

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL GAME—BASEBALL

Why is baseball?

Millions go to it. Other millions read and talk about it. Since time began no sport was so popular. Why is baseball?

For one thing, it's clean.

No foul language. No gambling—at least no more than trifling wagers, limited to man and man. Nothing about it to shame a woman or make a fellow ashamed of himself when he goes home to think it over. From bleachers to players' bench, degrading things are barred.

Then, too, it's stirring.

No loafing. No soldiering. No hanging back until the farewell whistle blows. But everybody alert, intent, rooting or working as if the next minute held the fate of the world. A kind of work that calls for the best that's in a chap—the fittest physical trim; the quickest, surest thinking. In many a place the bonehead gets by, but not on the diamond. There the one thing that counts is efficiency. Reputation, pull won't save a fellow unless he deliver the goods. It's a case of the last ounce every minute of the game.

Finally, it's democratic.

No artificial distinction. No upper and lower crusts. But bleachers and boxes in one big brotherhood blend, for the moment leveled by a common humanity.

Democracy is the greatest thing there is, and the democracy of sport is one of its finest expressions.

So don't make an excuse when you go to the ball game. Be proud of it. Be mighty glad that there's a ball game to go to.

And, whisper: Don't let the professionals have a monopoly of the playing. Get a ball and a bat and a bunch of youngsters and go to it yourself.

JOE JACKSON MAY GET TY COBB'S ANGORA

If signs of wavering on the part of Ty Cobb are noticeable within the next few days, and hints are heard that the "greatest ball player than ever lived" will report to the Detroit team, make up your mind that Ty's ego has been punctured.

Cobb might hold out indefinitely for that \$15,000 which the Detroit management says it won't pay him, but if he can hold out while another man is annexing the honors which have been his for 10, these many years, then he is a different Cobb from the one who has made baseball history.

But this story isn't about Cobb, he being brought in merely to explain the "why" of his coming back, when he does. This is the reason, being

taken from the first game between Chicago and Cleveland:

AB. R. H. TB. PO. A. E.
Jackson, rf. . . . 3 2 3 7 5 0 0

Joe Jackson won the opening game for Cleveland from Chicago. He was so Cobb-like that the fans began to pity the Detroit management because Cobb was missing and more than once the expression was heard, "Cobb'll get jealous and play to spite himself."

Three times Jackson went to bat and three times he hit. Two wallops were doubles, one to the right base fence and the other along the third base foul line. The other was a triple that dented the concrete in right center.

Five put-outs were registered by