

SPORTING WORLD AS SEEN BY EXPERTS

PAT MORAN HAPPIEST MAN IN BASEBALL



Photo by American Press Association.

PAT MORAN is the happiest manager in baseball today. When Patrick took hold of the Philadelphia Nationals at the start of the 1915 season the experts figured his chances of leading a pennant winner were very slim. But he has not only done it, but he has done it in a way that has shown that he possesses wonderful managerial ability and knows the game from A to Z.

Aim of Ball Player Better Than That Of Rifle Shooter

"Wow! Did you see that throw?" Such an expression has been on the lips of almost every baseball fan dozens of times, as he has witnessed an outfielder, after making a beautiful running catch, whip the ball from deep in the outfield to home plate without hesitating to consider the distance. "Just like a shot from a rifle," these fans have added as the throws have spanked into the catcher's mitt in time to catch a runner attempting to score from third, and they marveled at the accuracy. The fans would marvel still more if they knew that under the conditions the marksmanship of the outfielder is more accurate than would have been that of the average rifleman. If some of the followers of the latter activity doubt this just try running backward or sideways for fifteen or twenty yards and then without hesitating attempt to make a bulls-eye 225 or 250 feet away. Then, after you have failed by several feet or yards, fess up. The truth of this assertion probably is no more strikingly brought out than in wartime, when a retreating force, in order to do any damage to its pursuers, must first be called to a halt before its fire becomes accurate. Thus it was in the case of the Russians in a recent drive by the German army, for it was not until the former reached points of advantage, where they could be halted without great danger, that the drive of the Teuton forces came to a stop.

The secret of the superior accuracy of the outfielder over the rifleman is instinct. The instinct to use the arm in throwing is known to every boy and man and many girls and women. It evidences itself very early in life and the throwing of sticks and stones or other objects among boys of meager size is a custom well known to everybody and recorded many hundreds of times on juvenile court records. This instinct is developed to the limit in the major league ball player, and it is well known that his throwing under the conditions he works, is more accurate than would be the marksmanship of the average rifleman under the same conditions.

Among the most accurate throwers in the big leagues today, the trio of Red Sox gardeners—Tris Speaker, Harry Hooper and Duffy Lewis—form the greatest collection. The St. Louis Browns boast Spittin'; the St. Louis Cardinals, Wilson; the Washington Senators, Clyde Milan; the New York Giants, George Burns, and the Brooklyn Dodgers, Zack Wheat, who, with the three Bostonians, class as the exclusive set of fine whipped outfielders.

HOW THE WHITE SOX LANDED JOE JACKSON

ATTEMPTS of Federal league agents to sign Joe Jackson just prior to his sale to the White Sox threatened to precipitate court proceedings against the Chicago third league team and also postpone indefinitely an agreement between organized baseball and the Gilmore organization, leading to peace in the national pastime.

This was learned recently from a reliable source. Ban Johnson the other day was in Cleveland to convince President Somers of the Indians that he has a clear case against the Feds and if the American league chief has his way Weeghman's team will be compelled to defend itself in court for tampering with a player under an iron-clad contract.

There never was a clearer case on record of agents deliberately tampering with a man under an iron-clad contract than that of Joe Jackson, whom the Feds tried to sign despite his written word to play with Cleveland for three years," asserted one who claimed to know the facts.

Why Jackson Was Sold. "Yes, that is why Jackson was placed on the market by Cleveland and why the White Sox bought him," President Somers was inquired over the tactics of the Feds, and the fact that Jackson was in conference with them made it imperative that he be sold to some other team, as Somers was through with him.

Joe Tinker After Outfielder. "Joe Tinker was trying to get Jackson to sign with the Feds," Secretary Blackwood got wind of it and went to Jackson's home. He found Tinker there. He called Jackson out and asked what he was doing. He told him he couldn't play with any Federal league team as he was under a contract to play with Cleveland and that contract couldn't be broken."

Wanted to Leave Cleveland. As the story goes, Jackson rejected the Fed offer and agreed to play for some other team, preferring the White Sox. The Cleveland batting phenomenon had been panned by a number of Cleveland baseball writers and wanted to get away from there, it is said.

President Comiskey has benefited immensely by the forgoing tactics of Joe Tinker, the Federal league's greatest asset. When Tinker went after Walter Johnson and influenced him to jump to the Whites it caused a panic in American league circles. The sale of Eddie Collins to the White Sox at a record price followed.



Photo by American Press Association.

JOE JACKSON.

bound by the eloquence of the Whites' manager and talked contract with the Fed agent. Then Somers decided to sell Jackson and asked for bids. Of course Comiskey was right on hand to go a little higher than any one else. He signed

Jackson, one of the greatest hitters in baseball, for a price said to be in excess of \$50,000 in cash and players. President Johnson admitted recently that Cleveland probably would have kept Jackson had he not gone into a conference with Tinker.

All Federal League Managers Are Real Ball Players

EVERY team in the Federal league has a playing manager except John Gangel of the Brooklyn Feds, although Fielder Jones of the St. Louis club has stepped into action only twice this season. However, he says he is ready to take the place of any of his outfielders in the event that injury should overtake one. Jones was one of the greatest outfielders the game ever produced when he led the White Sox to a world's championship over the Cubs in 1906.

Joe Tinker, the leader of the Chicago Whales, has not been very active this season owing to a kidney ailment, but at the close of the season he will undergo an operation and expects to be ready to work steadily next year. Otto Knabe plays second base for the Baltimore Terrapins besides guiding the destiny of the infielders. Otto is one of the fastest leaders in the league, and his presence invariably insures a scrap of some kind. George Stovall of the Kansas City Packers also is a playing boss. He takes charge of the initial sack and has been in about 100 games this year.

Bill McKechnie was playing third base for the Newark Peps when Manager Bill Phillips was released and McKechnie has filled his place with a degree of success that indicates he will be retained. Harry Lord plays third base for the Buffalo club fully as capably as he used to do when he was with the White Sox. His duties as manager of the Buffaloes do not seem to interfere with his playing ability, his stick work being fairly good. He succeeded Larry Schlichty as manager only a month or so ago. Rebel Oakes, the guide of the Pittsburgh Siegels, is the regular center fielder and considered one of the best outfielders in the league. He is also popular with the players and has his team well to the front in the Federal league contest.

NEW ADDITION TO THE A. A. U.

THE far western championship conference is the latest addition to the Amateur Athletic union, it will embrace ten states—California, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico and Arizona, as well as the territory of Hawaii and the Panama canal zone. The new organization will foster swimming, boxing and football, as well as track and field contests.

NEWARK PLANNING FOR A. A. U. CHAMPIONSHIP.

NEWARK, N. J., will hold the 1916 Amateur Athletic union track and field championships at Wequaick park. Sparrow Robertson will build the track, which it is expected will cost \$5,000. There will be a 400 yard straightaway and a 440 yard course with one turn. After the events the field will be turned over to the Newark city authorities.

Who Had the Greatest Slow Ball?

A BASEBALL fan has asked, to decide an argument, for the name of the pitcher who in all baseball history had the greatest slow ball.

That question has been put to the wise men of baseball many times, and they have never agreed. Old Hoss Radbourne, Clark Griffith, Hank O'Day, Virgil Garvin, Christy Mathewson, Otis Crandall, Russ Ford, Fred Falkenberg and Eddie Summers have been named. Summers, with Detroit in 1907 and part of 1908, had a wonderful slow ball. It was his "knuckler." After a time gripping the ball tore his finger nails

to the roots, and he lost the grip that made him a winner.

There are four good present day slow ball hurlers—Russ Ford, with his "soap bubble" ball; Falkenberg, with his "reverse emery;" Mathewson, with his "fadeaway;" and Crandall, with his "snake curve."

Crandall went to the majors at an age when most pitchers are nearly all in, and his arm was none too strong. He was a wonder for a few innings, and McGraw used him to finish games for faltering fast ball pitchers.

Batters say Crandall's slow ball floats up as big as a balloon, but when hit won't go anywhere. The trouble is, watchful batters can tell when the ball is coming, for Crandall has to expose his peculiar grip of the ball when preparing for delivery.

Ford mixes his slow ball with speed and the "spitter." Falkenberg says he copied his slow one from Virgil Garvin when both were with Pittsburgh. Falty grips the ball far back in the palm of his hand, holding it between the butt of his thumb and the palm and releasing the pill without friction, so it hardly revolves as it sails to the plate.

Mathy's fadeaway breaks in on top of the bats of right hand batters, so even if they hit it they cannot send it far. Batters always watched for Clark Griffith's slow one, but they never seemed ready for it. Griff had an uncanny knack of pitching just what the batter did not want.

NORMAN TABER, RUNNER, TO RETIRE



Photo by American Press Association.

NORMAN TABER.

NORMAN TABER, the great Brown university runner, has announced that he will retire at the end of the present season. Taber is the holder of the world's record for the mile. He traveled the distance in 4 minutes 12 2-5 seconds.

Many Freak Plays This Season

BASEBALL play in the major and minor leagues this season has been productive of a number of unusual performances, some of which have established records or supplanted those existing for some years. They include almost every department of the game, and at the rate they are piling up 1915 is likely to be remembered as the year of odd features.

In the Pacific Coast league Jack Neas, first baseman of the Oakland team, batted safely in forty-five consecutive games for a total of seventy hits, breaking Ty Cobb's record of one or more hits in forty straight games made in 1911. Previous to Cobb's advent the record was held by Hal Chase, who, in 1907, batted safely in twenty-seven consecutive contests. The same year that Cobb was hitting so consistently Otis Clymer was establishing the minor league record of safe hitting in twenty-five straight games.

Other extraordinary features include twenty bases on balls by Pitcher Harry Harper in a game between Minneapolis and St. Paul of the American association; the winning of two games in one day by Pitcher Melinger of Cedar Rapids team of the Central association, who allowed fifteen hits and two runs in twenty-four innings against Marshalltown; a twenty-two inning scoreless tie game between Burlington and Keokuk in the same association; George Cutshaw's two safe hits on one pitched ball, which Umpire Klem declared legal in the Brooklyn-Chicago game of July 10; and the failure of Rube Oldring to take the field with the rest of his teammates until several balls and strikes had been called upon the batter, due to an interesting conversation with Joe Sargent in a recent Athletic-Browns game at St. Louis. These are only a few of the queer plays of the year.

Polo Is a Rich Man's Game

TO become an expert poloist a man must be able to ride like a centaur, have a quick eye and hit the sphere with precision while at full gallop. To do this requires daily practice on the polo field.

Polo is a millionaire's game. Only men of means can stand the expenses connected with the game, purchasing ponies, their keep and men to care for the mounts. It is stated on good authority that W. A. Hazard of New York at one time had sixty mounts that were worth easily \$50,000. This season he owns about forty of the highest priced thoroughbreds suitable for polo playing.

A young polo player at Bryn Mawr, whose finances are somewhat limited, states that to start in the sport requires at least four mounts, valued at \$500 each, about \$200 for equipments, saddles, bridles, etc., \$30 per month for keep and \$20 per month for salary of groom and boy, making a total of about \$3,000 per year.

Polo, said to be of oriental origin of high antiquity, tracing back to 600 B. C., was introduced into the United States in 1836 and has made rapid strides since that time, now having no less than fifty organizations in this country, including Canada, under supervision of the National Polo association, of which H. L. Herbert is chairman; W. A. Hazard, secretary and treasurer, and the following on the ex-

ecutive committee: August Belmont, Joshua Crane, John C. Groome, W. A. Hazard, Alexander T. Primm, Jr.; Dudley P. Rogers, W. Plunkett Stewart and H. P. Whitney.

A GOOD ONE GOT AWAY.

WONDERFUL are the ways of the major leagues. The Detroit club is popularly supposed to have spent \$15,000 to land Bill James. Last winter they might have had Eddie Plank for \$2,500. Thus far O'P Ed has won fourteen games and lost eight with a light hitting club addicted to slumps. It is reasonable to suppose that the Detroit artillery behind him Plank would have won twenty games by this time, and that would clinch the consolation for the Tigers.

We might have done the same for any other American league club, yet they gave Eddie the twice over and the go-by.

CYCLIST KRAMER MAY RETIRE.

FRANK L. KRAMER, of East Orange, N. J., after holding the professional cycling title for fourteen years, may retire from active competition at the end of the present season on the eastern tracks. The winning of Kramer takes from cycling the best known rider since Major Taylor. Kramer has about \$200,000 invested, all earned by his cycling.

FOSTER, BOSTON'S RELIABLE HEAVER

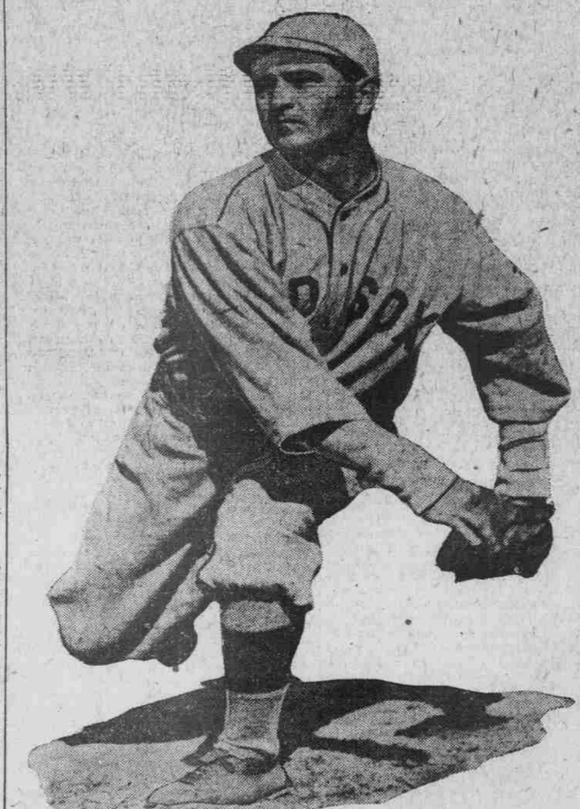


Photo by American Press Association.

GEORGE FOSTER.

GEORGE FOSTER has certainly delivered the goods for Manager Carrigan this season. The quiet youngster, along with Joe Wood, has had a lot to do with pushing the Red Sox pennantward this season. George is more than anxious to be given a chance to show his skill in the big event of baseball.

PITCHERS MUST STRIKE 'EM OUT

IT'S all right to talk about your self-entitled pitching and this old stuff of "having eight men out there to get 'em when they hit 'em," but the fact remains—and never showed more noticeably than this summer—that the strike out hurler, the boy who makes 'em miss the big one when there are folks on base, is the cherub child who saves his team.

Take, for instance, the Philadelphia Nationals. With the short fences at that park field continually sail over for home runs that would be eaten up at various other stadiums. The Phillies, playing seventy-seven games a year there while the other teams play only eleven games apiece, have, of course, a big advantage, but just as big an advantage is this:

Besides having the batters who can hit over those short barriers Pat Moran also has the pitchers who can keep the other fellows from following the example. In other words, Moran has pitchers who can work the third strike racket oftener and better than anybody else.

The same statements hold good for the Cubs, at whose park fly balls are always apt to nestle in nearby territory for home runs. Brennan's pitchers work for strikeouts all the time, and get them. The success of the Cubs and Quakers is, of course, due in a degree to all around hustling, but when you think it over, it is also due to their strike out pitchers.

LACROSSE LOOKS ROUGH, BUT ISN'T.

IT is a strange thing that while lacrosse is essentially a fighting game and men slash one another unmercifully on the lacrosse field, no Canadian lacrosse player has ever been killed or, as far as is known, none belonging to other nationalities, while deaths in hockey, football, cricket and baseball are reported frequently.

PROMOTER MARSHALL RISKING FORTUNE.

WILLIAM MARSHALL, who is risking \$32,500 to bring another unmercifully on the lacrosse field at Brighton Beach in a ten round boxing contest, expects to find it a paying venture. He has arranged to seat 50,000 persons for \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4 and \$5.