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Up to the Minute

NEWS AND VIEWS ON SPORTS

Local :: Provincial
World in General

Review of Brooklyn Team For Season of 1896 Shows That It Was Near Bottom

Proves a Bitter Disappointment to its Supporters After an Excellent Start With the Champion Orioles in the First Series of the Year—Rallied at Times.

While this year Brooklyn looks to be a real pennant contender for the first time since 1900, barring, of course, the showing made last year, it will be interesting to go back twenty years and see what they were doing then. In the season of 1896, with twelve clubs in the National (the only Major league at that time) league, the Brooklyn team finished in a tie for fifth place in that field of twelve. The club won 58 and lost 73 games for a percentage of .443. Below the Brooklyn were St. Louis and Louisville.

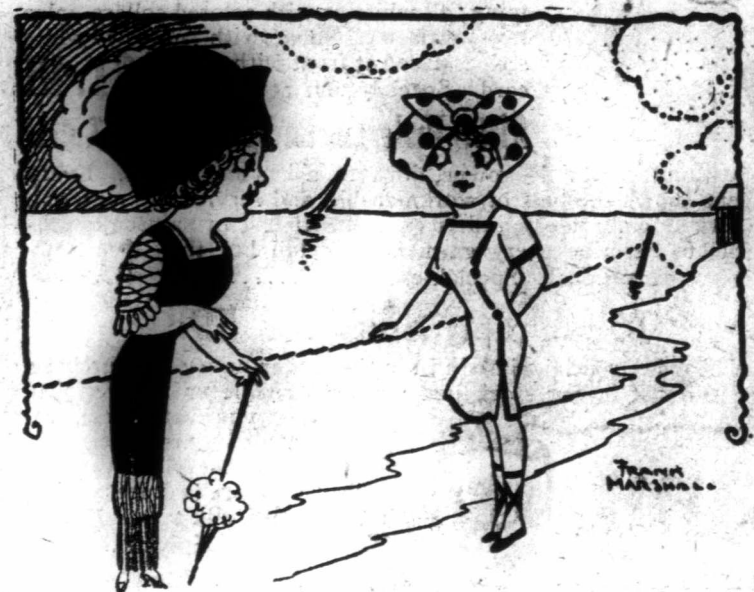
No club in the National league disappointed its patrons so much as did Brooklyn in 1896. The team began the season very promisingly at Baltimore by defeating the champion Orioles in the first two games of their opening series. But when they went to Washington they lost two out of three and the same thing occurred at Philadelphia. When Washington came to Brooklyn, they lost two out of three again and Chicago and Cleveland did the same to them. So, after being tied for first place with four wins and four losses on April 20th, by May 7th, they had fallen to ninth place.

Giants Beat Them Two to One
Two months later on July 7th, they stood in the same position, ninth. After that they made matters worse, by allowing the New York Giants, who were occupying tenth place at the time, to win eight games from them, while Brooklyn was taking four from New York. This was the last straw for the loyal fans and most of them got sick and tired of the team.

The team rallied a little in August and went to the top of second division, but they didn't stay there long and finally went to tenth position, where they remained.
The Brooklyn tied two series during the season with Baltimore and Pittsburgh. They won four series with Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Louisville. They lost five series, Cincinnati and Boston, beating them badly 15 games to two each and New York and Washington scoring heavily against them. They had a close fight with Cleveland only losing by the margin of one game.

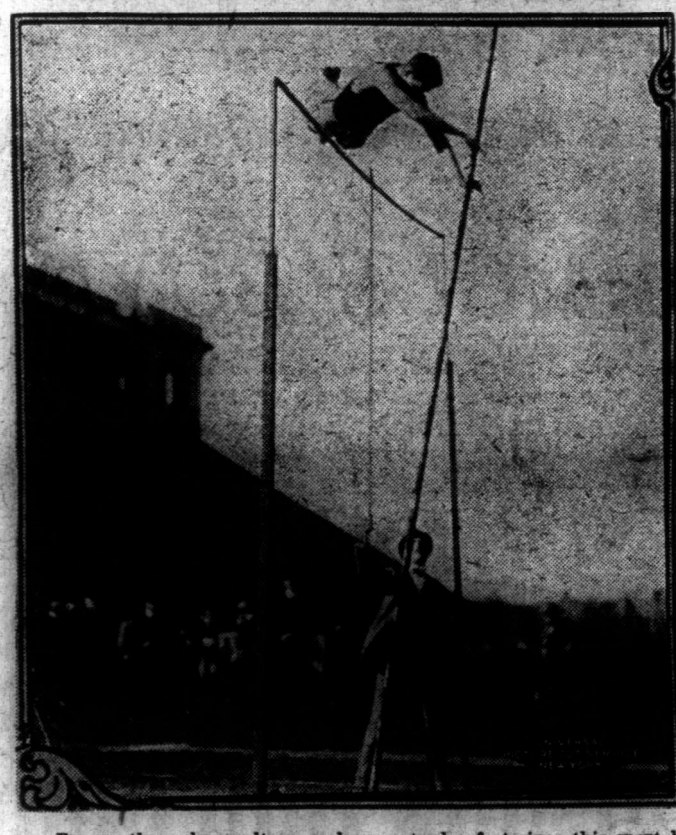
The Brooklyn club's pitching corps for 1896 numbered seven men. Three of them exceeded the team's average in games won and lost. They were Darr with 14 wins and 11 losses, Payne with 14 wins and 13 losses and Abbey with eight wins and the same number of losses.
Kennedy, who was another twirler, pitched in more defeats than victories against first division clubs and he was still less effective against the holders of second division berths. Darr won all his games against Baltimore and two out of three against Cleveland thus winning five out of six games against the two leading teams. Payne lost five out of seven against the same two clubs and Kennedy three out of five. Harper did not win a single game against first division clubs but was very successful against the lower tier winning four and losing two. The pitchers, as a rule were alright, but it was the lack of cohesiveness that spelled disaster for the Brooklyn team in 1896.

The standing on April 30th, 1896, showed that Brooklyn was tied with Washington for fifth place with an average of .545, having won six and lost five games. During the month of May, Brooklyn went into a bad slump winning 10 and losing 13 games during the month. On May 30th, Brooklyn was tied for eighth place with Washington, each club having won 13 and lost 18 contests. During June Brooklyn made a bold attempt at something better winning 13 and losing 11 games during the month. Nevertheless, they went down and on June 30th, they were in ninth place with an even .500. Brooklyn had a nightmare during the month of July losing 17 out of 28 games during that month, Washington alone playing a poorer game. Yet despite their poor streak in July, the 31st of that month



REASON FOR IT.
Maze—Fred says it will take me all season to learn how to swim.
Maze—Who's teaching you?
Maze—Fred.

VAULTING OVER TWELVE FEET



Frequently pole vaulters make over twelve feet since this sport has become almost a science. Photo shows Haydock, a Harvard University man, making the leap.

Sky High Prices Now Paid For Ball Players

Players Make the Public Gasps—Tris Speaker Has Set the High Water Mark in the Prices Now Demanded For Star Base Ballers

Fifty thousand dollars in cash paid two ball players on the eve! Such is the latest chapter in the frenzied finance of baseball, and there is no telling what the future holds in money consideration for the release of a ball player. Records have been established and topped with such frequency during the past two years that it would be foolish to predict that the price paid by the Cleveland club for Tris Speaker would not be equalled, perhaps surpassed, in the future.
It seems but a short time ago that baseball fans were astounded to hear that Charles A. Comiskey paid \$50,000 for Eddie Collins, King of second base men and one of the best players the game has ever produced. This sum was so far beyond all previous figures that many were bold enough to predict that this price would stand for years, if not for all time. Within 15 months the Cleveland club owners told the Collins deal in adding Tris Speaker to their club.

Prices Beyond Reason
Such business may well be classed as "framed." Club owners have not taken in sufficient money at the gate to justify any such outlay for one player, and yet these big sums have given the fans the idea that fortunes are made in the game. Some men, few have made money in baseball, but more have lost their money in the venture. Then again we see a club like the Phillies with a pennant without the help of any of these record-priced athletes, while clubs which have gone down deep for playing talent have trailed behind. There is no guarantee attached to a high-priced player. It is simply a gamble on the part of the purchasing club. It was only a short time ago—less than eight years to be exact—that Rube Marquard's purchase by the Giants caused quite a furore. It was all because the New York club paid \$11,000 for the pitcher, and up to that time the record price for a ball player had been \$10,000.
Few more than 30 years ago players brought more than \$10,000 in the market. Within the past five years no less than ten have been sold at higher figures, and eight have been transferred for sums above \$20,000.

High Prices of Other Days
Boston, which lately has figured in the record price for a player, was the city in which the high prices were first paid. The old triumvirate, as Messers. Soden, Conkin and Billings were known when they controlled the Boston Nationals, paid \$10,000 for Mike Kelly in 1887 and later paid the same amount for John Clarkson. The same owners paid \$30,000 to Detroit in 1898 for Dan Brouthers, Hardie Richardson, Charlie Gurnel and Charlie Bennett. The Brooklyn club of the American association made quite a noise in 1889 by paying \$30,000 for Claxton, Foxy and Bushong. The New York club paid \$7,500 in 1894 for Catcher Duke Farrell and Pitcher Jonett Meekin. This sum was large enough in those days to attract considerable attention.
After John McGraw took charge of the New York Giants the late John T. Brush paid \$10,000 for Cy Seymour and as much for Spike Shannon. These were the top figures paid for baseball talent up to 1908, when John T. Brush set a new record with \$11,000 for Marquard, then with the Indianapolis club.

After the Marquard deal came the purchase of Marty O'Toole by Barney Dreyfuss from the St. Paul team of the American association for \$22,500. In the meantime other minor leagues had been sold for prices ranging between \$10,000 and \$20,000. The White Sox are supposed to have spent more than \$15,000 for Russell Blackburne, and later they paid \$15,000 for Larry Chappell. Both were disappointments, as was also Lefty Russell, who went to the Athletics from Baltimore and

put Connie Mack back to the extent of \$14,000.
The Yankees paid \$12,000 to Jack Dunn for the release of Fritz Malsell and this deal was far from a disappointment.
Just before the outbreak of the Federal league war, which caused a big jump in the price of players, Charles E. Ebbers drew a check for \$25,000 for Joe Tinker, then a member of the Cincinnati Reds. It was stipulated that Tinker was to receive \$10,000 of this amount when he reported to the Brooklyn club.

High Prices Paid Recently
Most of the big prices, as they are figured now, have been paid out since the beginning of last year. The sale of Eddie Collins to the White Sox for \$50,000 was the opening gun in the battle of frenzied finance waged for the possession of star ball players. Before the 1915 season was over several big sales were reported. Cleveland sold Joe Jackson to the White Sox for \$30,000 in money, Pitcher Klepper and Outfielder Chappell and Roth. Mack sold Eddie Murphy to the White Sox for \$11,000 and Jack Barry to the Red Sox for \$8,000. Owner Bob Hedges of the St. Louis Browns sold Bill James to the Detroit club for \$10,000.

Federal League Prices
With the close of the Federal League war came a series of sales by Harry F. Stinson to club owners in organized baseball. Benny Kauff went to the New York Giants for \$35,000, and Le Mage to the Yankees for \$22,500. Catcher Bill Harden set the Giants back \$10,000 in the Stinson sale, and Outfielder Eddie Rousch brought a similar amount. These were the highest prices paid for Federal league players, but several lesser lights brought figures that were far in advance of what star players brought in years gone by.
Then came the sale of Home Run Baker to the Yankees by Connie Mack. The price has never been announced by either party to the transaction, but it is generally understood that \$35,000 changed hands in this deal.
And topping all these figures is the price paid for Tris Speaker. Fifty thousand dollars in cash and two ball players! When will this record fall?

ENGLAND MAY ADOPT BASEBALL
Canadians Have Introduced Game as Substitute for Cricket.
Baseball has at last obtained a firm foothold in England and is being played to such an extent in and around London by Canadians whom the war has brought over that a league has been formed among teams drawn from the army pay office and other colonial units, the staffs of the various Canadian military hospitals and munition workers.

With the football season extending from September 1 to April 30, and cricket occupying the summer months, baseball had never been considered seriously, but since the outbreak of the war, when county cricket was abandoned, the Canadians have succeeded in arousing such enthusiasm in baseball that its future seems assured.

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A Dependable Man Could Turn Close Defeats Into Victories, but the Good Swatmen Aren't for Sale—Couldn't Buy Speaker.

Pittsburgh, July 15.—Fifty thousand dollars is the price Barney Dreyfuss is willing to pay for a real ball player—a man of recognized ability and one whose hitting can and will supply the long felt want on the Pittsburgh baseball club.

This offer is made in dead seriousness. The Pirate owner knows that in order for him to realize on his investment he must have a winning team. "I know," said he, "and Manager Callahan knows, that one more hard hitting player would win games for the Pittsburgh team. Most of the games we have lost this season have been by small scores."

Couldn't Buy Speaker
"Recently I was taken to task because I did not buy Tris Speaker from the Boston American league club. That criticism was foolish; there was no chance of Speaker ever getting out of the American league, and, what's more, had it not been for the player's trouble with his Boston employers over salary matters, Cleveland would not have been able to buy him—Mr. Dunn would have offered \$50,000 in vain.
"But," continued Colonel Barry, "Speaker was cheap at that price. Show me a real ball player—a hitter—and I will go as high as the next bidder. In fact, I will go higher."
"How high would you go?" he was asked.

None of Them for Sale
"A good hitter who could supply the vacancy in our club would be worth up to \$50,000," was the reply. "And what's more, I would consider myself fortunate to get the right man at that price. The trouble is, however, that the war on a tire occurs on the outside edge. By putting the worn side toward the car, the unworn part of the tire will receive the hardest wear, and in that way the tire will wear out on both sides instead of wearing through in one place."

TURN MOTOR CAR TIRES AROUND
When for any reason you remove motor car tires, always place the side that was away from the car towards the car in putting them back. Most of the wear on a tire occurs on the outside edge. By putting the worn side toward the car, the unworn part of the tire will receive the hardest wear, and in that way the tire will wear out on both sides instead of wearing through in one place.

THEY USED TO SAY HE
HAD HIS FIRST DOLLAR
San Francisco.—Tom Sharkey, former heavyweight prize fighter, filed a petition in bankruptcy in the United States district court, giving his liabilities as \$299,000 and his assets as \$29,500. He owes \$252,000 to Henry Stern of a local saloon. Sharkey is manager of a local saloon.

A test by a Swiss city of the relative efficiency for street lighting of arc and metallic filament lamps was decided in favor of the latter, chiefly because more agreeable to the eyes.

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