

# OUR MAIL BOX

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

Chicago, Ill.

EDITOR BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

Dear Sir: "Bell Hop's" letter in your last issue, clearly proves one thing, *i. e.*, it is simply impossible to satisfy some people. I happen to live in "Chi.," am a White Sox fan and certainly cannot be accused of New York prejudice, but I fail to see where Bell Hop gets that stuff about BASEBALL MAGAZINE being partial toward New York clubs and prejudiced against Chicago clubs.

I consider BASEBALL the fairest sport publication issued and am willing to admit that it gives both the Sox and Cubs their share of space. Some one must have lent Bell Hop a copy of the June number, as from his letter he cannot have read other numbers which have contained a good deal of stuff on the "Chi" players.

Furthermore, when a publication IS fair to everyone, a thing not any too common in the sporting world, the least Bell Hop can do is to say nothing if he is so pin-headed and biased that he can't say a good word for it, and is unwilling to give it due credit.

After reading Bell Hop's unfair letter, I looked up my June copy of BASEBALL MAGAZINE to locate the two "sneering" verses he speaks of. As a matter of dry fact, there wasn't a single verse on either Chi team. There were two short squibs in the Cutting the Corners department which I presume are what friend Bell Hop refers to as "verses." Doesn't he know that they were merely good natured joshes and that there isn't a club in either league that this department doesn't josh in a good-natured way?

If Bell Hop is such a prejudiced and sad-faced fan that he can't stand his team being kidded in a harmless way, once in a while, I'd advise him to quit reading a live publication like BASEBALL MAGAZINE and confine his reading to the obituary columns of the daily papers.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD J. KENNEDY,

A "Chi" fan who is glad to slip Baseball Magazine a little credit.

Cambridge, Mass.

F. C. LANE,

Editor Baseball Magazine Co.

I have just finished reading the June issue of the BASEBALL MAGAZINE and liked it very much. The article J. C. Smith, or "Red" Smith, was a pippin. That's the kind of articles I love to read, about a ball player getting panned and then sold to another club and have the club he joins win the pennant.

When the Red Sox sold Tris Speaker to Cleveland I thought it was going to be just like the Smith incident. But Cleveland didn't have J. Evers, Maranville, Gowdy, Schmidt, or three pitchers like James, Rudolph and Tyler.

Two former Braves are now playing great ball for the Cubs, and they are Charley Deal and Leslie Mann. Another Brave on the Cubs is Fred Mitchell, who is making good so far and probably may steer his Cubs to a pennant and World's Champs. You can never tell in baseball.

The Cubs were lucky when they got Merkle to take Vic Saier's place when he got injured. It was a lucky pick because if Mitchell took Mollwitz or some other first sacker I don't think they would play as good ball as Merkle is playing now. Merkle batted .299 in 1915 and he was a regular, but last year he became a substitute and couldn't bat as well as he did in 1915, because he wasn't playing regularly. A player has to be a regular if he wants to bat high, because if he is a sub he is not in there and not used to it. Take the case of Janvrin of the Red Sox. In 1915 he hit for .269 because he played in about 100 games, but last year he was shifted too many times and didn't bat as well as he did in 1915.

I am closing this letter with luck to the "Chi" Cubs and "Red" Smith and to your magazine.

Sincerely yours,

ANTONIO SILVA.

MR. F. C. LANE.

Dear Sir: Why don't you advise Red Sox leaders, Barry, Frazer, etc., to buy a few more bats. I have a "hunch" they will hit .290 as a team 'fore long.

I also think the way of reckoning hitting percentages is bum; but I see no way to improve it. The idea of giving A, who gets 137 hits, out of 500 trips, 80 of which are extra base, a smaller average than B, who gets 150 hits out of 500 trips, of which only 20 are extra base, is rotten.

Yours very truly,

"FULLER" BULL."

Brooklyn, N. Y.

EDITOR BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

Dear Sir: Although never a subscriber, I have not missed a single number of your magazine since its origination, and still have a copy of the first issue in my possession. How any real fan can do without it, I cannot imagine.

I guess every enthusiast has some new suggestion for a favorite theme of his own, and I am no exception. What I would like to see in your magazine would be an article entitled "The Most Under-Rated Player in Baseball," dedicated to George Cutshaw of the Brooklyn Nationals.

I wonder how many fans around the circuit really appreciate the sterling worth of this splendid, but unheralded second baseman. A beautiful fielder, a remarkable ground-coverer, easily ranking with the best as a base-runner, and the greatest pinch-hitter in his league, Cutshaw is generally known as merely a *good* player, "steady, but not brilliant."

It is easy for critics to make light of the averages, but after all, has anyone evolved a better method of ascertaining the true quality of a man's work? Or can anyone deny that a close and careful perusal of the figures will bring to light many virtues and defects in the work of a player?

Cutshaw came to Brooklyn in 1912 and before the season was half over had ousted "Silent John" Hummell as the regular second baseman. He took part in 91 games that season, hardly missing a single con-

test after securing the job. Following that year for *four consecutive seasons* he led all rivals at his position in number of games played, as follows: 1913 (147), 1914 (153), 1915 (154), 1916 (154). This is certainly a remarkable record in continuity of service and that is a most important feature in the work of any player. It shows, first, that he is secure in his position, second, that he is almost impervious to injury, and third, that he gets along well with the umpires, which is not the least important trait of any good player. Men like Evers and Zimmerman, for instance, greatly impair their value to a team, by constant wrangling, and their subsequent banishment for long periods.

For the last four years Cutshaw has led all other second basemen in number of chances accepted *per game*, a sufficient proof that he has no equal as a ground-coverer. The following are the average number of chances per game he accepted during the last four years: 1913 (5.78), 1914 (5.88), 1915 (5.05), 1916 (5.38). Herzog, whom some critics claim is the leader of National League second basemen, averaged only 4.95 chances to a game last year. Niehoff averaged 5.01, Evers only 3.85. Pretty convincing proof of Cutshaw's superiority, I think.

No infielder makes a closer study of the different batters than Cutshaw, and he places himself so cleverly that he often intercepts balls that would be certain hits with another man in his place. Although not a graceful fielder, he is as quick as a cat in his movements, and has absolutely no weakness at handling any kind of a hit. He has no superior at putting the ball on a runner, either at the base or on the line, and at nailing those puzzling short outfield flies, he is in a class by himself.

Georgie has led his team as a base-runner ever since he broke in, and is always near the top in the list of National League base-stealers. His best year was in 1913, when he stole thirty-nine hassocks, but he is always good for more than twenty-five.

Cutshaw is a hard and consistent batter, averaging around .270 for his entire career, and specializes on doubles and triples, which invariably come at just the right moment for his team. The timeliness of his hits is what makes him of such value as a batter. Ask any Brooklyn fan who he likes best to see at the plate when a hit means the game, and ten to one he will tell you that he prefers Cutshaw to such mighty batters as Daubert, Wheat, and Stengel. George has won so many games for Brooklyn by his long wallops at crucial moments, that he has proven himself the most dangerous batter on the hardest hitting club in the league. "Rube" Benton, the great Giant southpaw, says that in a tight place he fears Cutshaw more than any batter he knows, and many another pitcher will say the same.

Cutshaw is very popular among his fellow players. In my humble opinion, he is one of the greatest players in the game today and the "Most Under-Rated Player in Baseball."

Sincerely yours,  
JAMES W. DUNWELL.

Alvord, Texas.

MR. EDITOR.

My attention has been called to a letter in your June issue written by a fan of San Francisco, "Old Chromo" ("Bugs would be better"). I think "Bugs" would have gotten it about right if he had said he had more nerve than sense. For I really don't think he has any sense. Speaking of "McGraw's Rebuilt Champions," I think McGraw is one of the best managers in the league today. Look what he and his "Rebuilt Champions" did when they won their 26 straight games. It doesn't make any difference whether it takes money or not to get the "Stars," just so you get them. Isn't that what every manager wants and would get if he had the "cane seed"?

Yours,  
E. D. F.

Rockport, Ky.

BASEBALL MAGAZINE CO.,  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Gentlemen: I have just read in the June issue of the BASEBALL MAGAZINE a letter written by "Old Chromo." He seems to have appointed himself official critic for the BASEBALL MAGAZINE and set out to see that all letters conform to his views. He seems to take a special delight in knocking McGraw. The greatest trouble with McGraw is that a lot of people are jealous of him. The reason that the New York owners open their pocketbooks for him is because he makes the money for them.

I was disappointed in your St. Louis number because you did not have an article about Hank Severeid. Would also like to see a longer article about Fred Toney, who got his start in the Blue Grass League in Kentucky. Roy Chapman is another Kentucky boy who was raised within six or seven miles of my home.

I think the subscribers should all thank "Old Chromo" for telling them about the good letters and bawling them out when they don't agree with him.

Yours truly,  
W. G. IHLER.

Las Graces, N. M.

DEAR MR. LANE.

Since the season opened, we have been able to get a better view and understanding of the various teams. After looking them over, I think the Giants and Red Sox will be the headliners in October. While McGraw has had a hard time getting the Giant "machine" going, he still had worse luck when Herzog was hurt. Immediately, the Giants slipped. As soon as Herzog is back, I expect the Giants to begin playing with "p.e.p." Herzog is the original "pepperbox" and his absence slows down the team, especially Robertson and one or two others. The real star of the Giants is George Burns, in their every day and getting on oftener than anyone else. A fine ball player is Burns, and his value stands out in their slump of the Giants. Also, Ben Kauff, Esq., is another coming "King of the outfield." Sir Benjamin ought to be batting .300 regularly soon, and even if he doesn't, he will surely slug that ball.

Kauff is my personal hero, and I am boosting him for the "goods."

If Brooklyn finishes in the first division, I will surely be surprised; ditto Chicago. Brooklyn is made up mostly of misfits from other teams, and the egotism from last year's championship didn't help their purse or team value. I don't blame Ebbets for cutting their salaries. The Phillies or the Braves will be the "second place" team, with the odds favoring Boston, then in order, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Brooklyn, St. Louis, Chicago and Pittsburgh.

The Red Sox are the logical winners in the American. Experience, good pitching and generalship are the chief features. They are the greatest club on "team play" in the A. L. The Yankees will win if the Red Sox don't, and finish second if the Red Sox do; barring the deaths of a few athletes, of course. St. Louis is likely to come through with a rush, but I pick Washington as the "dark horse," the team to upset all the dope, and other teams, too, incidentally. With Johnson going as he is, and a little batting and pitching help, the Senators are liable to make a rush about the first part of August and win, or make some other team abandon second place. Here's hoping.

Some people, notably Bill Phelon, still believe in pure strength as against brains, as shown by picking the White Sox to win. The White Sox are brainless, excepting Schalk, Weaver and Eddie Collins. Great "potential" strength, but no head strength. I heard of fourth place for them.

Now, Mr. Editor, I sure wish you could put articles in by John Evers and Ty Cobb every month. I surely enjoy reading Evers' comments on the umpires, etc.

One thing more. Is "Old Chromo" a star critic or a grouchy old soul? He surely can hand it to those who don't please him.

Wishing you success, I am,  
B. W. D., Jr.

F. C. LANE, NEW YORK.

Dear Lane: Many thanks to you for your 25 cent donation to the "bat and ball" fund for the soldiers.

I conceived the idea myself. Knowing we were to put into training camps many thousand American boys who love baseball and that the public should furnish them with something to help them pass their recreation hours with; knowing also that they prefer baseball to any other form of sport, I am attempting to get together a fund sufficient to purchase and equip all "camps" with balls and bats, etc. I will greatly appreciate any effort of your BASEBALL MAGAZINE to further this cause. Every nickel that is donated to this fund will be banked at the Union Savings Bank at Washington. I will distribute all baseball supplies through the United States Army Headquarters.

Yours sincerely,  
CLARK GRIFFITH.

Philadelphia, Pa.

THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE CO.

Dear Sirs: I have been a most faithful reader of your magazine for two years and think it is a first class magazine.

To my mind Bert Shotten ought to be given a great deal more publicity. I think he is one of the five fastest players in the game. Another player who, I think, is a coming star is Ray Bates of the Athletics. Maybe he can't wallop the pill. I hope Stuffy McInnis will win the batting championship in the American League and Hornsby in the National. I believe they both will.

JOHN E. HILB, a *Phillie Fan*.

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