

OUR MAIL BOX

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

Chicago, Ill.

MR. F. C. LANE,

EDITOR *Baseball Magazine*.

Dear Sir:—From the first time that my eyes rested upon a *Baseball Magazine*, I have been a regular subscriber, and have read with great interest every issue of the magazine.

Ever since I can remember, I have been a staunch follower of the Cubs, but not until the last few years have I been able to spend as much time with them as I would have liked. During the year which has just closed, I attended quite a few games, at which games I secured a collection of from 75 to 100 snapshots of the different players. The other day as I was looking through this collection, a thought came to me which I am now writing to you about.

No doubt in other cities, fans have done the same thing I have, and have collections of which they may be proud. I was wondering if a snap shot department in your magazine would not be successful. This could be run either by receiving the pictures from the fans or by having monthly contests. Of course, I do not know whether such a department is possible, but just offered the suggestion as I think that all fans possessing any good snap shots would not hesitate to loan them to you for publication in the magazine so that fans around the country could see their results.

As you no doubt suppose, the result of the World's Series was a disappointment to me, and I am not yet satisfied that the Red Sox had the better team. No one could expect to see better pitching exhibitions than Vaughn gave in the first and third games. He would have won both of those games if Pick and Merkle had supplied the final punch. But then, that's all over and I guess the less that is said the better.

Wishing you and your magazine the best of luck, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

ARVID C. LUNDE.

New Orleans, La.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:

I enjoyed the *BASEBALL MAGAZINE* for August, all but the ridiculous letter written by Old Chromo's sole supporter. I think that letter was the limit, it was the most senseless thing I ever read. It is out of the ordinary for two critics like Old Chromo and his lonely supporter to live in the same city. In fact, I believe that they are twin brothers because nobody else but a twin brother would side with Old Chromo. The twin brothers' brains would both go in the head of a pin.

Old Chromo and his lonely supporter have criticized everybody and everything. They have criticized every letter that has been written in the mail box and they have criticized every baseball player and manager.

Old Chromo and his supporter don't seem to like the New York Giants. I think that Zimmerman is the best third baseman in baseball and the reason that the Chicago fans boo him is that they got beat in the trade when they let him go and they are jealous because he is better than any of their players.

"OLD RELIABLE."
A Giant booster.

New York City.

MR. LANE.

Dear Sir: Just a word or two in answer to the many critics who complain of the way Manager McGraw of the New York Giants runs the ball club.

In one instance a writer gives a whole list of former Giants who, if gathered on one team would win a series of pennants for Manager McGraw and the city.

All bosh and bull. He mentions Herzog. In my opinion the less we hear of that trouble maker the better the fans of New York will feel.

And then he mentions McKenchie, that second rater. He got a job because there was a scarcity of players. And so on down the line. Winning laurels for the big city McGraw deserves credit three fold and every knock is one more setback in his fight for a pennant.

That much for Mugsy. Now for a suggestion. On the cover of the *BASEBALL MAGAZINE*, there is always a picture of an unknown ball player. Why have unknowns on the cover. Submit this to the readers. Print the picture of the ball player or pitcher who starred in his respective position as a sort of advertisement and picture gallery.

Some critics who take a letter apart and criticize each and every grammatical error should be less harsh if other letter writers make a mistake here and there. All of us are not college students. The idea is to get the thought of the writer to the reader.

If the critics would read McGraw's article in a previous number they would learn why he gives three or four players for one. He knows what he is doing. He would not get his large salary if he was not worth it. Hand it to him and give him credit.

An ardent and staunch New Yorker,

JOSEPH E. FARNUM.

San Francisco, Calif.

MR. F. C. LANE,

70 Fifth Avenue,
New York City,
New York.

Dear Sir: I am a subscriber and firm supporter of your magazine and have just received your October number. I must say that I think this issue contains the best articles you have published for some time. I was especially interested in a letter in your "Mail Box," written by a "present" subscriber."

I am a staunch supporter of the Ameri-

can League, but nevertheless agree with this writer in his article about the "Giants." They have been a misjudged organization since they dropped from the top. Most fans figured that they should have made a grand runaway of the race, and they bid fair to do so in the early weeks of the season, but soon the heavy loss sustained through draft, enlistment and injuries were too great to overcome and the "Giants" slipped into second place, but not far enough to keep the "Cubs" free from fear.

Though a staunch supporter of the "Red Sox" and the American League, I think that the team with which the "Giants" started the 1918 race could have easily defeated the team with which the "Sox" started. But the "Giants," minus Benton, Kauff, Tesreau, Barnes, Robertson, Holke and the three injured men, Schupp, Doyle and Niehoff, were not the same team as that of 1917. The heavy losses of the team and the inevitable changes told as the weeks progressed and the "Giants" fell into second place. Very few clubs have been hit as hard as the "Giants" and I believe not only "Muggsy" McGraw, but the entire team should be given credit for finishing where they did after their loss of such stars. I also think they should be given credit for their fighting spirit when they were practically out of the race.

Wishing you and your magazine the best of luck, I am,

Yours for,

"FAIR PLAY."

EDITOR, BASEBALL MAGAZINE.

Dear Sir: I will try anything once and may try this the second time if it don't get in print, for I am baseball thirsty and always desired to become a ball player. But my father is a minister and you may know what a chance I had to play baseball. However, while I was at school I would run away to play with my team, for I was the whole show (not bragging). But I was the main pitcher, manager and lead-off man for my team, and guess I was the most ambitious. I was lucky always to have a winning team, and after I was of age I pitched for my city team semi-pro. I won ten games and lost one while I was there. But now I am in a more necessary game than baseball, but not quite so interesting.

I am in the navy and am well satisfied, being an electrician, third class. We have a team on our ship, but the manager wouldn't even give me a try. I asked for a try and because I told him I had never had any professional experience he thought I couldn't make it, I guess, so I don't worry much as we have very little time to play. We were over in England in June and they played a game with the aviators of the U. S. A. and got beat. What few games they have played were about fifty-fifty.

I have just finished reading your magazine and will place a stamp on it so it will get in some other hands that enjoy reading the good old magazine. I must stop as this is already a lengthy letter of bum stuff, but my desire is to get a personal letter from some real ball player that reads this letter or a fan or fanette will do.

I wish Tyrus Cobb would waste a few moments in scribbling me a line as he is my favorite and grand model of a baseball player.

I am a southerner from N. C. and dearly love those old sunny hills.

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Please don't forget to write me as all
sailors are crazy about mail.

Yours truly,

S. B. FERRELL,

U. S. S. Jason,

New York, N. Y.

c/o Postmaster

Mr. F. C. LANE.

Dear Sir:—Received the August number
of your fine magazine on the fifth, and the
September issue the day following. It was
all very good and interesting. And I
cannot say which article I enjoyed most.

That "Walter Johnson" article was very
good. I don't think he is "slipping,"
but of course "time will tell," you know.

I really do not know how I would
manage to get along without your fine
magazine, as it is all that keeps me posted
on the happenings in baseball. You know
we cannot get papers from the States
every day or whenever we want them.

Your magazine is just the thing. I
hardly take the wrapper off when about
fifty "Gobs" will all crowd around and
look on with me. I pass it around to
them, and they seem to enjoy it.

I will send you three dollars in my next
letter for two years more subscription.

Wishing your fine magazine much
success, I am,

Yours truly,

J. A. DUVALL.

Pocasset, Mass.

DEAR SIR: Why can't baseball go on
in 1919?

Both leagues could get together and
organize a six-club league from the play-
ers that haven't gone to war.

For instance, Hans Wagner, the "Fly-
ing Dutchman," could be induced to re-
turn to America's National Pastime, and
Ed. Plank says he has already had offers
from big league clubs to come back and
play in 1919, and has said that he prob-
ably will accept one.

Here is a list of some of the "old
birds" who can play in 1919:

Hans Wagner, Ed. Plank, Tommy
Leach, Jacques Fournier, John Hummel,
"Babe" Adams, Wilbur Good, Jack
Quinn, "Ham" Hyatt, Geo. McKullan,
Grover Loudermilk, Hank Robinson, Bob
Hannon, Pete Compton, Mickey Dorian,
Tom Clarke, Leon Ames, "Cactus"
Cravath, Larry Gardner, Chas. Herzog,
Fred Merkle, I. Olson, Bob Bescher, Jay
Karke, "Lefty" Liefeld, Roy Ellam, Otis
Crandall, Doc. Johnston, Jimmy Archer,
Jimmy Austin, Bill Hinchman, Sam
Crawford, Geo. Gibson, Geo. McBride,
John T. Myers, "Dode" Paskert, and
others.

Now, we'll leave 1919 baseball and go
to the St. Louis Browns. Sisler outclasses
any other first baseman in the league. 2 B.
Gedeon—good enough to play 2 B. on St.
Louis, Philadelphia, Washington, Detroit,
or Chic. Now that Ed Collins has gone
3-B. Maisel, batting um, fair; fielding,
good. S.S. "Pepper Jim" Austin has it
over a bunch in the A. L. The out field
seems good, Tobin, Demmitt and Hendrix
all batting over .300. Why are they not
higher, Jim Burke? Well, he's pretty
good.

Yours truly,

D. DAVIS, JR.

P. S.—Anything you want—tell me.

Seabright, N. J.

ME. F. C. LANE,

DEAR SIR: Your defence of baseball
in the September number interested
very much. But one thing I thought,



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however, was the fact that if the greater part of the players rushed to shipbuilding plants, munition factories, or farms, to escape military service, I should never want to see another game of baseball in which these players participated.

When I read of our recent advances in France, I feel that it is games like baseball which make our soldiers able to do the impossible.

I saw a game between Camp Dix and Fort Hancock, a few weeks ago, at the Rumson Club. Camp Dix won 5-2. What I noticed particularly was the absence of dirty playing and umpire baiting. It seemed to me then, when I looked at those men, that we could not lose the war.

Yours truly,

L. WARREN.
Dayton, Ohio.

EDITOR BASEBALL MAGAZINE,

DEAR SIR: I have read your magazine more or less consistently ever since it has been before the public and I consider it by far the best publication in its class. Your articles are excellently written, and your position on teams, players and magnates has always struck me as eminently fair and unprejudiced. More power to your magazine!

I think your "Mail Box," for "raving" fans, an excellent feature of your paper. It's because there are such fans as "Bull Durham," "Old Chromo" and others of like character that your paper is possible, and that baseball is the national game and bids fair to be the international game. I live in Dayton, Ohio (the place of the 1913 flood and the airplane center of the world) and, not having major league ball here at home, mine is mostly of the paper variety, so I take keen delight in the ravings of the various "fan" authors for their favorite teams and light in the ravings of the various "ban" players. Of course I am an "Ohio" rooster and naturally string along with Cincinnati and Cleveland.

Yours truly,

W. A. MALONEY.

WHY is it the strange fate of the National League to lose the world's championship on outfield muffs? Why has the older organization, on three occasions, been knocked out of the victory by an outfield spill, each time during the final and deciding game, while the American has never had such evil fortune? Seems like a jinx of inexplicable pattern, doesn't it, kind fans?

Back in 1912, when the Giants had the Red Sox on the run, Fred Snodgrass made his fatal error—dropped an easy fly that had settled squarely in his hands. The beaten Red Sox seized the opening, staged a sudden, furious rally, and got away with the game and the series.

In 1917, Dave Robertson spilled an easy fly, right after a bad throw by Heinie Zimmerman. But for that error, Zimmerman would never have had the chance to pull his famous bone.

In the recent, or 1918 series, Max Flack dropped a liner in the deciding game. But for this error, the Red Sox would have been whipped to a frazzle in that particular discussion, but that muff tossed the game away. Three of the annual classics, petty, puerile muffs in the outer garden and all chucked to the American League.



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