

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.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. F. C. Lane.

Dear Sir—Being a great lover of baseball and "Brooklyn Nationals' most loyal rooter," I would like to ask you if you will be kind enough to gratify the wishes of myself and thousands of other Brooklyn fans by writing an article on Jake Daubert, the man whose name stands above all others in the baseball world of Brooklyn.

I know you have said that you cannot please everyone by writing an article on all their favorites, but in the case of Jake Daubert, being the greatest first baseman in baseball, I think you would be doing him a great injustice by not letting the fans know of his baseball life.

As to your all-star National Leaguers, how did you come to replace Daubert by Saier, of Chicago? Jake batted fully 40 points better and fielded his position better by eight points, which is quite a bit for a first baseman.

As for headwork, speed and aggressiveness, Jake again outpoints him. Don't you think you made a mistake?

Hoping that this year will be the most glorious one that baseball has ever had, and that when October rolls around our dear old Superbas will have nailed the pennant on top of the flagpole in Ebbets Field and satisfy the craving of the hungry Brooklyn fans who have rooted so vigorously for a pennant during the past fifteen years,

Very truly yours,

ARTHUR J. REIN.

Jake Daubert is one of our best friends. We have given him numerous write-ups. Three years ago we fea-

tured him as the greatest first baseman in the game. Sometime later we gave him a special number as the most valuable player in the National League. But we gave Vic Saier the preference on our 1915 All-Star team because of a sincere conviction that his season's record was the better.—Ed.

Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. F. C. Lane.

Dear Sir—I have just finished reading your Sam Crawford issue, and I think it was the best "low-down" on that great slugger. I hope that the "dope" given by Neil Newman will find more opposition than consideration, in which he wishes to see "Benny Kauff in the pinch rather than any other man." Well—that certainly is the limit, for our "Mighty Marty Kavanaugh" is right on the job when Jennings puts him to bat for some one. I am quite sure he broke up more than twenty games while doing the pinch hitting duty. And what else is there to it, as being pitted against Walter Johnson, Ray Caldwell, "Dutch" Leonard & Co.

This is certainly a record to be proud of. I think that "Bennie" will have to show his worth to the Giants first, not going around and bluffing about the sale of himself without having an interview with the owners.

Please write an article about Oscar Vitt, Harry Coveleskie (my favorite pitcher), and, above all, Marty Kavanaugh.

Yours truly,

EDWARD JURKIEWICZ.

Mr. F. C. Lane,
Rock Island, Ill.

Editor Baseball Magazine.
Here is a list of some stars we know. If this appeals to you I would be glad to have it printed in Our Letter Box:

CobBarry
O'MarAlexander
McInniSpeaker
DoyleEvers
KooBresnahan
GalliArcher
MaiseLuderus
GandeLajoie

CollinSaier
DauberTinker
AcostAmes
BescheRucker
SnodgrasSchulte

ShaWalsh
MerkleGan

SchalKillifer
JohnsoNess
WingOlson
AgneWagner

Very truly yours,

O. J. BUCKLEY.

Mr. F. C. Lane,

Dear Mr. Lane—I am a subscriber to your great magazine and can hardly wait for the 13th of each month, when it arrives. I read every article in it and enjoy them very much.

I am particularly pleased with the "Sam Crawford" number, as he is one of my favorites. Next to Cobb, I think he is the greatest player living. I noticed in your January number an article about Speaker, Lewis and Hooper being an incomparable outfield. I think the Tiger outfield the greatest gardeners on one team the game has ever known.

The Tigers will win the American League pennant in 1916 with two good pitchers added to the pitching staff.

I would like to see you publish an article devoted to Bobby Veach, the Tiger left-fielder.

I can see nothing but a pennant for the 1916 Tigers.

I think George Sisler, of the Browns, a second Ty Cobb. He is a grand player in any position.

I am pleased with the way the magnates have arranged peace, as I think it is a good thing for baseball.

Many good players in the Federal League will come back to organized ball and make the game faster and better in every department.

Wishing success to the Tigers of 1916 and your fine magazine,

Yours baseballly,

FRANK D. RUSSELL.

Rock Island, Ill.

Los Angeles, Cal.

Mr. F. C. Lane, Editor.

Dear Mr. Lane—As a steady, persistent reader of BASEBALL MAGAZINE, from the first issue down to the present time, I feel it a duty as well as a very great pleasure to extend my congratulations to you, and through you to grand "old" Wahoo Sam Crawford, for the splendid tribute you have paid to one of the grandest characters our national game has ever known.

Past issues of your splendid magazine have paid well deserved tribute to other diamond stars, and as I read them from month to month, I have often asked myself this question: "Why doesn't the editor of this magazine devoted to the greatest of our national sports stop picking out the few fellows whose performances attract because of their brilliancy and tell the great army of 'young Americans,' who can never hope to be especially brilliant, about the success that they themselves may attain by giving each day to their work the same measure of thought, persistence and energy that Sam Crawford has given?" I remember Sam first as a member of the Grand Rapids team. Next as a member, and, from the spectators' view, the "big time" of the Cincinnati team. Since he joined the Detroit team I have made it a point to witness his work on every possible occasion. And from the first day I saw him clout the "horsehide" a mile down to the present time, he has won my admiration because his every action has stamped him as a man who was earnestly striving to give his employer and the "fan" the very best of his ability.

I am also a devoted admirer of Ty Cobb, and, believing in the theory that the best results are obtained by mating persons of opposite temperaments, I believe the greatness of Ty has been due in a measure to the fact that he has had "old Wahoo" Sam as a "running mate."

In your article you quote Sam as saying, "When I was in Cincinnati we had a player named Bid McPhee—" Mr. Lane, why not tell the youngsters the story of Bid McPhee's diamond career? This old United States is chock-full of kids who will never be "brilliant," but, given the proper incentive, training and guidance, they are bound to develop into men who will be needed by this nation in the times when steadfast loyalty, courage and genuine ability are a most vital necessity.

Why not try to make the influence of BASEBALL MAGAZINE reach BEYOND the circle of baseball fans? Why not teach our boys the essential lessons of American manhood by presenting to them in language they can understand the great truths that are to be found in the successful lives of such splendid characters as Sam Crawford? Our boys need that lesson and their minds are open to receive it. BASEBALL MAGAZINE has entry to a great storehouse of practical knowledge which our American boys need.

The writer hasn't a son, but, like "Old Wahoo," is the proud father of an only girl, who is nearer to you as you read this than the writer, as she is a pupil of Herbert Wither-

spoon. But I am interested in each and every American boy, and a devout believer in Baseball and BASEBALL MAGAZINE, as a factor in building up true American manhood in our boys.

Give us more articles about the boys who were not especially "brilliant," but who ALWAYS delivered the goods.

Yours very gratefully.

E. T. IRELAND.

P. S.—Lest you think I am a native of one of those states on the "Roll of Dishonor," let me say that I am a "Hoosier," who, through the fortunes of business war, has been forced to migrate. And, although Utah has not yet been accorded the honor of inscribing her name upon the Roll of Honor, there are three youngsters out here who will bear watching, and unless I miss my guess, the records for 1917 will find Utah an honored member of the "Society of one good 'un."

Kalispell, Montana.

Editor BASEBALL MAGAZINE:

Dear Sir.—Now that peace has come, I think baseball will see the greatest prosperity ever. Neither side won wholly. I think *Sporting Life's* statement that both sides lost heavily and the public won is the best that can be applied here. I think that the Federal League has done a great service in one way. They could not fill their ranks entirely with players from the organized majors. So they picked the best of the minor league talent, thereby uncovering a great many stars which will make the standard of playing in the next few years higher than it has been for some time.

Quite a number of the Federal League players are in demand now, as peace is settled. Last summer, however, no A. or N. L. manager wanted any. Oh, no! They were bush-leaguers when playing, but now, in the off-season, they are stars. I also notice that the major league managers base most of their opinions on reputation rather than actual ability. They talk about the wonderful work of Hendrix and Seaton (whose ER. averages last year were 3.00 and 3.53 respectively), and never or rather rarely mention Davenport, whose average in ER. was 2.09; who pitched 392 2-3 innings; who worked in 55 games; who struck out 228; who gave only 93 bases on balls; who pitched 31 complete games; who won 22 games and lost 18, no less than four of his defeats being by a 0-1 score; who pitched only two games in one day; who gave the astonishing total of four hits in his first game which he won 1-0; who got by with one hit in the second, which he lost 0-1; who made only ten shut-outs; who pitched only one no-hit and one one-hit game; who pitched only three two-hit games and got by with a like number of contests in which he gave only three hits; who pitched as many four and five-hit games as the number of hits he gave.

I would also like to mention the work of Outfielder Hanford, who batted .239 this last season because he played irregularly, but who made a great record in his first year, and this is it: He played in 156 games. He did not score 100 runs, but he did circle the bases 81

times. He did not make 200 hits, but he made 172. He did not hit for a total of 300 bases, but his record was 267. He did not make 40 doubles, but he did bang out 30. He did not make 20 triples or 24 homers, but he did have 13 of each. He made 12 sacrifice hits, and did not steal 96 bases, his record being only 41. His batting average was not .300, but it came mighty close to .287.

I would also like to mention Eddie Lennox, the little-heard-of but great third baseman of the Pittsburgh F. L. team. Last year he was used only as pinch hitter, which I think was a mistake, considering his ability. However, in that role, his average was .321. But it was in 1914 that he really had a chance to distinguish himself. He scored only 70 runs, but as he worked in only 124 games, he would have considerably surpassed Hanford's total if he had worked in as many games. He batted .317, but what he was chiefly noted for was his 11 home-runs, two of which came in one game. As a fielder, he was second only to Westerzil, of Brooklyn. Lennox's average was .953.

By the way, just a word as to Hanford's fielding. He only made 330 put-outs, and 19 assists. He made 12 errors, and had an average of .967.

In an American League team, composed of 25 players, I think about the only disputed position is third base. Though Vitt batted only .250, I have selected him because of his splendid work in all other departments.

In the National League I have selected Luderus for first base, and that choice will undoubtedly be criticized by some. He is put in the background because of his fielding, yet in that respect he was third in the league in both his average and the total number of chances. He was by far the hardest hitting first baseman in the league, and while fans may talk of Saier's 11 home-runs, it must be remembered that Luderus made seven. Here are my teams:

<i>American.</i>	<i>National.</i>
Johnson	P Alexander
Scott	P Toney
Gallia	P Mamaux
Datiss	P Pfeffer
Faber	P Tesreau
Shore	P Rudolph
Leonard	P Dale
Weilman	P Sallee
Coveleskie	P Vaughn
Schalk	C Snyder
Cady	C Archer
Stanage	C Killifer
Henry	C Wingo
McInnis	1 Luderus
Collins	2 Doyle
Chapman	S Bancroft
Vitt	3 Groh

Sub-Infielders.

Gandil, Bush, Foster, Saier, Fisher, Zim'man	
Fournier	R Cravath
Speaker	C Williams
Cobb	L Hinchman

Sub-Outfielders,

Veach, Crawford Burns, Griffith

Very truly yours,

REGINALD O. BROWN,