SPORTS

MONTY REVIEWS FEDERAL LEAGUE

What Thirty-third Degree Baseball Student Sees in Independent Players Showing.

By Monty.

Many fans in cities where the Federal league does not play wonder what sort of article of baseball the independents really are offering. From observation of about twenty games played by the Brooklyn club at Washington park, we present this opinion.

To the man who is not a student of baseball and does not appreciate all the finer points of it, there would be found little difference between the Federal show and that in the two major leagues. The pitchers seem to use the same assortment of curves, the batters seem to hit the ball just as hard, the fielders seem to make about the same stops and throws, and the same general assortment of tactics in running the bases is witnessed with no noticeable difference in the speed of the runners.

Some Poor Players.

But to the thirty-third degree student of the game, certain facts will be apparent at times that throw a spirit of disgust into the observer. Semi-occasionally a play will occur that illustrates forcibly why many of the men now with the Feds were once turned down to the minors by the big leagues. Four such cases arose in one game the other day.

At one time there was a man on second, a fast runner, with nobody out. The batter hit a tremendously long clout, but so high up in the air that the fielder chasing it had an even chance of catching it. The runner on second went half way to the third bag and waited to see whether the ball would be caught. When the fielder made the catch, the runner had to hustle back to second base. A clear thinker would have stayed on second to watch the play. If the fielder had missed the ball the clout was so long that the runner would have got home with ease. Or, the runner could have made third if, as happened, the fielder caught it, without trouble after the catch.

Another time there were men on first and second with two out. A snap throw by the pitcher trapped the man off first and he was in sure-death run-up. When the man on second headed for third the first baseman threw the ball there to cut him down. After half a dozen throws back and forth, the two men were safe on the bases ahead, having negotiated a lucky double steal. Now, since the two were out, why didn't the infield simply run down the man off first and pay no attention to the other fellow? That's what a quick-witted team would have done.

Bone Plays Made.

Bone number three was pulled by Monte Cross, umpire on bases. A throw from the shortstop beat the batter to first by several steps. But the first sacker dropped the ball. "Out," said Cross, though the ball had not been held by the basemen for as much as a full second. "It was held momentarily," he explained after a big argument had been quieted. Never before had anybody in the press box seen an umpire interpret the word "momentarily" so literally.

Goeckel, umpire behind the plate pulled the other bone which was in direct violation of all baseball rules. A player kicked on a called third strike and was put out of the game by Goeckel. Then it was that team's turn to take the field in the opponent's half of the inning, the manager pleaded with his umps to let the player back, saying his team was so crippled by injuries that he did not have another infield substitute left. The umpire let him return to the game.

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JULY 31.

PENNANT TEAM STILL A GUESS

Half-way Reached and Flag Winners Are Not in Sight.

By MONTY.

New York, July 18.—With the pennant races in the two big league half gone, there is still no definite development to show with any degree of certainty who will capture the flags. In the American league six clubs remain in sight of the pinnacle, and at least three are possibilities in the National league.

The half way mark was reached a week ago today. From April 14, the opening day, to October 7, the closing date is a stretch of exactly 177 days. Half of the total would be 88 days and a half, so that the eighty-ninth day is the middle. And the eighty-ninth day was last Saturday. Altogether each club is scheduled to play 154 games during the year's campaign, or eleven conflict at home and eleven abroad against each rival team. Thus, half of the total games would be seventy-seven. Because of the way the schedule is arranged, including double-headers and postponements, only five clubs had completed half of their schedule by the midway mark, four of them being in the American league. The Detroit Tigers had engaged in 80 combats, the Brown and Red Sox in 79, and the Senators in 77, the same number as were played by the Cardinals of the National league up to that stage. The champion clubs of the two circuits, however, had not kept up the schedule that well, the Athletics having played 75 games and the Giants only 71. But these clubs are all well past the halfway point now.

First Half Season Fruitless.

Judging from what has occurred to date, the first half of the season might just as well not have been played at all, so far as its bearing on the destination of the pennant is concerned. It is extremely unlikely, even in a race where the teams are so closely bunched in the middle as they are now in the American league, that the winner's final margin will be less than six or eight full games over the second placer. Last year the Athletics captured the American league pennant by a differential of .043 in percentage points and 6 1-2 games in the other way of reckoning it. The Giant's edge was 12 1-2 games, or .081 in percentage. At this time of the year in 1913 these two clubs were playing a much better grade of ball than they are just now, and hardly anybody could be found to bet against them. But this year you would not have to offer odds to get your money covered.

Yankees and Naps Hopeless.

One thing the early season toll has decided, however, and that is who will not win the pennants. The Yankees and Naps are hopelessly out of the American league pennant fight and the Boston Braves and Pittsburg Pirates have no chance at all in the National. These clubs are the most sensational disappointments of the year. Before the season opened, the Pirates and Braves were the favorites of most critics to give the Giants a battle for the flag. The Braves have been in last place nearly all season. The Pirates are the greater disappointment of the two, for they got out ahead to a long lead in the first month of play, and then catapulted to the second division in a spectacular slump, reaching seventh place in five weeks.

STANDING OF CLUBS

Union Association.

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Ogden	8	2	.800
Butte	8	2	.800
Helena	5	5	.500
Boise	4	6	.400
Salt Lake	3	7	.300
Murray	2	8	.200

National League.

	Won	Lost.	Pct.
New York	45	31	.592
Chicago	44	38	.537
St. Louis	43	40	.518
Philadelphia	39	40	.494
Brooklyn	36	38	.486
Cincinnati	39	42	.481
Boston	35	43	.449
Pittsburg	33	42	.440

American League.

	Won	Lost.	Pct.
Philadelphia	46	32	.590
Detroit	46	38	.548
Boston	45	39	.536
Chicago	43	38	.531
Washington	43	38	.531
St. Louis	42	39	.519
New York	31	47	.397
Cleveland	28	53	.348

Federal League.

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Chicago	47	33	.588
Indianapolis	42	35	.545
Baltimore	42	37	.532
Brooklyn	39	35	.527
Buffalo	40	37	.519
Kansas City	35	43	.449
St. Louis	35	46	.432
Pittsburg	31	45	.408

American Association.

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Milwaukee	48	39	.552
Louisville	50	42	.543
Cleveland	46	42	.523
Kansas City	47	45	.511
Indianapolis	45	44	.506
Minneapolis	44	44	.500
Columbus	43	44	.494
St. Paul	33	56	.371

Pacific Coast League.

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Portland	52	43	.547
Los Angeles	58	48	.547
Venice	54	48	.529
San Francisco	55	51	.519
Sacramento	48	56	.462
Oakland	41	62	.398

Northwestern League

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Vancouver	59	37	.615
Spokane	55	37	.598
Seattle	58	39	.598
Victoria	40	54	.426
Portland	37	57	.394
Tacoma	36	61	.371

Western League.

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Sioux City	51	36	.586
St. Joseph	50	36	.581
Denver	49	36	.576
Lincoln	45	41	.523
Des Moines	46	42	.523
Omaha	41	44	.482
Wichita	34	55	.382
Topeka	31	57	.352

Southern Association.

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Birmingham	48	37	.565
Chattanooga	48	41	.539
Mobile	47	42	.528
New Orleans	47	42	.528
Nashville	46	42	.523
Atlanta	46	43	.517
Memphis	39	41	.487
Montgomery	35	58	.376

YESTERDAY'S GAMES

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Chicago, July 17.—Allen today held Chicago to one hit, a double by Good, but lost the game because of errors. The score was 3 to 2.

The visitors took a two-run lead on the locals by hitting Vaughn opportunely in the first and second innings, but lost their advantage in the fourth. Good's double in the sixth, Miller's wild throw to second and a sacrifice fly gave Chicago the winning run.

Pittsburg, July 17.—Bescher's single and a home run by Doyle gave New York a 3 to 1 victory in a twenty-one inning pitchers' duel between Marquard and Adams today. From the close of the third inning until the opening of the twenty-first inning neither team was able to score, so effective was the pitching. Sharp fielding characterized the work of both sides. The work of Burns, Fletcher, Kelly and Mowrey was brilliant. It was the longest game ever played in the National league.

In the first inning Burns hit a three bagger when two were out. He did not score. In their half the Pirates scored their only run when Mensor was hit by the first ball pitched by Marquard, wen to second on Mowrey's sacrifice and scored on a three-base hit by Wagner. The visitors tied the score in the third on singles by Bescher and Doyle and Burns out.

During the next seventeen innings each team often got men on the bases but no runs resulted. Bescher singled in the twenty-first, after two were out. He stole second. Doyle then sent his home run blow to center, scoring himself and Bescher. Adams did not give a base on balls and struck out six men. Marquard walked two men and struck out two. Manager Clarke and Player McCarthy, of the local team were put off the field for disputing a decision.

St. Louis, July 17.—Philadelphia could bunch hits in only two innings today, while St. Louis, by timely hitting and through the wildness of Philadelphia pitchers, scored in four different innings and won by 8 to 4. Lee Magee today received notice from President Tener of the National league that he had been suspended for three days for his altercation yesterday with Umpire Rigler.

FEDERAL LEAGUE.

Kansas City, Mo., July 17.—Singles by Kenworthy, Stovall and Potts in the fourteenth inning enabled the locals to defeat Chicago today, 3 to 2.

The score:		R.	H.	E.
Chicago	.000 000 002 000 00—	2	10	2
Kansas C.	000 010 001 000 01—	3	10	2

Batteries — Watson, Prendergast, Hendrix and Wilson; Packard and Enzenroth, Easterly.

St. Louis, July 17.—With Campbell and Kaiser hitting for home runs and the other members of the team bunching hits in three innings, Indianapolis today defeated St. Louis by 8 to 2. The local fielders played well and allowed only one error. St. Louis played three pitchers, but the visitors hit them all.

The Score:		R.	H.	E.
Indianapolis	....030 310 100—	8	13	3
St. Louis	.....000 001 010—	2	9	1

Batteries — Falkenberg and Rariden; Crandall, Groom, Keupper and Chapman.

Buffalo, July 17.—Through costly errors Buffalo lost today's game to Baltimore by 4 to 3. In the sixth inning, with Simmons on second Walsh sent a single to center that Hanford let get by him. Simmons came home and Walsh beat the throw-in after Hanford fielded the ball. Again in the eighth inning a bad throw to third let in a run.

The Score:		R.	H.	E.
Buffalo	....020 000 100—	3	7	4
Baltimore	.....000 002 020—	4	8	0

Batteries — Ford, Anderson and Blair; Conley, Suggs and Jacklitsch.

Pittsburg, July 17.—Camnitz held the Brooklyn Federals in check today while his team-mates batted timely and ran the bases at will, giving Pittsburg the victory by a 6 to 4 score. Finneran was wild at times and his support wavered at critical moments.

The score:		R.	H.	E.
Brooklyn	... ... 001 000 120—	4	10	3
Pittsburg	.....100 003 20x—	6	6	1

Batteries — Finneran, Sommers and Owens; Camnitz and Berry.

MURRAY CLUB STILL ON THE ROCKS OF DISASTER

Whether or not the Murray baseball club finishes the season is up to the league directors. It is also up to them whether or not the Murray club goes to Boise for its scheduled series with the Irrigators next week. If it does go, it will do so on transportation furnished by the league.

The Murray club is financially "all in." It has struggled along as far as it can go on its own resources and it is now up to the association to say whether Murray shall be carried on or not. The players' salaries, due July 15, will be paid by the league. It is expected that the checks for the boys will be received from President Murphy today or tomorrow.

Yesterday letters were received by the presidents of the various ball clubs comprising the Union association, informing them of a league meeting to be held at Butte next Monday. In substance the letters read:

"It is well known by all the presidents that the Murray club can no longer continue on its own resources. The matter was discussed lengthily at a meeting held at Salt Lake on Sunday, July 12, and again at another meeting held at Ogden on Monday, July 13. Absolutely nothing was done at either meeting in regard to the Murray club. Inasmuch as some seemed to take exception to my representing the Butte and Helena clubs on proxies, I have decided to call a meeting of the directors of the league for Monday, July 20, at the Silver Bow club, Butte. It will be for the directors to say whether the Murray club will meet its scheduled dates at Boise, July 21-26, and I trust that every club will be represented at 10 o'clock Monday morning at Butte."

Dr. C. P. Harvielle, president of the Murray club, who is ill of a complication of malaria and rheumatism, said last night that he would be unable to attend the Butte meeting. Dr. Harvielle also said that he had sent President Murphy the pay roll of the Murray club of salaries due the Murray players July 15, and last night he wired Murphy that if the Murray club was expected to play the series at Boise a check for the transportation expense would have to be sent by the association president.

Inasmuch as the Murray club should leave Salt Lake Sunday night in order to be in Boise in time for Tuesday's opening game—requiring a little time aside from the hours consumed in actual traveling—a meeting Monday forenoon in Butte is not likely to help the situation much. Of course, the club could make it a hurry-up trip by leaving Monday afternoon, if necessity arose.

The Murray club, according to authentic advices, can practically liquidate its indebtedness if the team can manage to work through the season. There are at least three ball players on the club in big demand—Caveney, Auer and Shader. Three others could be sold, it is said, but those managers who are looking for Murray players are holding off in the hope that the club will quit and thereby release its players, in which event they could be picked up with little or no expense.

Suit was brought against the Murray club yesterday by Thomas Gavin, proprietor of the Moxum hotel, for approximately $700 for board and lodging furnished the players.

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DEVORE TRADED TO NATIONALS

Boston, July 18.—"Josh" Devore, formerly of the New York Giants, has been traded to the Boston Nationals by the Philadelphia Nationals for John Martin, a third baseman, according to an announcement by Manager Stallings, of the Boston team.

President Gaffney, of the Boston club, announced that the following players have signed contracts for two or more seasons: Evers, Maranville, Schmidt, Gowdy, Gilbert, James and Strand.

BECKER AND GRANT LEAD IN BATTING

Chicago, July 18.—Beals Becker, Philadelphia, with an average of .340 is leading the batters of the National league, according to figures published here today. Next are Grant, New York, with .337; E. Burns, Philadelphia, .333; Devore, Boston, .326; Dalton, Brooklyn, .322; Hummel, Brooklyn, .320; Meyers, New York, .317; C. Burns, New York, .316; Byrne, Philadelphia, .308; Daubert, Brooklyn, .308.

Brooklyn with .268 and New York with .267 lead in club batting.

Herzog with 34, leads in stolen bases. Among the pitchers Mathewson with 15 wins and four defeats; Atchison, Brooklyn, with six and two, and Vaughn, Chicago, with nine and four, rank highest.

Cobb, Detroit, heads the American leaguers, with .342. Then comes Baker, Philadelphia, .340; Jackson, Cleveland, .332; C. Walker, St. Louis, .330; Crawford, Detroit, .318; E. Collins, Philadelphia, .316; A. Williams, Washington, .315; Milan, Washington, .297; Speaker, Boston, .293; McInnis, Philadelphia, .293. Philadelphia leads in club batting with .261 and Detroit and Washington are next with .246 each. Maisel, New York leads in stolen bases with .31. Leonard, Boston, with 12 victories and three defeats; Bender, Philadelphia, with seven and two, and Plank, Philadelphia, with nine and two, are topnotchers in the pitching departments.

Kauff, Indianapolis, has regained the batting lead in the Federal league with .384, and leads in stolen bases with 37.

Indianapolis with .289 and Baltimore with .274, lead the clubs. Pitching honors belong to Kaiserling, Indianapolis with eight wins and two losses; Ford, Buffalo, with 12 and four and Crandall, St. Louis 10 and 4.

Two of the players recently sold by Baltimore rank high among the International league batters. Kritchell, Toronto, leads with .359; Cree, Baltimore, is next with .357. Providence and Baltimore are tied for club batting honors with .270 each. With 23 stolen bases, Gilhooley, Buffalo leads on the paths. Ranking high among the pitchers are Bader, Buffalo, with nine wins and three defeats; Mays, Providence, eight and three and Ruth and Cottrell, Baltimore, fourteen and six each.

In the Western league, Lejeune, Sioux City, leads with .407. Following him are L. Jordan, Lincoln, .362; Eddington, Denver, .352; Patterson, St. Joseph, .342; Congalton, Omaha, .342; Shaw, Des Moines, .338; Kane, Sioux City, .336; Spahr, Denver, .331; Coffey, Denver, .331; Thomason, Omaha, .329. In club batting, Denver with .299 and Sioux City with .286 are ahead. George Watson of St. Joseph, with 37 leads in stolen bases. Gaskell, Denver, having won fourteen and lost four; Schreiber, Denver, with seven and two and Gasper, with thirteen and four, are among the leading pitchers.

Titus, Kansas City, with .412, leads the American association. Kansas City with .282 and Cleveland with .278 lead the clubs. Killifer of Minneapolis, is ahead in stolen bases with 33. Leading pitchers are Gallia, Kansas City, with fourteen wins and three defeats; Dougherty, Milwaukee, with 9 and 2, and Laroy, Indianapolis, with 9 and 3.

In the Southern league, McCormick of Cattanooga, with .356, leads the batters. Callahan, Nashville, is ahead in stolen bases with .366. Nashville, with .272, leads in club batting. Among the pitchers honors go to Townsend, Mobile, with 11 victories and four defeats; Walker, New Orleans, ten and four; and Lively, Montgomery, five and two.

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SIZED UP.

Crawford—I never thought him an educated man, but I see he's just received an honorary degree from one of the colleges.

Crabshaw.—Oh, he's probably done something that would get him a vaudeville engagement.—Judge.

—oo—

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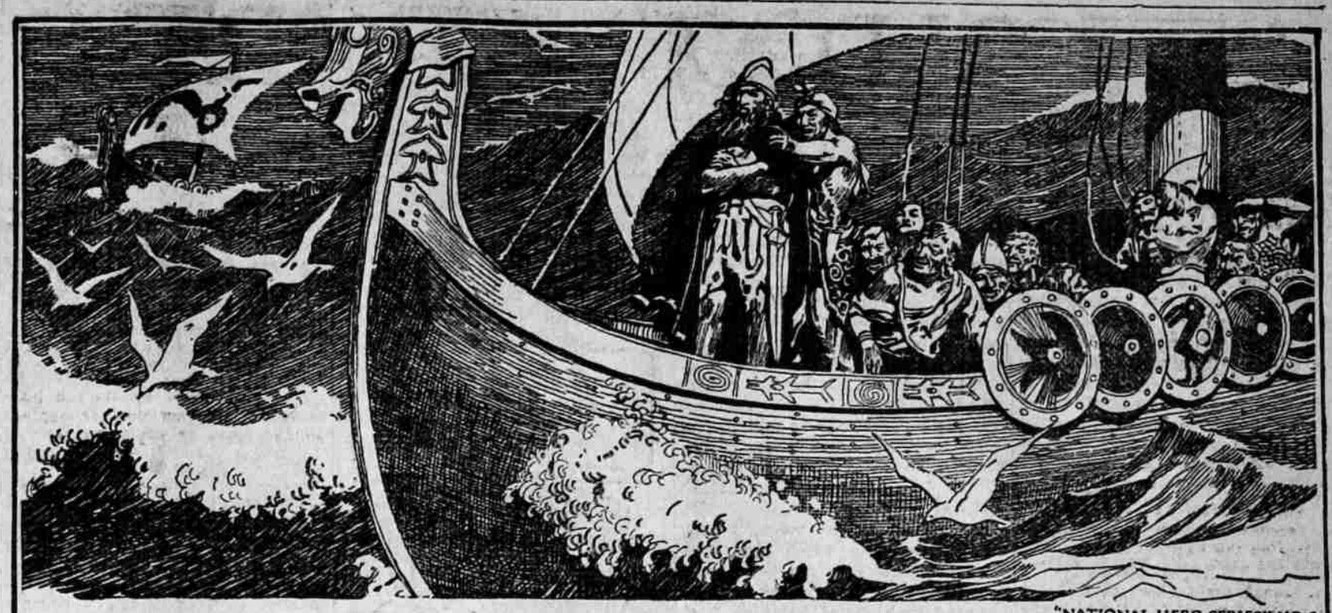

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