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Up to the Minute

NEWS AND VIEWS ON SPORTS

Local : Provincial
World in General

Cleveland Team's Sprint Due To Tris Speaker's Work; They May Win Pennant

Perhaps the surprise of the baseball season is the good showing being made by the Cleveland club.

The team hailing from the Forest City was expected to take a place at the tail end of the race at the beginning of the present season, but to the surprise of all it has been in the running from the jump.

Credit for this wonderful showing is given to one man—Tris Speaker—the great center-fielder of the Boston championship team, who was transferred to Cleveland just before the beginning of this year's campaign.

Speaker has proven to be the missing link at Cleveland. He has put ginger, winning spirit and everything else into that team.

Speaker's fine work for Cleveland proves that next to Ty Cobb, he is the most valuable player in the business. He is conceded the leadership when it comes to hitting the ball, but besides that he is the fastest man now playing at center field in the American league, in fact, Speaker is considered by many the greatest of the present day center fielders, and though past baseball age, there never has been but one man who was his superior.

Bill Lange, the famous outfielder of Anson's White Stockings, was a greater player, but no one before or since has equalled Speaker. Lange excelled him in height and reach, but harder and was infinitely a better man on the bases and equalled him in speed. This is no criticism of Speaker, as Lange was, with the possible exception of Hamilton, the greatest base runner the game has ever known.

Speaker's tremendous speed and his beautiful judgment on fly balls, his perfect sense of direction and his ability to throw, make him the best fielding center fielder in the game. He can hit, bunt, push and poke. His one failure, to score perfection is work on the bases, and that is improving.

Speaker has done such wonderful work at Cleveland since his advent there this spring that the Cleveland baseball writers say he is the greatest player they have ever seen. This Speaker is sure to be a wonderful player. He is great as a batsman, as a base-runner and as a fielder. As a batsman he has a wonderful eye for the ball.

Speaker is a natural hitter and is bound to finish with the best in the country. As a fielder he has a remarkable judgment and is an adept in handling balls that are batted either in front, behind or on

one side of him. He is very fast on the bases and runs them with splendid judgment.

Speaker is now 33 years old, weighs 180 pounds and stands five feet eleven inches high. He has the rough complexion of one who has spent most of his life in the open air. He has heavy, muddy, bloodshot eyes, not the kind one could imagine could pick out a good ball and paste it to the far corner of the field, or could start after the ball and judge to an inch where the ball is going to land. He has a voice like rumbling thunder, and his softest words sound like the growl of a mad bull. He has large, powerful hands, freckled. Speaker lives in the winter in Hubbard City, Texas, which is not a city at all, but a small post village near Dallas, having a population of 894 in summer and 895 when Speaker is there. He goes back home at the close of the baseball season and spends the first few weeks hunting, and then turns his hand to the cattle industry. He is a regular Texas cowboy in the saddle, and can do as much with a horse as he can with a baseball bat.

Speaker is only a boy in actions and trifling things amuse him. He cares nothing for books, and as for newspapers, he simply glances at the daily score to see if the reporters have given credit to all the base hits he has made. He wants to be out of doors all the time. Most of the Cleveland players like to loiter around their rooms when not playing ball. Not so with Speaker. He gets out and roams about if he has nothing else to do. Recently he bought an automobile and has learned the mechanism of the machine and spends his mornings speeding on the suburban roads. He loves the open air most of all, and he is never so happy as when out and enjoying it. It was said in the early spring that Boston had sold Speaker to Cleveland for \$30,000, and that Cleveland had promised to pay Speaker \$18,000 for year salary for three years. That would be about \$100 a day for the seven months of the play season. That, in fact, would be \$50,000 which the Cleveland club is said to be giving up for Speaker's services for this year. No doubt the figures are greatly exaggerated. Perhaps half of the amount mentioned will cover Speaker's cost to Cleveland this year, but granting that it pays out the largest sum for his services, the Forest City club will have been well repaid for its investment, judging only by the good that Speaker has done for it this season.

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CORNELL CREWS HAVE LAST PRACTICE ROW



Hudson River Regatta crews are waiting for big event. Cornell is again the favorite and is expected to add another victory to its long list.

troopers and pacers either raced for money or for records. Figuring that each of these is worth a mere \$600, shows that over \$6,000,000 worth of horseflesh was exhibited before the public last season. The average of \$600 probably is low. Captain David Shaw of Cleveland values one horse, Peter Mac, at \$125,000. William, the pacing whirlingwind, was sold during the summer of 1915 for \$35,000. E. D. Gould, of Kerner, Nebraska, refused \$35,000 for his great trotter, Bingen Silk. And there are hundreds of other horses that raced last year that are valued far into the thousands.

The \$6,000,000 figure above embraces only the horses that were campaigned last season. It does not take into consideration the thousands of stallions, brood mares and yearlings. The fact that Peter the Great, 21-year-old stallion, was sold for \$100,000, shows the value of the blood.

Prominent among the other circuits are the following: Metropolitan, Lake Erie, Bay State, Kansas and Oklahoma, Ohio, Michigan Short Ship, Coal, Oil and Gas, Big Fair, Maritime Provinces and Northwestern Pennsylvania. In 1915 between 10,000 and 11,000

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lion, was sold for \$50,000 will give one some idea of the value of stud horses. It seems safe to say that the total value of all the harness horses in America today is \$10,000,000.

Each one of the cities where harness horses are raced—and there are 1,000 of them—has a race course, stands and other track equipment. The money invested in these ranges down from close to \$275,000 tied up in the North Randall, O. track, to the \$5,000 and \$10,000 tracks in the smallest cities.

My statistics have not covered the annual expense involved in the upkeep of stables. Practically every horse owner has a driver, stable boys, veterinarians, etc. And then there is the cost of shipping the horses from one track to another.

Yes, the light harness racing game is an immense one. It's business, in one sense, and a sport in another—the sport of kings—and the king of sports.



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3 lbs.	\$1.10
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Prunes—Finest California prunes; 25 lb. box	\$2.25
Or 2 1/2 lbs.	25c
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3 lbs.	25c
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Evaporated Apples—Stock Reducing Sale, 2 lbs.	27c
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Herring—Finest Labrador Herring, Stock Reducing Sale, 3 lbs.	25c
Raspberry Vinegar—Large bottles; regular 45c. Stock Reducing Sale	30c
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24 lb. sacks	79c
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Lobster—3 1/2 lb. tins	19c
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LARD—Pure leaf lard, 3 lb.	59c
5 lb. tins	94c
POTTED MEATS—Stock Reducing Sale, 3 tins	21c
MARMALADE—Shirriff's glass jars; regular 25c. Stock Reducing Sale, 2 for	35c
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CASTILE SOAP—Imported French Castile; regular 45c dozen. Stock Reducing Sale, dozen	35c
Sugar—Icing and lump sugar. Stock Reducing Sale, 5 lbs.	59c
PEPPER—Black. Stock Reducing Sale, lb.	23c
VINEGAR—Brown, white wine and cider; regular 65c gallon. Stock Reducing Sale, gallon	49c
STRAWBERRIES—Fancy B. C. Fruit, 2 boxes	25c
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