to my way of thinking, and I am hopeful we will have return of it to a great extent this year.

W. Blaine Patton, sports editor of the Indianapolis Star, in commenting on the new spirit being shown in the American Association games this season, writes: "Many of the fans are wondering if the bonus plan now in operation in the American Association, in which every game in the race means potential money at the end of the season for the players, or what the little boy shot at, is going to bring the diamond sport back to the days of Mc-

son, from the numerous run-ins on the ball field in the Hickey loop, and especially between the Indianapolis Indians and Milwaukee Brewers, it appears that we are in for more spirited action, to say the least."

hree and Une Looking them over with J. Taylor Spink

jump on the batsmen or whether there is DUCKY HARRIS wants Lyn Lary, shortstop of the New York Yankees. . . Harris says short is now the Tigers' only big problem, and, given a good man in that spot, he'd make the league sit up and take notice. . . . Owner Navin prefers Crosetti as a shortstop and vows the Yankee office is wrong and that Jake Ruppert cannot farm out Frank. . . . Must get waivers on the infielder, Navin insists. . . . But the way Crosetti has been going, no danger of that, ... Harris also has made a play for Red Kress, but no dice there, either. . . . Merritt Cain, called Sugar, pitcher with the Athletics, is a cousin of Hurry Cain, University of Alabama All-America football back, . . . At this writing, the new 20-foot screen in left field in Detroit has had little effect on hitters. . . . Simmons had some mental reaction and stopped pulling the ball, pushing it into right, which is just what Harris wanted Al to do. . . . Knickerbocker of the Indians looped one over the screen, and Vosmik of the same club, and Crosetti, Yankees, hit the barrier.

Jack Quinn, ancient spitter who talked Donie Bush into giving him another trial, following his release by the Dodgers, was not born at Hazleton, Pa, in 1885. . . . He was born in New York, near the Battery, in 1881, and is 52 years old. . . . What has become of the old-fashioned umpire who turned his back—and cheered when one ball player punched another in the nose? . . . The West roars with praise

for Oral Hildebrand, Cleveland hurler, who, only a few years ago was a campus wow at Butler University in Indianapolis. . . . Get this: The reorganized Red Sox have only two stockholders, Thomas Austin Yawkey and Edward Trowbridge Collins. . . . dad of Bill McAfee, Washington relief pitcher, is in International Harvester and is the University of Michigan. . . . This man l Fred Schulte, with the dead pan, is playing flossy ball for Washington. . . . After May 15, there will be 368 major league ball players who will not hinder their own advancement if they try to master the baseball rules. The shortcomings of many of them in this respect stagger belief,

Curves and Sinkers

A lins reform administration in Boston- Judge (What time does the train leave. ies and moanings and sudden ailments they've set aside a room for news- Vonnie?) Von Ohl, who chaperones the papermen, equipped with ticker, radio Athletics from jump to jump, has a grand-G. S., ST. LOUIS, MO., WANTS THE Long years back, or at least it seems that and frigidaire (none of your business what's son who is about the best 14-year-old athway, this writer roused a storm of pro- in it). . . . Back in the ninetics Jake Morse lete in America. This boy stars in basetest among Flatbush fans by announcing was one of the foremost baseball historians ball and football and is so good with a shot bad hops as singles any more, but he is pigeon championship. . . . Burt Shotton of There is nothing personal in it, when I a constant visitor to the two orchards in the Phillies is looking for the fellow who through this column, but answer will be write that I still can't figure out what Boston. . . . Tommy Richardson, the Wil- says you can't keep a good man down Rickey wanted with him. In any case, Man- liamsport (Pa.) gagster, got a gem of a prospect in Pitcher John Merena, optioned to Things You May Want to Know of the deal, just as he has of every deal him by Connic Mack. . . . John Titus and you request is of a confidential nature that he has made since taking charge of the his toothpick played with the Old-Timers at the Philly reunion of past stars on May 1. Christy Mathewson once told me that he tried for ten years to knock that toothpick out of Titus' kisser, but John always ducked in time. . . . Mike Donlin, whose bat won many a game for John McGraw, has a bit in Mac West's successful flicker, "She Done Him Wrong". . . . The softest job in any sports department of a newspaper in a major league city-writing those 400-word Hogsett, Indian left-hander of Tigers, is accounts of games for the New York Times. . . The Yankees call Walter Brown, 245pound pitcher, "the man who swallowed a taxicab."

Typed in the Rain

Texas League club, for challenging the 📕 Evening Bulletin of Philly, is one of the 🗔 took a plane and zoomed North to cover stop. . . . Bing Miller is called Black Man the last eclipse for his sheet and his story and Dark Folks by his teammates. . . made such a hit that a conservative scientific | None of the baseball writers with the Yansociety made him an honorary member. . . . | kees can work a typewriter as fast as Lyn You can't help noticing that the 50-cent Lary. . . . But some of the writers insist pews are getting a bigger play at the or- they can play short better than Lyn, so chards than in many years. . . . Wire your it's fifty-fifty. . . . Philadelphia will vote congressman about William Harridge, Amer- 5 to 1 in favor of Sunday baseball when ican League president, who handled the the ballots are counted next November. . . Myer-Chapman-Whitehill woes so satisfac- Al Simmons, Jimmy Dykes and George torily that there was no backfiring. Roose- Haas are not the fattest men in the world, velt needs a diplomat like that in one of yet they are filling Louis Comiskey's stands

those debt conferences. . . . This is a tough year for managers. Bill Terry has a broken wrist, Lew Fonseca a lame leg, Gabby Street bronchitis, and Donie Bush is suffering from compound fracture of the win column, . . . Gowell Claset, the A's big left-hander who came to Mack from Montreal, is near-sighted and wears thick lenses when he scans his hands to see whether he holds treys or deuces. . . . Hi Mason of the Red Sox business staff is a nephew of the late Robert Lee Hedges, one-time owner of the Browns, . . . Burt Whitman of the Boston Herald is writing the story of the national combat in his best vein this season. . . . There's to be a world's fair in Chicago starting in June. but it won't exhibit that bat with which Johnny Burnett of Cleveland made nine hits NOTHER new note in the Yawkey-Col- in that extra inning game last season. . . .

▼ OUIS FINNEY of the Athletics and Hall

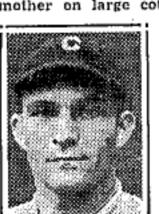
of the Pirates are brothers. . . . Bob titude toward interviewers and photographers. . . . Lou Gehrig, who used to be tough for writers and tougher for cameramen, has changed completely, . . . Grove is making a sucker play. . . . Take it from Joe Cronin, pastor of the Washington flock Lou Gehrig and Al Simmons are the greatest players in the American League. . . . Elon the coldest pitcher in his circuit. . . . Ice water in his veins, . . . Vaughan and Plet of Pirates are revelations this season. . Look like scasoned veterans. . . , Jimmy Foxx rarely makes a two-handed catch . . Likes to take everything on the glove.

. . . And Roy Mahaifey doesn't know one the circuit with the Athletics for the hitter from another. . . . Excepting Ruth . . . Philadelphia has about decided that most brilliant reporters in America. He Dib Williams was not cut out for a short-

LEAVES FROM APBOOK

JACKSON RIGGS (OLD HOSS) STEPHENSON

Outfielder, Chicago Cubs. Born, Akron, Ala., January 5, 1899. Height, five feet ten inches. Weight, 180 pounds. Bats and throws right-handed. Not married. Lives with mother on large cotton plantation at Akron, Ala., during off-season.



TRITERS frequently refer to Riggs Stephenson as "Old Hoss." Term has warmth and affection fans do not all savvy. It denotes in Stephenson qualities of faithful old family horse of another era. Old Hoss also fits snugly because veteran Cub is always pulling in right direction with both shoulders in harness. Never balks. Goes on day after day, always hitting ball consistently, making fans forget arm is not much and legs do not get him over ground very fast. Old Hoss, indeed, is right-a durable, dependable performer giving everything he has in each game. Stephenson, or Stevie, as he also is known, one of truly great batters of game. Only once during nearly 12 years in majors has he fallen below .300. That was during early part of 1925, when Cleveland, his original major club, sent him to minors. Even then he batted .296. Has average of .336 for service in majors up to this year. Best season at bat with Cleveland, .371, 1924; best with Cubs, Riggs Stephenson 367, 1930. Not a home run hitter, but he belts singles, doubles

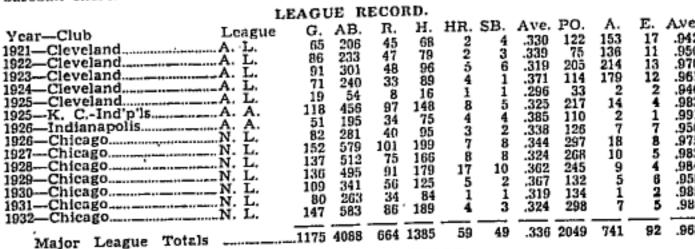
and occasionally triples. Fielding mark of .968, embraces figures when he was infielder before moving to outfield. This quiet, slow-speaking man from Dixle, with pleasant drawl, has pugnacious face, which won him sobriquet of "Rough House" when he was attending Alabam University. But he is a gentleman of first water, highly thought of by players and fans alike. Cauliflower cars are mementos of football playing days. As player with Alabama once was halled as "Greatest Fullback in South." Played shortstop on varsity baseball team and also took hand in basket ball. This is same school that sent Joe and Luke Sewell to majors. It was Joe Sewell's elevation to Cleveland club in 1920 that put big league bug in Stevie. Coach Xen Scott of old Alabam' did rest. State of Alabama paid his university tuition. Insists he wasn't paid for athletics, but that he had a job-"seeing to it that prankish boys didn't throw rocks through

Member of Sigma Chi fraternity. A sweetheart of Sigma Chi sent him bouquet opening day this year. Was only player in ranks to get posies-the sly old bachelor. University had no scruples against boys picking up enough money playing semi-pro ball during summer to help pay their expenses. Played in independent Delta League of Dixie during summers of 1918, '19 and 20 when he was going to school. Found semi-pro brand of ball not only, profitable, but it kept him from hum-drum life of son of the plantation. On recommendation of Coach Scott, who had Cleveland connections because he was sports writer there, Indians signed Stevie well in advance of leaving school. Had short time to go with studies in 1921 when Manager Speaker needed infield help. Called college youngster to New Orleans for trial in spring. Stevie then hopped back to studies. But week before season opened, Bill Wamby's legs were acting up and Stevie was asked to join Tribe. Made arrangements with university to finish classes in fall and was dressed in Cleveland uniform day before 1921 season opened. Broke in as second baseman on opening day, against St. Louis Browns. Made two hits off Urban Shocker, but his throwing was bad. Was used as part-time second sacker and occasionally at third base until 1925. Knee had been injured year before. Went to right field at start of season and hit well enough, but arm was against him. Drew optional release to Kansas City, but in almost the same action was sent to Indianapolis outright. By this time was acknowledged oufielder and continued to hit ball hard. When Joe McCarthy, then manager of Cubs. demanded more power in the outfield, Stevie was bought from Indianapolis in July 1926, While not fast afield, makes many impossible-looking diving catches. Broke ankle

in 1931 and many figured he was through, in consequence. But he came right back and Rides to ball parks on street cars, but will place his roll on his time he can pick his own partner. Very patient, will take 15 minutes any time to explain that his favorite "Fox gun

is named for the man who designed it rather than because of being used to hunt foxes, there being no foxes near Akron. Stevie is man of fine temperament. When things are breaking badly for him, he seldom complains-just keeps on sawing wood. Rarely, if ever, uses profanity, most

violent cuss words being "gol darn it." Hikes to little home town of Akron. Ala., as soon as season is over, and there he remains until it is time to go to camp again. Father died few years ago, leaving plantation to his mother and two brothers to look after. Has put considerable money into property of home town and as some writer recently remarked, awed children of Akron will whisper when they see Stevie after his baseball chores are done: "There's old man Stephenson, who owns the town."



1926—Indianapolis 1927—Chicago 930--Chicago Major League Totals "At any rate, even this early in the seaear—Club