

STORIES OF THE DIAMOND.

George Stone Tells How He Became a Sphere Walloper.

BATTERS BORN, NOT MADE.

Brown's Clever Outfielder Says He Had Hard Time Breaking Into Major League Game—Pointers For Batters.

No. VIII. By GEORGE STONE. (Copyright, 1910, by American Press Association.)

Batting, according to the experts, is considered the most important factor in the national game. The ball tosser who can successfully combat the pitchers and get away with two or three safe bingles in each game in the course of the season is looked upon as the most valuable asset to any ball club.

In order to be an expert batsman it is necessary for the player to be possessed of extraordinary perception, or, better, to be quick of thought, fast as a sprinter and, above all, own a stout pair of shoulders and arms.

several years before adopting the game as a profession, and as a result my arms, legs and shoulders were hardened and fit to go the route.

I have not changed my position since the first time a bat was handed to me, some twenty years ago. I was called awkward by my side partners, but despite this supposed handicap I developed into a hard hitter.

When I went to the Milwaukee club some years ago the experts there criticized my position at the plate very harshly. But nevertheless I led the American association that season with an average that has never been excelled. When Jimmy Collins, then manager of the Boston champions, signed me the know-it-alls opposed me.

Manager Collins was informed that I would never make good in the American league, and they told him that I was the poorest outfielder in the country.

Shortly after, when I visited Boston as a member of the St. Louis Browns, I showed these know-it-alls that I could wallop the sphere. I was lucky enough to maintain a batting average of .400 in every game in which I took part.

In order to be a successful batter you must study and watch every move the twirler makes. From the time he braces himself up to the arrival of the ball in front of you you mustn't move your eye off Mr. Pitcher and the ball.

Twirlers have various ways of delivering the ball. Some make a lot of unnecessary motions in order to catch you off your guard. Others cut out the swing and hurl the ball over when you are least expecting it.

Keep your ears and eyes wide open. Pay no heed to the man behind you or the pitcher before you. This pair are trying to outfigure you. Remember these things well. If you never lose sight of the ball you will be able to hit it. Of course you may not be as successful as some, but you will succeed.

Walker Liebgold Leaves Amateurs. Sam Liebgold, who for twenty years has been American's most representative walker and during that time won more championships than any other amateur in this country, has decided to leave the amateur ranks and become a professional.

During all his years on the track Liebgold has won over 300 races, nearly all handicaps, and has captured 500 prizes. He is at his best from one to three miles, but can also cover long distances in fast time.

"All Things Come." The magnate looked up impatiently from his work.

"Well, my good man," he snapped at the diffident rural person who stood twirling his rusty hat, "what can I do for you?"

"I guess ye don't remember me, Hank," faltered the caller. "But you an' me use ter go swimmin' together in th' ol' town. Then you got a job in th' bank, an' I got a job in th' grocery store."

"This is all very interesting, and I seem to remember your face. But come to the point—my time is valuable."

"Yes, Hank. You got a better offer and left the old village. I stayed plugging along in th' grocery store."

"Well, Hank, when you left you owed \$73.62 on a grocery bill. Here's where you pay up!"—Cleveland Leader.

Perfumes in Ancient Days. Old as the history of the world itself is that of the queen of flowers. The ancient Greeks and Romans reveled in roses. They were used lavishly at their feasts.

Market Quotations.

SUGAR—Cash price—Sugar, \$6.75; best sugar \$6.25. VEGETABLES—Dry onions, 2c; parsnips, 2 1-2c; spinach, 3 lb for 25c; fresh peas, 15c; asparagus, 3 lb for 25c; rutab, 5c; celery, 10c a bunch; hot house lettuce, 2 bunches for 15c; head lettuce, 10c; radishes, 3 bunches for 10c; green onions, 5c a bunch; fresh Florida tomatoes, 10c; new potatoes, 3 lb for 25c. FRUIT—Oranges, 40c doz; lemons, 35c; bananas, 40c; strawberries, 15c per box; cherries 2 lbs for 25c; gooseberries, 2 qts. for 25c. MEATS—Hogs, live weight, well finished, \$10 cwt; cows, 3 1-2 to 4c; veal 4 to 4 1-2c; mutton, 5 1-2; chickens 13c.

Portland Markets BUTTER—Extra Creamery, 29c; store 20@22. BUTTER FAT—Delliver f. o. b. at Portland, sw, cream 27 1-2; sour 25 1-2 EGGS—Local, candied, select 24 1/2 @25c. POULTRY—Mixed chickens, 19 1-2c; fancy hens, 19c; turkeys, alive, 20 @ 21c; dressed, 27 @ 28 c; pigeons squabs, \$2.50; dressed chickens, 1 to 2c higher than alive. BARLEY—Producers price, 1909—Feed, \$23; rolled, \$25; brewing, \$24. WHEAT—Nominal—track, club, 80@81c; bluestem, 83@84c; Willamette valley, 81c. MILLSTUFFS—Selling price—Bran \$19.50 @ \$20; middlings, \$29.80; shorts, 21@21.50; chop, \$19@23. FLOUR—New crop patents, \$5.15

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