TOUCHING SECOND

THE SCIENCE OF BASEBALL

by JOHN J. EVERS AND HUGH S. FULLERTON

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The umpires are compelled to avoid the slightest appearance of evil or accusations will arise. Still an umpire may have friends, Comiskey to the contrary notwithstanding. Once Comiskey was angry with Cantillon, who then was an umpire. The previous day Cantillon's decisions had aroused the crowd against him and when the umpire came to the gate with two other men, the gatekeeper, a bitter Chicago partisan, refused to admit the men Cantillion had invited to attend the game. Comiskey appeared.

"Umpire is here with two friends," said the gateman. "Shall I let them in?"

"Any umpire who has two friends ought to bring them," snorted Comiskey, "they are all he has."

The life of an umpire is graphically described in J. Peck Sharp's version of the manner in which Jack Sheridan entered the profession.

"Jack had been playing in the Southern league," relates Sharp, "and Oakland purchased him. Great stories had been told of his ability to field, and before the season opened the Oakland papers were printing two columns a day telling how good he was. The season opened; Sheridan did not come. Urgent telegrams were sent. The team lost steadily. The people cried: 'Give us Sheridan.' More telegrams, money, tickets, still more telegrams, and finally Sheridan came rushing to the rescue. The papers printed seven-column headlines announcing his arrival, and all the people in the city poured out to see Oakland start to win the pennant. The first afternoon Sheridan made four errors, the next day six, the next seven, and when the game ended the crowd chased him for miles. He fled on and on until at last he came to a dense forest and in that he hid by day and fled by night."

One night a few years ago "Silk" O'Loughlin had the blues and was descanting upon the bitterness of an umpire's life.

"It is a dog's life," he said. "Worse than that, for sometimes persons

He Fled Into a Dark Wood.

speak kindly to dogs. Even a criminal, a murderer, is more respected and better treated. We are outcasts, pariahs, things to be abused and insulted. Why, from three o'clock every afternoon, until after five, we stand out there with 10,000 persons abusing, insulting—"

"Yis," remarked Hurst, "but can yez beat thim hours?"

Developing New Plays.

Once there was a mathematician who calculated that there are 7,226,433 plays possible in baseball and the next day some one made one he had not included in his figures. It is a game of surprises, freaks and accidents. Almost every day some new play, some new way of making an old play, or some startling innovation, is recorded somewhere. Of the many things that go to make the game interesting to spectators, the greatest is the new plays that are developed day by day, tried, discarded, or added to the team's repertoire. There is scarcely a morning practise that passes without a new play being proposed by someone, and accepted for trial or rejected by his fellows.

There is danger that the game may become machine-like. There is a tendency in that direction with all championship teams, except that in their ranks usually is found some fighting, aggressive player who, refusing to stop at the set rules, thinks out and tries out new plays or new ways of making plays, tests his theories and keeps all the others stirred up. It is these men who discover the new plays.

History has its records of the inventors, but baseball history is tradition passed down from generation to generation until even the discoverer of the curve ball is in doubt.

One of the odd things of baseball is that many of the pioneers made plays repeatedly and won games by them without being imitated. Many plays, such as the "push bunt," the "bluff bunt," the "delayed steal," have been "discovered" about once a decade, and then neglected, if not forgotten, until some other genius brought them into action. In the pioneer days of the game, it seemed that if a player invented or evolved a play, the others, instead of seizing upon it to use, gave him a kind of patent-right to it. Indeed, it was not until 1885 that any systematization of plays was begun.

When Dickey Pearce invented the bunt, and used it as a means of reaching first base, he was scorned and his fellows thought it rather a baby trick. It never occurred to them that it might be more effective as a run-getting device than trying to beat the cover off the ball.

During the early eighties, there came into the game two of the greatest inventive geniuses it has known: Mike Kelly of Chicago, and Charles A. Comiskey, leader of the St. Louis Browns. According to James A. Hart, who was for years head of the rules committee, fully one-half of the restrictive rules enacted were the direct result of the activities of Kelly and Comiskey to find ways of beating existing rules and winning games. Whether they invented them or not, both used the "bluff bunt," the "delayed steal," the "double steal" with runners on first and third, and many other plays used today by the best teams. Kelly's greatest invention, however, was the famous "Chicago slide," now used by every good base runner. The slide, it is conceded by the veterans of Anson's famous White Stocking infield, was the invention of Kelly, although every man on the team used it with great success until it became the trademark of the White Stockings. The slide consists of throwing the body either to the right or to the left while at full speed, and sliding upon the hip, with the leg doubled under, and the foot extended so as to hook around the bag. The runner throws his body away from the baseman to avoid being blocked or touched, pivots on the foot that hooks the bag, and prevents oversliding.

The Chicago team of 1880, which reached its fullest development five years later, was the pioneer of "inside baseball," and from that team came more original plays, now in common use, than from any other source. Those were the formative days of the modern game, and the players, Quest, Anson, Kelly, Burns, Williamson, Gore, Flint and Corcoran, were learning from each other while teaching others. But it really was with the coming of Pfeffer in 1885 that the team began to play "inside baseball" coherently, both at bat and on the infield. A system of signaling, involving the catcher, third and second baseman and pitcher, was invented, Anson for some reason being excluded from the team play. The marvelous success of the team was due more to intelligent team work, and the protecting of base runners by the batters than to the individual skill of the players, althought that was great.

During that same evolutionary period another leader was coming forward in the rival American association. Oddly enough, Comiskey, leading the St. Louis Browns, was working along the same lines of development of team play as was the Chicago team, inventing plays, teaching them to his men, learning from others and winning pennants.

Comiskey was and is one of the great constructive geniuses of baseball, and the only one who kept abreast of the progress of the scientific part of the game, and usually ahead of it. He was one of the first to use the hit-and-run play effectively, but his great improvement in defensive work was his style of playing first base, which was revolutionary in its effect upon the infield game. Comiskey not only invented plays, but seized and improved upon plays learned from his men and his opponents.

There is scarcely a doubt that almost every play made today was made by some pioneer. Kelly, Tom McCarthy, Pfeffer and others made plays their own team mates did not comprehend, so if a play is called a "new" play it is in the sense that it probably has been rediscovered. Frank Chance, in 1906, commenced to work the "delayed steal" persistently and was proclaimed the discoverer of the play. Yet Kelly, Hamilton, O'Neill, Comiskey, Duffy and many others used the play, and "Sadie" Houck stole in that way with much success.

Maloney once was on second base, another runner at third and the ball was hit to the short stop, who threw home. The runner trying to score from third was thrown out at the plate, but Maloney, following him ten feet behind, slid in front of the plate and scored before the catcher could recover and touch him after touching out the other runner. It was proclaimed as a new play, but Kelly and Lange had made it several times.

Jimmy Callahan, former manager of the White Sox, was watching a crowd of small boys playing on a vacant lot. Runners were on first and third bases, and it was evident they intended a double steal. Callahan watched the play, feeling certain the diminutive catcher could not make the throw. The pitcher made as if to start his pitching motion, but instead stepped directly toward third base and threw to the baseman. The base runner dived back to third, but the third baseman threw to the second baseman and the runner going from first to second was caught 20 feet.

"Well, by George!" ejaculated Callahan, and went on his way thinking.

That afternoon Callahan worked the boys' trick against a pair of experienced base runners, and within a week half the teams in America were using it, and driving umpires to distraction trying to decide whether the motion was a balk or not.

Tinker and Evers plotted a play a few years ago that caught many men and furnished the spectators much joy. When a hit-and-run play is attempted and the batter hits a fly to the outfield, the base runner hearing the crack of the bat, must judge from action of the fielders in front of him what has happened. When such a situation came up Tinker and Evers went through all the motion of trying to stop a grounder, or diving after a hit. The runner would fear being forced out at second and tear along under the impression the ball had gone through the infield. Sometimes he would be nearly to third base before the outfielder, catching the ball, would toss it to the first baseman and complete the double play. Sherwood Magee was caught three times in one season on the play, and finally in Philadelphia, the Cubs tried it again. Magee, not to be caught again, gave them the laugh and jogged back to first, whereupon Schulte dropped the ball, threw it to second, and Tinker fired it back to first, completing the double play.

There was an odd play introduced on the Polo grounds in 1908 which was the result of a "fanning match" the previous evening. Bresnahan and several of the Chicago players were discussing plays and arguing the chances of one umpire seeing everything that takes place, all conceding it to be impossible. A reporter who

Maloney Scored Before the Catcher

was present suggested that, when the one umpire was behind the plate and either a bunt or hit-and-run was attempted, the umpire always ran down into the diamond, in front of the play in order to see a play either at first or second base, and that the catcher could, therefore, stop, trip or interfere with the batter without the slightest danger of being seen. Later in the evening the reporter, meeting Kling, asked his opinion of the possibility of such a play.

The following day, early in the game, Chicago had a runner on first base and the batter tried to sacrifice. Bresnahan cut in ahead of the runner, bumped him off his feet, and after the other runner had been forced at second the luckless batter was doubled at first base. Two innings later Kling did the same thing to a New York batter, tripping him so he was thrown out on a hit that probably would have been safe. Twice after that the catchers took advantage of the umpire and interfered with batters until the crowd was roaring with indignation. The play had one result—there were two umpires on the field the following day.

Combination Plays.

The plays in which quick thinking counts most, and is absolutely necessary if the club is to win, are the combination plays in which the success of the man who is executing the mechanical part of the work depends largely upon what is done by one or more of the other players.

There are hundreds of plays executed every week during the season by the major league players in which perhaps only one man touches the ball and yet in which the others may have some part. If the assistants in such a play fail, either by action or by neglect, to act or move, they may give the opponent a clue as to what is to be attempted and enable them to foil the attack or turn it against the attackers. If each man does his allotted part, and then the play fails, the one who handles the ball receives the censure, as he would have received the praise had it succeeded.

The story of combination plays is best illustrated by the ones that went wrong. The necessity of keeping thinking all the time, not only of what is being done, but of what possibly may be done, is illustrated by a play that cost the Chicago Cubs a game at St. Louis in 1908. In that play half the men on the two teams, and the umpire himself, were caught napping. If there had been two umpires instead of one on the field that day, Chicago probably would have won the game and ultimately the pennant, without the bitter struggle they had to do it.

Runners were on first and third bases, one out and St. Louis needed a run to win, it being in the ninth inning. Chance called the infield close in order to cut Hoelskoetter off from the plate. Billy Gilbert, who was the runner on first base, is a quick thinker and one who is likely to do unexpected and unusual things in a ball game. Fromme, the batter, hit sharply to Evers who scooped the ball on the first bound, and made a motion as if to hurl it to the plate. The play was made so rapidly Hoelskoetter turned tail and slid back to third base, seeing it was impossible for him to reach the plate. Evers, realizing instantly that a double play and the end of the inning was possible, leaped backward, touched Gilbert as he was racing from first to second, and started for first base to complete the double play, pleased at having outwitted Gilbert and made a brilliant move. Gilbert, however, was doing some rapid-fire thinking and seeing for himself and his team. Leaping after Evers he threw out a foot and tripped him, sending him sprawling. Evers, still clutching the ball, rolled and crawled, then dived to first base and put his hand on it before Fromme was within ten feet of the bag.

Hoelskoetter, meantime, seeing the mixup, dashed for the plate. Imagine the surprise of the Chicago team when Umpire O'Day was discovered stooping and intently watching the plate, expecting all the time Evers would throw the ball there. O'Day did not see Evers touch Gilbert, nor did he see Gilbert trip the fielder, but when the play to the plate was delayed, he whirled in time to see Evers roll to the base and beat Fromme, so he called Fromme out but allowed the winning run to score. It was not O'Day's fault, except in that he did not think rapidly enough. The fault lay with the league for furnishing only one umpire.

Perhaps the grandest exhibition of combination playing ever seen in one game was in an 18-inning pitchers' duel between Ed Reulbach of Chicago and Jack Taylor of St. Louis in 1907. In the extra innings of that game Reulbach was saved again and again by wonderful work and some wonderful combination paying. No fewer than six double plays were executed at all corners of the infield, and in critical moments when a tenth of a second's forgetfulness or loitering would have meant the loss of the game.

The remarkable feature of the game was that not one of Chicago's double plays was made until the tenth inning, and the score of that game shows the way the Cub combination was working on that afternoon, and how far the men had to go to get into the plays. The record follows:

Tinker to Evers to Chance. Chance to Kling to Chance. Tinker to Chance. Tinker to Evers. Casey to Kling to Chance. Chance to Tinker to Chance.

(To be continued.)

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7:25	7:25
9:25	9:25
10:25 Barn only	10:25
12:25	11:25
2:25	12:25
4:25	2:25
6:25	4:25
8:12	5:25
Daily Except Sunday	6:25
	7:25
	8:25

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Notice of Appointment.

Estate of Burgess E. Ragland deceased.

The undersigned has been appointed and qualified as administrator of the estate of Burgess E. Ragland, late of Highland county, Ohio, deceased.

Dated this 26th day of July A. D. 1910.

JENNIE HORTON.

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Mary (age six)—Uncle Charlie, I wish you many happy returns of your birthday, and mamma told me if you gave me a dollar not to lose it.—Lippincott's.

Of just one fatal accident we'd gladly make a note;
Tis when the only victim was the fool who rocked the boat. —Kansas City Ledger.

Teachers' Fxamination.

The Highland county Board of School Examiners hereby gives notice that examinations of applicants for certificates will take place in the Washington School Building, Hillsboro, on the first Saturday of every month.

Patterson examinations will be held on the third Saturday of April and on the second Saturday of May.

As prescribed by law, the fee for teachers' examinations will be 50 cents, while, for Patterson examinations no fee is charged.

N. B. LAMONDA, Pres.
H. B. GALLIETT,
J. S. FARIS, Hillsboro, O.
Clerk
Board of Examiners.

Sheriff's Sale.

Sallie E. Coffey vs. Stella B. Slaughter, Ernest Beeson and Henry R. Beeson. } No 13688

By virtue of an order of sale in partition to me directed, from the Court of Common Pleas of Fayette County, Ohio, and in pursuance of the command thereof, I will expose and offer for sale at the door of the Court House, in the city of Hillsboro, Highland county, on

Saturday, September 3, A. D. 1910,

at 2 o'clock p. m. of said day, the following property, to-wit: Situate in the county of Highland and State of Ohio, and bounded and described as follows:

Situate in the village of Hillsboro, county of Highland and State of Ohio, and bounded and described as follows, to-wit: Beginning at the northern corner of the north half of in-lots number seventy-eight and seventy-five (Nos. 78 and 75) and running south along East street seventy-five feet to the middle of a private alley between the said lot and the lot of T. C. Lytle; thence East one hundred and ninety-eight feet to an alley; thence north seventy-five feet to an alley; thence west along said alley to the place of beginning. A part of in-lots No. 78 and 75. Said real estate is situated on the east side of East street, between Walnut street on the north thereof and South street lying south thereof, and the street number of the building erected thereon is No. 224 East street.

Appraised at three thousand five hundred ($3,500.00) dollars.

Terms of Sale—One-third cash on day of sale, one-third in one year and one-third in two years. Deferred payments to bear interest from day of sale at the rate of six per cent., and to be secured by mortgage on the premises sold, and reasonable fire insurance carried by purchaser for the benefit of owner of notes representing deferred payments.

SAMUEL NELSON,
Sheriff of Fayette county, O.
Frank A. Chaffin, Atty., Washington, C. H. O

Legal Notice.

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of a resolution of the council of the village of of Highland, Highland county, Ohio, passed on the first day of August, 1910, there will be submitted to the qualified electors of said village at a special election to be held in the village of Highland, county of Highland, Ohio, on the 19th day of September, 1910, the question of issuing bonds of said village in an amount in excess of one per cent. of the total value of all the property in such village as listed and assessed for taxation, that is to say, in the sum of $1500.00, for the purpose of the establish ent and erection of a system of electric lighting for said village of Highland.

The voting places for said special election will be the regular voting places in said village.

Those who vote in favor of the proposition of issuing the bonds as aforesaid shall have written or printed on their ballots the words "For the issue of bonds," and those who vote against the same shall have written or printed on their ballots the words "Against the issue of bonds."

GEORGE E. OREBAUGH, Mayor.
August 16, 1910.

Some enthusiastic Porto Ricans predict that their island will grow all the lemons consumed in the United States in another 10 years.

A French aeronaut has patented a baloon which, when deflated, can be packed in its basket and the entire equipment carried on a man's back.

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