

Another Addition to the List of Greatest Plays

Thrilling Incidents on the Diamond

ED GUMBERT, the old-time pitcher of the Chicago and Pittsburgh National League clubs, writes as follows regarding the "greatest play" he ever saw in his life:

"The great plays that I remember are those far back, plays made by men who have gone to the Great Beyond and those who have retired and gone into other businesses and perhaps only mildly remember the wonderful plays they performed. Not that we really forget them, for when we of other generations of baseball get together once in awhile and play them over again, the old arms feel strong and the old hearts thrill again. The greatest play I ever saw, the one that comes to my mind whenever a great play is mentioned, was made by Connie Mack, now manager of the world's champions. That play, for originality and quickness of thought and execution, I believe was the greatest and most surprising I ever saw, and I had the honor of being one of the actors in it.

"The play was made when I was pitching for Pittsburgh and Mack was the catcher. No brainier catcher ever stepped back of the bat. We were playing Chicago and dear old Cap Anson was leading that team. In those days Anson was a terror at bat—and they may talk forever about great hitters and not convince me that any greater hitter than Anse ever walked to the plate. I pitched for him and

against him—and knew him. He was the surest man I ever saw in a pinch, especially with men on bases. In the game of which I speak we had a lead of one run and in the ninth inning Chicago had two men on bases and Anson at the bat. Any man who ever pitched to Anson knows what that meant. The old man swung a war club that looked as big as a centre pole to the pitcher, and he stood there as solid as if rooted, and hit almost anything pitched, and hit it hard, squarely and on the line. The situation was bad, but Mack kept me working Anson, in, out and curve, until we got two strikes on him and, I think, two balls. Anyhow we knew the next ball had to go over the plate—and Anson knew it and pulled his belt tighter and settled himself to hit.

Then Connie Mack worked the play. He walked to the base line from home to first and made a sharp remark to Anson that for an instant took Cap's attention away from the pitching. At the instant he spoke Connie flashed me a signal to pitch and I suddenly grasped the idea and cut loose a fast straight ball through the heart of the plate—where Anson would have murdered it had he been watching. As I pitched Connie made a leap and as the ball went over the plate he caught it and Anson was called out on the third strike, retiring the side and giving us the victory."

