

BATTERS IN MAJORS ARE BEING CHECKED

Big League Pitchers Begin to Tighten Grip.

HOME RUNS ARE FEWER

Circuit Smacks, However, Have Not Fallen Away Like Singles, Doubles and Triples.

BY GEORGE CHADWICK.

(Copyright, 1922, by The Oregonian.)
NEW YORK, June 17.—(Special.)—The batters are being held in check. Careful investigation of the work of the pitchers, including the first half of June, just finished, and comparison with the efforts of the pitchers in the first half of June, 1921, unmistakably shows that they have tightened their grip on the batters.

There has been a lot of talk in regard to batting. Some have said there was too much of it and the anti-home run brigade has won for a season that home runs weren't going to be hit. Others say that the home runs have been going on until recently and the fans haven't remained away from the games when there was any home-run apoplexy being manifested. The ample-glutted home-run king, who knows all about baseball, golf and "chances"—for he is cultivating a love for the shiny-clothed equine—drew more folks than have been drawn to any two games this year, and where there are no home runs going on there are so many sitting in the seats of the curious.

109 Home Runs Made.

In the first half of June, 1921, both major leagues made approximately 109 home runs. In the first half of June, 1922, both major leagues made approximately 72 home runs, 109 three-baggers, 205 two-baggers and 1936 singles. The term "approximately" is used because the official figures are in the possession of the league officials only. However, an approximation is quite as good as the official figures, because the difference between the official figures and the unofficial figures in a general total is insignificant.

Anybody can see that there is a nice fat shrinkage in base hits as the years are compared, or some \$60 in favor of the pitcher's quantity. If it were only 200 it would be tough because it would show whither baseball drifts. To find that it is 500 is a staggering blow to those who said home-run batting is increasing so heavily that it is making baseball look absurd.

Orgy Expected to End.

At the rate the pitchers are again picking up on the batters it is only a question of time before they will make the Ruths look foolish. Only will be the days of the home-run orgy. No longer will the sleek and sleek athletes who are the batters be the lobby of the hotel while his subjects make obeisance and give him tips. The much-abused and much-maligned pitchers are picking up again.

I Told You So, Says Gibson.

"I knew they would," said George Gibson, manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates. When the season began, the run crazy and the baseball writers were saying the game would be home-runned to death. I told them that they were wrong. There would be a new crop of pitchers coming along before very long, I suggested, and there would be a lot of old players who would not be able to hit as they did. The lively ball was going to be hit by the pitchers who were slipping and they try to use it yet, but any experienced catcher who stood day after day and watched some of the pitching that was going up to the plate in 1921 knew mighty well there was no such batting in the big leagues.

Limit Lower This Year.

On four afternoons in 1921 the home runs went into double figures. Fifteen was the highest total. Not a single instance of double figures in 1922. Once last season when June comes after at their best the batters busted 13 three-baggers, but 14 is their limit this year.

Game after game was pitched in 1921 with base hits in double figures. They went as high as 25 for one team. This year game after game shows that the players can't get double figures for their total of base hits. There are plenty of sixes and sevens.

HANDICAP CHAIRMAN NAMED

Fred Plum of Atlantic City Gets Job in Traps Tourney.

Fred Plum of Atlantic City, N. J., was named chairman of the handicapping committee for the grand American handicap trapshooting tournament, which will be held in Atlantic City in September. Plum will have for aides George K. Mackie of Lawrence, Kan.; Guy Dering of Columbus, Wis.; H. E. Dickerman of Cleveland, O.; Frank D. Stoop of Spokane, Wash.; Frank Peterson of Coffeyville, Kan.; George McCarty, Newfield, N. J.; M. R. Brooks, Columbia, S. C.; Sam Foster, Mason City, Ia.

All of these are well versed in the art of handicapping from the standpoint of the shooter. Indications are that the grand American at Atlantic City will be the greatest trapshooting tournament ever staged.

BELIEVE ME I'M OUT FOR ANOTHER JOB—THIS IS GETTING MONOTONOUS EVERY NIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT.



I DON'T MIND THIS PLAYING SO MUCH BUT HOPPING ALL OVER THE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME IS GETTING ON MY NERVES.



WONDER IF ALICE IS HERE TONIGHT—SHE SAID SHE WOULD COME DOWN AND LOOK US OVER—WOW THIS IS HARD WORK!



I THINK I SEE HER BUT GEE! WONDER WHO THE GUY IS THAT'S WITH HER—I DO BELIEVE IT'S HERMAN BOTTSWINE! WHAT A NERVE.



HOPE HE PAYS ME THE TEN BUCKS HE OWES ME—I CAN USE IT BELIEVE ME!



GOSH THEY'RE HAVING A SERIOUS CONVERSATION TOGETHER—WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT



SOME DOLL ALICE! I'M GOING TO GIVE THAT GUY A BIG PUNCH IN THE NOSE IF HE DOESN'T LAY OFF.



THEY DON'T EVEN LOOK THIS WAY—AH-H-H WHAT CHANT HAS A GUY GOT WHAT HASTA WORK NIGHTS!!?? NOT A CHANT! NOTTA CHANT!



GRID MOVIES PLANNED

PROJECT INDORSED BY NOTRE DAME COACH.

Seniors of School Propose to Take Pictures to Defray Expenses of Graduation.

NOTRE DAME, Ind., June 11.—(Special.)—Movies of all football games played away from home by the Notre Dame football team in 1922 will be taken and exhibited at the end of the season if plans now being formulated by the senior class next year are developed successfully. The project has the indorsement of Coach Rockne.

The Irish schedule calls for contests with Georgia Tech, Atlanta, West Point at West Point, Nebraska at Lincoln, Carnegie Tech at Pittsburgh, Purdue at Lafayette and Duke at Durham. A representative of the senior class will accompany the team on the trips and superintend the taking of motion pictures. The pictures will be used by the graduating class to reduce the expenses of graduation festivities in the spring.

The baseball team has finished the most successful season since 1908. Previous to the contest with the purple squad had won 22 games, including the first victory registered over Michigan in three seasons. Monograms have been awarded to Captain Bilevinsky, Gene Murphy, Paul Castner, Dick Falvey, Hugh Magravin, Bill Sheehan, Mike Kane, Dan Foley, George Prokup, Charles Foley, Frank Reese, Ted Kelly and Frank Thomas. The captain will be elected for next year at the Monogram club initiation ceremonies.

Track activities will be at a lull here until the national college meet at Chicago, to which Coach Rockne will send 10 men, Captain Murphy, Dick Falvey, Hugh Magravin, Bill Sheehan, Mike Kane, Dan Foley, George Prokup, Charles Foley, Frank Reese, Ted Kelly and Frank Thomas.

Respected Youth Freak of Major Leagues.

George Toporcer Upsets Scientific Theories That Perfect Vision Is Necessary to Bust Fences.

ST. LOUIS, June 17.—(Special.)—Another baseball phenomena has been born. Scientists insist that to solve a flying object measuring but nine inches in circumference there must be perfect vision. The secret of batting success in the books of magnates, managers and scout is found in the eyesight. Yet this 1922 baseball season has produced an extent that he is forced to live behind two double-barreled lenses, batting on a par with Babe Ruth, Rogers Hornsby, George Sisler and other distinguished sons of swat.

George Toporcer, resident of New York City, American by birth, but of Hungarian parentage, joined the St. Louis Cardinals in the spring of 1921. His appearance at training camp caused no more of a sensation than the mere statement of the fact that he was there, for the very good reason that no member of the club had ever seen him before, nor had any of his various aunts'undry baseball feats been exploited in the common channels where such information is purveyed.

SWIMMING ON DECLINE

EUROPEAN EVENTS SAID TO INDICATE BIG SLUMP.

Germany and Austria Not Represented at Tournaments and All Records Are Secondary.

NEW YORK, June 17.—Particular interest among local followers of swimming has been attracted to the international water carnival held in Brussels and Monte Carlo recently. The results indicate that European swimmers, as a class, have not kept pace with the remarkable progress made in this country since the Olympic games at Antwerp in 1920. Germany and Austria had no contestants at either meet, and Great Britain did not send its foremost swimmers, as a class, have not kept pace with the remarkable progress made in this country since the Olympic games at Antwerp in 1920.

Arne Borg, the noted Swedish swimmer, credited with a couple of world's records for the middle distance, failed to report at Brussels, and this hardly affected the outcome, for he is not at his best in sprinting, and the only free style race slated was at 100 meters. Von Schelle of Belgium won the dash in 1:03 3-5, and Borg has never beaten 1:04, so the latter's chances would not have been of the nature of a foregone conclusion. Again his hitting was a feature of the preparatory stages of the Cardinals' work, but still the opinion was prevalent that Toporcer would hold down the short field only until Lavan was ready to resume play.

What followed in the first two months of the regular season, however, served to bring Toporcer to the front as the most likely looking young player Ricky has brought into the big leagues since he uncovered George Sisler.

In the first 36 games the Cardinals played, Toporcer hit more than 400, outswatting Rogers Hornsby, the 1921 batting champion of the National league.

Trinity college, Oxford, England, was founded in 1290.

NEW SHORSTOP OF ST. LOUIS CARDINALS NEAR-SIGHTED, BUT TERRIFIC HITTER.



GEORGE TOPORCER, WHOSE SPECTACLES DON'T SEEM TO HINDER HIM.

WONDER WHAT A JAZZ BAND PLAYER THINKS ABOUT?

WONDER IF ALICE IS HERE TONIGHT—SHE SAID SHE WOULD COME DOWN AND LOOK US OVER—WOW THIS IS HARD WORK!

I DON'T MIND THIS PLAYING SO MUCH BUT HOPPING ALL OVER THE PLACE AT THE SAME TIME IS GETTING ON MY NERVES.



WNR-TORRENCE PROVER IS COMING

Eugene-Criqui Plans Trip to United States.

Recent Battle With English Champ Won After Taking Terrific Beating Gamely.

BY SPARROW MCGANN.
(Copyright, 1922, by The Oregonian.)
NEW YORK, June 17.—(Special.)—Eugene-Criqui, the pale-faced, wartorn pugilist, who fights with gassed lungs and the side of his face built up to replace bones crushed by a piece of shell, is coming to this country. Criqui is that wonderful sort of fighter who at the proper moment sends for his right and stakes his opponent to a trip to dreamland. When the boys come over here, ready to do battle, Kilbane will want \$100,000. For Criqui, the pale-faced, wartorn pugilist, who fights with gassed lungs and the side of his face built up to replace bones crushed by a piece of shell, is coming to this country. Criqui is that wonderful sort of fighter who at the proper moment sends for his right and stakes his opponent to a trip to dreamland. When the boys come over here, ready to do battle, Kilbane will want \$100,000. 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