

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 BASEBALL MAGAZINE:

Dear Sir: I get the BASEBALL MAGAZINE every month, and I do not see the fans giving the Giants much credit I am sending you this as a starter. I think the team which McGraw has rebuilt is the best in the league, bar none. They broke all records for straight games won by winning twenty-six straight, and any team that does that deserves loads of credit, not saying anything of the seventeen straight games they won in the early part of the season. I think McGraw is the best manager in the major leagues today. How about this:

McCarty
Hergo G
TesReau
SAllee
McGraW
Schupp

Robertson
BEnton
LoBert
BUrns
Ritter
KeLley
FleTcher

KoCher
Holke
KAuff
ZiMmerman
Perritt
RarIden
DOolari
ANderson
Smith

Respectfully yours,
ALBERT KUHNHEIN

Newport, Ky.

F. C. Lane.

Editor, BASEBALL MAGAZINE:

I am an ardent fan of the New York Giants and have followed them for quite a long time.

They have many stars on the team, including Dave Robertson, George Burns, Benny Kauff, Buck Herzog and many others.

Tesreau
Herzog
Doyle

Perritt
KochEr
GEorge Burns
Rariden

AndersOn
Fletcher

RoberTson
ScHupp
BEnton
Merkle

KAuff
SaLlee
Lobert

Bergenfield, N. J.

You can see by that list that they have a great team.

Wishing your magazine and the Giants good luck.

I remain,

HOWARD BURNS.

Dallas, Tex.

BASEBALL MAGAZINE CO.,

Dear Sir:—Some months ago I asked you a favor, and true to your reputation of trying to please everybody, you complied with this favor,

namely, that of giving to the great baseball public what they were all wishing, a Baseball Number dedicated to Joe Jackson, the star supreme. Now I want to take this opportunity to thank you for this favor, and to say that I appreciate it would be expressing it too mildly. It was really a masterpiece and was the greatest issue which you have ever published. Joe is a great player. Yes, the greatest on the diamond to-day.

I have in my possession a little booklet which I find contains a great deal of information which every true fan should know. That little booklet is no other than "Who's Who in Baseball." From its contents I have collected a bunch of ex-Southern Leaguers from which I can pick out enough good material to make a championship aggregation. In fact, it looks so good that I feel safe in challenging anyone to present to the baseball public a greater team than can be collected from one league. The following is my regular team of 16 men:

position, Jake Daubert. On second base I have a real star in Bobbie Byrne, and on third a really bright player in the person of "Red" Smith. Should "Red" fall down (which he is not very apt to do), I have another star in Milton Stock to take his place at the difficult station. Now to complete this great infield I am placing at short Derril Pratt who can play this position just as efficiently as he can play the keystone sack, and you have to admit that is playing some. As to my outfield I have the greatest in the world in Joe Jackson, the incomparable; Tris Speaker, and Dave Robertson, the greatest outfielder in the National League.

Hence, I have on my team the greatest southpaw, catcher, first baseman, and three of the four greatest outfielders in the game to-day.

I am yours truly,
JOSEPH E. WOLF,
Dallas, Tex.

Name	Pos.	Former Club	Year	Pres Club
Archer, J.	Catcher	Atlanta	1906	Cubs
Bagby, J.	Pitcher	New Orleans	1915	Indians
Benton, J. C.	Pitcher	Chattanooga	1911	Giants
Boeling, J.	Pitcher	Chattanooga	1912	Senators
Coveleske, H.	Pitcher	Chattanooga	1912	Tigers
Harmon, R.	Pitcher	Shreveport	1909	Pirates
Mayer, E.	Pitcher	Atlanta	1912	Philles
Rucker, G.	Pitcher	Atlanta	1904	Dodgers
Sallee, H.	Pitcher	Birmingham	1906	Giants
Daubert, J.	1st Base	Memphis	1909	Dodgers
Byrne, R.	2nd Base	Shreveport	1906	Philles
Smith, J.	3rd Base	Nashville	1911	Braves
Stock, M.	3rd Base	Mobile	1913	Philles
Pratt, D.	Short Stop	Montgomery	1911	Browns
Jackson, J.	Left Field	New Orleans	1910	White Sox
Speaker, T.	Center Field	Little Rock	1908	Indians
Robertson, D.	Right Field	Mobile	1913	Giants

SUBSTITUTES

Johnston, W.	1st Base	New Orleans	1912	Pirates
Phelan, A.	2nd Base	Birmingham	1911	Cubs
Connolly, J.	Out Field	Little Rock	1909	Braves
Long, T.	Out Field	Atlanta	1913	Cardinals
Myers, H.	Out Field	Mobile	1911	Dodgers
Oldring, R.	Out Field	Montgomery	1905	Yankees
Paskert, G.	Out Field	Atlanta	1907	Philles
Stengel, C.	Out Field	Montgomery	1912	Dodgers
Wheat, Z.	Out Field	Mobile	1909	Dodgers
Wilson, O.	Out Field	Little Rock	1907	Cardinals

CAN YOU BEAT IT?

In the box I have the greatest southpaw in the game to-day in the Detroit "Tigers" mainstay, Harry Coveleske, and another wonderful one in "Nap" Rucker. Then I have the \$15,000 New York beauty, "Slim" Sallee, and another Giant star in "Rube" Benton; and last but not least, the Indians' standby and hope, Jim Bagby, the ex-Pelican star. For my catcher I have the star who is recognized the world over as the greatest catcher in the world, Jimmie Archer. On first base I also have the greatest player at his respective

The Editor.

Here is an incident that took place in a game nearly 40 years ago, of a triple play unassisted made by a first baseman, John Hoy, of the King Philips of Rockland, that might be of interest to some of the cranks: Men on third and first bases, batter knocks a liner straight into the hands of Hoy, who turns and touches the runner. Man on third starts for home when ball is hit. Hoy lost his head and started for the plate. The catcher, Keene, saw what was coming and sat down on the

ground and roared with laughter. Hoy could run like a deer and he caught the runner from third and tagged him out.

Yours truly,

R. G. McCONNELL, Quincy.

(The runner must have been a brother to Chief Meyers.)

The BASEBALL MAGAZINE has already published about six new ways to find batting averages. Here is another one:

There are a number of American Association youngsters who are likely to go up to the majors this year.

Among the hurlers are Nick Carter and Aldredge of Indianapolis, and Mike Regan of Kansas City. Any one of the trio would bolster up a pitching staff if they get a chance to show their wares. There are infielders Fred Smith of St. Paul, who is the leading third sacker and a mighty good hitter, and Jay Kirke of Louisville, who plays the initial

Take the number of total bases made by a player and divide them by four. Then put the number of times he was at bat into this and find his average. For instance, Smith goes to bat three times in one game and hits a home run each time. Three home runs equal twelve bases. Twelve divided by four equals three. Three divided by three times at bat equals one or 1.00.

Name	AB.	H.	TB.	Old Avg.	New Avg.	Smith	3	3	12	1.000	1.000
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Kerby goes to bat in the same game three times and hits three singles. His average would be:

Name	AB.	H.	TB.	Old Avg.	New Avg.	Kerby	3	3	3	1.000	.250
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Following are the 1915 averages of Ty Cobb, Larry Doyle and Bennie Kauff:

Name	Club	AB.	H.	TB.	Old. Av.	New Av.
Cobb, Detroit Athletics	563	208	274	.370	.122
Doyle, New York Nationals	591	189	261	.320	.111
Kauff, Brooklyn, Federals	483	166	251	.344	.121

C. NEIL, Washington, D. C.

Washington, D. C.

Mr. F. C. LANE, *Editor*:

Dear Sir: Here's my guess for an All-Star team. Could you make any improvements?

Pitchers, Johnson, Alexander, Cullop, H. Coveleskie; second string, Pfeffer, Leonard, Mamaux, Ruth; catcher, Schalk, sub., Archer; 1st, Dauber; sub., Merkle; 2nd, E. Collins; sub., Evers; 3rd, Baker; sub., Groh; s.s., Maranville; sub., Bancroft, Fletcher; r.f., Cobb; sub., Jackson; c.f., Speaker; sub., Burns; 1.f., Robertson; sub., Wheat.

In the last "Letter Box," Phillip gave in an "M" team. I think it could be improved upon by substituting Mowrey for McNally at third; and at second, ousting Miller for McBride. Although McBride's regular berth is at short, I think he would make a better second baseman than Miller.

In the "C" team, suggested by A. C. Brown, I have several changes to suggest. Chapman is preferable to Corhan at short, and the outfield would be improved if Carey were transferred to left field, and "Cactus" Cravath were substituted for Crawford.

Wishing you the best success, and hoping that you continue to turn out the same brand of goods that you've always turned out, I remain

Very truly yours,

BENJAMIN PROTTER.

St. Paul, Minn.

Mr. F. C. LANE.

Dear Sir: I am a consistent reader of your BASEBALL MAGAZINE and certainly agree with the thousands of other readers of your magazine that it is the best monthly sporting publication ever published.

sack and is also a hitter of minor league reputation.

Joe Kelley of Indianapolis, Walter Cruise of St. Paul, and Acosta of Minneapolis are a speedy lot of outfielders and stick wielders who would loom up in the big show if given another chance.

Yours truly,

CLARENCE KNUSEN.

Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sirs:

Your August BASEBALL MAGAZINE has some fine articles in it, but I wish to dispute some of the facts. You say Young, our second baseman, is not such a marvel. Of course he isn't a Lajoie, but he covers a lot of ground, is a fast man and in the pinch has won some games for the Tigers by a long hit.

To my mind, Vitt and Bush are underrated. Vitt was given some credit in your August issue, and he deserves it. Bush, in my opinion, is one of the best shortstops in the country. Though weak at bat, he gets on very often. A very fast man, he covers a lot of ground, going after everything, whether it's back of second, in left field, or any place. Other players would leave these chances alone, and not risk getting an error, but Bush goes after hard chances, and sometimes misses them, thus getting an error.

I never see any good word for Oscar Stanage. He is a hardy player, and good all-around catcher.

Hoping you will "wake up" and credit the Tigers, especially players mentioned, and wishing your magazine success.

Yours respectfully,

G. H. BOBERTZ, JR.

LAS CRUCES, N. M.

The Baseball Magazine Co.
Gentlemen:

The "Hot Stove League" is breaking the National Commission up already, it may be a good plan to reorganize the commission, as there appears to be a sound effort to do so. It is rather an injustice to the American League to have only one member while the National League has two. The whole key is to have a non-interested member in place of the second member from the National League. While Garry Herrmann is a good man, his place should be taken by a man who is not connected with professional baseball, except from a sporting standpoint. If Herrmann was not a magnate, he would be a very fine man for the position.

Therefore, I think that the commission should be composed of the presidents of the two major leagues and a third uninterested member of professional baseball, who would be chairman. This would insure justice to all, and prevent any charges against any magnate-member.

It also would be a good plan to allow the National League to increase the player limit to 25, maybe they would find some Ty Cobbs.

The Fans should watch a new Athletic recruit, Cliff Hill from the Texas League. If he makes good he will probably be in the World's Series soon, and if he fails nobody will notice it among the collegians of Macks. But Mack will have a team of ball players, who will make the U. S. sit up, pretty soon, believe me.

The Giants will set the National League afire next year, too, for J. McGraw will have a team of experienced veterans led by Buck Herzog, and it will be a mighty hard team to beat. Here I beat it.

Yours truly,

BEN W. DAVIS, JR.,

LAS CRUCES, N. M.

MR. F. C. LANE,

MORGAN CITY, LA.

Dear Sir: Just a word about the Athletics, "the cellar champions of the American League," a title which they do not deserve. It is true that in the past two years, they finished last, but if the fans would only recall, that in the years gone by, the Athletes have won three World Championships, and six American League Pennants.

I think Connie Mack is the greatest manager that ever lived, and I have hopes that he will be fighting it out with the Red Sox, for the pennant in a year or two. Could the powerful Red Sox Champions of today, withstand the formidable attacks of the Athletics of old?

I remain a satisfied subscriber, and loyal Athletic fan.

LOUIS SOUMEILLAN.

MR. F. C. LANE

San Juan, P. R.

Editor, BASEBALL MAGAZINE,
New York, N. Y.

My Dear Sir: I take advantage of this opportunity to let the managers of the teams that do not have permanent spring training camps think about coming down here to Porto Rico. It is only a four days' trip, and can start as early in the season as they wish, for we have

baseball weather throughout the year. The prospects are the most favorable and the undersigning is willing to furnish any information requested.

This will help us to have baseball established forever in the Islands, and will also benefit the manager that happens to think this matter over.

Wishing you all kind of success and thanking you in advance for the publication of this letter, which will tend to spread the National Sport, and king of them all, I remain, with the assurances of my highest consideration.

Most Cordially yours,

YUAN MELENDEZ ORCASITAS.

P. O. Box 107, San Juan, P. R.

BEAVERDALE, PA.

Editor, BASEBALL MAGAZINE,

Dear Sir: For several years I have been an ardent admirer of the Superbas, having watched their progress and scrutinized every box score of the games in which they participated. Naturally I am much gratified over the outcome of the National League Pennant chase.

In my opinion Jake Daubert is the premier first-sacker of the world, which claim, no fair-minded fan will dispute. I also think that Geo. Cutshaw has to submit to no superior keystone guardian at the present time and that Zack Wheat would strengthen any outfield in the business. I sure was extremely gratified on seeing the name of that grand old Brooklyn idol, Nap Rucker, in the summary. Though his term on the hill lasted but two innings, he fanned three men. Imagine how good old Nap would have toyed with the Red Sox, when he was in his prime. In his day he was appropriately called "King of Southpaws." And who deserves that title more?

Wishing your magazine the cream of prosperity. I'm with you,

CHAS. B. NELSON.

MR. F. C. LANE,

HELENA, ARK.

Dear Sir: I have read your magazine for three years, and have noticed, for the first time, in your December number, a semblance of baseball injustice. You have always shown splendid judgment in selection of your All-American Baseball Team, but this year you have done a great injustice to "Hal" Chase, the peer of all first basemen of 1916. You say that Daubert is better suited for the position than Chase, because "Hal" plays to the grandstand. True as you say Daubert led Chase in "Sacrifice Hits," "Stolen Bases," and "Runs Scored," but Chase led the league in hitting, was far ahead of Daubert in total bases and just look who Chase was playing with—Cincinnati, that's enough to make "Ty" Cobb hit .117 and steal three bases per season. Had Daubert been playing with a "cellar" team instead of a "roof" team, I hardly think that he would have been on the baseball map.

Oh! Yes!! you say "Old Hal" plays grandstand ball, Yes! Uh!! Huh!!! Maybe you didn't know that "Hal's" easy way of handling a ball, making hard plays look easy and easy plays look hard is only a natural habit with him.

Thanks,

FRANK D. RUSSELL.