

# Our Letter Box

Freeman, S. D.  
Editor the Baseball Magazine,  
Dear Sir:—

While reading the April number I found an article which was rather unjust to Babe Ruth, the home run king. The title was "The Greatest Sluggers of the Past Ten Years," written by J. C. Kofoed. Mr. Kofoed states that he believes that Ruth is sometimes overrated. To prove this he used a peculiar method. Ruth, as a pitcher, played very few games in 1915, 1916 and 1917. Thus he got only a few chances at the bat. In 1916, for instance, Ruth was at bat only 136 times while Cobb was at bat 542 times. Yet Mr. Kofoed counted a full year to both records. In other words, he expected Ruth to make as many home runs, triples and doubles in 67 games as Ty Cobb made in 145 games. If we want justice to prevail in this comparison why not count the games each of these sluggers played in. Are we afraid to bring out facts? My motto is to give credit where credit is due. By using the method where games, not years, is the base from which we draw records, here is what I found:

Mr. Kofoed placed Ruth second as home run getter. I found him to be the home run king. Ruth has one home run for every 7 games he played. Cravath is second with one homer to every 10 games. Other stars are as follows: Cy Williams, one to every 14 games; Luderus, one to every 15 games; Home Run Baker, one to every 18 games; Wally Pipp, one to every 19 games.

The people did not know about home run kings when they called Baker one. Babe Ruth is making twice as many as Baker and has some homers to spare.

Mr. Kofoed had twenty-one stars, in The Three-Bagger List. Ruth had no entry there. Mr. Wheat was the sixteenth on his list. Again basing my facts upon the number of games played I found Mr. Wheat had one triple to every 12 games played. Babe Ruth had one to every 11.6 games played. Thus Ruth ought to have been placed fifteenth when Mr. Kofoed failed to give him any entry in twenty-one places.

In the Two-Base List, Mr. Kofoed had twenty-seven stars. Again Ruth had no entry. Speaker, who was placed first in his list, has one double to every 4 games. Other stars are as follows: Cobb, one to every 4.3

games; Jackson, one to every 4.8 games; Wheat, one to every 5.5 games; Pipp and Groh, one to every 5.8 games. But wait for the surprise. The much despised Ruth, who got no entry in twenty-eight offered topped the list, according to number of games played. In 346 games played prior to 1920, he had gathered a grand total of 91 doubles, giving him the average of one to every 3.8 games.

These records were made before the 1920 season began. This year Ruth is playing a far better game than ever before. He has again broken the home run record. In less than six years he has cracked out ninety-two home runs. That is even better swatting than Cravath can do when we divide the home runs by the number of years played, let alone the new and just way—the games played, not the seasons.

The question as to whether Ruth is the greatest all-around player that ever starred on the diamond can be answered by a loud "Yes." Three cheers for Ruth. Long live the Home Run King.

Sincerely yours,  
EDWIN C. GRABER

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Chicago.

Dear Mr. Lane:

I have been noticing with a great deal of interest the letters of H. C. Burke and Louis Burt. In the August number I was particularly impressed by this paragraph in Mr. Burke's letter: "I think myself that these three men are very nearly on a par, but, considering simply the 1919 season, Schang outclassed any backstop in the country." This opinion is absolutely wrong as I will attempt to prove. Let us look at the fielding percentages. They show that Ray Schalk caught 129 games, made 551 put-outs, had 130 assists and only 13 errors for the fine average of .981. Schang caught only 104 games, had but 359 put-outs and 131 assists and 14 errors, for an average of .972

These figures show that Schalk caught 26 more games, had 192 more put-outs and only 13 to Schang's 14 errors. Schang was, however, credited with one more assist. In 1919, Schang batted .306 (the first time in his big league life he had hit .300 or over) while Schalk hit only .282. A big league catcher is not judged by his batting though. O'Neill was

down the list and need not be counted even though he did better than Schang.

After looking over these records I would advise Mr. Burke to exchange Schalk's name for Schang's.

Yours truly,

A WHITE SOX FAN.

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Glenmora, La.

Mr. F. C. Lane.

Dear Mr. Lane:

I wish to take exception to the letter written in the September issue, by one who goes by the name of Harry E. Miles.

Mr. Miles thinks that freak deliveries should have continued, and that the committee on new rules did wrong in stopping the spit-ball, shine ball and all other artificial pitching processes, which were used by a few pitchers who had to dope and smear up the ball to get results.

This same gentleman thinks that there is too much hitting now that freak pitching has passed.

Now, Mr. Miles, let me inform you through this worthy magazine that freak pitching was abolished so as to allow more hitting. So you need not fear that there will be a decline in the interest of the game, since there is more hitting now in the leagues than they have had in several seasons.

Baseball is now enjoying the greatest season ever. More fans have turned out to see the games than ever before. One of the biggest reasons for this is the increase in hitting. The more hitting, the more interest in the game, more action on the playing field.

Which would you prefer seeing, Mr. Miles, which would thrill you the most, a fast double play or a home run with two or three men on the sacks? If you are a real, true, red-blooded fan, wouldn't that home run fill you with more enthusiasm than the fastest double play Evers, Tinker and Chance ever made?

Now, Mr. Miles, in concluding, let me advise you to keep up with the game—at the ball parks and through the papers—and see if the sport does not steadily improve and get more patronage as long as all the wet deliveries and artificial stuff is kept away.

Yours for the continued success of the Baseball Magazine and the abolishment of all freak deliveries.

E. N. L.

**R**EPORT is current that Pat Moran is gonna get the gate. After copping off a world series for the Reds, Pat ought to get the gate, the franchise and the entire baseball grounds.

**W**ELL founded report states that Connie Mack is after Tris Speaker. Report must be correct. Connie is a long ways after Tris considering the money he spends for players. Only chance to get Spoke is to kidnap him.