

GIANTS INCREASE LEAD---ELMWOODS RETAIN ROBINSON TROPHY

THE SPORT-LIGHT

By Grantland Rice.
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There are certain men of destiny in baseball, as well as in other zigzag walks of life.

This doesn't necessarily mean leading stars, such as Mathewson, Wagner, Cobb, Lajoie and Speaker.

Frank Baker was one of the men of destiny. So was Rube Marquard, to a marked degree. Rube had the knack of flopping from one spotlight to another.

Wherever he lit, there the great white flame burned upon him. He first lit up his nineteenth season. Then he picked up a twenty-one inning affair, the league record for long games until several years later, when he concluded a twenty-two inning affair on the victorious side.

Another man of destiny is Benny Kauff. Benny led the Red Sox to a pennant, and for a spell drew even more publicity than Ty Cobb. And then, around a year ago today, Benny sagged. He had failed to bat 300 or anywhere near the mark. Apparently, he was on the verge of dropping out. Now, a year later, he is not only back among the league leaders making features towards the top, but is on the verge of dashing into what promises to be the most spectacular world's series of recent years. And Benny, with the destiny attachment, is quite likely to be a leading feature. He may win it on a play or he may lose it on a play, but he isn't very liable to be neutral in the matter.

THE GIANT AVERAGE.

John J. McGraw needs this world series badly—needs to win it badly—or needs badly to win it—by way of obtaining a fairly respectable average.

To date, he has had a .400 in four of these October championships, with only one triumph against three defeats. His lone triumph came when Matty Ryan, with three starts, lost his last three starts, against the Athletics and the Red Sox, have been replete with woe and trouble. If he drops this next October session his championship percentage will be .200. Collecting the lower end is better than not collecting at all, but over twelve years between victories leaves a depressing stretch.

SO WHY BOTHER?

If Colonel T. Raymond Cobb can become involved in the morose processes of a slump, why should the average citizen become depressed when affairs at times fail to break gently?

If Cobb can light upon an extended slump, that makes slumping an inevitable adjunct.

A few weeks ago Ty was up above .300 in his drive for 400. He was over 40 points beyond his closest rival. Last week he developed the same sort of slump which struck him two years ago in September, when he went to bat twenty-four times without a hit.

In place of a commanding lead, Cobb started the present week only thirteen points above Speaker, who has been making a game, desperate attempt to repeat his 1916 triumph over Ty. In addition to this close call from Speaker, Cobb's dream of a 400 year season is in jeopardy. There is nothing tougher in any game than to have a big lead suddenly shot to pieces—to figure an easy point to victory, and then in a flash find the situation changed to a neck-and-neck affair. And Speaker gave fair proof last year that he was no light opponent to try to take too lightly.

LEFT-HANDED VALUES.

Dear Sir,—I understand from the figures that the White Sox have won two-thirds of their start against left-handed pitchers. This may be important, and then, again, it may not—depending upon the comparative pitching strength of the National and American Leagues. It is my contention that the National League left-handers are stronger. Am I right?

The American League carries Ruth, Leonard, Harper, Russell, Williams, Koss, Moggie, Coombs and a few others. The National League has a longer array of left-handers in Schupp, Benton, Salley, Rixey, Marquard, Vaughn, Cooper, Neft, Taylor, etc. All in all, National League left-handers are stronger, but the White Sox beat Ruth and Leonard four out of seven games, and those two have no superiors on the outside map.

BACK HOME FOR JOE.

Unless Eddie Collins can hit over .400 for the remainder of the season, he is due for his first year under 300. The handicap now is well beyond reason.

But Joe Jackson has arrived. After struggling below .200 for most of the year, the Greenville slugger moved up to .300 on Sunday, and at the pace he is now traveling, it is almost a certainty that he will finish the season with a batting average over .300 for the last time, and the impetus promises to carry him to a fast clip into the big series. Collins made two rallies in his attempt to get back among 300 people, but he could never extend any batting streak long enough to catch up.

Jack's lowest mark was .308 in 1915. That was his first drop under .300. Collins has always been well over the mark until the present campaign.

"HOME RUN" BAKER THREATENS TO QUIT

LAMBETH BOWLERS ENTERTAIN R. CLUB

New York, Sept. 18.—Franklin J. Baker, suspended New York American third baseman, said today he had been unjustly treated by the New York Americans and that his baseball future is entirely in the hands of President Ruppert of that club. Ruppert does not revoke the suspension without the next few days Baker said he would retire from baseball for good.

"I did not break an agreement with the New York Americans in Bridgeport last Sunday," said Baker. "On the other hand, the club broke its agreement with me. When I consented to play with the Yankees in the winter of 1916, I expected to play for them. I expected Ruppert to let me play in exhibition games, an arrangement to which he consented."

"It is immaterial to me whether I play in another big league game, and whether I do is entirely up to the club. There is only one reason why I am loath to quit the game now. I always have prided myself on being an orderly player, who never had any trouble on or off the field. In fact this is the first time in my career that I have had any trouble whatever, and it was not of my making."

FOUR RACES AT COLUMBUS TODAY

Columbus, Sept. 18.—Four complete races are on today's Grand Circuit program, and there should be at least one history-making contest in the lot. Each race is expected to be a close one. The 216 trot for a purse of \$1,000, but in the Horse Review Futurity for 3-year-olds, purse \$2,000. The Hotel Hartman stake of \$5,000 for 2-year-olds, and the free-for-all trot with a \$1,200 bonus, much action is promised.

WINGHAM HORSES WIN AT MILD MAY FAIR

Wingham, Sept. 18.—Many citizens of the town autowed to Mildmay Fair yesterday, and a pleasant day was had as the prizes for horses were won by the following: First, single roadster, L. J. first, team roadster, Wm. Grey; best carriage team, R. Currie, who also won the sweepstakes for the best horse shown.

MEENONITES ARE MEETING AT KITCHENER

KITCHENER, Sept. 18.—The annual meeting of the Meenonite Brotherhood in Christ opened today in the Bethany Church with a large attendance. The sessions were held this morning. The ministerial association and the Meenonite Brotherhood will continue through the remainder of the week. The sessions are being presided over by Rev. S. Cressman.

KEEN SPORT INTEREST

Weekly Athletic Tournament at Camp Interests All Ranks.

The weekly program of sports was carried out at Carling Heights camp today, and keen contests in track and field events were the order of the day. All ranks are taking part in the athletic events as part of their training, and much interest is being shown in the sports.

REGATTA OFF.

Boston, Sept. 18.—The New England Amateur Rowing Association has decided to omit this year the customary regatta on the Charles River on Columbus Day, October 12.

WHITE SOX GAIN HALF A GAME, WITH BOSTON IDLE

Jackson Hits Over Fence for Home-Run.

INDIANS DEFEAT YANKS

New York's Misplays Help Cleveland Win—Shawkey Hit for 3 Runs in Sixth.

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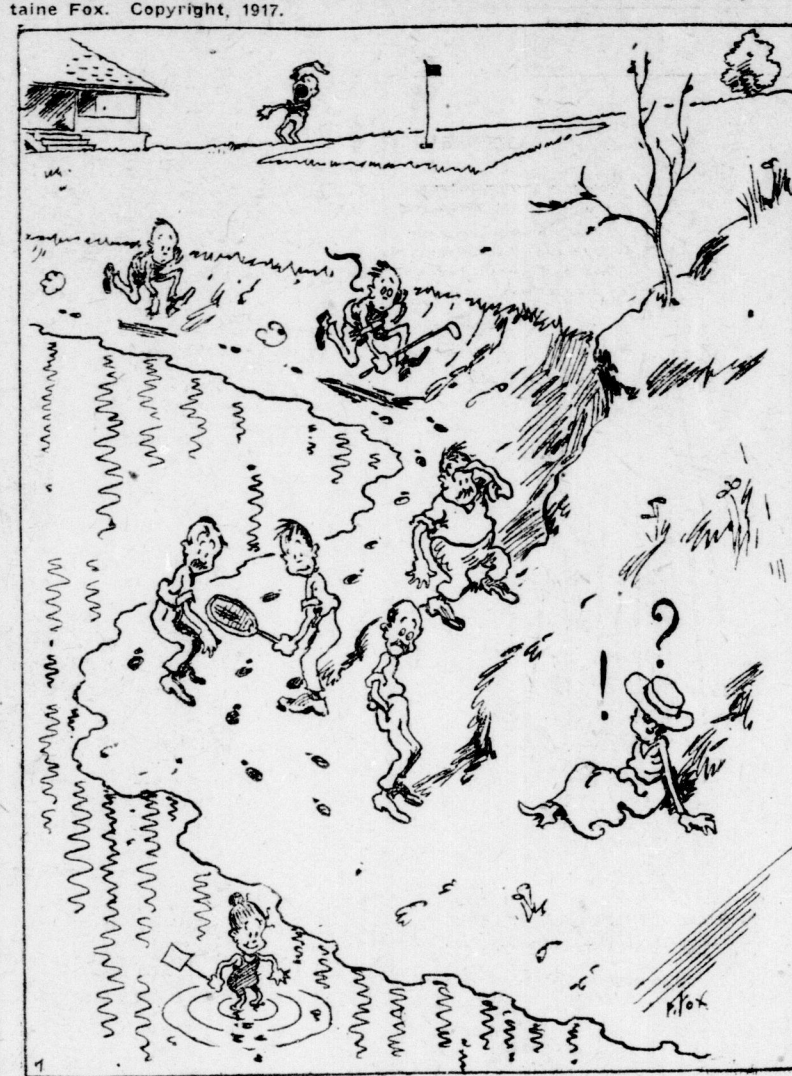
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Vernon McNutt.—He broke up the bridge game and everything else by announcing that a girl was on the beach in a one-piece bathing suit.—By Fontaine Fox. Copyright, 1917.



LONDON HAD FAMOUS BALL CLUB IN 1876

London Athletics Numbered Among Great Clubs of Day—Queer Customs Ruled in Those Times—Batter Called for Style of Ball He Wanted.

[From the Sporting News.]

Those who were able to sit up and take notice in the year 1876 probably remember the "Noisy Nine" baseball club of Taylorsville, Pa., which several years ago took advantage of the fact that the National League was to play a series of games with any club of the vintage of '76. The challenge was unfavourably not accepted by anyone, and that is a great pity, for the game would have had all of the interest and excitement of antiquities. It is doubtful whether the present-day fan, seeing a game played under the rules that governed in those days, would recognize the game as baseball.

In 1876 the National League had just been launched, and baseball was in its infancy. The game was played on a field of mud, and the ball was a hard, round object made of wood. The players wore simple clothing, and the game was played in a very different manner from the way it is played today.

The "Noisy Nine" of Taylorsville, Pa., was a club of nine players, and they played a series of games with any club of the vintage of '76. The challenge was unfavourably not accepted by anyone, and that is a great pity, for the game would have had all of the interest and excitement of antiquities. It is doubtful whether the present-day fan, seeing a game played under the rules that governed in those days, would recognize the game as baseball.

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