

# OUR MAIL BOX

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

Blairstown, N. J.  
Dear Mr. Lane—I want first of all to compliment you and the men associated with you for putting forth such an excellent magazine as the "Baseball Magazine."

I have been interested in some of the comparisons of Cobb with such men as Wagner, Lajoie and Anson who were the great batters of the past; also in the comparison of Walter Johnson with Mathewson and Alexander. In order to satisfy myself I made a study of the records with the following results.

In order that the comparisons might be perfectly fair I have considered the first fourteen years in the batting averages of Wagner, Anson and Lajoie as that is the length of time Cobb has been in the big league. The results clearly prove Cobb's superiority over both Lajoie and Anson by a wide margin and give him a slight lead over Wagner.

	Hits	Runs
Cobb.....	*2525	1322
Wagner.....	2508	*1323
Lajoie.....	2229	1133
Anson.....	1860	1036

\* Leader in each department  
§ No figures at hand

Wagner batted over .300 for 17 consecutive years, while Cobb has batted above that figure for 13 consecutive years and is still going strong. Wagner was a wonder, but Cobb is the greatest of them all.

And now let us see how poor old Walter—who has been going back, according to some critics, for the last four or five years—let us see how he compares with the great Alex and the wonderful Matty. The averages are based on the number of full nine inning games pitched per season. Johnson's and Alexander's records are for their entire period of service and Matty's for his first 12 years in order to compare his record with that of Johnson over the same length of time.

	No. of Games per Year	Runs per Game	Hits per Game	S.O.'s per Game	B. B.'s per Game	Pct.
Johnson.....	35¼	2.09	6.91	5.81	1.90	.584
Alexander.....	39½	2.11	7.06	5.10	2.03	.684
Mathewson.....	35½	2.33	8.03	4.80	1.64	.679

The above figures show that Johnson has allowed fewer runs per game, given less hits per game, struck out more men per game than either Alexander or Mathewson. He has given more bases on balls than Mathewson but less than Alexander, all three of whom have been marvels of control. The percentage records of course show Johnson last, but when you consider that the Washington team average has been below .500 over half of the time and that a large number of his games

have been booted away by his team mates or lost because of their woeful inability to hit, we must lay but little stress on the fact that his two nearest rivals have a higher percentage average. Both of them have also had a winning team behind them most of the time. Neither Alexander nor Mathewson have equalled his records of 16 consecutive victories, 56 consecutive scoreless innings, or his great record of 1913, when he won 36 games and lost but 7 for a grand average of .837. We can only wonder what he could have done had he had a team like the Red Sox, the Giants or the Cubs behind him. And when he pitched 12 innings against the Yankees a few weeks ago and gave them only 2 hits, he demonstrated that he is far from a has-been. May he some day have a chance to pitch a World Series game!

Very respectfully,

L. W. PERRIN.

Stolen Bases	Bat. Av.	League Leadership
*760	*.364	*11 years
582	.346	8 years
292	.349	4 years
§...	.338	§.....

Camp Sherman, May 16, 1919.  
B. B. Magazine, N. Y.

Gentlemen—No doubt you will be interested to learn what we are doing here in camp in the way of amusement with the national game.

I am sending you one of our Camp papers; it will give you a suggestion.

I have organized and equipped 27 teams, although I have lost some on account of demobilization. I still have 14 in the league. I derive much pleasure from my work for it sure is some work to arrange games, assign ground, also umpires and furnish the necessary equipment—in other words, I have a league operated by myself.

Of course I. could get plenty of as-

sistance, but as I said, I get much pleasure from my work. This week I organized a regimental team from the 40th Infantry and am sending them to Huntington, W. Va., to play Saturday and Sunday. The boys enjoy those out of town trips as it helps to break the monotony of camp life. We get the "Baseball Magazine" and the soldiers sure enjoy it.

Resp. yours,

MIKE GUALIS.

K. of C. Ath. Director, Camp Sherman.

San Francisco, Calif.

Mr. F. C. Lane, Editor.

Dear Sir—Allow me herewith to extend my heartiest congratulations to the writer of the article of "Jess Willard, the Mystery of the Ring." I think the article was a wonder and could hardly be improved on and it has a lot more truth than many people believe. Willard has never been taken in the right light.

I would also like to refer to a letter written by "A Cub Fan" from Evanston, Ill. I cannot agree with him in his prediction that the Red Sox will cop in the American League. Don't forget that the White Sox are still in the American League.

I must also disagree with him in his pick from the National League team, the Cubs. I figure the Giants for first place with Cincinnati, Brooklyn and Pittsburgh giving the Cubs a fight to see who is going to stay in the first division. At the present writing I am "looking at" the Cub pitching staff to which he refers. Maybe they haven't rounded into form yet, but they'd better round into form mighty soon.

I'm "looking at" Alexander, Vaughn, Hendrix, Martin, Tyler, Carter and the rest and I notice they're having the trouble of their lives pitching to Young, Burns, Kauff, Zimmerman and the rest of that wonderful vet Giant team who will be easy pennant winners this year. How can you stop them? And put it in your hat, the Cubs with the present team will have to fight to stay in the first division. They've got a good pitching staff, and Killifer and Hollocher. Outside of that they haven't a man to compare with any Giant. As far as Schupp is concerned, Benton could take his place. Last year the Giants were beaten by the war. This year they will prove it.

Good luck to your magazine.

Yours truly,

W. J. GORDEN.

Twin Falls, Idaho.

My dear Mr. Lane—Your June number of the "Baseball Magazine" was very good, I thought. I enjoyed so much the article by Lee Fohl on where the baseball writers might help. I agree with Mr. Fohl in nearly everything he says. I think he is one of the best sports in baseball.

I think an article by the ever-popular John McGraw would go well in a future issue of the magazine. He certainly is the best of them all when it comes to making a pitching staff out of nothing. What pitcher has he got that can compare with any on the Cub staff? And yet, the Giants are at the head of the list while the Cubs are far from there. The only Aleck, popular as he is, is treated shamefully by opposing batters. He has lost about every game he has started. Vaughn, alone among the Cub pitchers, seems invincible. When the leaves turn to scarlet in the autumn time next fall, you will see that the Giants will win the National League flag while the Gleasonites will cop in the American. That is about all there will be to it, for just watch the Sox smother the Giants in the post season event. I believe the Sox will take four games to one. Eddie Cicotte will be too much for the proud McGrawites. Williams is also



LA84  
Foundation

going great and so is Faber. Cicotte looks as though he will have the best season of his career. I am a Giant fan first and last, but McGraw does not have Schupp this year as in 1917 and the team, while stronger than any other National League team, is far from the peer of the White Sox

By the way, do any of the National League fans of a decade ago remember old "Chick" Fraser? I'll bet there isn't one fan in ten who could tell where the old Cubbite is to-day. Well, he is farming out here in Idaho and living the simple life. Occasionally he goes on hunting and fishing trips. He is quite well-fixed and seems to be enjoying himself immensely.

I live so near to the territory of the Coast League that I will tell something about the players in that league. Old Cy Falkenberg, who used to be a tremendously effective pitcher for the Cleveland Naps, is doing slab duty for the Seattle Rainers and is trimmed practically every time he ventures forth upon the hurling hill. The old boy has lost everything he ever had except a firm belief that he can still pitch ball and that must come next. Cliff Markle, once a good pitcher with the Yankees, is hurling them over fine for the Salt Lake Bees. Connolly, the slugger of the Braves in the world series of 1914, is handling left field for the Angels, the team at Los Angeles. Good old Otis Crandall, once a splendid pitcher with the Giants, and always a good hitter, is chucking yet for the Angels and is probably doing more than any other pitcher on that team to keep the Angels at the top of the league. I believe that this league has more one-time major leaguers than either the American Association or the International League has ever had.

Wishing the "Baseball Magazine" great success, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A WESTERN PHAN.

F. C. Lane, Editor.

Relative to your editorial comment in your "Baseball Magazine" for July, I wish to state that I am a grandmother and my mother who is a great grandmother always bemoaned the fact that I was a tomboy, and no kind of a mother or grandmother to still follow up baseball news, and have the name of being a fan.

However, I had eight brothers, and started in as a fielder. From that post I finally landed first baseman, of course, only in the country, to help my brothers win the game or out of the sight of the then bluestocking dunces.

However, I resent the above editorial comment when it reads that the opposition of boxing comes mainly from a lot of old women, male and female, I assure you it comes mainly from the male or sissy men. I boxed with my brothers, heard the definition of every blow, as well as the tricks on baseball. I had the good fortune of marrying a man of the above caliber, and can safely say that I found more sissy men to oppose both baseball and boxing and men who howled prohibition, than any old women. I never took a glass of whiskey in my life. If I wanted a glass, however, I wouldn't want one who mostly has it on the sly oppose



LA84  
Foundation

me, That in my estimation is affecting my personal liberty. I congratulated Gov. Smith when he and the Mayor were in favor of baseball on Sunday.

Chicago was kept wet through the Suffragists. The Western woman has enough sense to vote and know if men or women must be doped, they will find a substitute in cocaine or one of the thousand dope drinks. As a suffrage leader I insist upon temperance and that enforced. Russia wouldn't submit nor any other country abroad to bonedry performances, WHY DO WE SUBMIT? Make a law to drown all the sissy men, and all will be well. If this war has taught the foreign citizens, especially the French, baseball and boxing, it has done something at least, although I saw wonderful wrestling matches in Paris.

Wishing both baseball and boxing an ocean of success, and a world game,

I am cordially,

ELIZABETH NORTH MULLER  
(Mrs. R. J. Muller.)

---

Kane, Pa.

Mr. F. C. Lane, Editor.

Dear Sir—After reading the letters in your "Mail Box," I think the one of Edgar O. Nelson needs an answer. He seems to slam the Eastern sport writers because they pick the White Sox to finish lower than he does, and also where one writer refers to Pitcher Williams as the tall, lanky hoodoo of the Red Sox.

The writer probably referred to Weilman. I do not think Williams is a hoodoo for any club. But when he questions your records of Jack Chesbro's number of victories and tries to tell how many games Walsh won in 1908 and suggests that Eastern writers study the records, where does he hold all his knowledge? How does he get that way? He should study records and be sure of himself before he makes his remarks for public reading. I hope he will have a chance to get this.

Yours truly,

A. H. SCHNEIDER.

---

Brookline, Mass.

Mr. F. C. Lane.

Dear Sir—Congratulations on your fine July number of the "Baseball Magazine," which is one of the best, if not the best, I have ever read.

I cannot see why the Red Sox can't come through with the pennant this year, as they have done before. They certainly have the material. The only question seems to be whether Ruth plays regularly in the outfield, or is just used as a pinch hitter and on the slab. I believe in the latter, as "Del" Gainor can be perfectly well used in the outer garden, since he is a very able fielder and also a fine batter. Ruth is needed greatly as a pitcher, while he is not showing up so well this year at the bat. I would like to see an article in your magazine about my favorite player and the greatest of all short-stops, Everett Scott.

A Red Sox Fan,

WILLIAM G. MOODY.

---

Harvey, Ill.

Baseball Magazine Mail Box.

Gentlemen—After reading Mr. Lane's article on the spitball in the



A84  
Foundation

June issue, I feel that I must express my opinion of this subject.

Mr. Lane says the spitball handicaps the batter. So it does, but curves and change of pace on the part of the pitcher also handicap the batter. Mr. Lane also says that handicapping the batter strikes at the popularity of baseball. But does it really do this?

How does Mr. Lane know that a slugger is more popular than a pitching phenom? Perhaps he may think so, but do the fans agree with him?

Is Ty Cobb, Speaker or Jackson any more popular with the fans than Alexander, Vaughn, Johnson and other great pitchers? No, I am sure they are not. If a straw vote was taken, I feel assured that every star pitcher would be at the top in counting the votes.

What does the fan prefer? A one-sided slugging contest or a pitching duel where a single is sufficient to win the game? How can we find out? It is my suggestion that the Baseball Magazine organize a straw vote contest. The kind that was held previous to the election of Mayor in Chicago by the Herald and Examiner.

If pitching wins out, let the spitball stay in its present place. If batting wins out, let all the fans sign a petition and send it into the National Commission or the League heads. I firmly believe that supporters of the game (meaning the fans) are the ones who should decide the question on the spitball.

A FAN.



LA84  
Foundation