

OUR LETTER BOX

A Department Devoted Exclusively to the Fans and Their Ideas and Suggestions on the National Game

The following department is set apart solely for the discussion by our readers of any baseball topic which appeals to them. While we cannot find space for all the letters which come to us in the course of the day's mail, we shall be glad to print a few representative letters each month. It is our earnest wish that the friends of baseball may take advantage of this opportunity to express their views on their favorite game.

St. Matthews, Ky.

Mr. F. C. Lane.

Dear Sir: I read an article by Mr. E. E. Caffee in the August number of the BASEBALL MAGAZINE and was much interested. Where did Mr. Caffee get his data? I judge from the files of the "Spirit of the Times," the "New Orleans Picayune," or contemporaneous papers. His information is most accurate and I can find only one particular in which I differ and that is immaterial. The rider of Lecompte, as given by Mr. Caffee, is "Mose," which from my father's personal memoirs, "Memoirs of Lexington," by Mr. B. G. Bruce, and extracts from New Orleans newspapers, his name is given as "Abe."

Mr. Bruce, editor of the "Kentucky Live Stock Record;" J. B. Pryor, my father's trainer, and my father himself, are all of the opinion that Lexington was pulled up by his jockey in the third mile of the race, which Lecompte won. It seems a great many bets had been laid that Reube, the other contender, would not be beaten by both horses. When it was seen that Reube had no chance one of his backers called to Lexington's jockey, then finishing the third mile and in the lead, "Pull up, you have won." The jockey did so and when he realized his

mistake could not overtake Lecompte, although he did beat Reube. Of course, it is not my purpose to revive such an old discussion, but I think that Lexington's decisive victory over Lecompte later rather establishes the fact that the former did not run his true race in his only defeat. Up to 1880 Lexington's Kt. had won \$1,159,321, and when it is considered that the Civil War came during that period it makes it a wonderful performance.

J. B. Pryor did not accompany my father to England, but joined him later, impelled, I think, by the fact that my father at first was not successful.

Pryor wrote in 1865 to Mr. Bruce in Kentucky as follows: "I think Thormanby the best Derby horse I have seen; I have seen all the best horses run here for five years and at all distances, and feel sure, without prejudice, that Lexington was superior to all horses in England or any other country." My father's two great disappointments were, I think, his inability to take Lexington to England, and his failure in 1865 to win the Derby with Umpire. Possibly in the event of Mr. Caffee's wishing any data for future articles on bygone horses and races, I could be of assistance, as I have quite a lot of facts bearing on that period.

Very truly yours,

RICHARD TEN BROECK.

NEW YORK CITY.

To Editor of Baseball Magazine.

DEAR SIR:

In his paragraph relating to the New York Giants, Mr. Soden says that the Cubs, Pirates and Phillies have the class over the Giants. This is in the October number. If what Mr. Soden says is so, why is it that the New York Giants are 10½ games ahead of the Cubs, 13 games ahead of the Pirates, and 29½ games ahead of the Phillies? I remain,

Very truly yours,

P. A. MCCLURE.

411 EAST 7TH ST., PLAINFIELD, N. J.

The Baseball Magazine Company,
65 Fifth Avenue,

New York City.

DEAR SIR:

As a constant reader of your magazine, I have been greatly interested in your articles as to "who is the greatest ball player," "who is the greatest pitcher," etc., and I understand that in your next number you are about to decide as to the greatest first baseman. I would like to state my opinion on this question, which I am sure is the opinion of many others. Most people would probably say that Hal Chase was the greatest of all, but to my mind this is little short of absurd. Jake Daubert is immeasurably superior. I have seen both men play many times, and while I admit Chase is sensational, he is certainly not as dependable as Daubert. The latter covers even more ground than Chase, and lays farther back from the bag than any other man in the business. Their fielding averages for 1911 showed .989 for Daubert and .974 for Chase. I don't mean to say that averages show everything, but with such a difference as that, I think they show a good deal. This year the latest unofficial averages show Chase to be hitting .242, and Daubert .332. Jake is every bit as fast on the bases, and, best of all, is a game, hard fighter and never lies down on anyone, something which cannot be said of Chase. The latter was once a wonder, but he has gone back more or less, and even at his best was not the equal of Daubert. At any rate, he is certainly not at the present time. If you can find space for this letter in your next issue you will greatly oblige.

J. W. DUNWELL.

LOMPOC, CAL.,

Editor Baseball Magazine.

DEAR SIR:

I am an ardent admirer of your magazine, and have been a constant reader of its pages ever since the first issue.

I am particularly interested in the suggestions offered to better the rules governing pitching records.

Why not do away with the "Games won and lost" columns, and substitute points won and lost?

I propose to credit the pitcher with 3 points for every inning he pitches. Charge his record

with 3 points for every run made by the opponents. But if the opposing team makes a run with the help of an error by the pitcher's team-mates, he should lose only 2 points. Should he make the error himself, 3 points should be counted against him.

Let us see how this would work out in actual practice.

In the game of August 8, between New York and Pittsburgh, Marquard and Hendrix pitching, each pitcher pitched 9 innings, and each gets credited for 27 points in the "Points won" column. Marquard allowed 1 run, and 3 points are added to the "Points lost" column. Hendrix allowed 1 run, and with the help of Byrne's error New York made another. Hence we give Hendrix 5 points in the "Points lost" column. Thus:

	P.W.	P.L.	Pct.
Marquard	27	3	.900
Hendrix	27	5	.844

In the game of August 8, between St. Louis and Brooklyn, Sallee allowed 1 run in 9 innings. Rucker allowed 1 run, and was partly responsible for another run which won the game in eight innings. Ragon pitched the last inning. Pitching record:

	P.W.	P.L.	Pct.
Ragon	3	0	1.000
Sallee	27	3	.900
Rucker	24	5	.827

Another illustration will further show the fairness of this system.

In the game between New York and Detroit, on August 7, Dubuc held New York runless for 9 innings. Warhop allowed Detroit 6 runs in 2 innings. Davis allowed 1 run in 6 innings. Pitching record:

	P.W.	P.L.	Pct.
Dubuc	27	0	1.000
Davis	18	3	.857
Warhop	6	18	.250

In this case Davis pitched good ball for 6 innings; but under the present system of figuring average, receives no credit at all for pitching nearly a full game. Other instances could be cited where a pitcher pitched great ball for 8 innings, then was taken out to allow a better batter to bat for him, and another pitcher would go in and win the game in the ninth. This isn't fair to the first pitcher, who ought to receive credit for the time he was in the box; neither is it fair that the relieve pitcher gets credit for the whole game, which he does under the present system.

My system (while not perfect) would be eminently fair to all pitchers. It is bound to put the best pitchers at the top of the percentage column, and there would be no 16-inning, 0 to 0 tie games pitched in vain.

While I cannot hope that you will print all this stuff, I should be pleased if you would give room for at least part of it.

Very truly yours,

JOHN O. LINDEN.

THE HANNIBAL COURIER-POST.

Baseball Magazine,
New York City.

GENTLEMEN:

I failed to receive my September copy of your excellent magazine. It's like missing a 1 to 0 baseball game. Would you please mail me a copy of same and accept my appreciation.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES H. LING,
Sporting Editor.
No. 810 Union Street.

HAVRE, MONT.

Baseball Magazine Company.
GENTLEMEN:

Inclosed find money order, \$1.50, for another subscription to your great magazine. I like it better every number. In regard to the premium, you can send me one of the fountain pens.

Yours truly,

Box No. 193. THOS. J. MARTIN.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

Baseball Magazine Company,
65 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

DEAR SIR:

Inclosed please find coupon, also \$1.00, for which please send me, as stated in said coupon, eight different copies of your highly appreciated magazine, for eight consecutive months, starting with January's edition and ending with August, 1912, as I have purchased your September edition, and am forced to admit, and also regret, that it was the first copy that I had ever read, yet wish to firmly state that I will be a consistent reader from now on.

Wishing your magazine every success possible, I beg to remain,

Sincerely yours,

A. W. COLLINS.

Editor Baseball Magazine.

DEAR SIR:

I would be very glad if you would give a little space in your magazine to the International League, as I am sure you must have subscribers in cities like Baltimore, Rochester, Newark, and probably in all the circuit. It would be a little interesting for us who are far from major leagues. Thanking you in advance, I remain,

E. B.

STONY CREEK, CONN.

Baseball Magazine Pub. Co.,
New York.

DEAR SIR:

I have been a reader of the BASEBALL MAGA-

ZINE for the last three years, and have often wondered why you did not have a department page for "fans." For instance, questions and answers; scores of all Major League games for the previous month, and brief notes of interest that the average "fan" don't but would be highly interested in. For example: Who pitched the first curve ball; who has thrown a baseball the greatest distance; the longest game on record; the player in the National League who struck out the most times during the previous season; tallest and shortest men in the Major Leagues; longest and shortest game on record, etc. I think I am capable of opening a department of this kind and hope you will consider it. I am a great lover of baseball and know it from A to Z, and back again. I would not care how much money there is in it, but as long as there would be something, it would satisfy me. Hoping to hear from you, I remain,

Until a baseballs (base bawls),

EM. E. VENILL.

BLANCHEWOOD.

Baseball Magazine Company.

DEAR SIR:

I have an ash bat which was instrumental in winning a game of ball in 1865. Score was 154 to 137 in favor of Olympia against the Boston club. Center fielder went after the ball, which had been knocked across the half-mile racetrack (a live ball). A. Ross, who had the batter give the bat, was a mascot. The larger the score the better the game forty odd years ago. Where is Wag in Wagner?

Yours truly,

A. W. BALDWIN.

ELKS' CLUB, GREENSBURG, INDIANA.
F. C. LANE, Editor,

Baseball Magazine,

New York.

We read your monthly here in our club rooms, and the "fans" have numerous discussions about the great American game of baseball, but there is one thing I never remember of having seen in your magazine, that is, putting the name of each player on his breast, instead of the name of the city in which he plays.

I don't like the suggestion of number on the arm to correspond with score card.

We would like to hear your views on the subject. Sincerely, etc.,

HARRY LATHROP.

