



# The Sphinx Answers



*EDITOR'S NOTE:—THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE has contracted with the greatest athletic authorities in the world to answer all reasonable questions that you may ask. All baseball problems will be answered by Jacob C. Morse, while the questions relating to other branches of sports will be turned over to other experts. If you have any knotty little question that has been racking your brain, send it in and receive an authoritative answer.*

*E. M. V., Fitchburg*—With men on second and third bases and one out, the batsman hits a long fly to left field. The man on third holds the bag, but the man on second runs toward third. Left fielder catches the ball, man on third starts for home, and reaches it before the left fielder gets the ball to second, for the third out. The umpire claims the run counts, and the *Sporting News* of St. Louis claims the same thing, and I wish you would answer this question, as I claim that the run didn't count, as the rule reads that "no run shall count if it is scored on a force out, or where the third man is put out at first base. I claim that it's a force out, if the ball is caught by a fielder, and relayed to the base which the base-runner vacated before the ball was caught, if the base-runner is off the base when the ball gets there.

There can be no force out unless there is a man on first, on first and second, or all the bases are occupied. There is no reason why the man on third should not score if he reaches the rubber before the ball is returned to second in time to double the man there.

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*Eager, Waco, Texas*—Pitcher Reulbach of the Chicago Nationals pitched in a 20-inning game against Frank Sparks at Philadelphia, August 24, 1896. Chicago won 2 to 1. Reulbach also won an 18-inning game from St. Louis by the same score, June 24, 1905.

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*Fan, Lenoir, N. C.*—No notice is taken of anonymous communications. You must send your full name with your communication, but same will not be used in answering your query.

*W. L. Cooper, Tex.*—Batter knocks fly to outfield. The right and center fielders go after the ball. The ball falls into the right fielder's hands and he muffs it, but the center fielder catches the ball before it reaches the ground. 1. Is the batsman out? 2. Should the right fielder be given an error? 3. Should the center fielder be given a put-out?

1. Yes, for the ball was caught before it reached the ground. 2. No, for the man was put out. 3. Certainly.

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*J. B. B., Hartford, Conn.*—Will you please inform me of birthplace and education of Frank Chance?

Sketch of Chance appeared in the November number the *BASEBALL MAGAZINE*. Same will be supplied on receipt of 15 cents in stamps.

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*Wheeling, W. Va.*—Claude Ritchey of the Boston Nationals led his league in the field for six seasons in succession, from 1902 to 1907 inclusive. In these years he participated in 855 games, an average of almost 143 per season.

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*Umpire, Los Angeles*—Umpire Jack Sheridan winters in Chicago; Connolly lives in Natick, Mass.; O'Loughlin in Rochester, N. Y.; Egan in Providence, R. I.; Evans in Youngstown, O., and Hurst in New York City.

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*Red, Charleston, S. C.*—The largest score made by the Cincinnati Reds during the seasons of 1869 and 1870, was 108 runs against the Unions at Urbana, Ill., the losers scoring but twice.