

# My Fifth World's Series

*If We Win the Pennant and the Big Show Comes Off,  
as I Hope and Expect, I Shall be Getting  
Rather Used to the Big Games*

By "STUFFY" McINNIS



John (Stuffy) McInnis, former member of Connie Mack's famous \$100,000 infield

"IF I take part in the coming series, it will be my fifth appearance in the big games. Only Jack Barry, I believe, has been more lucky than I, for I remember rightly, he played in not less than six World's Series.

"I say 'if' for two good reasons. In the first place, we have not yet won the pennant and if we do not play any better ball than we have done recently, we won't win. But I know that we have been in a slump, and I am sure we have been playing considerably below our proper form. So I would consider it a pretty serious misfortune at this late day, if we did not come through with the flag.

"But this risk is not our only one. There is another great big 'if' which you can lay to the fault of the war. No one seems to know for sure that there will be a World's Series. Personally, I think there will be. I could hardly imagine such a thing as not having a World's Series, and yet the Series is not a fact. Not yet.

"My first World's Series was a long time ago, when the Athletics rounded into shape as the greatest club in the American League and later proved their right to be called World's Champions. My particular part in that series was not an important one. Harry Davis, who was still a great first baseman, did all the heavy work. I was a youngster then, and while Mack had a good deal of confidence in me, he naturally banked more on the veteran Davis. But I believe I did my full share of work in the other three series.

"The series I remember best was the last, not because it was the most recent,

but because it was the most disappointing. If anyone had told me before that series that the Braves would take four straight games from us, I would have thought he was crazy. But that is just what happened, and it goes to show what a series like the World's Series can be.

"We never rightly understood how it all happened. It was over before we realized how serious the situation was. We were in a slump at the time and did not have sense enough to know how bad a slump it was, and of course we underrated the Braves a good deal just as everyone else did. They were a scrappy team, full of fight and confidence and they swept us off our feet before we were fairly started. That is as much as I care to remember about that particular series. I have been trying to forget it ever since it happened.

"When I went to the Red Sox this Spring, I was selected to play third base. The position was not new to me for I used to play third in my Minor League days. But I won't deny that I have grown so accustomed to playing first, that third was rather unfamiliar, and while I believe I did better work there than most people have given me credit for, I won't deny that I was glad to get back on first.

"My record suffered at third, not in fielding but in batting. It took so much

of my time and attention to try to fill a position that I was not accustomed to fill, that I found myself slumping badly at the bat. In fact, my present rather unsatisfactory average is entirely due to my playing at third. Since I have returned to first base, I have been hitting over .300 just as I always used to do. I am hitting over .300 because I have played first base so long, I can do what is required of me there without any mental effort and give my full attention to hitting safe when I take my time at bat.

"A good many people have told me that they thought I was better fitted for a third baseman than to play at first. They got this opinion no doubt from the fact that fielding always came natural to me, and because I am not as tall as some other first basemen. A third baseman needs to be a good fielder and a first baseman is supposed to be tall, so they drew their conclusions accordingly. Now it is true that Wally Pipp has something on me in height and so have most other first basemen. But I bank a good deal on what Connie Mack said to these criticisms. When somebody told him that I was too short to cover first base, his only comment was, 'If a ball gets away from Stuffy, it would get away from anyone else.'"

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McInnis signing his Red Sox contract for his former teammate Jack Barry, then manager of the Boston Club, now in the Navy

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"I am not denying that it would be a bitter disappointment to the boys if the series should have to be given up. I suppose some newspaper man will point out the mercenary spirit which exists among the ball players, when I say that. But I guess there is mercenary spirit enough among the newspaper men themselves to make them object to seeing two or three thousand dollars slip through their fingers for a few days work. I think it would be a crime not to have the series but that it only my opinion and I am only a ball player.

"So far as taking part in the series is concerned I have no worries on that account. I have already been in enough of the big games to know that they are no different from any other games where both sides are pretty evenly matched. I am confident that I shall do as good work in the series as I ordinarily do and that goes for the rest of the boys. No, that isn't what is bothering me. The only thing I am worrying about is whether or not I shall be lucky enough to get into the series at all. That's the big question right now."



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