

Letters from Major Leaguers in the Service

What Former Big League Stars Think of Their New Job with Uncle Sam

By TOD SLOAN, etc.



"Tod" Sloan in sailor uniform

F. C. LANE,

Editor Baseball Magazine

Dear Mr. Lane: Since I joined the service of Uncle Sam I have been mixed up in athletics almost as much as I would have been had I remained a ball player. In fact, athletics is the principle recreation in camp and to my mind, it plays an important part of military training as well. Surely anybody who is in physical trim to play football or baseball has traveled a long way on the road to physical fitness as a sailor or soldier.

Since I have been in camp I have played football, basketball, have wrestled, boxed, competed in running races, and played baseball. We are in a live place and have a very good commanding officer.

I should say the average recruit here spends about two hours a day in some form of athletics, but we hope to devote still more time to sport in the near future.

To show how strong a hold baseball has on the camp, we have a league all to ourselves consisting of eight clubs. Quite a few of these players are very promising.

There are several former professional baseball players on my club and we should win the pennant for this district easily.

We have spent quite a lot of time and some money in constructing a grandstand and ball park, and surely hope to have some live games before we are called upon to go "over there."

Sincerely yours,

"TOD" SLOAN.

Formerly of the St. Louis Browns.

F.C. LANE.

Dear Mr. Lane: I believe it is every man's duty, with American blood in his veins, to do his bit in this great world war. I am one of those men anyway and that accounts for the fact that I am here.

I must say that playing baseball is considerable of a snap compared to soldiering. But I have forgotten the past or at least pushed it to one side temporarily and am really getting to like my new job.

I have found that my previous experience as a professional baseball player has been of great service to me. In the first place a ballplayer is in good physical trim to start with. Then he is familiar with discipline and knows the advantage of team play which discipline encourages. So he is able to master the rudiments of drill with only half the difficulty that the average young fellow from the farm or the store encounters.

I expect to be sent to France almost any time now. In fact, I imagine that when this letter reaches you I will already be on my way to the other side. I am in detention camp now awaiting transportation on the last leg of the journey.

Naturally I hope to get back into professional baseball ranks once more. I believe I had it in me to become a successful player and was making progress when the call came. Of course I would like to see what I could do in the big leagues after I had really got into my stride. But it is idle to speculate about the future in so uncertain a game as war.

Sincerely,

M. W. MENOSKY.

Late of the Washington Club.

so. I was with "Griff" in Washington, D. C. the fall of 1916 and went south with him in the spring of 1917. After making a good showing in Augusta in the spring I was deprived of the chance of sticking, as I was the "fall-guy" in a deal which sent me to Des Moines for Lefty Thomas. The deal was pulled before we went south and "Griff" tried to break it, but Des Moines would not stand for it.

I had to hit it for the bushes and spent the first couple of months there, under the doctor's care. I love the game and intend to make my mark in baseball if I am able to survive this war. I am almost through my training here for a commission as military aviator. I enlisted October 20. Horace Milan is in a school of instruction now and will be sent to a flying school in several weeks.

Very sincerely,

™ Flying cadet Ed. "Pat" Flaherty,
Nephew of the famous
Pat the old 3rd baseman.



Mike Menosky in soldier's uniform

MR. LANE,

Dear Friend: After observing the names of all the men who have given up baseball for the cause, I feel as though I am entitled to place, as well as Horace Milan, who has recently entered this branch of the service. On account of illness I did not show as I was expected last year and had to wind up in semi-pro ball in Chicago and Indiana, but nevertheless I consider that I gave up some prospects to enter the service, and am indeed proud I have done