

# Iron Arms Among the Outfielders

## *Where Are the Old-Time Throwers?*

ONE of the most spectacular feats on the ball ground is a long throw from deep field which cuts off a run. The Boston "American" in commenting on the present dearth of long-distance throwers publishes the following interesting sketch:

"What has become of all the great throwers in the big leagues? Has the decrease in batting which has robbed us of the fun of ever seeing some of those marvelous catches that Curt Welch, Jimmy McAleer, Ed Hanlon and a few others used to make also eliminated our throwing element?"

"I recall the time when there were any number of men that could throw a ball the length of the grounds. But they are the exception instead of the rule nowadays.

"Take Charlie Jones, with the St. Paul team, and he seems to have it on any man playing baseball to-day for throwing accurately. A few years ago many a man was caught at the plate by some wonderful throw from the outfield that simply electrified the fans.

"Occasionally we get a dose of that kind now, but not very often. During the last world's series Murphy threw from deep right field in the first game, getting the runner at the plate, and it was the prettiest play of the entire series.

"I remember when the Troy team, then a member of the National League, came to Chicago. Among its members were Buck Ewing, Dan Brouthers, Mickey Welch and others, including Fred Pfeffer, who had just been secured from Louisville. Ewing believed Pfeffer to be the greatest thrower in the business, and so told Anson.

"I've got a man on my team that can beat him throwing for a hundred dollars of my money," came back the big captain.

"I have a hundred that says he can't," replied Ewing.

"The match was made and the next morning at 10 o'clock Pfeffer and the entire Troy team were collected at the Lake Front grounds ready for the contest. Anson then produced his man, who proved to be Ed Williamson.

"The men were each entitled to three throws. Pfeffer decided to rest after his second throw. Williamson just threw once and let it go at that, beating Pfeffer by four feet. Pfeffer took his other throw, but did not better his mark.

"If I remember rightly, for I was quite a boy then, the throw was 132 yards and some feet. Williamson afterward went to Cincinnati and beat that throw.

"Jimmy Ryan, when a member of the Chicago team, was a wonderful thrower. He could not throw the distance that Williamson and Pfeffer did, but he could line them home so accurately that no runner took a chance of scoring from third unless Ryan had to run out to get the catch and turn and throw. Whenever he caught the ball standing still he always caught the runner who attempted to beat his throw to the plate.

"Tredway, who once wore a Denver uniform, and afterward went to Brooklyn, was another boy that could throw a ball "a mile." But he didn't last long, and his throwing arm gave out. He was a big, strong fellow, with plenty of speed behind the pellet when he sent it home-ward; in fact, I don't believe any of them had it on 'Tred' when it came to speed.