

OLD PITCHERS VERSUS YOUNG

Are Veteran Stars Preferable to
Collection of Newcomers?

WHICH WOULD MANAGER PICK?

Would He Take Marquard, Alexander,
Gregg and Johnson in Preference to
Mathewson, Coombs, Bender, Rucker
or Walsh?

By TOMMY CLARK.

If a big league manager had his pick today between a squad of veteran pitchers and a squad of youngsters which would he select? Would he take Marquard, Alexander, Gregg, Johnson, Ford and Joe Wood in preference to Mathewson, Bender, Plank, Rucker, Coombs and Walsh? The problem would about drive him to the home for the mentally infirm. He would want them all. He couldn't work them all, of course. In fact, if he had either squad he would suffer embarrassment of riches, but he would most earnestly desire having the entire bunch sit on the bench if only for the purpose of looking pleasant.

Either crowd, with good support, would be capable of winning a pennant if they were all in condition at the same time, but some managers are inclined to the belief that six star pitchers cannot be worked to turn and kept in good condition. True, the average club has more boxmen than that, but none of them has more than half that number of heavers who can be truly called stars, and they figure themselves lucky.

Baseball men, as a rule, accept without argument the proposition that Mathewson is the greatest pitcher in the world, and they base it upon the fact that he has been great for a decade. It seems that the old followers of the game, while always willing to admit a young pitcher's capabilities whenever he displays them, do not place a man in the category of the truly great until he has established himself by more than one or two years' service.

Marquard, Alexander and Gregg are counted wonderful young pitchers, but they are first year men. The indications are that they are truly great, but that stamp will not be placed upon them by the baseball world until they have demonstrated their fitness for a place in the hall of fame by longer service.

Ed Walsh is certainly a great pitcher. Year after year the big spitballer has gone along and stood all tests. Napoleon Rucker is counted truly great. McGraw of the Giants claims that he is one of the best left handers of all times, and he bases it largely upon the fact that the southerner has been great during all the years of his service.

Bender and Plank will have everlasting place in the hall of fame. These two, established their class—not one year, but year in and year out, and there is no indication that they have commenced to decline.

One of the new generation of pitchers who are still regarded in the light of youngsters, but who cannot be denied recognition as among the greatest of the time, is Walter Johnson, the Washington speed marvel. There are many people who believe that Johnson is the best pitcher in the country today, but that sort of proposition would always provide a long argument.

Jack Coombs is not so much of a veteran as some of the others named with him, but he is no youngster from the standpoint of service, and what he has done for the world's champion Athletics gives him the right to be mentioned with the greatest of the great.

Marquard and Gregg, left handers, have had two great first years. The former, if he continues, gives evidence of being the greatest of all southpaws. The same is true of Alexander, although he is off at a poor start this season.

But will they still be regarded as great five years from now? The chances are in favor of the affirmative. They are young. They have the natural ability. The rest is up to them. A baseball man will tell you that no matter how much "stuff" a young pitcher may have he cannot be truly great until he has had the experience that makes him wise.

Russell Ford of the Yankees and Joe Wood of the Boston Red Sox are acknowledged great young pitchers. Ford has had one splendid year and has pitched consistently good ball, even when losing. In picking out a list of the best heavers in the game today many would hesitate before leaving off the name of Wood.

The promise of the present holds a future of greatness for such comparatively unknowns as "Bucky" O'Brien, Marty O'Toole, George Tyler, Hugh Bedient, Claude Hendrix, Joe Stein, George Baumgardner, Elmer Brown, Rube Benton, Jeff Tesreau, "Lefty" Allen, Casey Hagerman and half a dozen others. They may be the Mathewsons, Benders, Planks, Coombs and Walshes of another era, but the old baseball man who was trying to win a pennant would probably just as soon have a Mordecai Brown or a Bill Donovan or a George Mullin around as several of these fellows of future promise.

Getch a Gopher.
Frank Getch has taken up golf.

OWNER DIDN'T KNOW ONE OF HIS OWN PLAYERS.

One of the New York American pitchers told a funny one recently. "I was pitching," he said. "For a team out in Rockaway Beach one Sunday when a big stout spectator whom I didn't recognize at once came up to me and said, 'Boy, young fellow, didn't you belong at the hilltop? We've got a pitcher that twirls just the same as you do.' The questioner was one of the Yankees' owners. 'No,' I said, 'I never saw those fellows play.'"

"The next day I went to the club's office to see the secretary on some business and related the incident. He laughed and said, 'Then you're the kid I heard about this morning.' It was a good joke. He didn't know one of his own players."

ARNST TO DEFEND TITLE.

World's Sculling Champion Practices on Thames For Meet With Barry.

Great interest is being attached to the coming sculling contest between Ernest Barry, the challenger, and the present champion, Dick Arnst. Though this race is scheduled to take place on July 29, Arnst has been out on the Thames learning the deviating water course and hardening his muscles in preparation for the contest, in which the title and \$2,500 a side are the stakes. Arnst is described as a veritable Hercules whose power has been expended not only in sculling, but has also made him champion cyclist and very nearly the champion shot of England.

As yet, despite the apparent interest, Barry is finding great difficulty in raising the \$2,500 which he has guaranteed Arnst as expenses to cover the trip up from Australia, and this is so worrying him that training is next to impossible until the source of the amount is in clear view. This guarantee was made in view of the fact that Arnst waived his right to race on home waters, where the climate would naturally be strongly in his favor. Even English subjects, unless acclimated, have a fear of the Thames' depressing fogs.

HOW HORINE WAS SAVED.

Osteopaths Prevent Operation on Jumper's Knee and Preserve Sinews.

Those who admire the high jumping of the California wonder, George Horine, do not know how near the surgeon's knife came to ending the athletic career of the Stanford man.

Two or three years ago Horine twisted his knee, and in doing this a minute portion of the ligament was broken off. Occasionally this bothered the jumper, and about eight months ago he went to the doctors for advice. Nothing would satisfy them except an operation, and Horine went to Ind Moulton, his athletic mentor, to tell him that he was to undergo an operation on the knee.

Horine was liberated, but shortly afterward the knee worried him again, and he went to an osteopath for treatment. Then began a long struggle, which resulted in the injured member being entirely cured after about \$80 had been expended on it. While the professors of osteopathy were working on

the jumper's leg they took great interest in the wonderful sinews that developed so much spring.

SAYS ATHLETICS ARE YELLOW

Gandil Thinks Barry Only Brave Member of Philadelphia Team.

The latest sensation in the American league, Chick Gandil of the Nationals, has come out with the statement that has caused all kinds of trouble throughout the circuit and especially between the Tigers and Athletics. He says the Athletics are yellow.

"There is but one man on the Athletics' infield who will not flinch when a baserunner is taking the bag," says Gandil. "That man is Barry. Collins, Baker and McInnis will all sidestep when you come in. Yet they are always squealing when they get hurt. In my opinion Barry is the gamest player in the Athletics' lineup."

MANAGER KLING MAY QUIT.

Leader of Boston Nationals is Said to Be Tired of Handling Braves.

The resignation of Catcher John Kling as manager of the Boston National league team is expected within a short time, according to statements made by close friends of the backstop. These men claim that Johnny has re-

peatedly told them of his dissatisfaction with the way he is compelled to run the Braves and has frequently expressed his disgust with what he terms the old fashioned ideas of John Montgomery Ward, president of the club.

Schulte Breaks Fifty Bats a Season.

Outfielder Frank Schulte of the Chicago National league team, who last year was the best home run hitter of that organization, breaks an average of fifty bats a season. The Cub star uses bats with the smallest handle of any that are produced. The stick is of second growth ash and weighs forty ounces.

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