

# THE BASEBALL PLAYERS' FRATERNITY

A Monthly Department Devoted to the Activities  
of the Organized Ball Player

Edited by DAVID L. FULTZ

*President of the Ball Players' Fraternity*

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## Some Acute Angles of Baseball Legislation

CYRUS SPINNEY, the tall, raw-boned and somewhat rustic outfielder of the Manhattan team in the big league, was released to a nearby minor league team about the 15th of May, the date on which the clubs are required by the National Agreement to reduce to 25 men. He looked so good that Manhattan decided to keep "a string" on him, so it sent him over the river for the rest of the minor league season, under an optional agreement, which meant that it could recall him on August 15th, to take effect at the close of the minor league season. Cy was somewhat crestfallen, for out in S, the little prairie town where he had played they thought he was the best ever; but he went to the minor league manager and told him he had come to join his team. The manager passed the time of day and handed him a contract to sign. Cy, however, didn't quite understand this and told the mana-

ger that he had signed a contract with Manhattan and was just over there under an optional agreement. "That don't make any difference," interrupted the manager, "if you play here you got to sign this contract."

It didn't look right to Cy, but he took the contract and started to subscribe his name. Just then, however, his eye happened to light upon the salary clause, and he nearly went through the ceiling. His Manhattan contract called for \$1800 for the season or \$300 per month and this one called for only \$200 a month, and the season was three weeks shorter.

Cy pointed at the figure, laughed and said: "Guess you tried to slip that over on me."

"Why no, that's your salary."

"It is, like fun," replied Cy. "I'm pulling \$300 a month, mister, guess you don't know how good I am."

"It makes no difference how good you

are, Mr. Spinney, \$200 a month is all you get from me," and the manager bit off the sentence as though the interview was at an end.

Cy 'lowed as how he wasn't no "busher" and with some more remarks the vehemence of which was atoned for by their appropriateness, he shook the Jersey clay from his somewhat ample feet.

An hour later the Manhattan manager was sitting in his office when Cy burst through the door and exclaimed: "What do you think that guy over there tried to hand me? Wanted me to play for \$200 a month, and me with a \$300 contract, too—wouldn't that keep you waiting?"

The manager's eyes took on a steely glint and his voice became harsh and crackly as he said: "Well, did you sign?"

"Sign," fairly shouted Cy, "I should say not! At \$200 a month?" and Cy gave a contemptuous waive of the hand. "No sir, I'm going to stay right here until they come up with the money."

"But," said the manager, "we've sold you and we have no further use for you, you must make terms with those fellows."

"That's all right, Mr. Manager, but I've just finished telling you that they won't give me the money and I know teams that will give it to me. You give me my release and I'll get a job and make you look sick for ever letting me out. You don't think I'm simp enough to let them people put that over on me? Me go over there and play for \$200, when you signed me for \$300? Well, there ain't nothing doing."

The manager by this time was clearly out of patience and said caustically, "Mr. Spinney, you may go out and observe the tallness of our modern sky-scrapers for the balance of the season if you wish, but if you desire to perform on the diamond, you will do so with the team we sold you to, and at its figure." With this parting shot he walked into an inner office and slammed the door.

Cy gave a long, low whistle; he began to see the trail of the "steam-roller;" he felt the hard, crushing metal, as many another player had felt it before. He reached for his slouch and pulled it down on his head until his ears stuck out like a couple of sun-flowers; then he got up and walked wonderingly out of the office. He emerged from the building with his

hands deep in his pockets; in profound meditation he crossed the street nearly upsetting an automobile on the way; when he reached the other side, he stopped on the curb, turned squarely around, gazed up at the building for fully a minute and then muttered to himself: "Gee! them fellers is hungry."

In a few days Cy found himself back in the minors "hitting 'em on the nose" with great regularity, a rather saddened, but a very much wiser young man.

On the 15th of August the big league team elected to exercise its option on Spinney, so about the middle of September when the minor league season was over Cy went back across the river to see the Manhattan manager. The manager greeted him heartily and said: "I see you've been doing great work, Cy."

"Well, I did pretty fair over there and I'm itching to show some people at your ball yard how to play the game."

"Sorry, Cy," interrupted the manager, "but we can't use you this fall as we have some young fellows we want to try out; you see we've been watching you, and we know you are there, with the goods. We will let you know where to report next spring."

"But you recalled me, didn't you?" gasped Cy, "and I'm undercontract with you, and the season isn't over?" To all of which the manager reluctantly assented.

"But you see, Cy, we know that you can—"

"Never mind that soft stuff—that don't get me my money. Look here, Mister, I was to get \$1,800 this season and I've got only about \$1185. I had ought to take back \$1400 to get them other ten acres with, and all I've got is \$800. Why, man, you can't take my money like that, you've got to pay me for the rest of the season. I've got a contract and I'm ready to go to work."

"We've got to pay you, eh? Why, we don't have to do *anything*. Look here, Cy," and the manager turned to his desk and picked up a copy of the "Rules and Regulations of the National Commission." "Read rule sixteen."

Cy read and as he did so, he involuntarily slapped his hand on his wallet: "A player recalled under an option shall not be entitled to salary beyond the season of the releasing club from the club reclaim-

ing him, unless he reports to it and enters its service by its direction." Cy finished and sank in a chair looking as though he'd circled the bases the first day out.

"Do you see, Cy?" chuckled the manager, "those words '*by its direction*' are a little joker, slipped in there to get a nibble from boobs like you from the country."

"Yes," said Cy in a subdued voice, "I guess you fellows are the guys what put the con in contract, and the 'Sporting Life' said as how this baseball stuff was

so fair to the player that the men who wrote it must have been inspired! Well, so long, pal, I guess I'll beat it back west before you have another one of them inspirations, or you might get my shirt."

Cy got up in a dazed kind of way, collected his belongings and apparently oblivious to the presence of anyone else groped his way toward the door. As he passed out into the hall, the manager heard him mutter to himself, "Gee! them moguls must be starving to death."

## News Items

A large number of the members of the Fraternity are now wearing a pin as an insignia of the organization. It is of gold with enamel face representing two bats crossed and at their juncture a ball of unique workmanship. The whole makes a very neat and attractive piece of jewellery.

Negotiations are now under way

through Dennis F. O'Brien, Esq., general counsel, and Mr. Will J. Cook, business manager of the "White Rats Actors Union of America" with a view to forming an amalgamation for mutual support between the Fraternity and the "White Rats." The details have not yet been worked out, but it is probable that within a few weeks the matter will be placed before the Board of Directors for its consideration.

## The Following is the First Published List of the Members of the Baseball Players' Fraternity, Embracing 296 Names

Adams, Charles B.	Brown, Mordecai	Cooper, J.	Engel, Joseph
Adams, J. Irwin	Brown, Charles E.	Cravath, C. C.	Erwin, Ross E.
Ainsmith, E. W.	Barry, John J.	Crawford, Samuel E.	Engle, A. C.
Alexander, G. C.	Brown, C. W.	Curtis, Clifford G.	Esmond, James
Alexander, W. E.	Baker, Frank	Cutshaw, Geo. W.	Evans, Louis
Allen, F. L.	Bender, Charles A.	Coombs, John W.	Egan, A. A.
Allison, Mack	Becker, Beals	Collins, Edward	
Austin, James P.	Barton, Baker	Crandall, Otis	Fischer, Robt. T.
Archer, James P.	Burns, Geo. J.		Fisher, Ray L.
Ames, Leon K.	Barrows, Roland	Daley, John F.	Ford, Russell W.
	Butler, R.	Daniels, Bert	Foster, Edward
Ball, Neal		Daubert, Jacob	Frill, John E.
Barger, Eroz B.	Cady, F. L.	Davis, Frank	Fromme, A. H.
Bates, John N.	Caldwell, Ray B.	Davis, Geo. A., Jr.	Fultz, David L.
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Bedient, Hugh	Carrigan, Wm. F.	Delahanty, Jos. S.	Ferry, John
Benz, Joe	Carey, Max G.	Donlin, Michael	
Bescher, Robert	Cashion, J. C.	Doolan, Michael J.	Gainer, D. C.
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Bodie, Frank	Chalmers, George	Downs, Jerry	Gardner, W. L.
Bradley, Hugh F.	Cheney, Lawrence R.	Dubuc, Jean H.	Geyer, J. B.
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Brown, Chas. R.	Clarke, Thos. A.	DeVore, Joshua	Good, Wilbur
Burk, C. S.	Collins, Ray N.	Doyle, Larry	Grant, Ed. L.
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Byrne, Robert	Cotter, Richard R.		Groh, Henry K.
Block, James	Collins, John	Egan, Richard J.	
Blackburne, Russell	Compton, Bash	Ellis, George W.	Hall, Charles

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 Hauser, Arnold J.  
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 Hartzell, Roy A.  
 Hendrix, Claude  
 Henriksen, Oluf  
 Henry, John P.  
 Hoblitzell, Richard C.  
 Hoffmann, Arthur  
 Hooper, Harry B.  
 Hogan, William  
 Hughes, Thomas  
 Hummell, John E.  
 Humphries, Bert  
 Hyatt, R. Hamilton  
 Hess, Otto  
 Houck, Byron  
 Hageman, Kurt M.  
 Hallinan, Edward  
 Hartley, Grover A.  
 Herzog, Chas. L.
- Jackson, Geo. C.  
 Jantzen, Walter C.  
 Johnson, Walter  
 Johnson, Ernest  
 Jones, David J.
- Keeler, William  
 Kelleher, John P.  
 Kelby, Wm. J.  
 Killifer, William  
 Knabe, F. Otto  
 Knetzer, Elmer E.  
 Kocher, Bradley W.  
 Konetchy, Ed. J.  
 Kreug, Martin  
 Krichell, Paul  
 Kutina, Joseph J.  
 Kuhn, Walter  
 Kirkpatrick, Enos
- Lake, Joseph  
 Lange, Frank  
 La Porte, Frank B.  
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 Lavender, James S.  
 Leiffield, A. P.  
 Lewis, Geo. E.  
 Lobert, John B.  
 Leach, Thos. W.
- Lord, Henry  
 Luderus, F. W.  
 Lapp, Jack  
 Lelivelt, John
- Magee, Lee  
 Magee, Sherwood R.  
 Mattick, Walter  
 Marsans, Armando  
 Mayer, Walter  
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 McConnell, George  
 McDermott, Frank  
 McCarthy, Alex. G.  
 McIntyre, Matthew  
 McDonald, Chas.  
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 Manson, Edward  
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 Miller, Otto  
 Miller, Ward  
 Miller, John B.  
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 Morgan, Ray  
 Mitchell, Michael J.  
 Moore, Eugene  
 Moran, Henry E.  
 Moriarty, George J.  
 Moran, J. Herbert  
 Moran, Patrick J.  
 Mowrey, Harry H.  
 Musser, Paul  
 Mullin, Geo. J.  
 McInnis, John  
 Murphy, D. F.  
 Muggert, M.  
 Murphy, Edward  
 McMillan, Thomas  
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 Mathewson, Christophe  
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 Murray, John J.
- Northen, Hub  
 Needham, T. J.  
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 O'Brien, T. J.  
 Onslow, Edward  
 Onslow, John  
 O'Toole, Martin J.  
 Oldring, Reuben K.
- Pope, L. A.  
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 Peters, O. C.  
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 Phelps, Ed. J.  
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 Perdue, Hub  
 Paddock, Del
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 Rixey, Eppa, Jr.  
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 Rogan, Patrick  
 Rucker, Geo. N.  
 Raridan, Wm.
- Saier, Victor  
 Sallee, H. F.  
 Scott, James  
 Schulte, Frank M.  
 Seaton, Thos. G.  
 Shulz, W. L.  
 Scheckard, Jas. T.  
 Shotten, B. E.  
 Schaefer, Herman  
 Shanks, Howard  
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 Smith, Wallace H.  
 Smith, J. C.  
 Simon, Mike E.  
 Snell, Chas. A.  
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 Sterrett, Charles H.  
 Stephens, James  
 Severoid, Henry L.  
 Stanage, Oscar H.  
 Stack, William E.  
 Steele, Wm. M.  
 Stump, Wm.  
 Sullivan, Wm. J.
- Suggs, Geo. F.  
 Sweeney, Ed.  
 Sweeney, Wm. J.  
 Strunck, Amos A.  
 Stengel, Charles D.  
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 Schalk, Raymond
- Thomas, C. D.  
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 Tannehill, Leo  
 Tyler, Geo. A.  
 Thomas, Ira  
 Tesreau, Chas. M.
- Vaughn, James L.  
 Viox, James H.  
 Vitt, Oscar
- Wagner, Chas.  
 Wagner, John  
 Walker, Clarence W.  
 Wallace, Robt. J.  
 Walsh, James  
 Walsh, Ed.  
 Warner, Ed. J.  
 Warhop, John M.  
 Weaver, Buck  
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 Wheat, Zack D.  
 Williams, Alva  
 Williams, Robt.  
 Williams, Fred  
 Williams, Gus  
 Willett, Edgar  
 Wingo, Ivey R.  
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 Woodburn, E. S.  
 Works, Ralph T.  
 Wolter, Harry M.  
 Wilson, J. Owen  
 Walsh, James  
 Wilson, Arthur E.  
 Wiltse, George R.
- Yerkes, S. D.  
 Yingling, Earl H.
- Zeider, Rollie  
 Zimmerman, Henry  
 Zinn, Guy

