

SPORTING LIFE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

Devoted to

BASE BALL, TRAP SHOOTING AND GENERAL SPORTS.

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NOT A BAD IDEA.

ONE WAY TO PREVENT GAMES BECOMING TEDIOUS.

By Compelling the Catchers to Remain up Under the Bat Continuously the Games Would be Shortened Twenty or Thirty Minutes.

A dispatch from Washington contains the news that there is a move afoot to compel the catchers hereafter to remain continually behind the bat with a view to expediting the dragging ball games. Says the dispatch:

"In the playing rules for base ball next year it is almost sure that a clause will be incorporated requiring the catcher to stand close behind the batter during the entire game. Every game is lengthened by the catcher remaining back on the first batter and when the bases are not occupied, and as the patrons are clamoring for quicker action it is almost sure that the backstops will have to don the mask, gloves and wind pad from the start next season. As all the clubs carry two or more catchers it will work no hardship on any one of them, provided they are used in turn. President Nick Young, while not willing to commit himself, is apparently in favor of such a rule, and Earl Wagner, of the Washington Club will advocate the matter before the League committee on playing rules. Such a rule would quicken the ordinary game from 20 to 30 minutes, according to the opinion of experts."

The idea above set forth is by no means new, although quite apropos, as such a rule has been agitated for several seasons, but no magnate ever has had the courage to introduce it. A rule of this kind would seem to popularize base ball, in that it would do away with the delay that comes every time a catcher gets under the bat, after several balls have been pitched. And, by the way, time is also wasted by the many false bounds a pitched ball takes when a catcher is playing back. Keeping the catcher behind the bat will keep the game going without unnecessary interruption, although the incessant bombardment of the catcher will not make the latter's position a sinecure. However, for the good of the game in general, it is hoped that the system will be submitted and given a trial next season. To do this it will not be necessary to amend the playing rules, as the desired object can be achieved by a side agreement among the magnates, for a limited period, until the efficacy of the innovation has been fully tested.

TORONTO TOPICS.

The Local Club Doesn't Yet Know "Where It Is At."

Toronto, Ont., Oct. 24.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Arthur Irwin will be in Toronto this week to negotiate for grounds for the base ball club for next season. The Toronto Street Railway Company and the Toronto Ferry Company are the rival ground owners. The street car people have realized their mistake in letting the ball team get away from them and have made a proposition to the proprietors of the franchise embodying all sorts of inducements for them to come back. They propose to utilize the old ball grounds on Queen street, reducing them in size, altering the diamond and stands and running cars inside the grounds. The majority of the ball patrons prefer the city grounds, and the Toronto Base Ball Club will make a popular move by accepting the street railway offer.

AFTER PLAYERS.

It doesn't look as if the present owners of the Toronto Base Ball Club are thinking seriously of giving up the game. During the past week an offer was dispatched to W. H. Fox of a position on the team of 1899. He is wanted to play third base. He was released by Toronto this summer because of his poor batting. He went to the Rome Club, of the New York State League, and developed a phenomenal hitting streak, three base hits and home runs being his specialty. Fox is undoubtedly the fastest man on his feet in the base ball business, and a clever and fast fielder.

DAN BROTHERS

has renewed his application to the Toronto Base Ball Club for the first base position for next year. Dan is in good condition, and will be able to play "the game of his life" next season.

He says he is sorry he did not accept the 2 per cent. reduction in salary this summer. He liked Irwin, the players and the Toronto people, and is eager to come back.

MINOR MENTION.

Pitcher Williams did not prove fast enough for Washington, and will be back in this city next season.

The grandstand on the old ball grounds at Toronto was destroyed by fire last Thursday night. The loss was about \$2000.

THE TERM "CHARLEY-HORSE"

Original With the Once Noted Player, Joe Quest.

Newspapers from time to time have published what they claim was the origination of "charley-horse," the lame condition which has been superinduced in base ball players. Various newspapers have given various derivations of the phrase, but not any of them have been absolutely correct. Editor George W. Shaw, of the New Castle (Pa.) "Daily News," has the right solution, which he gives us as follows:

"The name for the sprained condition of the muscles and tendons of the legs of the players was coined by Joe Quest, a former resident of New Castle, and a son of the late Jacob Quest, of the Westside. Joe Quest began his ball playing in this city, and was a member of various teams until he finally became second baseman for the Chicago. That peculiar ailment of the legs of ball players was as common in those days as it is now, but there was no name for it. Joe Quest finally dubbed it 'charley-horse,' and it has gone by that name to this day. What suggested such a term for ball players' lameness to Quest is as follows: Joe was employed in the establishment of Quest & Shaw, this city, learning the machinist's trade, the senior member of the firm being his father. An old white horse named Charley was used by the firm in a wagon utilized for hauling material around the works. Charley had drawn so many heavy loads and was so advanced in years that he had a peculiarly wobbly gait, occasioned by his strained tendons. When Joe noticed the ball players limping around Charley's walk was recalled in his mind and he named the condition of the players after the old horse at his father's works. Thus 'charley-horse' came into the base ball dictionary, and will likely remain there as long as the national game is played. Thus it will be seen that New Castle can claim the fame of having originated a base ball expression which is used all over the United States."

A WINNER'S VIEW.

Jim Hart Talks Airily of a Season Which Didn't Affect His Club.

President James A. Hart, of the Chicago Club, over his signature has given his opinion as to the causes operating against base ball during the disastrous season just closed. Here is his statement verbatim:

"It is my opinion that the quality of the play as demonstrated by the National League has this year been of the highest grade shown during the history of base ball. The twelve teams forming the League have each and every one played well. Those occupying the lower positions have played much better than their position would indicate. The pitching and fielding especially have shown great improvement, which has caused a falling off in the batting. The several teams are at present nearer equal in playing strength than they have before since the formation of the 12-club League.

"Financially the season as a whole has not been a success. I have no positive means for knowing what the financial condition of the several clubs is, but from my own observation I conclude that only very few have had profitable patronage during the season. I attribute the falling off to the fact that the championship season began too early and that the weather was most unfavorable until the season had progressed about a month, allowing the enthusiasm which had accumulated during the winter to 'goe' out, as it were. Another cause was the excitement occasioned by the war, which centered the attention of the people on the war news rather than on base ball and other minor happenings. It also took a good many of the patrons, as soldiers and sailors, away from the several cities. Perhaps the most of the decrease was caused by local reasons.

"Notwithstanding the fact that the business has shown a decrease each club seems to be putting forth the usual effort to strengthen its team for the coming season. 'Next year' is the sheet anchor of hope, upon which nearly the entire base ball fabric depends."

LUCKY BATSMEN.

A Few Men Whose Averages Swelled Rather Than Dwindled.

Despite the fact that the average of the National League batsmen shrunk considerably during the past season there are a few of the well-known players who have actually made a gain on their previous record. Here is the list of lucky ones:

	Pts.		Pts.
Hamilton	1897 1898 G.	Stafford	1897 1898 G.
	344 267 23		270 295 25
E. Smith	311 344 33	Grady	276 293 17
Tenney	325 335 10	Bergan	247 289 42
McGraw	326 335 9	McKean	273 289 12
Nance	242 329 87	Melvin	254 279 25
Everitt	314 325 11	Grin	261 275 14
Lave Cross	261 319 48	Criger	230 273 43
Hoy	290 318 28	Clements	239 268 29
Dexter	292 311 19	Clingman	232 262 30
Reltz	259 302 13	Kittridge	198 250 52
Clark, Pitts.	282 310 28		

OFFICIAL BULLETIN.

Latest Promulgations by the National Board's Secretary.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 25.—Headquarters National Board of Arbitration, Klumb Building, 1417 G street, N. W.

CONTRACTS.

With Washington—Harry H. Davis, A. K. Selbach, J. P. Casey, Jno. Freeman, K. Baker, H. P. Reltz.

PLAYERS RESERVED.

By Waterbury—Thomas Manning.

By Norfolk—John Bishop.

PLAYERS SELECTED.

By Boston—Frisby, of Kansas City; Strelt, of Dayton.

SELECTIONS WITHDRAWN.

By Chicago—Andrews, of Minneapolis.

By Cleveland—Seybold, of Richmond; Beecher, of Mansfield; Burke, of Minneapolis.

RELEASED.

By Brooklyn to Washington—Al. Wagner.

N. E. YOUNG, Secretary.

ILLINOIS ALIVE.

THE STATE TO HAVE A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN.

An Eight-Club Organization With Peoria as Head Centre to be Formed on Up-to-Date Lines Which Ought to Ensure Entire Success.

Peoria, Ill., Oct. 23.—Editor "Sporting Life":—This city will have base ball next year, so say the organizers of the new State League. W. W. Kent, president of the old Illinois-Iowa League, will probably be president of the new league. Mr. Kent is very popular and a man who knows a great deal about the game. He will make the league a success if any man can.

THE CITIES

spoken of so far are Rockford, Quincy, Peoria, Springfield, Decatur, Rock Island, Bloomington and Jacksonville, with Joliet, Danville and others yet to hear from. The idea is to have a short season, schedule to begin about May 15 and close Sept. 15; have a salary limit; give franchises only to those who will pledge themselves to keep within the limit, and play the season out; the president to sign all players and act as general manager for the different clubs; pool the receipts, and pay all expenses out of the general fund, and at the end of the season divide on an attendance basis. This will be a new departure and looks like a winning one.

NOTHING IN IT.

A great many people have had a notion since Ban Johnson and Thomas Loftus visited Peoria that a Western League club might be located here, but that is very unlikely, not because the city did not suit, but for the reason that no one will pay out any money to get the club. Peoria is a good ball town and would be a winner in the Western League, but the club will have to be located here without any bonus or go elsewhere. Umpire Swartwood in an interview at Cincinnati took occasion to rap

GEORGE PINKNEY

over the knuckles. Swartwood said Pinkney gave him the foot in a game in '92 and threw him so heavily that his shoulder was dislocated, and as he was unable to throw after that occurred, it put him out of the game. He added: "And Pinkney has had no luck since." George says in his behalf that he has no recollection of ever being in a game where Swartwood was hurt by himself or any other player, and that he believes that player was out of the game in '92, and further adds that as Swartwood never could throw, and generally got no farther than first base in a game, he cannot accuse a third baseman of causing him trouble in any way.

NOT IN HARD LUCK.

The writer can say, for the benefit of Swartwood, that Pinkney did have some bad luck in the base ball business after his "throw-down" in Brooklyn, but when he got through with the game, he quickly got a position at his old business, of railroad office work, and to-day holds the position of assistant auditor of the P. & P. N. Railway here, which shows that the brains and ability that gave him the world's record for consecutive playing (four years without missing a game) is not lacking in other pursuits. When Mr. Swartwood is done with the game can he say as much for himself?

HURLEY.

THE BOSTON CLUB

Has Had the Most Remarkable Career of Any Base Ball Club.

As a result of the 1898 success of the Boston team, a brief review of the great New England club's remarkable history is interesting. The Boston Club started on its wonderfully successful career in 1871, the organizer being the late Harry Wright, who went there from Cincinnati. This great manager's organizing skill made Boston the pennant winners in the second year—1872—after the Professional Association was organized. At that time the mainstay of the team was George Wright, a brother of the manager and one of the best all-around players that ever crossed a plate.

GEORGE WRIGHT

Introduced the system of a deep field play at short, Davy Force and Dickey Pearce being his only rivals in that position. Wright could give Mike Kelly points on the tricks of the game, one of his famous ones being the catching of a fly ball in his cap, the rule holding that the catching of flies in the clothing was illegal. Wright made a double play in touching two base runners, and it was allowed.

In the team organized by Harry Wright were Cal McVey, right field and change catcher; Jim White, catcher; A. G. Spalding, pitcher, and Ross Barnes second baseman, from the old Forest City Club, of Rockford, Ill.; Ezra Sutton third base, Andy Leonard left field, Charles Gould first base, George Wright short stop and Harry Wright centre field and change pitcher.

WRIGHT'S VARYING FORTUNES.

Three years Harry Wright won the championships by holding his men together and in their perfect team play. In 1876, when the big League was organized, came the first break. Spalding, White, McVey and Barnes going to Chicago, all receiving \$3000 a year, and Spalding, who then began to lay the foundation for his future success in the business world, securing \$500 extra for engineering the deal. Wright lost the championship that year to Chicago, but he hustled around and picked up a winning team for 1877 and 1878, another break in the team's success following when Providence got the flag in 1879 and Chicago for the next three years.

UNDER OTHER AUSPICES.

John Morrill was the manager from 1882 to 1888, and won one pennant—1883—and finished second in 1884. James A. Hart, now with Chicago, was the manager in 1889 and '90, the team

finishing second the first year under his care in 1890, when the Brotherhood broke the teams and the game generally.

Frank Selee was then brought from Omaha and with him went Charles Nichols, now star pitcher of the League. Under Selee, the team was thoroughly reorganized, and pulled down the pennants in '91, '92, '93, '97 and '98. Selee is popular everywhere.

EARLE ON EARTH.

The Globe-Trotter Tramps It From Philly to Cincinnati.

Cincinnati, Oct. 29.—Billy Earle, the little globe trotter, is back in Cincinnati. He arrived here last night on the platform of a blind baggage car. He came from his old home in Philadelphia, and is open for any kind of a job, from using a pick and shovel on the streets to keeping books in a mercantile establishment.

Earle insists that he has been completely cured of the morphine habit. It will be remembered that the veteran catcher, through the kindness of "Mugsey" McGraw, of the Baltimore, was admitted to a hospital in the Monumental City. There he was treated for over six weeks. He says he is completely cured, and his appearance goes a good way in support of his claim. Earle has gained 32 pounds in flesh, and his color is that of a thoroughly healthy man.

"After I got out of the hospital I went to my home in Philadelphia," said Billy to a Cincinnati "Inquirer" reporter last night. "I did not find any of my relatives. I then determined to come to Cincinnati. I only had 6 cents in my pocket, but I wanted to get back to the old town, and I started out to do it or die."

"How did you make it?"

"I walked it to Wilmington, Del. That is 26 miles from Philadelphia," said Earle. "Then I caught a freight as it was leaving the yards in Wilmington and got to Baltimore. I walked from Baltimore to Washington. At Washington I was in big luck. I caught a blind baggage of a fast express as far as Cumberland. The dew and the fog were very heavy and without an overcoat on the front end of a blind baggage on a train going 45 miles an hour I came near freezing to death. I had a hard time getting through the mountains. I 'bummed' it on freights and cattle trains, but I had to wait a great deal of time. I got lost on the mountains one night. It took me 10 days to make the trip. I worked for my meals. Sometimes I'd cut wood for something to eat. At one place I did a woman's washing to get a meal. I got to Chillicothe last night and slept in a box car on a track. It was raining so hard I did not put my head out of the car all night. I caught a blind baggage at Chillicothe and got in here this evening. I didn't beg my grub, but I offered to work for it. I'll do anything that I can get to do. No kind of work is too hard for me. I want to make a living, and anybody that will give me something to do will do me a great favor."

BOSTON'S ACQUISITION.

Piatt Will Have Another South-Paw Rival Next Season.

Columbus, O., Nov. 1.—The excellent southpaw pitcher, Oscar Strelt, will be a member of the champion Boston team next spring. Selee having signed him. Strelt is a Southerner, and had slight experience in a little league down in Dixie land several years ago, when he was a mere boy. In 1896 a team from Augusta, Ga., made a trip North and stranded in southern Ohio. Strelt was picked up by Washington C. H. and pitched such good ball for the independent team at that place that the attention of several managers was attracted in his direction. The Cincinnati team tried to get Strelt, who had pitched one game as a trial, and Loftus also made a trip to Washington C. H. to see Strelt work, but rain prevented the game.

MADE A NAME.

However, Loftus put Strelt's name on his claim list, and during the winter he was signed to pitch for the Columbus team. He was so wild that it was deemed unwise to experiment, so Strelt was sent to the Dubuque Western Association team, where he staided down and pitched fine ball all through the season of 1897.

In 1898 he was recalled to Columbus, and lack of control in the early games led to his release. Dayton promptly signed him, and when he got where he was called upon to pitch every third day, and sometimes more frequently, he mastered control of the sphere and developed into one of the stars of the Interstate circuit.

HAS IT ALL.

With the Boston team Strelt will have every chance in the world to make a name for himself, as a spring practice trip in the South will fit him for the hard campaign, and with such a fast fielding and hard-hitting team behind him the task will be comparatively easy. Strelt has everything in a southpaw's repertoire—fine speed and as extensive an assortment of shots and headers as the best of them—so, if he does not excel the grand record of Piatt the judges of ball players will be greatly mistaken. Strelt is now in Columbus, and will probably remain here all winter.

AMBITION AROUSED.

Kansas City Hopes to be a Major League Town Again.

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 31.—Editor "Sporting Life":—In the course of a conversation among the Western League and National League circuit of the future, President Manning made this startling remark: "If any Western League city is chosen for a place in the National League I believe it will be Kansas City, and why not?"

"Yes, I say, why not?" continued President Manning. "Our town paid better financially than any other minor league town ever did before, and is recognized everywhere as a great ball town. But leaving this aside, why not put Kansas City by the side of New York and Chicago? We have a ball town, but it is more. This is the greatest live stock market in the country, and the greatest railroad centre. Would I like to see the Blues in the big League? Well, I wonder."

"Will Indianapolis get into the National League?"

"Say, the Hoosier town may have a chance, but it is just one chance in seventeen thousand. I repeat that if any Western League town is chosen it will be the burg we live in."

Players Well Fixed.

Billy Hamilton has informed Jake Morse that two more years on the diamond would wind up his career. Hamilton is one of the wealthiest players in the big League, and out of his earnings he has made investments in real estate that have netted him a comfortable fortune. Hamilton, Jimmy McGuire, Jim McAleer, Charley Nichols, Frank Killeen, Jimmy Ryan, Joe Kelly, Hughie Jennings, Willie Keeler, Scrapper Young, Hughey Duffy, Al Sellbach, Bob Lowe, Cy Young and Chief Zimmer are among the players of the major League who have nursed the convenient nest egg for the day of rain.