

# 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.

Editor THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR:—I am much pleased to note the attitude THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE has taken in reference to the Ball Players' Fraternity. From what I have been able to gather of the scope of this fraternity it has done nothing up to date to imperil the welfare of baseball in any way. And until it does something which entitles it to criticism it seems to me only fair to give the organization time to show what it intends to do. I have been a good deal surprised at the attitude of the press in general, which has seemed very much biased in its view. Why there should be so much hostility to the movement is a thing which I am at a loss to explain. But I am glad at any rate that you have taken the stand you have and I am sure the baseball public everywhere will support you in it.

Yours for a fair deal,

J. H. GARROW, Chicago, Ill.

Editor THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR:—In an article in THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE in which someone picked an all-America nine I was surprised to see that the author chose Ed. Plank in preference to Walsh. In the main I believe the selections were particularly good, but I do not think that Plank should have been chosen. I admit that he is a very great pitcher and that he had a great season last year, all the more remarkable since he is so old a man, but for all that I do not think there is a pitcher in the game, with the possible exception of Walter Johnson, who should be picked in preference to Walsh. It is true that Walsh's record was not so good so far as figures go as some of the others, but that makes little difference to most people and made no difference to the writer of this article since he picked Rucker in the National League,

a pitcher who ranked very low in the standing, but who, no doubt, deserved the high mention he got. But as for Walsh, he was the hardest-worked pitcher in either league and always good; and what he is actually worth to a team when he is right is shown, in my opinion, pretty clearly by his work with the White Sox in the series against the Cubs.

If you take a canvass of Frank Chance's team that was, and Johnnie Evers's now, I believe you will find that Walsh has quite some reputation as a twirler. This is not in criticism, exactly, of the article, for I can easily see the author's point of view, but I do not agree with him about Walsh.

Yours truly,

S. R. F., Indianapolis, Ind.

Editor THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR:—In the article in last month's number of THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE I was glad to see that John Evers was picked as the greatest second baseman in the world. Evers may not be so good a batter as Lajoie, but his average of .341 is pretty good work as work goes, and when it comes to using gray matter Evers is in a class by himself. I do not think there is a player at any position in either league who is the equal of Evers in knowledge of the fine points of the game. I do not know whether he will make a good manager or not—nobody does—but if knowing everything about the game that there is to be known counts for anything, Evers ought to be as successful as Chance. There is a lot more in baseball than speed and batting. Evers has these too, though others may excel him somewhat; but no one excels him or, in my opinion, equals him in all-round ability as a player save, perhaps, Ty Cobb.

Yours,

J. B., Cincinnati, O.

F. C. Lane, Editor,  
New York City.  
DEAR SIR:

I have been a subscriber to your excellent publication for nearly a year and it gives me great pleasure to write and tell you how much I enjoyed the magazine.

In several numbers I have noticed that some of the different readers have picked an all-star team and some of the selections have met my approval, while others haven't, no two baseball fans will agree upon the same thing.

If I was a Foster, Murnane, Jackson, or Irving, this would be the team that I would select for an all-star aggregation.

Pitchers: Johnson, Wood, Walsh, Rucker, Marquard, Mathewson. Catchers: Archer, Carrigan, Meyers. First Base: Daubert. Short Stop: Wagner. Second Base: Doyle. Third Base: Herzog. Right Field: Cobb. Center Field: Speaker. Left Field: Jackson. Substitutes: Lajoie, L.F.; Crawford, C.F.

It is as nearly perfect as a person would want.

For an all-time star team this would be my selection.

Pitchers: Radbourne, Clarkson, Walsh. Catchers: Kling, Kelly. Short Stops: Wagner. First Base: Anson. Second Base: Lajoie. Third Base: Bradley. Right Field: Keeler. Center Field: Cobb. Left Field: Brodie, of Baltimore. Substitutes: Speaker, Sunday and Jimmy Collins.

Yours truly,

R. WALDO COLVIN.

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Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE.  
DEAR SIR:

Which of the following teams would win if pitted together for a series of games? One is picked from the American League and the other picked from the National League?

American League: Mgr. Connie Mack, 1st B., Hal Chase; 2nd B., Napoleon Lajoie; 3d B., "Home Run" Baker; S. S., Charley Wagner; R. F., Clyde Milan; L. F., Tyrus Cobb; C. F., Tris Speaker; G., Ed. Sweeney; P., Ed. Walsh, Walter Johnson, Eddie Plank, Joe Wood; Utility, Jackson, O. F., Eddie Collins I. F.

National League: Mgr. John J. McGraw; 1st B., Jake Daubert; 2d B., Larry Doyle; 3d B., Heine Zimmerman; S. S., Honus Wagner; R. F., Red Murray; L. F., Bob Bescher; C. F., Max Carey; C., Chief Meyers, Archer; P., Christy Mathewson, Nap Rucker, Jeff Tesreau, Alexander "The Great"; O. F., Zack Wheat; I. F., Ed. Konetchy.

HARRY ZICHERMAN.

220 East 65th St., New York City.

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Grand Rapids, Mich.

Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE.  
DEAR SIR:

I have been a constant reader and admirer of your magazine, for a number of years, but have yet to see very much printed about the minor leagues. In my opinion (if it is worth anything), it would be a very good thing, each month to have a few notes on minor

league happenings. Hoping to see a column or so set aside for this, I remain

Yours respectfully,

R. E. STOVER.

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Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE.  
DEAR SIR:

As a reader of your magazine for the last few years, I have become much interested in some of your articles. Lately I have taken particular interest in your "Letter Box" and would like to give my views on some of the letters received from some of your readers.

In the January number, J. P. Johnson, picks an all-America team. His selection of Carrigan as second catcher on an all-America team is not correct (at least in my estimation). Carrigan, although a star backstop, is not the equal to Stanage or Wingo.

His all-star outfield is all right with the exception of utility players. Milan the Washington star, far outclasses the work of Murray or Hooper. Milan is considered the fastest man in either league. Without such opposition as Cobb, Speaker and Jackson, Milan would have a regular position.

Frank Chance should be mentioned as a manager. (With apologies to J. P. Johnson.)

In the same number James E. Taylor writes as to Tesreau being Rucker's superior. Why should a young star, just breaking in fast company be classed with a man like Nap Rucker, who with a team that finishes 7th or 8th each year, has beaten the best teams, and best pitchers in his league? He is the best left-hander in the National League (not excluding Marquard). In 1910, Cole proved a streak in the pan, Tesreau may repeat (although not likely). (With apologies to James E. Taylor.)

Hoping you will print this, I remain,

Yours truly,

S. KRUEGER.

6039 Rhodes Ave., Chicago.

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Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

GENTLEMEN:

I enjoy your magazine very much and I agree with you on your articles, such as Joe Jackson being Ty Cobb's nearest rival. I think the very way in 1911 he beat Cobb in fielding by one point and. Speaker was defeated by Cobb by one point in 1911 and '12 showed this. Also Jackson defeated Speaker in batting. Jackson lacks a few points in base running, but in nothing else, and I cannot see why Speaker got the auto. It is a mystery to me, and I wish you would ask Mr. Lane to publish an article on Jackson deserving the auto and one on the coming great Naps, who are likely to get the flag next year.

Yours sincerely,

GASTON HEBERTH.

St. Edward's Hall, Notre Dame, Ind.

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Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIRS:—In my judgment, the following all-star team is the best that can be gotten together. It is as follows:

Daubert, 1b.; Evers, 2b.; Wagner, s.s. (Pittsburg); Herzog, 3b.; Bescher, 1f.; Speaker, c.f.; Cobb, r.f.; Meyers, c.; Archer, c.; Matty, p.; Johnson, p.; Wood, p.; Walsh, p.; Rucker, p.; Zimmerman, utility infielder; Milan, utility outfielder.

Trusting that you will publish this in your next issue, I remain,

Yours truly,  
J. G., JR.

P. S.—I am an interested subscriber and have taken your magazine for the past year.

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Thorpe, W. Va.,

Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR:—For your "Fans' Letter Box" I wish to submit the following denunciation of Ban Johnson's proposal to rate pitchers by the number of hits made off of them:

While it is true that many pitchers have been given false averages under the old system of rating, the same will still be the case under the new system if it is adopted, if not worse; it will be practically impossible to find the real worth of a pitcher to his club by the new system. Batters go to the plate to hit, and pitchers go into the box to keep the batters from hitting, but a star pitcher must have brains as well as speed and curves; as a rule, pitchers like Mathewson and Johnson always "ease up" after a game is safe; by doing this they save their arms for future work, wouldn't it be a rank injustice to pitchers like this to mar their records with hits made under these circumstances. Pitchers who allow many hits during a game, but who are "there" with the headwork in pinches are worth much more to their club than the pitcher who puts everything he has on every ball he pitches and who is always trying to pitch a one or two-hit game; pitchers of this kind usually find themselves back in the "tall and uncut" by the next season, while the pitchers who use brains as well as speed and curves will last for years.

A ball player's record is his stock in trade, and if this system is adopted all pitchers will naturally want to protect their records and the pitcher who uses headwork now, as well as speed and curves, will be compelled to put everything he has on the ball in every game in order to have a good record, and by doing this he will shorten his career as a major league pitcher.

Yours very truly,  
R. E. LEE

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DORCHESTER, MASS.

Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

SIR:—I am a reader of your magazine; in the December number you printed an article on "The Greatest Ball Team in the World." One letter in the January number says he does not think Rucker ought to be picked over Tesreau. Put Tesreau with Brooklyn and you will notice the difference; he may be able to pitch more games, but can he win them? That is what counts. Here is my selection for the greatest ball team:

Tinker, s.s.  
Collins, 2b.

Daubert, 1b.  
Gardner or  
Zimmerman, 3b.  
Speaker, c.f.  
Cobb, r.f.  
Jackson, 1f.  
Meyers, c.  
Archer, c.  
Rucker, p.  
Wood, p.  
Johnson, p.

Hoping you will print this.

Yours truly,  
WILLIAM H. O'HARA.

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BASEBALL MAGAZINE,

65 Fifth Avenue,

New York City.

GENTLEMEN:

I have noticed in your "Letter Box" in recent issues some all-star teams of both the American and National Leagues, and the All-American team.

I would like to ask your opinion of the following All-American League team: Stange (Det.) and Henry (Wash.), catchers; Johnson (Wash.), Wood (Bos.), Walsh (Chi.), Dubuc (Det), Gregg (Cleve.), and Cashion (Wash.), pitchers; Chase (N. Y.), and Gandil (Wash.), first base; Lajoie (Cleve.), and Collins (Ath.), second base; Bush (Det.), and McBride (Wash.), shortstop; Gardner (Bos.), and Foster (Wash.), third base; Cobb, Speaker and Milay, regular outfielders; Crawford and Jackson, sub-outfielders; Herman Schaefer and Nick Altrock, as coaches, and Clark Griffith, manager.

I claim that this team can win 90% of its games from any team.

Hoping that you will give space in your magazine for this to be published, I am,

Sincerely yours,  
R. G. HARNEY.

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Harrison, Ohio,

Mr. F. C. Lane.

Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE,

65 Fifth Ave., New York City.

DEAR SIR:

I recently received the January number of the BASEBALL MAGAZINE. As I almost always turn first to the Letter Box Department, I notice that everybody is selecting an all-American team. I thought I would take a try at it so here goes. I hope you will be able to find room to print all this dope in your next issue.

Pitchers: Johnson, Wood, Mathewson, Walsh, Rucker. Catchers: Archer, Myers. 1st Base: Daubert or Konetchy. 2nd Base: Lajoie or Evers. Short: Wagner (Pittsburgh). 3rd Base: Byrne or Zimmerman. Outfielders: Cobb (right), Speaker (center), Jackson (left); all stars. My second base choice may differ a whole lot from others, but for my part, I prefer Lajoie. As I live near (Cincy), I wish you would put in a little dope about the Reds. Yours truly,

ROSS S. WATTS.

BASEBALL MAGAZINE CO.,  
65 Fifth Ave.,  
New York City.

DEAR SIR:

I am a very interested reader of your magazine and have been ever since it started.

I read Mr. Wm. H. Parry's letter in which he stated that the Giants were a much better team than the Red Sox ever were, or ever will be. I am a New Yorker, or at least was up to three years ago and I have always been a rather ardent rooter for McGraw's men.

I had an opportunity to watch the Red Sox on six different occasions during the past summer and I also saw the Giants on four.

I believe that Mr. Parry stated that he watched the two teams play in one game during the World's Series and on that one game he draws his judgment of a team.

I was so impressed by the work of the Red Sox that I made a little wager of \$25 to \$15, and a man must be impressed pretty strongly with a team to bet against the team that he always was rooting for.

The Giants in the game that I saw them play put up about the raggedest exhibition of the National Game that I ever witnessed.

Mr. Parry must also realize that Boston was laboring under a rather heavy handicap. Gardener, one of the stars of the team, had a very bad finger and could not put up the game that he is capable of; also Tris Speaker, the bright light of the team, was slowed up with a bad ankle during nearly the entire series. Also there was a rumor out that there was trouble in the ranks of the American Leaguers after the sixth game.

New York was lucky during the entire series up to the last inning of the last game.

I think Mr. Parry is like a lot of other rabid National League fans (despite all of his talk to the contrary), who think that it is the only league. I myself, as I have said before, am a National League rooter, but I am one who will give credit where credit is due, and from what I have seen of them I think that the present World's Champions are one of the best teams that ever sported that title.

Hoping that this letter will be printed and trusting that I am not taking up too much of your valuable space, also wishing all the success in the world to the future of the BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

I am, yours truly,

ROBT. P. MURRAY.  
3636 Evans Ave., Chicago, Ill.

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Newtown, Conn.,

Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE CO.,  
65 Fifth Ave., New York City.

DEAR SIR:

Having for two years read your BASEBALL MAGAZINE, and always take great pleasure of reading the life and plays of some of the greatest players, and always when reading of some great ball player you sometimes say: "he is the greatest at this or that," with the exception of the great Cobb.

I will agree with you that Cobb is some ball

player, but is he so much better than the great Hans Wagner, who has played in 2,205 games up to 1912, and has the great batting average of 347 for the last 17 years, not including 1912, and never batted below 300 in these 17 years, and considering his position and age against Cobb, where has Cobb got anything on him.

Then we will go back to "Wee" Willie Keeler, who has played for 20 years, and only five years has he batted below 300, and once had the grand batting average of 432 in 128 games, has Cobb or any one else had as good a batting average for the above number of games as Wagner and Keeler, and wouldn't it sound much nicer when writing up these reports, instead of saying except Cobb, have it read except, Cobb, Wagner and Keeler.

Then in your December number I notice how the "world's series was won and lost" and regarding the pitching, you say that Mathewson was the real hero of the series, of course, he did not win any games, and how about Wood, don't he get credit of three wins and one lost, and don't you think that you made a mistake when you said that "Matty" was the real hero, you know that the best of men make mistakes, and perhaps that was why Matty lost and Wood won—a mistake.

Yours in sport,

C. C. RION.

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F. C. Lane, Esq.,

Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE,

No. 65 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

DEAR SIR:

Not having noticed a letter from my "neck of the woods," I want to avail myself of the privilege of your interesting Letter Box Dept. Having seen some and being fairly familiar with the records of all the prominent pitchers in the major leagues. I have great admiration and respect for the twirling ability of such stars as Mathewson, Rucker, Wood, Walsh and Johnson, especially the latter two, but, inasmuch as baseball is a big sport and is developed by men who are broad-minded, if they are anything, I would like to know if it would be out of order to compare the best stars of today with those of yesterday.

As a matter of interest, how many people believe that Johnson or any other present star has ever shown as much sheer ability as, for instance, the erratic Rube Waddell?

Now if any one wishes to argue who is the most valuable pitcher, Waddell's name will hardly enter into the calculations, for he was sorely lacking in ability at times and also strangely indifferent. But, when the famous Rube was in his best form and in addition, anxious and determined to defeat the enemy, I am of the opinion that the ability he displayed on those rare days has never been approached by any other pitcher under any circumstances.

This should not in any wise discourage or even reflect upon baseball's present stars, for those who would be fair must admit that the

man who makes the most of his talents is entitled to the greater reward.

Feeling that most anything written about this noted twirler will be attractive, I hope that some of your correspondents, or your magazine itself, will some time give an estimate of Rube Waddell's ability to pitch invincible ball.

With best wishes for your great magazine, believe me,

Sincerely yours,

THOS. F. H. CROWDER.

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GENTLEMEN :

I take great pleasure in reading your magazine and agree with you upon many of your articles, but take for instance, Jackson being named as Cobbs nearest rival, I do by no means agree with you upon that subject, I think that Tris Speaker could be counted as so near to Cobb that if a few more days were left for ball playing, Speaker "would be" Cobb's equal. And if it had not been for Speaker the Red Sox would not be where they are now. I ask you as a favor to write an article upon this subject and to please admit this letter to your letter box department.

C. C. H.

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Editor of BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR:

I should think, that in your magazine you would put some article comparing the merits of Nap Rucker and Gregg, the Cleveland star. Both of these wonderful men are on losing teams and therefore have low averages. But in reality they are just as effective as any others in their respective leagues. I think they are both about equal, even if the Cleveland south paw did fall down some-

what last year. I would like to know your opinion.

Hoping you will have room for this in your "letter box." Respectfully yours,

A "FAN."

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Ridgway, Pa.

Mr. F. C. Lane,

Editor of BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR :

I am a constant reader of your magazine and I think it the best of its kind in the world. I have read your articles on the selections of the greatest baseball players, such as the greatest catcher, the greatest pitcher and so on. And I think that your judgment on most cases was perfect, but what I would like to have you do is to write an article on the greatest manager in the business. By the greatest manager I do not mean the man that has won the most pennants or world's championships, but who, in your opinion, is considered the greatest all around manager. You know that there are managers, who on account of ill luck have not won as many pennants as others, but who have their teams always in the thick of the fight. I am a great fan and follow baseball very closely and although I have my favorite team still I can most generally pick the leaders. My selection as the greatest manager in the business would be John McGraw, of the New York Giants, and I think that you will agree with me in this. You know how McGraw picked New York out of last place and in a short time made a pennant winner out of them. And he did not have his team already built as did Chance when he took hold of Chicago. Hoping that you will publish this letter, I would thank you very much if you should try to pick the greatest manager.

A reader of your magazine,

LOUIS BONINI.

Foundation

