

# OUR LETTER BOX

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

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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.

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Editor, "Baseball Magazine,"  
New York.

Dear Sir:

During the past season there appears to have been a dearth of good baseball material in the minor leagues. As a result we notice many old-timers recalled for major league service. Pittsburgh takes on the veteran Bill Hineman, also Sheldon Lajeune, another youngster. The Yanks can Birdie Cree, and then recall him. Cincy pulls in Wade Killifer from the American Association. Connie Mack grabs Nap Lajoie to fill the place vacated by Eddie Collins, and we might go on and quote other instances.

But there are quite a number of youthful minor league performers who are ripe for the big league ranks. Some of them are going up next spring, and going up to stay. Others have been overlooked but are deserving of a better fate.

The pick of the International talent are Outfielder Frank Gilhooley of Buffalo, and Third Baseman Schultz of Rochester. Gil. has a splendid batting eye, and has improved vastly in his fielding. He is a streak on the paths, and outside of Fritz Maisel we fail to note any American leaguer who possesses the same speed as this sterling player, not forgetting even Ty Cobb, and Clyde Milan. He was turned down by Frank Chance, last spring; reason given, a punk throwing arm. Well, we didn't notice much the matter with it during his sojourn with the Bisons.

Schultz is a youth who is a coming star, and coming fast. I thought him the property of Boston, but it appears he goes to Brooklyn instead. If so, look to see him beat out Gus Getz for the honor of holding down

not overlook one Tanner of Waco. This the hot corner of the diamond. His hitting alone should earn him a place. Others going up from this league who stand a good chance of staying up are, Pipp, of Rochester, who will first base for the Yankees. This man has the goods, and should deliver. Infielder Pick of Toronto, whose batting prowess should win him a berth with Washington, and Dee Walsh, who played in the outfield for Rochester, but who will try and fill Jimmy Austin's shoes at third, for the St. Louis Browns. Walsh has turned back before, but this time is due to stick. The best bet in the American Association appears to be Compton, of Kansas City, a former Brownie. Compton's work throughout the season was gilt-edged, but he remains with the minor league club. Wade Killifer, well known in Washington and Detroit, returns to the majors by way of Cincinnati. Killifer has been big league material for some years, and now that he has found his right place as an outfielder he should stick. Tommy Griffiths of Indianapolis also goes to Cincy. Here is one sweet slugger, and a hustling youngster. A bit crude in the field perhaps, but a player much to be desired.

One man overlooked in the rush is Outfielder Wilie of the Cleveland Checks. It is said that Wilie's temperament is against him. He certainly possesses the goods, and it's up to some enterprising manager to make him deliver, as he undoubtedly belongs to major league company.

In Shorten of Worcester, Boston Americans draw a prize. This fellow is destined to break into the Speed Kings outfield sooner or later. Another New Englander, deserving of a show is Third Baseman Strands, also of Worcester. Managers looking for a shortstop should

Texas Leaguer has been improving every year, and is now due for a chance in better, and faster, company.

Two men who, unless all signs fail, will be regulars in the American League next season, are, Bill Rodgers of Portland, and Pep. Young of Sacramento. Both are second sackers. Rodgers goes to Cleveland as successor to Nap Lajoie. He is already a great player, brainy and aggressive, the pillar around which several championship Pacific Coast teams have been built. He may imbue the Forest City with the same spirit.

Pep. Young goes to Detroit, and it looks as though Marty Kavanagh would move on to make way for him. He is a youngster who plays Jennings' ball, and will fill the bill in a fielding way. If he only manages to find the American brand of pitching to his liking then look out for Detroit as possible 1915 champions.

Sheldon Lajeune, one of the greatest of minor league sluggers, and holder of the world's record for throwing the baseball, goes to Pittsburgh from Sioux City. This man has been playing ball for quite a number of years, and has never had a real chance to show his ability in big league circles. Now that he gets it, it may come too late in his career.

Another Westerner of merit is Thomason of Omaha. This fine player has shown a grand article of ball for several years, and has always stood well up in every department of the game. At this distance it appears strange that the scouts should have passed him by, year after year. We recollect his having a brief trial with Cleveland in 1910, playing in seventeen games, but his work since then is worthy of notice.

Third Baseman Baird of Sioux City, who goes to Pittsburgh, will solve Fred Clarke's problem of the far side of the diamond. This youth is the best looking prospect in his league, and a much better player than Leonard, who was obtained from Des Moines last year.

Ovid Nicholson, of Wichita, is the class of the outfielders, while another man who will bear watching is Shortshop McGaffigan of Lincoln.

Comiskey is reported to be after a high class third base guardian. He already has one. Let him take a peep at his Davenport recruit, Bromwich. He doesn't have to look much farther.

Bill Holden, hard batsman, and grand fielder and thrower, is said to have signed with Montreal. Frank Chance made a mistake in letting this boy away from the Yank's. Reason given was supposed weakness in running the bases. Surely such a past master of the art as Chance could have remedied that fault.

Other men with promising futures are, Holke, Spokane, first sacker, and Giant recruit; Bowden and Betzel of the South Atlantic; Brackett of Duluth, the speed king of the Northern League; Outfielder Allison of Memphis, who will try for a place in the

Club outfield; Terry, Los Angeles infielder; and Brautigan and McCabe of the Wisconsin-Illinois League.

Yours truly,

Baird McGlaughlin.

Editor Baseball Magazine,

Dear Sir:

I have been reading your valuable magazine almost from the date of its first issue, and have always enjoyed it very much. I know of no magazine I would rather read. Living in Philadelphia of course I think the Athletics are the world's greatest team, despite their recent defeat in the world's series. To my mind as it must to any unprejudiced observer it seems that they were beaten by circumstances which have never turned up before, and not by a better team. During the season I attend most of the Athletics' games, and have seen them beat many teams playing a much superior game to that shown by the Braves. I believe the Braves played better than they knew how in the series. I think Stallings is receiving a lot more praise than he deserves. To my mind he did much better work with the New York Americans that he has done in Boston, aided by so much luck. The National League, being so much inferior to the American, was unable to give him much opposition, and the world series is so short the better team does not always win. The victory of the Bostons may safely be compared with that of the White Sox over the Cubs, where again the best team did not win. Both Cubs and Athletics were the victims of circumstances.

Yours very truly,

Athletic Admirer.

Mr. F. C. Lane,

Editor Baseball Magazine.

Dear Sir:

I am a close follower of baseball and take a great delight in reading the Baseball Magazine. The Braves certainly made a great showing and Stallings is a great manager, but I don't think that Evers received enough praise. I think that he ought to get almost as much as Stallings, for he put the pep and fight into the rest of the men on the Braves. Your magazine, however, has praised Johnny more than any other. I wish that you would put a few pictures of Jimmy Archer of the Cubs in the squat position and an explanation by him with it in one of your issues, few people know what a wonderful thing the squat throw is. Wishing you and your magazine the best of luck, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Arvid C. Lunde,  
Chicago, Ill.

Salem, Va.

Editor Baseball Magazine,

Dear Sir:

I have been an interested reader of your magazine for the past six months. I read in the February number where one subscriber stated that Salem, Oregon, was the worst

baseball town on the map. I think that if he would take the trouble to visit Salem, Va., he would find that he was mistaken. The fans here cannot even afford a semi-pro. team.

I agree with the Washington fan in the December number who said that "Kid" Foster was the premier third sacker of the big leagues and the most scientific batter since the passing of "Wee" Keeler.

I always read with interest the box scores of games that "Doc" Ayers and Joe Boehling pitch. I hope that Joe can duplicate his 1913 feat.

I believe that Gandil is as great a first baseman and as good an all around player as McInnes, the latter shows up better because playing on a champion team.

I would also like to see Milan, the "Tennessee Flyer," clout .300 or better and swipe bases as he did in 1912.

I would like to see Griffith bring the 1915 pennant to Washington, but I think he will have to develop a couple of .300 hitters and bring out a couple of winning pitchers from the recruits. With best wishes for the old "Fox" and his bunch of pennant chasers.

Sincerely,

C. S. and C. G.

Editor of Baseball Magazine,

New York City.

Dear Sir:

I have taken your magazine for three years and think that each issue is better than the previous one. As to the prospects for next year, I place the clubs as follows: American League: 1. Boston; 2. Philadelphia; 3. Chicago; 4. New York; 5. Washington; 6. St. Louis; 7. Detroit; 8. Cleveland. National League: 1. Boston; 2. New York; 3. St. Louis; 4. Philadelphia; 5. Chicago; 6. Brooklyn; 7. Cincinnati; 8. Pittsburgh.

Sincerely,

J. A. H. Hopkins, Jr.

Editor Baseball Magazine:

I take great interest in your letter box, and never fail to read every word.

I think the idea of reserving issues for particular players is fine. But I am afraid you overlooked the great Napoleon Lajoie who deserves a place higher than that of Mathewson and Collins and should not be overlooked, because of his slump last year. In fact, I have read your magazine for about four years, and you hardly ever speak of Lajoie except when you can speak of Wagner by doing so.

I think those posters of Wagner and Mathewson are superb and would like to see more.

I remain a faithful reader,

G. Hebert.

Bremond, Texas.

Editor Baseball Magazine.

Dear Sir:

In the issues you have sent me I have seen the All-American Teams, so I thought I would try to make one. I did not think there would be enough room to put the good players I

had in mind so I put All-Star American Team and think I have a fairly good one. I also saw where they were sending in teams where the names all start with the same letter. I am sending a team of M's and another of S's. I picked only from the National League.

A—lexander, p

L—ajoie, 2b

L—each, lf

S—peaker, cf

T—yler, p

A—lmeida, 3b

R—udolph, p

A—dams, p

M—aranville, ss

E—ngle, p

R—obertson, utility of

I—ra Thomas, c

C—obb, rf

A—rcher, c

N—ash, utility if

T—esreau, p

E—vers, manager

A—mes, p

M—cInnis, 1b

Meyers, c; McLean, c; Mathewson, p; Marquard, p; Mayer, p; Matteson, p; McQuillan, p; Merkle, 1b; Martin, 2b; Maranville, ss; Mowrey, 3b; Miller, utility if; Murray, utility if; Magee, slf; Magee, lf; Mann, rf; Moran, utility of; Masson, pinch hitter; McCarthy, pinch hitter; Mack, manager. Two catchers, five pitchers, four infielders, three outfielders, three utility men, two pinch hitters, one manager.

Snyder, c; Sallee, p; Steele, p; Strand, p; Schmidt, 1b; Smith, 2b; Sweeney, ss; Stock, 3b; Schulte, lf; Stengel, cf; Snodgrass, rf; Saier, pinch hitter; Stallings, manager.

Yours truly,

Lionel Campbell.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Editor Baseball Magazine.

Dear Sir:

In the January issue of the "Baseball Magazine" two Southern League fans expressed their opinion that the Southern League ought to be classed as high as the International League, American Association, and Pacific Coast League. To prove this they gave a list of Big League players who came from the Southern League. While they certainly named some star players, such as Speaker, Jackson, Coavaleskie, Tesreau, Oldring, etc., I think I have a better list of Big League players formerly in the International League to offer:

Infield: 1b, Schmidt, Rochester, Boston N; 2b, Groh, Buffalo, Cinn N; ss, Stock, Buffalo, New York N; 3b, Maisel, Baltimore, New York A; sub., Demmitt, Montreal, Chicago A; sub., Bues, Jersey City, Chicago N.

Outfield: E. Murphy, Baltimore, Philadelphia A; Connolly, Montreal, Boston N;

Cree, Baltimore, New York A; sub., Dalton, Newark, Brooklyn N; sub., Mann, Buffalo, Boston N.

Catchers: Schang, Buffalo, Philadelphia A; Gowdy, Buffalo, Boston N; Killifer, Buffalo, Philadelphia N; Cady, Newark, Boston A.

Pitchers: Rudolph, Toronto, Boston N; Shawkey, Baltimore, Philadelphia A; Dubuc, Montreal, Detroit A; Shore, Baltimore, Boston A; Aitchison, Newark, Brooklyn N; Pierce, Providence, Chicago N; Lavender, Providence, Chicago N; Davis, Jersey City, Boston N.

Coach: Mitchell, Buffalo, Boston N.

Manager: Stallings, Buffalo, Boston N, or Donovan, Providence, New York A.

This is by no means a complete list.

I do not think the Pacific Coast League should be classed as high as the International League or American Association, as many failures in the two former have made good in the latter.

Why don't you put an article in a near number about the great slugger, "Wahoo" Sam Crawford? This would please many fans.

Wishing the Baseball Magazine and its readers the best of luck, I am,

An International League Fan.

P.S.: Here is a team of Boston Braves:

EverS, 2b  
WhitTed, of  
JAMES, p  
ConnoLly, of  
Gilbert, of  
Schmidt, 1b  
MaraNville, ss  
Gowdy, c  
Smith, 3b

TORONTO.

Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR:—I have decided to renew my subscription to THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE for one year, omitting the Walter Johnson number. I have a copy of the "Wagner" number, which I think is very good, so you will please begin with the February number. I wish you to omit the Walter Johnson number because I think he has "turned down cold" the men who have been responsible for his rise to fame, and who have paid him well all the time. He has broken his word to the Washington club, too, and therefore I think it unfortunate that such a number is coming. I will say that he is a good pitcher, one of the best, but have not some of what we consider our shrewdest and best business men been nothing more than criminals and spent much of their life in jail? Why should we make a hero, then, of Walter Johnson, if he does as he threatens and jumps to the Feds? If, as you would like the world to believe, as would I, that baseball is an honorable profession, how can you idolize such as Walter Johnson?

On the whole I am pleased with your magazine, although I am hoping for some improvements. First, why do you ally yourself with

the Players' Fraternity? Does that not give a narrow, biased view of matters? I do not consider the magnates perfect, but I hold the players as much at fault, and those who have jumped very much more at fault. Could you not make your magazine the official monthly organ of Organized Ball (for what other ball is worth considering now?) It is not necessary that you should agree with the commission, the magnates, or the players. Choose your own side of each question, and present the arguments to us as your judgment suggests. Then, you might devote a few pages to views of other authorities on the current baseball questions and your own criticisms of each. Let us hear in this way from the magnates, the players and the press, any opinions which might interest us.

Your articles on the lives of players and your anecdotes involving plays and players are well thought of, I am sure. I am always interested in peculiar occurrences in baseball and I would like to read more of so-called "bone plays" and "Steve Brodies."

As a change from famous players, in which I hope you will include a Collins number (Eddie, John, Ray, Jimmy, etc.). I think you could have articles on different cities and certain peculiarities relative to the game in each. I am sure many Americans would be agreeably surprised to know what an important thing baseball is in Toronto, for example. You yourself may be surprised to know that Toronto is the best paying city in Minor League ball, frequently outdrawing the Detroit Tigers in Detroit, and this is in spite of the poor location of the stadium across the bay, necessitating a ten-minute boat ride. I think a good article on Toronto would open the eyes of a great many fans, besides helping your magazine here.

Yours,

R. WYLIE WILKINSON.

The "Baseball Magazine" is the official organ of the Ballplayers' Fraternity only in that it has freely given the Fraternity a monthly section in its pages for the latter's exclusive use. It took this action when the Fraternity was first organized and was everywhere denied a fair hearing by the biased press. It took this action solely in the interests of fair play and has never regretted its stand. Aside from the special section devoted to the Fraternity there is little mention of the players' organization in the "Baseball Magazine" save editorially when the acts of the Fraternity are occasionally discussed independently, and solely on their merits.

Ed.

