

Latest News From Far and Near

Curves First Invented by Amateur From Little Old New York City

Had Them All Jumping Sideways at the Start-Off.

Speaking about the early history of baseball the other day, an old-time professional player said there were many things not known generally. "There is, for instance, the matter of curve pitching. Who pitched the first curved ball? No, don't name any of the men that won pennants and got \$10,000 a year. The pioneer wasn't a professional, but an amateur—that is, he was an amateur until his curves made him famous.

"His name was Arthur Cummings, and he was a New York boy, a tall, thin, young fellow with hair as blond as a chorus girl's. How he came to discover curve pitching I don't know, but it was generally believed afterward that he hit it on it by accident. He tried it out for the first time in 1867 in a game between two scrub teams in Washington.

"The famous Excelsior Club of New York was then visiting Washington as the guest of the old National Club, and the two played a series of games on the old White lot. Toward the end of the series some one suggested that the young New Yorkers who 'had come over with the Excelsiors' make up a scrub nine and play a nine of Washington boys as a sort of comic interlude.

"The suggestion was adopted, and the New York nine consisted of four or five Excelsior substitutes and a number of other young fellows, among them Arthur Cummings. The Washington nine was made up in the main of players belonging to the Junior Nationals, the crack amateur team of Washington.

"They were surprised. "Cummings was a rising young pitcher, but no one thought that there was anything remarkable about him. He pitched as usual, and the Washingtonians began to look surprised.

"It's the damndest thing I ever saw," said this batsman. "I struck right out at all three balls, and every one of them seemed to jump aside just as it got near the plate. One jumped outward, another inward, and the third seemed to rise. Maybe I'm beginning to see things."

"It puzzled Jewell, the catcher, too, not to speak of Al Mills, the umpire. Jewell caught all of the balls because it was then the custom for the catcher

to stand far back and catch on the first bounce, but it made him dizzy.

"They All Struck Out. "The second batsman of the Junior Nationals went to the bat and walloped the air three times, too. Al Mills came up close to the plate to see what was wrong. It looked to him as if Cummings were wild.

"Just keep your head there," he said to the third batsman, "and you'll get your base on balls." "This third batsman had a steady hand and sure enough, he got his base on balls. Cummings pitched the ball, and it seemed to be coming straight for the plate, when suddenly, just as it was ten feet or so away, it curved out and missed the plate by a foot. Mills called a ball.

"Swung Out Too Far. "The next ball came straight on, but the batsman, hoping to hit it and proceeding by his experience, swung his bat far out. But, instead of curving out like the last one, it seemed to jump. It crossed the plate on a level with the batsman's eyes.

"That scared him, and he just stood there without making a move until a succession of wild balls sent him to first base. The fourth batsman struck out so easily that it was pathetic. "Well, sir, Cummings began to get more control over the ball after that first inning, and Mills had to admit that it was coming over the plate; but, except by accident, not a single Junior National batsman could touch it. It jumped; it sank; it wobbled from side to side. Mills rubbed his eyes and wondered how the thing was done. Cummings merely smiled.

"A Hit By Accident. "In the fifth inning one of the Nationals by dumb luck landed on the sphere and drove it into the next county. There were two men on bases at the time, and this home run brought them home. That gave the Nationals three runs. So far as I know, they made no other runs in the whole game.

"After it was all over the whole town buzzed about Cummings' queer pitching. As for him, he was as silent as the grave. "How do you make the ball curve?" asked a hundred persons. "Does it curve?" Cummings would say, innocent-like. "And then he would shut up and become a clam.

"When he got back to New York he was signed by the champion Athletics and became their star pitcher. Other pitchers watched him and got on to the trick, but it was three years before anybody did it as well as he. During those three years his team kept the championship. "And that, so far as I know, is the story of the origin of the curve ball."

Post-Season Gossip From The Realm of Baseball

According to Umpire Silk O'Loughlin, Clark Griffith has picked up two live wires in Outfielder Bell, of Butte, and Catcher Blair, of Williamsport. Blair in particular, looks to be the real goods. In one game against Cleveland he turned back six of the Naps who were trying to steal.

"If statements from people very close to Harry Herrmann are to be believed, the 57 kinds of applicants for the management of the Red team might as well shut up shop and go home. The tip is that the successor of Ed Hanlon will be found right in the ranks of the players. The new leader will be John Gangel.

"It is by no means a certainty that John J. McCloskey will again handle the reins at St. Louis. A big ball about him is judge of ball players and a strong leader, McCloskey hasn't harmonized with his men, and the Cardinals certainly did not fort their best efforts in his behalf. Nobody knows whom the Robinsons will select as Mac's successor, but there are plenty of good men open to engagement. They would like to have Frank Seale—that much is an open secret—but Frank's health will not permit him to leave the mountain atmosphere.

"The talk of McCloskey's getting the bounce from the St. Louis Browns is mere guesswork. There are some strong and potent reasons why the amiable James will not be fired. It was McCloskey who interested the backers of the Browns in baseball; it was McCloskey whose advice brought them

into the game, and it was McCloskey who helped them, even with a losing team, to make ends of money. McCloskey will not be fired.

"It is thought that the Cleveland club will adopt a trifle different training trip from last spring. Instead of remaining three weeks at Macin, as this year, Secretary Barnard hopes to be able to swing the Naps into New Orleans for a week. He wants to see Sunday games in the metropolis of the south, however, and if the Crescent City management is unwilling to do that, three weeks may be put in at hard work at the 1907 training camp.

"Boyston, Ga., Cobb's home town, has donated \$50 to Ty's testimonial fund.

"New York fans claim the Giants are Muecke's and a second love. Ponies are said to be first in his affections.

"Big Ed Spencer, of the Browns, has signed the pledge. He wears a white button, and never walks on the street where the Anheuser-Busch plant is located.

"Frank Schulte, of the Cubs, is taking up gentlemen's driving as a winter pastime. He purchased Billy Jeffrey, a pacer, with a 2:12 mark, with part of his championship divvy.

"Bobby Wallace's salary will be dropped from \$5,500 per to \$3,500. The Scot insists that he will no longer court on McCloskey's 'hedges' for anything short of \$5,000 bones.

BALLPLAYERS TO BARNSTORM CUBA

New York, Oct. 24.—Nine members of the Chicago American League Baseball club will leave this city the latter part of this week for Cuba, where they will play exhibition games with the leading teams of the island. Two or three players from this city will accompany the Sox, to be used in case of accident to any of the former world's champs. The hirings of President Cummings who will make the trip are George Davis, manager; Charlie Hickman, Jakey Atz, Louis Pieno, Mike Welay, Hub Hart, Nick Altrock, Charlie Armbruster and Eddie Hahn.

"Pitcher Frank Smith was among the men who expected to make the trip, but the injury he received during the latter part of the season caused him to change his plans. He will rest up for next season at his Pittsburgh home. Most of the barnstormers are here ready to start.

"Baseball has made great headway in Cuba during the past season and crowds of 20,000 are not unusual at the big Havana games. The American Leaguers expect to be many dollars richer as a result of the tour. The stay on the island will extend over three weeks.

PITCHER WADDELL IS TO PLAY POLO

Sharon, Pa., Oct. 23.—Eccentric old "Rube" Waddell, the baseball pitcher, is looking round for a means of livelihood this winter. He now asserts that he is a goal tender of experience and he wants to fill this position on the Sharon Interstate polo team. Manager Jones is thinking seriously of hiring him to sub for Sutton.

ALASKAN ESKIMOS FROZEN GRIDIRON

Albion, Mich., Oct. 24.—Sturdy young Eskimos of Alaska will soon be playing the game which is now most popular in America. As yet, however, they do not know the joy of the sound of cracking ribs or the yowls of furious rooters anxious to see the pigskin cross the goal line. But Dr. F. H. Spence, formerly of Hillsdale, Mich., will soon be teaching them the science of the game.

"Dr. Spence is a Methodist missionary, who wrote his son Jesse, who is now attending Albion College, asking that a first-class football be forwarded to him. The ball started on its journey last evening. Dr. Spence is also going to start numerous other indoor and outdoor sports familiar to the American. It is probable that the Eskimos in his school will be the first in Alaska to play the game of football.

THE WIDE WORLD OF SPORT



Frank Harvey, the well-known basketball and football player, who will play center for the Midgets in the opening basketball games at the Y. M. C. A. tonight, Harvey was formerly identified with the Hamilton basketball and rugby clubs, and he knows both games from A to Z. During the past week he has assisted the local team very much by giving them timely pointers on football.



Mel Brock, one of the best known of local all-round athletes. Brock will be seen at left guard on the Midget basketball team at the "Y" tonight. Mel Brock is one of the best athletes in an all-round way that London has ever seen. A fast runner, a clever jumper, a speedy soccer and lacrosse player, and a fairly good weight thrower considering his weight, he ranks second to no athlete in the city.

America Bows Her Head in Shame Before a Chinese Ball Team.

England grieves over the departed glory of her athletes, but what is her grief compared to the one into which a recent sporting event in our island possessions has plunged the American nation. A baseball team from a Yankee warship landed in Honolulu, and was defeated by a Chinese team. Seven to six, the score: figures of shame, totaling up to the national humiliation or disaster. Patriotism seeks solace in considering the national advantages of the occasion. Undoubtedly a felder with a sleeve two yards in circumference can, by spreading himself out basket-wise, minimize the chance of missing a fly, while a mandarin with a fingerall three feet long possesses capabilities in the matter of taking a lead off a base. Moreover, finding refuge in the national creed, for such cases made and provided, we assert our conviction that the umpire was unfair. But, after all allowances the bigger fact remains that nine pig-tailed Celestials have defeated the U. S. navy. How slight a trifle is the Japanese "crisis." What a new and sinister phase the yellow assault has assumed! Let Mr. Roosevelt moor his westward-hoing fleet to a drydock, and instead dispatch the winner of the post-graduate baseball team, disguised as United States tars, out to Hawaii. After it is all over and a satisfactory score—say 47-0—is chalked up on the boards, the American eagle may again exult in its head and essay a scream. Until such time let us leave to darkness and the moth-ball the mastery of the Pacific—Colliers.

Baseball Records Made This Season

Wilhelm, Birmingham Club, Southern League, pitched 59 consecutive innings without allowing a run. C. and East End teams at Cleveland, O., played a 20-inning game—the longest on record. Pfeffer, Boston, and Maddox, Pittsburgh, respectively shut out Cincinnati and Brooklyn without a hit. Total attendance in major leagues was 6,136,557, of which the American drew 3,398,751 and National 2,737,792. Tommy Leach circled the bases in 14 seconds flat. With slides to second and third bases his time was 16 1-5 seconds. Phelan, of Providence, beat a hunt to first in 3 seconds flat. Michael Mitchell, Cincinnati, made a fungo hit of 413 feet 8 1/2 inches. Sheldon Le Jeune, Springfield, Central League, made a throw of 399 feet 10 1/2 inches.

MACK IS AFTER MORE PITCHERS

The Wily Connie Already Has Plans Laid for Next Ball Season.

Philadelphia, Oct. 24.—Although the excitement of the season of 1907 has hardly died away, Manager Mack, of the Athletics, has already completed his plans for 1908.

With an energy almost startling, the elongated Connie has signed all his pitchers in his movements for 1908, and never walks on the street where the Anheuser-Busch plant is located.

Mr. Mack arrived in town Monday after a brief stay in Worcester, Mass. Outlining his movements for 1908, Manager Mack said:

"We lost the pennant last season because we fell short of good pitchers right in the crisis. I thought I had enough, but the injuries to Bender and Egan, and Waddell's rough luck, left me with only Plank and Dygert, and great as was their work, they could not carry us through. Therefore, my first thought for next season has been to look after the box material.

"I have already spent \$20,000 in purchasing players, and most of this money went in pitchers.

"First, I cut loose a number of twirlers on whom I have strings. Schumann, O'Connor, Cummings, Howard, Craig and Fritz went quite do. I don't want to experiment next season. I want the best.

"Dygert and Plank will, as usual, form the backbone of my staff. I expect Dygert to be one of the greatest pitchers in the country next season. He came close to that last season, but next season he should be due. It is reasonable to look for Bender and Coombs to come back. Nobody knows anything about Waddell. I shall not count on him, but will hope for him to be right again. Bartley will be retained, and I shall give another chance to Vickers.

"My new men now number seven. Three, Flinter, Schlitzler and Carter, the latter a spitball pitcher, comes from the New York State League. Maxwell and Bills were stars in the Southern League, where I got Dygert, and Hartman came from the Pacific Coast. Kruse is a left-hander, and many clubs were after him."

A law has been passed in Florida prohibiting diving for sponges. It is said that the divers have nearly ruined the sponge beds.

The Gridiron Hero

BY THE WAYSIDE.

When mother calls him in the morn,
He stretches, yawns, looks so forlorn,
You'd never think he'd bled and torn,
IN FOOTBALL.

He couldn't chop the wood at night;
The sight of coal gives him a fright,
But you should see him show his might
IN FOOTBALL.

In class work he ranks twenty-third;
Or Caesar, Rubicon, he's never heard,
But all the pros, say he's a bird
IN FOOTBALL.

He's mighty 'tickle 'bout his food,
Can't eat his soup—says it's no good,
But he can surely gulp down blood
IN FOOTBALL.

In later years he'll wonder why
The world's good things all come so high,
May wish he hadn't been so spy
IN FOOTBALL.



Bobby Hague, London's fast football player, who will be at full back against the Argonauts Saturday when the local rugby team play at Toronto.

JENNINGS BACK IN TIGERTOWN

Detroit, Oct. 23.—Hughie Jennings is once more back in Tigertown. He dropped quietly in Tuesday and has since been hiding under his desk in the baseball office to avoid his many strenuous admirers. Hughie didn't intend to disturb the peace of this fair city by making his return public, but it leaked out somehow, and he has since been flooded with invitations to innumerable social doings and with tickets to everything from church suppers to private cocking matches.

On his way to Detroit Hughie stopped over in Scranton, Pa. He reports that the town has gone wild. The citizens are holding one long jollification in honor of the return of their hero, Capt. William Coughlin, of the American League champions.

Hughie will remain in the city until tomorrow night when he will depart for the Virginia mountains to rest up after his strenuous season.

RED-SKIN MAY NOT BE STARTER

Toronto, Oct. 23.—The Irish-Canadians are informed from Montreal that the Herald race there Thanksgiving Day is to be an "independent amateur event," under the sanction of neither the Federation nor the C. A. A. U.

A little bird has also warned the local club that an attempt will be made to get Longboat and other I. C. A. U. entrants into the bad graces of the C. A. A. U. by starting them in the race who are under the ban of the union for having competed with or against professionals.

Now comes the news that the Harrier clubs down there, which are C. A. A. U., are about to hold a C. A. A. U. meet on Nov. 9, and the C. A. A. U. has intimated that they would prefer to have Longboat withheld from the Herald road race and sent down there along with a strong I. C. A. U. team for the Harriers' meet. Now the I. C. A. U. is in a quandary what to do, but the chances are the club will wire the cancellation of the club entries in the Herald race.

INTERNATIONAL CHESS

New York, Oct. 24.—Sir George Newman's international chess trophy, wrested from the Americans in the cable match early this year, must be defended by John Bull this coming spring if arrangements can be satisfactorily concluded. Saturday's mail carried to Europe a letter to the City of London Chess Club containing the formal challenge necessary under the deed of gift. The communication is signed by Secretary J. Johnston, of the Brooklyn Chess Club, which, until the defeat this year, has been custodian of the trophy on behalf of America for eight years. It is expected that the challenge will be promptly accepted.

Baseball Season of '07 Smashed All Previous Records in Many Ways

Attendance Was the Highest Ever Known in History of the Game.

New York, Oct. 23.—While the baseball experts are busily engaged in figuring up the averages of the season the fans may be interested in reviewing the record-breaking results of the greatest season ever known in the great American game.

In the first place, one indication that it was the greatest season ever is shown by the record-breaking attendance figures of 6,137,557 for the two major leagues, a number almost as large as the total population of Massachusetts and this Greater City combined. No other sport known in Christendom ever drew such a crowd as this, and when one considers that the minor leagues scattered all over the country drew as many if not more through the turnstiles, the price paid for baseball is really being paid. Six million at 50 cents each is—well, it's too easy to figure, but at times even the fifty is mighty hard for some of the fans to get. The Nationals got the small end of the attendance for the reason that the race was on—considered owing to the fact that Chicago seemed a sure enough winner before the last month of the schedule was reached.

Other Records of the Year.

While the magnates were laying aside a few dollars for corner lots and other purchases, the players themselves were adding fame for themselves. Away down South in Dixie Fitcher Wilhelm, of the Birmingham Club, Southern League, pitched a double-header against Shreveport and shut out the opposing batsmen without a run. Wilhelm, who was a former National Leaguer, had been on the job some time, for in previous days, with the double-header on Sept. 14, he pitched fifty-nine consecutive innings without allowing a run. And now talk about your Donovans!

Out in Cleveland, where they play baseball by candle-light and moon-

light, the Brooklyn A. C. and East End teams struggled through thirty innings of a world's record game, when, with a score of 1 to 1, and two men on bases, the Casey at the bat slammed the horseshoe over the fence for a home run. Brooklyn made eight hits and East Ends four. That's getting your money's worth.

Two No-Hit Games. Nick Maddox, of the Pittsburgh, wouldn't allow Our Boys (otherwise known as the Brooklyn) even one little hit in a game in the Smoky City Sept. 20, this being the forty-sixth time a big leaguer had turned the trick since 1880. Pfeffer, of Boston, was equally as parsimonious with his hits against Cincinnati in a game this season.

All kinds of records have been claimed for base running, fungo hitting, etc., but this was the first season when a step to obtain authentic records has really been made, the baseball field day at Cincinnati being an innovation which attracted great interest, and will be continued.

In this competition Mike Mitchell, of Cincinnati, made a fungo hit of 413 feet 8 1/2 inches. Jack Thorpe, Toronto, beat a hunt to first in 3 1-5 seconds; Sheldon Le Jeune, Springfield, Central League, threw a ball 399 feet 10 1/2 inches, and Walter Clement, Jersey City, circled the bases in 14 1-5 seconds. Ed. Crane made a record throw in 1884 of 405 feet 1/2 inch, and Larry Twitchell claimed a record of 407 feet.

Tommy Leach, center fielder for Pittsburgh, in the field day games in that city following the Cincinnati event, circled the bases in 14 seconds flat, and with slides to second and third in 16 1-5 seconds. Phelan, of Providence, on Sept. 17, beat a hunt to first in 3 seconds flat.

THE TURF. WINNERS YESTERDAY.

At New York—Sufrage, ave; Marster, 7 to 10; Araze, 3 to 1; Faust, 5 to 2; Lord Stanhope, 5 to 1; Carpton, 7 to 5. At Latonia—No Quarter, 12 to 1; Ed Kane, 5 to 1; Hazel Thorpe, 1 to 1; Atacatiara, 9 to 5; Please, 13 to 1; Bean Ironmel, 2 to 5.

STAFF SERGEANTS IN RIFLE MATCH

A rifle match will take place on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 26, between the staff sergeants and sergeants of Wolseley Barracks and the staff sergeants of the Seventh Regiment at the Cove ranges. This is an annual affair, and is always most keenly contested.

The non-commissioned officers of both corps have for many years held this reunion, and this year's meeting is looked forward to with greater interest than ever owing to many changes in the respective teams through promotions and removals in both regiments.

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