

M'GRAW SHAKY AT FIRST GAME

Famous Baseball Manager Recalls Day When He Played His First Game of Ball.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—The career of John J. McGraw, manager of the New York Giants, and one of the best known men in professional baseball, stands out as one of the most interesting in the annals of the national sport. McGraw was born at Truxton, N. Y., on April 1, 1873.

McGraw played his first professional game shortly after he had discarded short trousers. He made such a reputation around his home town as a hard-hitter and skillful fielder that he was recommended to the Olean team, then in the New York state league, and in the spring of 1890 signed his first baseball contract.

McGraw says he will never forget the first game he played with Olean. Although only about 200 fans attended the East in 1900, McGraw was one of the few who were nervous at any time in his life. In describing his first game he said the popular leader of the Giants still in St. Louis, McGraw and Robinson were plotting to place an American team in Baltimore. Finally McGraw obtained backing and assembled the first team.

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Barney and took a fancy to McGraw in spite of his small stature. First he tried him on second base where he showed much speed and skill. He was transferred to third, where he played even more brilliantly and there he stuck.

From that time until he withdrew from active service he was one of the best third basemen in the game, at one time being considered the top-notch of them all. His ability to field bunts was uncanny, and no third baseman in the game ever has equalled him in that department. He always was a capable batter but under Hanlon's direction he became one of the greatest in baseball. For years his average never fell below the .300 mark and he was very fast on the bases. His all-around good work was a big factor in Baltimore's string of pennants.

While a member of the Orioles he was surrounded by a coterie of stars who helped to set off his brilliancy. Hughie Jennings, who is now associated with him in the direction of the Giants, and Gilbert Robinson, manager of the Brooklyn, were among them. McGraw and Robinson were sold to the St. Louis Club for a price reported to be \$18,000. The sale displeased both men.

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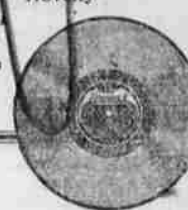
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