

OUR MAIL BOX

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

Editor Baseball Magazine:

Dear Sir:—Permit me to express my appreciation of your fine articles in the Baseball Magazine.

I am certainly glad to observe that you supported the King of all games, in the darkest hours of its history. What a contrast between yourself and Hugh Fullerton, the expert, who never deserved to earn a dollar from a game upon which he is always casting slurs.

With best wishes for a prosperous New Year to yourself and your staff of competent assistants, I am,

Yours truly,
JACK FLANAGAN,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

MR. F. C. LANE,

Dear Sir: I have just finished the Feb. issue of your magazine and wish to say that it was a very interesting number.

I am a firm supporter of the idea to have known players on the cover of your magazine.

It is a fine plan in as much as you could have just as interesting pictures of real players as you could of imaginary players.

I disagree with P. Brooks, who, in the Feb. issue said that catcher is the hardest position on the team to play. In my opinion pitcher is the position that requires the most brains. In the first place the pitcher and catcher must be of the same opinion before the pitcher throws the ball. Whenever the batter disagrees the catcher gives a signal that is to the pitchers liking and that he (pitcher) thinks will do the most harm to the opposing batter. Then again in sizing up the batter the pitcher must know in what part of the field he is likely to hit the ball and he motions his fielders to that territory. These are only two cases where the pitcher uses his brains; there are many more instances. Of course I may not be correct, but that's my opinion.

Very truly yours,
JACK KLEBANSKY.

EDITOR MAIL-BOX,

*Baseball Magazine,
New York City.*

I watch for THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE just as I watch for my pay-day and read every article in it with interest. Baseball is my middle name, in fact I believe that I read as much about baseball as any fan in the old IT. S. I read in the January issue a letter signed "Baseball Devotee" in which he knocks Hugh Fullerton. This fellow has certainly the right dope about Fullerton as I have read articles written by all the leading Sporting Writers in the East and I consider Hugh Fullerton the Biggest joke of a Sporting Writer in existence. He is certainly in a class by himself. Any man who thinks he can tell you how many games are going to be played, what the scores will be, how many hits and errors in each game is crazy and any fan will admit it. Instead of knock-

ing Baseball players even though they did not go to war he should be helping them along a little as they certainly need our support now. The knocker must remember Baseball is giving him a living. Wishing you success, I am,

A REAL SPORT,
Philmont, N. Y.

DEAR MR. LANE:

We doubt you will be some surprised to hear from me as I have not been making-very much noise of late. However, besides paying my respects to you, my object in writing is to have you publish in THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE all the enclosed clippings or a part as you see fit, if possible. It may or may not be of interest to you to have the Melady boxing bill passed in Nebraska, but I am sure to have it mentioned in THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE, would lend a certain dignity to the boxing bill that marks the standard of your book. Gene Melady is a good friend of mine and a cleancut fellow in every respect. He is also a big cattle man in Omaha and his interest in sports is just a hobby, or side line. I will never forget how nice you were to me as well as every other baseball player in your writings and otherwise. I read every monthly issue of the magazine.

I finished last season with this Omaha club and just about the time the league went up, my arm seemed to go up with them as it is too sore to take up pitching next season.

Trusting you are enjoying good health and success, I am sincerely yours,

MARTY J. O'TOOLE.
From the *Omaha Bee*

A united demand on the part of Nebraskans for boxing is becoming more and more evident as the hour for introducing the Melady bill draws near. Omaha sportsmen from all stations of life are unanimous for the measure. Opposition that early developed, from personal reasons, apparently has been overcome and the metropolis stands united for clean boxing.

"A committee from the Omaha Athletic club will meet to discuss how we can best help in securing the passage of the measure," said George Brandeis. "Ninety-five per cent of the membership are strongly in favor of boxing and we will do our bit to see the measure carried."

Hundreds of Omaha business men are conducting a letter campaign to friends living out in the state urging them to secure the support of their representatives for the measure. Delegations are being formed to visit the capitol and urge the passage of what all declare to be the cleanest boxing bill ever presented.

MR. F. C. LANE,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir: Have just finished reading your article on "The Value of Extra Base Hits," and although I am not a baseball writer, nor newspaper man, and have no

interest in the game, more than a dyed in the wool fan, who has attended every game he could during the past 35 years. I would like to make a suggestion as to the scoring of extra base hits and pinch hitting. While it may not be acceptable, I think it will put our experts on the right track toward giving clean-up and pinch hitters credit for their extra bases and for doing their hitting with a runner or runners on base.

My idea is to add an efficiency hitting column in the box score and give the batter credit for a point for each extra base he is responsible for advancing his team.

If he makes a 2 base hit, give him credit for a safe hit in the column used now and one point in the E. H. column and if the runner goes from first to third give him credit for 2 in the E. H. column. Now while it is true that a single is a single, the batter who can make his single where the runner can advance 2 bases, is entitled to more credit than the one who only advances his one. If there are more than one on base when he hits safely, give him credit for every base he advanced his side excepting the one he gets credit for in the base hit column. For instance, if the bases are full and he hits a home run, give him credit for a hit in the base hit column 3 for his extra 3 bases, 3 for the 3 bases he advanced the runner who was on first base, 2 for the one who was on second base and for the one who was on third, making the scorer give him credit for 1 safe hit and 9 points in the efficiency column. I would also give the batter who gets a base on balls, credit for a point in the efficiency column for the present rules of scoring batting do not give the man with the good eye and the ability at waiting a pitcher out any credit for that ability and it is an ability which often turns the tide of a game. I would also give the batter credit of a point for each base he advances a runner or runners by a bunt even if he is put out on the play at first base as he is ordered to bunt by his manager and if he does it to the advantage of his team, the averages should give him credit for his ability.

I would also give a batter credit of a point for each base he is responsible for advancing his team-mates by Sacrifice Flies as in nine times out of ten his manager orders him to hit with that object and when he does it successfully the averages should give him credit. When a runner gets on, barring stolen bases, which the averages give him credit for, or advancing on an error which he is entitled to, he deserves no credit for he is an automaton at the mercy of the batters who succeed him. When they advance him, the averages should give them credit for his advancement. I think with this data to work on, the wise scoring heads of Baseball can figure out a column of efficiency which will cover a multitude of sins and give credit for a lot of ability which has been getting no credit in official averages, and will record the relative values of a safe hitter and a clean-up one.

Respectfully yours,

J. LEFKO,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

MR. F. C. LANE,
Editor Baseball Magazine.

Dear Sir: In renewing my subscription for your magazine this year, I wish to congratulate you on your courageous defence of baseball and athletic sport during their hour of need.

I am quite sure that all true lovers of sport, especially those who realize its

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influence in building up and sustaining clean, chivalrous manhood, feel they owe you and Mr. Phelon a debt of gratitude. You were loyal and devoted when loyalty and devotion were sorely needed. The war tore off the mask of hypocrisy from many supposed friends and revealed them cringing cowards or frank enemies dancing gleefully on the apparent grave of the sport they professed to love—when they thought it was fashionable.

I believe your magazine will fulfill an important duty during these chaotic days of reconstruction, if you keep up your wholehearted, intelligent defence of athletic sport, especially baseball. I believe baseball has contributed more largely than people realize to make Americans a liberal minded, liberal hearted people. The Lord knows, there are enough influences at work to commercialize, materialize and degrade us. A large part of our people have very little religion, little interest in real literature or art or music. The one thing we have as a people, far and away ahead of other nations, modern or ancient, except possibly the ancient Greeks, is a love for athletic sport. Let us cherish it; it is one of our most precious and distinctive possessions. It has done more than even its best friends realize to elevate us above what is sordid and mean; it has done more to create a friendly, neighborly, national spirit amongst us. It has promoted generosity and sympathy and comradeship amongst spectators as well as players. It has developed our national sense of humor. It has been the inspiration for a great deal that is best in modern writing, both prose and poetry; it has furnished Grecian models of perfect physical manhood for painter and sculptor. If it dies, a great deal of the spirit of our age and country will perish with it.

Hitherto, we have enjoyed baseball as a natural gift. We took it for granted as something indigenous to the soil, like our corn and pumpkins. We have thought little of cultivating it except for our own selfish purposes. But now the time has come for us to reflect upon its great services and appreciate it for its own sake. What it has done for us it can do for the generation just entering boyhood, if we give it a chance. But devoted and disinterested friends must rally to its support; men who are sportsmen to the core; who would rather die poor, cherishing their love for a great spiritual force which uplifted them, and through their efforts was uplifting their children, than close their eyes in comfortable luxury on chests of gold, with remorse in their hearts for having been faithless to the love that made them men, and might have continued to make their children men, if it had been properly husbanded in its hour of weakness and oppression.

If I am not mistaken, there is a party in this country steadily gaining in power who hate life and everything which ministers thereto. Instead of the grand old maxim, "Live and let others live" they say "dead men commit no crimes. Let us solve all social problems by killing everybody." They think they are virtuous because they have no passions and they would have all like themselves, forgetting that it is only the man who has passions who has a live heart. They regard as evil everything which excites passions even though it discipline and refine them. Let Baseball prepare to receive a heavy blow from their battle-ax.

I am not a defender of the lawless saloon. I have been a total abstainer all my life; but unless I mistake the trend



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of the prohibition movement, the men who know its inner secrets, hate not only drink, but sports, tobacco and all things else which make men live and love—everything which weds the soul and body of man into that happy state called life. For such the all-sufficient condemnation of persons is that they are full of life or of things that minister to life. Their slogan seems to be " Ugh, ugh! the horrid thing; it's alive!" This apparently is their objection to baseball.

Your sincerely,
(Rev.) CORNELIUS HAGERTY, C. S. C.

Editor Baseball Magazine,

Dear Sir: I notice in the January issue of BASEBALL MAGAZINE in the department entitled, "Little Problems in the Baseball Rules" where Mr. Corcoran evidently slips up on the following: "A is on first base. The pitcher, while going through his wind-up motion, accidentally lets the ball slip from his hand. Should the runner be permitted to advance a base or does not the act of the pitcher constitute a balk?" Mr. Corcoran's answer follows. "The pitcher commits a balk by letting the ball slip from his hand; at least the National League adopted that ruling at the 1914 meeting of the rules committee."

In the first place the pitcher must have been a wise nut winding up with a man on first, and in the second why doesn't every ball that the pitcher lets slip from his hand while in the act of delivering the ball to the batter, get classified as a balk instead of a ball or strike?

As long as the pitcher was in his motion to deliver the ball to the plate, and did deliver the ball, there is nothing in the rules that shows he made a balk. It should be classified as a ball, which I saw called on a Minneapolis pitcher some seasons ago, the ball rolling toward second base and I certainly think the umpire called it correctly.

However the main reason I am writing this little outburst is to let you know how I appreciate your little old Magazine each month, and I think this last one was a Pippin especially the article on the only Tyrus. The comments on these squawkers who have persisted in calling ball-players, "slackers," hit the nail on the head too. Hoping you and Baseball have a big year, I am,

Yours truly,
M. E. MCNIVEN,
Conord, Cal.

THE Boston Braves have put one over on the rest of the league. Their schedule is to open April 19—Patriots' Day—the anniversary of Lexington—and they propose to make it a specially memorable occasion by having the returned warriors of the club on view. George Stallings hopes, by that time, to have Hank Gowdy, Rabbit Maranville, Rehg, Powell, Fillingim, and all the rest of the Braves who entered the army and navy discharged from service, and ready to resume the game. With any sort of weather, there should be a tremendous turnout on this occasion.

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GAVVY CRAVATH, the erstwhile slugging star of the Phils, may stay with his old club, or may go to St. Paul. In other words, Mr. Cravath is determined to lead a highly moral life—if he cannot remain a Quaker, he will become a Saint.

The logo for LA84 Foundation features three stylized, overlapping curved shapes in light blue, light green, and light red, resembling a flame or a wing. Below this graphic, the text "LA84" is written in a large, light grey, sans-serif font, and "Foundation" is written below it in a smaller, light grey, cursive font.

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