

High Lights of the World of Base Ball

GEOERGE STOVALL, former firebrand of the Federal League, will quit base ball unless he can land a job as manager of a Coast League club, according to his statements to friends in Los Angeles. It is thought that Stovall will be considered for the leadership at Vernon when Tom Darmody closes for the club. As yet Darmody's negotiations have not gone far enough so that he is in a position to start lining up his material for next year.

Leslie Mann, Cub outfielder, is one of the fastest sprinters in base ball—if not the fastest. He used to do track work at Nebraska.

Realizing that the cost of paper is increasing, and believing there was a fortune in gathering up old newspapers and magazines, Harry Harper, of Hackensack, N. J., the star southpaw pitcher on Clark Griffith's Washington American League base ball team, has branched out in a new business. He will start two auto trucks on a trip about the country and will dispose of the collections to paper mills at market prices. Of course, the collecting is to be done by the wholesale from stores and offices.

Bob Shawkey, of the New York Americans, had the greatest year of his career in 1916. He attributes it very largely to the fact that he drove his high power racing car in moderation. At the opening of the season last Spring Shawkey left his racing car at home. The result was his big season.

Jack Coombs says the American League teams seem to have the edge because of superior batting power. "Practically every team in the American League has three or more men who are mighty dangerous with the bat," says Jack. "Detroit has Veach, Cobb, Crawford, Heilman and Burns. Cleveland has Speaker, Roth, Graney, Gandil and Chapman. Boston has Lewis, Gardner, Hooper and Barry. St. Louis has Shotten, Sisler and Pratt. Chicago has John and Eddie Collins, Joe Jackson, Welsh, Fournier, Weaver and Schalk. New York has Baker, Pipp, High and Magee."

Jack Fournier, who had such a great year at the bat in 1915, and who slumped so badly last season, blames his trouble on the infield. Jack likes the outfield and believes if played regularly in right field he would soon regain his form at the bat.

Connie Mack is banking on a husky youngster by the name of Thrasher to come through with some wallops next Summer which will make fans at Shibe Park recall the days of Frank Baker and his big stick. Incidentally Mack is of the belief that in Thrasher, McInnis, Bodie, Witt, Strunk and Schang he will have six players in his line-up able to make considerable trouble for the opposing pitchers.

Kitty Bransfield, for years a star first sacker in the National League, is being strongly touted as ready for a chance to deliver in the capacity of a major league umpire. Bransfield had a most successful season in the International League in 1916.

One of the big tasks that confronts Bill Donovan is to dig up a second sacker able to fill the bill, which would round out a pretty good infield combination with Pipp at first, Peckinpaugh at short and Baker at third. Donovan has not yet given up hopes for Joe Gedeon. He looked like the sensation of the American League last Spring, but illness severely handicapped his play. At the bat he was away off form, as shown by his average of .317 for 1915 in the Pacific Coast League.

There are a good many wise base ball men who believe that Walter Barbare will be the regular third sacker of the Indians in 1917. Illness put Barbare out of the running for two years, but he appears to have entirely recovered.

Base ball has certainly developed a lot of specialists in recent years. The Boston Club carried catcher Cady largely because no other receiver was able to handle the delivery of Ernie Shore, one of the clubs' best pitchers. Cady's sole duty was to work when Shore was Carrigan's pitching selection. Shore insists he is much more effective with Cady doing the catching.

Rube Oldring is reported to have received \$5000 from the New York Americans for coming out of retirement and finishing the season with that club. Rube

really wanted to quit, but realized it would take considerable tilling of the soil to show such a profit for a couple of month's work.

Weldon Wyckoff, a member of the Boston Red Sox pitching staff, is the owner and manager of the leading taxicab service of his home in Williamsport, Pa. It is said that since the close of the big series the number of cabs in the service has been materially increased.

Lee Magee, who was picked to star in the American League for the New Yorks last season, recently made a most interesting comment in explanation for his failure to garner a better batting average. "The pitching in the American League was so much better than what I faced in the Federal League that it soon convinced me that I had spent the season of 1915 in a minor league circuit."

But little consideration is given "Happy" Felsch when critics are considering the leading outfielders of the American League, yet Felsch is undoubtedly one of the most valuable outfielders in the Johnnie organization. In the 1916 series between the two Chicago clubs Felsch was a big star.

For a wonderful fielder, shortstop Scott, of Boston, has the most indifferent style of any player who has ever starred in the majors. Scott goes about his work in such a careless fashion that his style takes away much of the brilliancy of his work. He never makes a false move and usually after a great play that retires the side, he is under the cover of the bench before the crowd has half a chance to pay him tribute.

Eddie Collins considers Lefty Williams one of the best southpaws that has broken into the American League in years.

Bill Donovan has hopes that Slim Love will win a regular place on the New Yorks' pitching staff next season. Love simply lacks confidence in his own great ability. In batting practice when he puts his stuff on the ball, Love usually has the New York hitters helpless. At such times, his control is exceptional.

When sent into a game wildness, as a rule, forces him to let up on his stuff, and his batting practice speed and curves are missing.

Vean Gregg believes that if he was on any other team but the Boston Club he would soon regain the form that once made him the most feared southpaw in the American League. "The Boston pitching staff is such a good one that it would have been indeed foolish for Carrigan to have experimented with any uncertainties," says Gregg.

One of the mysteries of the batting averages is why Arthur Fletcher, the clever shortstop of the Giants, get so few bases on balls. Fletcher is a first-class batsman; in fact, he is about the hardest hitting shortstop in the business. And Artie is not a batter who swings at bad balls. Yet during the last two seasons he has averaged less bases on balls than any other player in the game. Fletcher received only 19 passes during the 1915 and 1916 seasons combined. He had only six bases on balls in 149 games in 1915, and 13 in 133 games last season. Fletcher therefore walked only 19 times in 282 games, or an average of but one base on balls for every 20 games. His strike-out record is very consistent. Fletcher struck out 36 times in both the 1915 and 1916 seasons.

Catcher Homer ("Cully") Haworth, Portland boy, who started catching for Portland last Spring and wound up with the Great Falls Club, of the Northwestern League, will report to the Birmingham Club, of the Southern League, next Spring.

Frank Chance, manager of the Los Angeles Club, now is planning to take his entire team to Elsinore for ten days if proper arrangements can be made during the training season.

Manager Jack Dunn, of the Baltimore Club, enjoys the distinction of being one of the greatest developers of pitching stars in the minors. Within three years Dunn has given to the American League a quartet of pitching stars in Ruth, and Shore, of Boston; Russell, of New York,

and Danforth, of Chicago. Ruth and Shore have in that short length of time tasted the World's Series honors, Shore being twice declared in on the big event.

Bill Carrigan and Heinie Wagner, of the Boston Red Sox, are the real pals of the national pastime. Carrigan winters at Lewiston, Me., while Wagner calls New Rochelle, in New York State, his home. The Winter is so long in passing that Carrigan has induced Wagner to change his residence from New Rochelle to Lewiston.

It is unusual for a pitcher to announce his retirement after a season in which he managed to pitch a no-hit, no-run game, the ambition of every major league pitcher. Such a person is George Foster, of the Boston Red Sox, and George, by the way, made his record against the New Yorks, a mighty sweet hitting team. Foster had considerable trouble with his arm last season and has just decided life is easier on his Oklahoma ranch.

Lee Magee, who is wintering in Cincinnati, is keeping in fine shape and looks for a big season next year. Lee suffered a great deal from injuries last season, at one time being laid up with an injured leg for more than three weeks. He is hoping for better luck in 1917.

Guy Morton, of the Cleveland team, is the pitcher who stopped Joe Bush from hanging up a most unusual record in the early part of last season. For his first six starts Bush scored a victory over the star twirler of each team, only to lose out against the Cleveland crack. The pitchers who fell before Bush were: Foster, of Boston; Caldwell, of New York; Johnson, of Washington; Plank, of St. Louis; Coveleskie, of Detroit; and Faber, of Chicago.

Wyn Noyes, heaver for the Portland Club, won the opening game of the series between the All-Pacific Coast League team and the Hawaiian team at Honolulu, according to word received.

Eddie Plank insists that rare use of the curve ball has been the greatest factor in prolonging his career as a pitcher. Plank claims that during his entire career he has thrown four fast balls to one curve. Constant use of the curve soon tends to sap the strength of the salary whip, according to Eddie.

It begins to look as though Boston had acquired a most valuable ball player in Chick Shorten. He has demonstrated that he can hit, and he is far above the average as a fielder. When he came to the American League it was reported that he had a weak throwing arm. While it did not compare with the whips of Lewis or Hooper, still no base runners ran wild on balls hit to his territory and as the season advanced his throwing greatly improved. Shorten looks like a real find.

When "Dutch" Leonard, star southpaw of the Boston Red Sox, is through as a pitcher, it won't be necessary to play any benefits for the native Californian. He has invested in prune orchards. From some of his earlier investments he is already drawing down a nice dividend.

Shortstop Fabrique, of the Providence team, who was secured by Brooklyn in the draft, was a much-sought-after man. The Washington Club, of the American League, was anxious to secure his services and bid high for that player, but the figures offered failed to satisfy the Providence Club, who thought the player worth about \$7000. That club took a chance that no one else would get him in the draft and didn't get one-third as much as several clubs had offered. Jack Egan, former American League umpire, says Fabrique will make good as a big leaguer.

Pi Way, late of Yale, has asked to go South with McGraw's first rook squad for the benefit to be derived from the training school.

Bill Donovan has no use for pitchers who depend on freak deliveries for success. Bill contends if pitchers continue inventing unnatural methods of deceiving the batter, they will soon be forced to work without a glove. The New York leader says that alone will curb the unfair practices, for the glove to the pitcher who resorts to such tactics is as necessary as a jimmy to a porch climber.

Jim Thorpe will be utilized as a sub outfielder for the Giants next year. The Indian made a reputation in the Association as a deadly slugger against southpaw pitching. He will replace either Kauff or Robertson when left-handers perform against the Giants.

New American Ass'n Head

Thomas J. Hickey Succeeds Tom Chivington as President—Association Magnates Willing to Play Interleague Games With International League.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., December 8.—After the election of Thomas J. Hickey, of Minneapolis, to succeed President Thomas M. Chivington, of Chicago, the American Association took action at the annual meeting here today which practically assures a series of interleague games with the International League. The question of a third major league, as proposed to consist of four American Association and four International League clubs, was discussed informally, President Hickey, who took the chair shortly after being elected, announced, but added that the magnates did not take the

PROPOSED LEAGUE SERIOUSLY.

Louisville was chosen as headquarters of the league for the coming year, but President Hickey said the removal of the headquarters to that city would not be until some time after the first of the year, depending on the time it will take to wind up his personal affairs in Minneapolis.

The pennant for 1916 was formally awarded to Louisville. No action was taken on the question of reducing the salary limit for players or limiting the number of players, although both questions were discussed.

A schedule committee, consisting of O. H. Wathen, Louisville; Mike Cantillon, Minneapolis; A. F. Timme, Milwaukee, and the president, was appointed. It will meet in Kansas City, February 24.

THE INTERLEAGUE GAMES

It was decided that if the series with the International League is arranged that the American Association will play 112 games or 154 games if the interleague series falls through. The opening games will coincide with those of the major leagues.

President E. G. Barrow, of the International League, in a telegram, approved

the plan for an interleague series and invited the American Association club owners to attend the International League meeting in New York next Monday. President Hickey wired Mr. Barrow that a committee, consisting of himself, Wathen, Cantillon, Timme, J. C. McGill, Indianapolis, and John W. Norton, of St. Paul, would attend, with power to act for the other three club owners, Roger Bresnahan, Toledo; George Tebeau, Kansas City, and E. M. Schoenborn, Columbus, who could not make the trip.

The plan for the interleague series, as explained by President Hickey, calls for each club in the two leagues to put up \$500, a total of \$8000, before August 1, this to be apportioned at the end of the series among the seven clubs winning the greater number of games.

HICKEY'S POLICY

President Hickey said he would not be ready to announce his staff of umpires until the meeting of the schedule committee. "My one purpose," said Mr. Hickey after the meeting, "will be to harmonize the factions in the Association. I have no one to reward, as I did not ask for the support of a single club owner. The fact that some of the club owners would rather have retained Mr. Chivington as president will not affect my actions in any way in my future dealings with the league."

Mr. Chivington, who left the meeting shortly after being defeated for re-election by a vote of 5 to 3, gave out the following statement:

"Explanations or excuses for defeat interest no one but the man who was defeated. I have nothing to say. I have no plans for the future, but I will return to Chicago and will remain there."

Mr. Chivington started for Chicago late this afternoon and the club owners began departing for their home cities just as soon as they could get trains after the meeting.