

BRADBOURNE RECORDS WILL ALWAYS STAND

In the days of wholesale baseball a manager does not feel that he is at all well equipped for a pennant fight unless he has four pitchers to take their turns on the slab with the assurance that they can finish the game. The staff must also include substitute material for emergency work and to pitch to the batsmen of the regular team in practice.

Of the 25 players allowed to each major league team from May 15 to Aug. 20, of each season, 10 usually are pitchers, leaving 15 men to look after the other eight positions, which would seem to be plenty, by the way. Consequently a pitcher who is asked to work often than once in four or five days feels that he is entitled to have his picture printed often, and usually it is.

What would happen if some modern pitcher should come anywhere near performing the feat recorded by Charley Radbourne in 1884 in staggering to contemplate. If Walter Johnson, Ed Walsh or Larry Cheney should pitch 38 consecutive games there would be a noise which could be heard around the earth and half way to Mars. Politics, Japan and the vice investigators would be crowded off the front pages back among the classified ads, while the papers vied with each other in throwing verbal and pictorial bouquets at the eighth wonder of the world.

Walsh's Record is Compared.

When Ed Walsh hung up his best record in 1908 by taking part in 64 ball games we recall having written a three-column story, with tabular statistics, about the performance. Radbourne in 1884 pitched 80 games for the Providence team and pitched practically a full game each time. That feat made less disturbance in the baseball world than happens nowadays if a pitcher works on two successive days or goes through both games of a double-header in one afternoon.

There were fewer people interested in baseball in those days, of course, consequently there were not so many newspaper readers deeply engrossed in the welfare and doings of their diamond idols. The chief reason, however, for the comparative complacency with which such a performance as Radbourne was regarded was the fact that pitchers were scarce and lots of them were asked to pitch every other game. Feats like Radbourne's did not stick out with such prominence as would be the case today.

Carries the Club Alone.

The team which had three good pitchers was considered wasteful. Two reliable and a couple or three subs were plenty for the average team. In fact, Radbourne's trick of hurling 38 consecutive games was made necessary by the desertion of Sweeney, the only other Providence pitcher, who jumped to the St. Louis team of the Union association. That left Providence with only one real slabman and an unknown or two capable of doing a little work. On many teams the pitcher who was not on the slab played the outfield. Imagine the howl that would arise from the diamond heroes of these days if club owners should try to cut down their squads to 12 or 14 players.

In Radbourne's day the schedules were not quite as congested with games as is the case under the present 154-game arrangement, so that it does not mean he worked on 38 consecutive days to pitch that many games in succession. But the open dates were only a little more frequent than now, so that the Providence star had to keep going for several days at a stretch.

Pitches 80 Games.

Of the 80 games pitched by Radbourne in 1884, 68 were victories and 12 were defeats. As he pitched full games there was no doubt about what pitcher ought to get credit or blame for them. Soon after the middle of the season, when Providence was making a winning fight for the pennant, Sweeney jumped the team and went to St. Louis. That put it up to Radbourne and he began working every game the team played. During the rest of the season he pitched 38 games in succession and 24 of them were Providence victories. Although he lost only four games in that period his longest run of winning without a defeat was 15 games.

His work was responsible for Providence winning the National league pennant that year under John Morrill. At times Radbourne was so stiff and sore when he reached the field that it was necessary for the other players to rub his arm and shoulder muscles—a trainer was a luxury undreamed of in those days—to loosen them up so that he could pitch at all. Needless to say, he did not waste much energy in warming up before each battle. But by the middle of the games he would be himself again and his reputation apparently carried him through the first part of each game until he could get going.

Radbourne was a native of New York State and began his baseball career in Peoria in 1878. The Buffalo club of the National league secured him in 1880 and he went to Providence in 1881. The Rhode Island club remained in the National circuit only until the close of the season of 1885, but Radbourne continued pitching for different teams until about 1891. Ed Walsh's stellar performance in 1908 attracted a lot of attention at the time, and his record of working in 64 championship games in one season has not been equalled since then. Of the 64 games Walsh pitched 13 complete games and another 15. He took part in 21 games in which he played the role of rescuer or was removed before the finish. The records of that season show that Walsh was credited with 37 victories and 15 defeats.

Rescue Crew by Himself.

In one way Walsh came closer to Radbourne's record than anyone else,

CANDIDATES FOR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF G. A. R.



Every indication points to a battle royal at the Chattanooga Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic for command-in-chief, which will be held at Chattanooga, Tenn., September 15-20. Five States have so far made entries, and each entry is a popular man. The States already in the contest for the prize are, in alphabetical order, Indiana, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey and South Dakota. The Department of Indiana has endorsed Comrade O. A. Somers, a private in the ranks. Mr. Somers lives at Kokomo, and is a popular man with the members of the Grand Army. Nebraska has entered the lists with Colonel G. E. Adams, a banker and farmer, of Superior, Neb. He is endorsed by his State Department and has a war record linked with the history of the Fourteenth Army Corps. Michigan will come to the encampment carrying the flag of Washington Gardner, of Albion, the well known editor-statesman, and enter him as a candidate for the honor. New Jersey's candidate for the honor is Colonel Ralph D. Cole, who has a creditable war record. He has the endorsement of the New Jersey Department of the G. A. R.

South Dakota has endorsed Captain N. H. Kingman, of Selby. Captain Kingman organized a company in the Thirtieth Wisconsin regiment and served with that organization until the close of the war. Because on many of the days in which he did not pitch at all during 1908 he spent his time on the warming pan, loosening up, ready to go in if the hurler who was on the slab started slipping. In that way Walsh worked many games without showing in the box score at all. Other famous life-savers, like Christy Mathewson and Mordecai Brown, have approached Walsh's record, but never closely enough to threaten it. They did not have the physical strength to do it. Some year, perhaps, this one, Walter Johnson may beat Walsh's 64 games in a season. Johnson has the strength and pitches with an easier delivery than Walsh. At present Manager Griffith is not pushing Johnson at all, but conserving his prowess. If either Engel or Cashion should develop this year the ability to take their turn with Johnson, Groom and Hughes, so that Griffith sees a chance to win the pennant he may call on Johnson for a lot of work in the latter half of the season. But there will never be another Radbourne, partly because the modern game does not demand such feats and partly because it would be impossible under present conditions for any man to perform them with any degree of success.

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