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It is certainly wrong for the magnates to expect their men to play baseball between meals.

Since Jim O'Rourke has retired from the Eastern League, buttermilk has been scratched from the wine list.

Ban Johnson has decided that if there is any writing to be done in the American league, he will attend to that.

Ted Meredith will not quit the running game this season, as first reported. Meredith will compete in many of the indoor meets and is said to be going to return to Sweden next summer.

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Open Football Finding More Favor

Statistics Show That the Use of the Pass is Being Developed by Big Teams, Says Sol Metzger, Coach Washington and Jefferson Football Team.

Statistics are not usually interesting and they are too often neglected in football. Fortunately, the story about the short second period in the Yale-Harvard game puts a little spice into football statistics, especially as there has been some talk since then, of substituting a certain number of plays per quarter instead of a certain period of time, as is now the rule.

Such a step would be so radical that there is great doubt of its receiving recognition if adopted. It would necessarily change the generalship of football as it would fall of its purpose to speed up the game. Indeed, there seems no logical ground for it because the one game (Yale-Harvard) which is supposed to be the cause of this talk was more rapidly played than the other big Eastern contests this fall.

It is unfortunate that I do not have a similar record of the Pittsburg team in its major games. Its high speed of play and the fact that it had little punting to do would place it near the top.

The strange thing about the figures given above is that the Yale-Harvard game was the most rapidly played in spite of the fact that these two teams punted 37 times and attempted 17 forward passes, two styles of play that unquestionably consume more time than the running attack. Indeed, Harvard used the forward pass as much as its Yale and Brown games as Pennsylvania in its Cornell game, though with far less effect.

Based on the records of the Harvard passes were passed from a distance back of the line short of the necessary five yards is proof of this. In the Harvard game the average number of plays actually run off in each half of these five yards was exactly that number. Well trained football players are not likely to tire after the first half. In fact big games usually prove the opposite if points are to be considered. The best team in the second half and in close games the last quarter is the deciding one.

Accurately kept figures of the play of Washington and Jefferson this past fall in all games also proved this conclusively. This eleven scored 247 points to 100 by opponents. Its best period was the fourth, where it totalled 73 to 48 in the first period which had everything in its favor in the minor games, for after it was over substitutions were frequent. And also defensive one, this in the fact of the 165 points.

Football men have long known that superior weight is of advantage to a team. Even those who advocate the forward pass as a play likely to offset this advantage cannot set aside facts. The statistics of play in our big games rather clearly shows what slight advantage actually means, all else being equal.

number of plays in a game—148. It gives a total near 300 yards, which is just about the advantage a team which outweighs another 15 pounds or more actually has in a game, all else, speed, knowledge, etc., being equal.

Open football proved decidedly more popular the past fall. The average number of forward passes in the five games mentioned was 17 to 21 punts. Harvard used the pass as much as Penn or Cornell and Yale played for victory in several cases by use of this attack. Harvard and Yale, in their game, did more punting than other teams, more than 25 of their plays being punts, whereas in the Harvard-Brown game but 11 punts were used, Brown, owing to its strong back, punting but 5 of its 38 plays.

Freddie Schupp Tells of the Effect of a Close Game on the Nerves of the Big Leaguers.

Having led the National league in pitching, last season, Ferdie Schupp, the Giants' clever young left-hander is a big noise in his own home town, which happens to be Louisville, Ky. Ferdie now gets into print through other means than a little line in the box scores showing he had succeeded his fellow Schush brother, Rube Schauer, as pitcher to a Giant defeat.

"Does the average fan notice the amount of energy nerve force and brain power a ball player going at full speed uses in the course of a season's play?" queries Ferdie. "I say brains because the modern player uses brains in large quantity. Take such players as Cobb, Speaker and Maranville, and think of the remarkable nervous force they expend during the course of a game. Cobb consumes more energy in a two-hour game of a ball than the average business man does in three working days. Coupled with his great natural ability, Cobb pushes to the front with his brains and reserve nerve force. It is such men as Cobb whom the game robs of all youthful powers long before they grow old."

"As an example in our own league there is Maranville of the Braves, a little fellow who is regarded as one of the game's leading stars. What Maranville lacks in physical strength he makes up by a great stock of nervous energy. Long before the Rabbit grows old he is bound to feel the strain he is now working under."

"To come to the point—ball players as are real players, actually are selling their youth. A business man may have more brain power than the average ball player, but the strain of hours of work with him is not nearly as trying as when a player goes through in one contest. "It might interest the fan to get a close look at a ball player in action. Most players have wrinkles under their eyes and the eyes are constantly squinting. Of the field the players do not get rid of the wrinkles which are

caused by constant alertness during the course of games. "So whenever I hear magnates talk of lowering the salaries of their stars I feel like laughing. Smart ball players know just what baseball does to a fellow and it is no more than natural that they get all they can out of it. Baseball creates and breaks his heroes all within the period of a few short years. When a ball player drifts out of the limelight his past performances, no matter how great, will never buy him the price of a meat packer.

Which is all very well, Ferdie, if all ball players threw the nerve force into their play, which Cobb, Speaker and Maranville prove in the few ball players have the good fortune to develop into Cobbs or Speakers, but it is the duty of all to give their best to their teams. Unfortunately, despite Ferdie Schupp and his lecture on nerve force a great many players loaf perceptibly during the past three seasons on their regular iron bound non-breakable contracts.

It is also interesting to note that the players who work the hardest last the longest. Statistics have shown the average life of the big league player in five years. Cobb, with eleven years of big league ball behind him, still is the star pitcher at 39. He has pitched 25. Speaker at 33 led the league, while Wagner, Plunk and Lajoie, all past 40 finished successful seasons. No pitcher in the league has pitched more nerve force than Plunk, yet his sixteenth year in the big leagues he pitched one stretch last summer during which he threw five hits in three innings, the winning games pitched within eight days.

In the event that Bill Carrigan cannot be coaxed out of retirement, the next manager of the Red Sox will be Roger Bresnahan, part owner of the Toledo club, and former manager of the Cleveland Indians. A baseball man just back from the American league meeting in Chicago is authorized for that statement.

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loss the game has suffered in one season? With the exception of Illinois Wagner and Sam Crawford, at one time collected all the grand veterans of the game—Christy Mathewson, Miner Brown, Napoleon Lajoie, Rhody Wallace and Nap Rucker.

To this list it may be necessary to add two pitching wizards who assisted Connie Mack in winning six league pennants. A baseball series, Eddie Plank and Chief Bender, Plank, despite his age, still is a capable pitcher, but he has announced that if the St. Louis Browns do not trade him to an Eastern club he will retire. St. Louis has offered him to the Yankees for Fritz Maisel, but the proposition was declined. Toronto's refusal to release a rookie infielder to the Phillies has blocked a deal by which Bender was to go to the Canadian city city as manager.

Will any one figure how many games a manager would have lost ten years ago had he a pitching staff consisting of Mathewson, Brown, Bender and Plank, also Nap Rucker, and a second base combination with Wallace at short and Lajoie at second? Rucker really is a baby among those veteran players, for just ten years ago he was drafted by Brooklyn and dreaming of a big league career.

Of the players mentioned, Wallace was first to start in the big league. He began as a pitcher with the Cleveland Nationals in 1895. Lajoie landed the following year, 1896, with the Phillies, and four years later, 1900, Mattie joined the Giants. Plank came next, bobbling up with the Athletics in 1911 and Bender and Brown both came into the big league in 1907, the chief with the Athletics and Brown with the St. Louis Cardinals. Rucker started his career in Brooklyn in 1907.

The passing of these men leaves only Wagner and Crawford of the real old boys still in the game and Father Time has a clutch on both. The veteran Wagner will vacate the position in which he now makes his home next season, and will round out his career at first base. Sam Crawford was relieved of active duty in Detroit last season and put into the pinch hit reserve. Wagner started with the Louisville Nationals in 1895 and Crawford's first big game assignment was with the Cincinnati Reds in 1896.

Governor Tener of the National league recently remarked: "I cannot how the playing end of the game is going back. The players are smarter and discover new tricks all the time." But where, governor, are the pitchers who will take the places of Mitty, Brown, Plank, Bender and Rucker, and what young players are being groomed to fill the posts held by stars of the calibre of Lajoie, Wallace, Wagner and Crawford.

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trailing leader. These shots to him typified the best things in golf, for they required not only the physical punch, but the nerve and the steady hand that make for direction as well as distance.

Cooper Wins 50-mile Race. Los Angeles, Calif., Dec. 25.—Earl Cooper won the fifty-mile race at the Ascot "Speedway" here today, covering the distance in 44.41 an average of 67.13 miles an hour. Eddie Pullen finished one second behind Cooper.

George Stovall, former firebrand of the Federal league, will quit baseball unless he can land a job as manager of a Coast league club, according to his statements to friends in Los Angeles. It is thought that Stovall will be considered for the leadership at Vernon when Tom Darmody closes for the club. As yet Darmody's negotiations have not gone far enough so that he is in a position to start lining up his material for next year.

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