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FANS DO NOT ENJOY PITCHER'S BATTLE

AVERAGE FOLLOWER OF GAME PREFERS LIVELY ONE

Audience in the Bleachers Likes Lots of Hitting, Giving Fielders Opportunity to Display Agility of Leg and Arm.

With Plenty of Stick Work and Daring Base Running Diamond Bug is Well Satisfied—Actions of Stars at Bat is Interesting.

By TOMMY CLARK.

A man may go to a ball game and sit through nine innings while two pitchers battle for supremacy. At the end of the game the score may be 1 to 0 and one of the pitchers credited with a one or two hit game and the other fellow with a four or five hit game.

And the man will go home, and when his wife asks him about the pitching he has just witnessed nine times out of ten he will shake his head wisely and remark, "Yep; it was a nice game, all right, but—"

And there you have it all. The average husband fan, no matter how much he may rave about inside ball, doesn't care a hoot for a pitcher's duel. When he goes to a ball game away down in his heart he is hoping there will be a battling bee, one that will chase the outfielders until their tongues hang out. And Mr. Fan is also plugging to see some wild base running.

Pitching duels are all right, the fan realizes, and he looks on them as a sort of necessary evil, which isn't so bad if the home pitcher happens to be right and his team wins, but what the real fan delights in is a free hitting game, full of daring base running and sensational fielding.

Consequently the actions of the best hitters in the game while at bat and of the best base runners are of considerable interest. At a Tiger-Yankee game in New York recently the writer listened to a wordy argument between two fans which resulted in a bet of a good sized sum of real money as to whether Ty Cobb swung three bats before taking his position at the plate or contented himself with swinging two of the warclubs. The man who picked the three won the bet.

Cobb is a nervous chap, who is always thinking and scheming some way whereby he can put something over on the other fellows. About the time Davy Jones steps up to the plate Cobb gets off the bench, picks up three of his favorite bats, marches a dozen feet or so away and stands there swinging the sticks while Jones and Bush take their turns at the plate. He then walks over near the umpire, carrying the three bats, then tosses two of them over to the bat boy, and he is ready for the pitcher. He stands clear in front of the plate and apparently meets the ball before it has time to break.

Lajoie of the Naps stands out in front of the players' bench, swings two bats for a minute or so, throws one down and then usually sits on the end of the club he has selected until his turn at the plate comes.

Larry walks around the umpire, takes a look at the pitcher and then draws a line along the right hand side of the plate with the handle of his bat. He raps the end of the bat hard on the plate, swings it up over his shoulder and waits for the ball. As a rule, he "takes one"—that is, he lets the first ball pitched pass him without attempting to hit it. Many pitchers know this and endeavor to work the big Frenchman by shooting the first one over Larry, however, has a trick of clouting a straight one, which has the pitchers guessing, so his bluff usually gets him a ball.

Wagner is a good deal like the Frenchman at the bat. The big, stolid German is never worried. He has phenomenally long arms, which enable him to swing while over the plate, and he meets the ball with the full force of his shoulders and back, like Lajoie. Cobb's attack is more choppy, but Wagner hits a ball harder than any man now playing the game, with the possible exception of Lajoie. Wagner is patient himself if he believes a base on balls will help his team as much as a hit, but if he really wants a hit he is liable to get it, no matter how wide the ball is on the other side of the plate, and this is possible because of his tremendous reach. Pitchers say there is no way to fool the Dutchman.

"You might as well put it over for him," Brown, the three fingered wonder of the Cubs, said once, "as to keep it away from him if he wants to hit. You would have to pull a wild pitch."

All batters are superstitious. The New York Giants still carry along with them the bat Mike Donlin once swung, and Chief Meyers, the Indian backstop, always uses Donlin's old bat when he is up and a hit is badly needed. Also the chief has a habit of delivering, but he swears he couldn't connect if it wasn't for Donlin's bat. So the stick is tenderly cared for all the time.

Jimmie Sheppard of the Cubs when he wants to make a hit real bad takes out his chewing gum and sticks it on the button on top of his cap.

And so it goes. Every man has his favorite bat and his own peculiar style at the plate, and it takes mighty hard sound reasoning to convince a ball player that he can improve on his batting by changing his club or his position at the bat.

CLARKE TELLS OF YOUNGSTER'S EXPERIENCE WITH FICKLE FANS.

Fred Clarke, manager of the Pittsburgh Nationals, tells a story of the time Bill Hastner, the first baseman, was handed his release by the Louisville club. Bill was very popular, and when he was turned loose he conceived the idea of strutting across the lot with his baggage. Accordingly he took up his big valise and walked from the field in front of the crowd. The fans cheered their departing favorite, sang out goodbyes, wished him good luck and all that sort of thing. Hastner had made such a hit that he decided to repeat the stunt the next day. This time, however, he was accorded one of the liveliest roasts imaginable. He made it his farewell appearance in earnest.

BILLINGTON SOME SWIMMER.

World's Champion Won Distance Race in Fast Time Recently.

David Billington, the world's champion swimmer, accomplished one of the greatest performances of his career the other day, when he won the seven and one-half mile swim through Paris in 2 hours 15 minutes, conceding one hour to four Frenchwomen swimmers and time varying from thirty seconds to nine minutes to the other male entrants.

The champion began to overhaul his rivals two miles from the start. He took the lead soon after passing Eiffel tower and won easily by about 600 yards. A feature of the race was the splendid performance of Muee Gardner, one of the women competitors, who led until Billington passed her.

DAVIS CUP MATCHES.

England Will Send Team to Australia. Winner or Loser in Ties.

Negotiations which it is expected will again lead to the deciding of the International matches between the British Isles team and the American being played in this country are now under way.

The English Lawn Tennis association has already decided to send a team to Australia whether or not it is to stand as the challenging nation for the Davis cup. Gordon Inglis, who has officially represented the Australian association in London, was successful in having this action taken the latter part of last month. The success of the British Isles against the Frenchmen has sealed the matter.

QUEAL AFTER FOREIGNERS.

American Long Distance Champion Ready to Tackle Invaders.

Billy Queal, the American professional long distance champion, is the first of the professional runners to enthuse over the announcement that the Finlander, Hannes Kolehmainen and the French champion, Jean Bouin, would

ment of retired ball players is employed by the major leagues in combing the brush for promising material. A small contingent is employed to teach the youngsters the rudiments of big league baseball after they are graduated into the fast set.

A quintet of old boys thus engaged are Wilbert Robinson of the New York Giants, Willie Keeler of the Brooklyn Nationals, Kid Gleason of the Chicago Americans, Jack Ryan of the Washington Americans and Heinle Peltz of the Cincinnati Nationals.

There is no question but that these veterans, all brainy ball players in their day, earn every penny their clubs pay them. Big league managers have many duties to look after and often do not find time to give enough attention to some of their fledglings. It is here that the old coaches shine. They are hired for the sole purpose of instructing young talent and devote all their time to that particular duty. It is only a question of time when every big league club will have some "old master" on its pay roll.

Robinson has had a great deal to do with the Giants' present high standing in the race. He is the man who finally made a pitcher out of Rube Marquard. Robinson took charge of McGraw's expensive pitching investment in Martin in the spring of 1910 and spent almost his entire time with Rube. How Robby's faith in Rube was vindicated is baseball history.

Robinson now has another Giant pitcher under his wing—namely, Jeff Tesreau. Every morning, when the Giants are home, Robby has Jeff throwing curves, and fast ones, for him.

Willie Keeler is employed by President Elberta of the Superbas to teach the Brooklyn "to hit 'em where they ain't." Few ball players are naturally gifted as was "Wee Willie," but if any one should be able to instruct a youngster in the art of binging it is Keeler. As the Brooklyn team is hitting better this season than for years, Keeler's work must be bearing fruit.

Kid Gleason is not only coach for the White Sox, but also carries around the title of assistant manager. He is the original "pepper kid" and one of the unique characters of the game. Gleason can lick his weight in wild cats, but always lets the other fellow start the rumpus. He has made himself solid with the Chicago fans and should stick with Callahan for an indefinite time.

Jack Ryan, who is on Griffith's payroll, is a handy man to have around, as he is a thorough student of the game. Jack was up in the big leagues and, though never a star, always was considered a capable maskman. One of Ryan's hardest tasks is to make a pitcher out of Rube Cashlon, the giant flinger of the Washington sock. If Cashlon ever gets control he will create a sensation.

Heinle Peltz of the Reds is a coach more on the order of Latham than of the Robinson-Ryan type. One of his duties is to break in young pitchers. But Heinle is also more or less of a humorist and is really employed to keep the Reds in good humor while on losing streaks.

OLD MASTERS TEACH RECRUITS

VETERAN BASE BALL PLAYERS HANDLE YOUNGSTERS

Names of Those Long Forgotten Brought Prominently to Front As Instructors for the Future Stars.

Splendid Coaching of Old Baltimore Catcher, Now With Giants, Made Rube a Great Southpaw—Gleason Has Helped White Sox.

In these days of Ty Cobbs, Tris Spinkers, Joe Jacksons, Rube Marquards, Nap Ruckers and Frank Bakers the old boys of the game are almost forgotten. Frequently the fans have to rack their brains to recall the name of some sensational performer on the diamond who occupied the spot light fifteen or twenty years ago. However, here and there some of the old timers still are earning salaries through their knowledge of the game. A small reg-



KID GLEASON, ASSISTANT MANAGER AND COACH OF WHITE SOX.

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