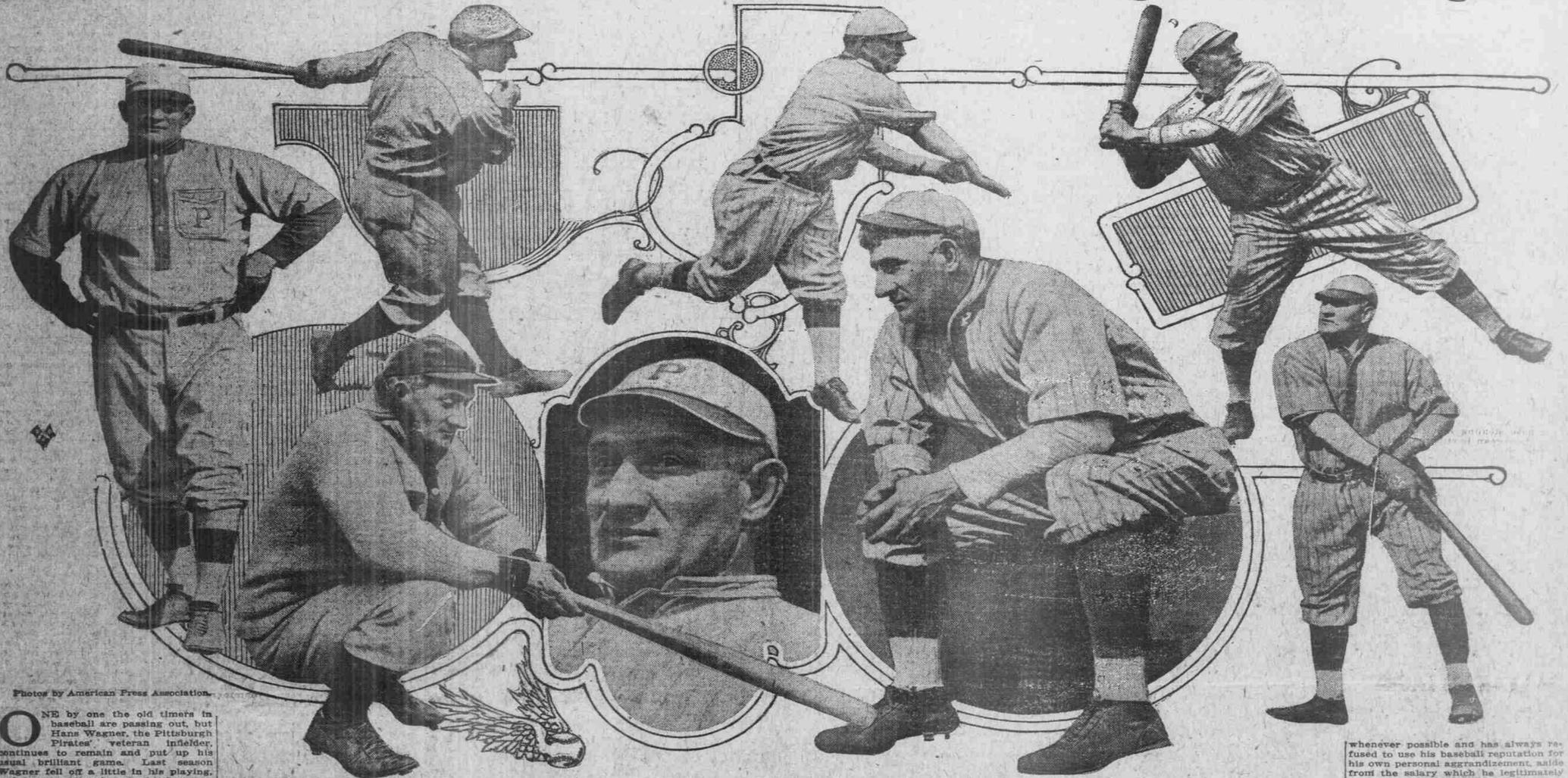


SPORTS AS THE EXPERTS SEE THEM

Veteran of Veterans, Hans Wagner Still Holds Fort Against All Youngsters



Photos by American Press Association.

ONE by one the old timers in baseball are passing out, but Hans Wagner, the Pittsburgh Pirates' veteran infielder, continues to remain and put up his usual brilliant game. Last season Wagner fell off a little in his playing, and many predicted it was his last year as a regular, but Honus has fooled 'em. Since the start of the 1915 season Wagner has put up as brilliant an all round game as he ever did—that is, his fielding, baserunning and throwing are as good as in the days of old. His batting, while not as heavy as a few years back, is timely, and judging by the way he has been connecting with

the ball during the past few weeks it looks as if the Pirate veteran will finish the season well up among the 300 hitters. His underpinning, which gave him such trouble last season, seems to be as strong as ever. With Wagner

going well the Pirates have a splendid chance to finish one, two, three. Wagner is extremely popular among the players and is admired by all of them. It is seldom, indeed, that a ball player is honored as Wagner has been.

However, it is not for his baseball ability alone that Wagner is to be commended. Much of that is natural, and in using it as he has done he has not overstepped the boundaries of his bounden duty. But his attitude toward

his employers had to be acquired, and he is to be praised for the way he has conducted himself on and off the diamond. Wagner has always been absolutely amenable to discipline. In this respect

he was vastly different from some other stars who might be mentioned. Wagner was never what is known as a "record player." With him the team's interests were always paramount. He has doctored the limelight wherever and

whenever possible and has always refused to use his baseball reputation for his own personal aggrandizement, aside from the salary which he legitimately earned. Johnny Evers hit the ball squarely on the head in his letter which was read at the Wagner dinner when he wrote: "You hear about 'second' Cobbs, 'another' Lajoie, but you never hear about 'second' Wagners. Why? Simply because there never will be a second Wagner. He is in a class by himself." This was a graceful but well deserved compliment.

EIGHT VIEWS OF THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES' VETERAN

Lavender Pitching Fine Ball For Cubs



Photo by American Press Association. JIMMY LAVENDER.

PITCHER JIMMY LAVENDER of the Chicago Cubs is showing class this year. Since the start of the season he has twirled consistently good ball and gives evidence of coming near to leading the hurlers in the national league in games won.

NEW YORK'S SPEED MERCHANT IS BRAINER.

BRAINER is the fastest man on the New York team, not even excepting George Burns, who is a corking base runner. The young first baseman looks like a very promising performer. He is a second sacker by trade, but is picking up the points of first base play very rapidly. He seems to be quite a find.

BEST HITTERS SOME GUNNERS

JOE JACKSON! The name inspires the shivers in American league pitchers. It inspires enthusiasm in the American league fan.

"Some sweet hitter, that boy," says the fan. When Connie Mack first plucked Joe from the bushes he wasn't exactly a green lemon, but he wasn't ripe for high baseball society. As now called, he had two faults; he didn't wear socks and he was troubled with homesickness. No one thought Connie would have fired him because of his dislike for hose, but an attack of homesickness caused him to desert, and a deserter is looked upon with about the same favor in big league baseball as he is in the army.

After Joe recovered from Bakeritis (new name for aversion to wandering from one's own fireside), he spent a season in New Orleans, where he made Southern league pitchers' life so miserable they induced Mr. Somers to yank Joe back into the American league again, and Cleveland has domiciled the sockless sockadozer ever since. He has been about half the Cleveland team the last two years, the other half wears socks, doesn't get homesick and is very

docile and inoffensive to the other seven clubs in the league. It takes a keen eye and steady nerves to run second to the wonderful Ty Cobb for league batting honors. Joe Jackson has done that several times. There's a reason.

Joe says: "Next to baseball give me a shotgun. In the field or at the traps I find great enjoyment in its use." Get the idea, Mr. Wood B. Sluggler? It doesn't pay for a ball player to allow his eye to become dim and his nerves unstrung by a winter of idleness. Shooting keeps eyes in trim, nerves taut, muscles firm.

Ty Cobb is a trapshooter and a good one; so is Speaker. Chief Bender won his own game recently with a two-bass-biff; he spent most of his spare time all last winter trapshooting. Bender is some shooter too. Got twenty-five straight one time and twenty-two is easy for him.

If the world's series winners will invest some of their easy money this fall in shotguns and will use them throughout the winter I'll bet on them to repeat next year. I'll also bet Joe Jackson is the only trapshooter on the Cleveland team.

Manager Fred Clarke Contented

FRED CLARKE, the Pittsburgh Pirates' manager, is a contented manager. He believes that he is in a position to command the envy of every other leader in the big leagues. "You see, nobody expects much of us," remarked Clarke recently, "so how can we prove a disappointment? So far I'm entirely satisfied with the showing of my team. No, I think I ought to say that I'm more than satisfied. The club has exceeded my expectations. I think we'll surprise every one before we're through."

Asked for his opinion of the comparative merits of the eastern teams, Clarke said that so far as he could see the Braves, the Phillies and the Giants were about equal in strength. "Of course everybody knows the Giants

won't finish last," he declared. "I think McGraw has a stronger team than he had last year. The Phillies may be only a flash in the pan, but Pat Moran certainly has his men hustling. The problem of the Braves is pitching. I think Stallings will have a mighty hard job to win another pennant, but he may get just the work he needs from his pitchers when the warm weather sets in."

Clarke expressed himself as greatly pleased at the enthusiasm which the fans all over the circuit were showing over Wagner. "He's just as good as he ever was," declared the manager of the Pirates. "Does he cover as much ground? Well, maybe not quite as much. Possibly he's lost half an inch of his range on either side."

Fred Merkle There With the Noodle

SPEAKING of minds, Fred Merkle, the New York National first baseman, has one. His is probably the best in baseball. The man who has been "homeheaded" all over the circuit as the result of one unlucky break has a greater store of assorted knowledge than any player in the game.

A stray copy of Schopenhauer was found lying on a chair in the lobby of the Arlington hotel at Marlin the past spring, and when the book was opened the fly leaf revealed the name Fred Merkle. The big first baseman's reading is about as heavy as some of those long drives of his.

Smith and John Stuart Mill. If there was any other Giant to listen Merkle could tell him all about the balance of trade, tariffs, the Malthusian theory and intensive cultivation of land. In his lighter moods Merkle plays a sound game of chess and is second only to Christy Mathewson as an auction player.

DELL GOING WELL.

DELL is coming along in fine style for the Brooklyn. His last three games have been good ones, although he lost one of them—the one against the Giants. He has beaten the Phillies and the Braves since then.

Mathewson Seems To Be Slowing Up



Photo by American Press Association. CHRISTY MATHEWSON.

JUDGING by the form he has shown so far this season, Christy Mathewson, the Giants' veteran twirler, seems to be slowing up. Matty has not been twirling the brand of ball that has made him famous. Manager McGraw expects the veteran to come around before the season is much older.

BASEBALL TERMS AS DESCRIBED BY AUSTRALIANS

THE following description of a baseball game, played recently in Australia between native and American resident nines, gives an excellent idea of Antipodean baseball vernacular. "The Americans mounted the box first, sending Marre to face the attack. The pitcher treated him with respect, allowing him to walk to first. Casey followed, and Hearnden's error enabled him to reach second in safety. Caswell then threw wildly at first base, and before the ball was recovered Marre and Casey had sprinted across the plate. Tucker meanwhile had made good on the diamond, but Brazg's fly, which was muffed, gave the fieldman an opportunity of cutting the runner off at third. Brazg consequently scored on Brown's hit to the country, making three runs for the innings.

"Australia sent Hearnden to the box first, but a put out at first base was registered. Comber followed, and Marre's bad throw saw him safely landed at first. Golby then came with a brilliant hit right out to left field, bringing Comber home. Spiller, who had been missed by the catcher, made his way to third, and a passed ball completed the distance for him.

"In the next term America could not get off the box, and then Australia made a determined effort to draw level in the succeeding term. Hearnden brilliantly smashed to the left 'garden' for a two bagger, and a passed ball sent him on to third. Another passed ball completed the journey for him, and the scores read 3 all. Spiller was indulging in daring pilfering on the diamond and a well judged steal gave him second base, from where he was sent flying across the plate on Golby's clout, which Casey allowed to get past. Golby had reached third when Lambert went in to bat, and the Lechart player brought him home on a fine outfield hit, which produced two bags. Caswell then brought Lambert home, making four runs for the session."

Boom In Harness Racing

RECENT sale of Directum I, the pacing champion, for a sum said to be close to \$45,000, brings to mind the remarkable gain in speed made by the side action racer in recent years.

A study of the records from 1896 to 1915 shows that in this period of forty-nine years the mile record made either in competition or against time has been reduced from 2:21 1/4 to 1:55, a gain of 25 1/4 seconds. Directum I holds the record of 1:53, made in a race at Columbus, O., on Sept. 30, 1914, and Dan Patch, against time, record of 1:55, made at St. Paul, Minn., on Sept. 3, 1906.

Brief Playing Star Game For White Sox



Photo by American Press Association. BRIEF, CHICAGO WHITE SOX FIRST BASEMAN.

ALL of the Chicago White Sox players are putting up a fine game in the rush pennantward, and Brief, who is holding down the initial station, is no exception.

Brief was with the Detroit team in the early part of this year. His career there (paragon the pun) was brief. Given a chance with the White Sox shortly after opening of the season he at once made good. He is holding his position well and is hitting the ball when his mean runs.

MANAGER ROWLAND THERE WITH THE ALIBI.

CLARENCE ROWLAND, the White Sox manager, is not at all delinquent in conversational ways. He admits that the White Sox are a stronger team than the Detroit, losing four games to the latter only because his team "failed to get the breaks."