

# OUR MAIL BOX

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

Ellenton, S. C.  
Baseball Magazine, New York, N. Y.

To the Editor—I wish to offer a suggestion for a plan to discourage the quite general practice of pitchers in purposely passing a strong batter, and if you can see any merit in the plan I would be glad to see you take it up, give it publicity, and otherwise work for its adoption.

I consider this to be a very unfair and unsportsmanlike practice, and I think it should be broken up if possible.

My idea is to amend the rules so that when a man is passed on balls he shall go to third base instead of to first as at present.

Yours very truly,  
H. M. WALKER.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. F. C. Lane.

Dear Sir—The August issue of your magazine contained some very interesting articles. Jim Vaughan's lost 3 years, and Donnie Bush's version of the S. S.'s job were good, in fact, on the whole it's the best number published thus far for the year.

I read the "Mail Box," which was also fine. I controvert letters from Mr. Wm. G. Moody and a Fan in the same issue. The former states of Babe Ruth's failure as a sticker. Let's see what a failure he is. According to statistics, Ruth is credited with .312 as a slugsmith; individually he has won more games than any other individual in either of the big leagues, with his bat for this season to date, as for a fielder he is far from being outclassed by several whom I need not mention, purposely passed four times in four times up, and now he holds the A. L. record for four-ply smashes with 19 to date. Ruth is a big gate attraction and he would no doubt bring well up in five figures in a trade, even if he never hurled another game. The aforementioned facts should convince our friend Mr. W. G. M. that he has underrated Ruth by a big margin.

Now, in regards to the article by one who signs A Fan, he says a star pitcher would swamp a star slugger in a straw vote contest. I take exception on the following grounds: In a close game the home folks are pulling for their star sticker to ice the game when the opportunity presents itself to him, while on the other hand they are hoping their S. P. makes the opposing S. B. part the atmosphere. In so far as a one-sided slugging contest is concerned, it doesn't appeal to any real fan even if the edge is in favor of the home club. Regarding a pitcher duel, I've witnessed one in my time, the score being 1 to 0—9 innings in favor of home team. The visitors were unable to get a hit or a man on base. Without spreading salve, seven out of ten were very much disappointed after the climax of game.

So from the above the S. P. has nothing on the S. B.—I look for the Giants to cop the N. L. bunting, the Reds will be up against hard games East and are apt to take the skid road. What's the matter with Old Chromo and his followers? I am sincerely yours,

THOMAS JOSEPH FRANCIS  
O'MALLEY BAINE.

Seattle, Wash.

Mr. F. C. Lane:

Dear Sir—The Baseball Magazine is sure "sum" magazine. Your number for August couldn't be beat.

I have only been out in the West a year, as I have been living in Chicago till recently. I am fond of sports, especially, baseball. Naturally I am interested in the outcome of the big league pennant chase. The race in the American League is the toughest I've seen for years, but after the smoke blows away you will see the White Sox crew bring home another pennant for Comiskey.

The race in the National League doesn't appear so interesting. The Giants have been in the lead most of the time, but the Cincy Reds have been right on their heels. The poor old Cubs are having a tough time of it. I think they have got a chance to grab the pennant if they play better ball than they have been doing. After looking them over now, I pick the Reds to cop in the National, but I believe the White Sox will beat them in the world's series.

Out here in the Coast League the Seattle club is in the same class as Connie Mack's pill chasers. They have been in the cellar for some time and they show no intention of getting out of there, either.

Wishing your magazine continual success, I am.

Sincerely yours,  
CARL A. JOHNSON.

Mr. F. C. Lane:

Dear Sir—In your excellent July issue I noticed in "Our Mail Box" a letter from Mr. Nelson in which he attempts to correct *Baseball Magazine*, which in a recent issue stated that Jack Chesbro holds the modern record of 41 wins in a season. He claims that along about 1908 Ed Walsh won 45 and lost 15 games. He followed this with several slurs against Eastern writers, including one from Boston, and ended up with the admonishment that Eastern writers should study the records with more care. I think that he is the one who is deficient, and if he will look up Walsh's record, he will find that in 1908, when Walsh registered his greatest number of victories his record was 40 wins and 15 defeats.

Yours for the *Baseball Magazine*,  
A BOSTON FAN.

Nashville, Tenn.

Mr. F. C. Lane.

Dear Sir—Like yourself and Mr. Barnes, who wrote a letter in the July

Mailbox, I am in favor of the abolishment of the "spit-ball." Another example of its ineffectiveness was clearly shown in a game between the New Orleans and Nashville teams of the Southern League. The Nashville pitcher, Helfrich, who uses the spit-ball almost exclusively, was as wild as a March hare. He got the ball so wet, that it was all he could do to throw it, and when the opposing batters hit him, which they did quite frequently, the fielders could not control their throws at all. The final score was 9—0 in favor of the New Orleans team. Not a very favorable showing for the spit-ball.

As I live in a city which has only minor league teams, I have a whole field of major league teams from which I may pick my pennant winners, and from these teams I unhesitatingly pick Gleason's "White Sox" to cop in the American, while McGraw's "Giants" will represent the National League in the big series. I am naturally for the Cubs in the older circuit, I don't know why, but I can't get over the feeling that the McGrawites will come out on top. However, there's not a chance for the National Leaguers in the World's Series. Gleason's crew will run away with the big event, mainly through the marvelous pitching of the wonderful Cicotte. Williams and Faber will be right there too, but the "Little Man of Might" will be the big feature.

Wishing your magazine, the White Sox and Cicotte the best of luck, I remain,

Very truly yours,

A White Sox Fan,  
MAX BLOOMSTEIN, JR.



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