

❖ **Fight** Backing Fulton To Beat Willard ❖ **Turt** Opening At Bowie

SQUEEZE PLAY NOT A PENNANT WINNER

First Place Teams Do Not
Seem to Favor the
Play.

Brief reference was made in a recent article on how different major league managers regard the squeeze play as a valuable factor in the prospect of winning games, and here will be found something more in detail on the subject, as it is discovered by careful keeping of the records. The conclusion will be, says Ernest Lanigan, in submitting the data, that while the squeeze play is a thriller, when it works, and even when it does not, it is not a great factor in

Bill Donovan's team led in the Squeeze Play League last season, says Lenigan, but it didn't land the Yankees in front in the pennant race. No team tried the play and got away with it so often as the Yanks, but they finished in front of the Red Sox in that respect, only by the narrowest of margins, for Jack Barry, like Donovan, fancied the squeeze as a means of scoring and he had the former champs of Christendom using the play almost as frequently as the Yanks. The New Yorkers worked the play 23 times

the Postonsians 27 times; the Yankees at all times. They all were National League outfits—the Giants, the Cubs and the Superbas. The Browns and the Cardinals were American League clubs and that was the limit of the Browns' along this line of attack.

There were 371 squeeze plays in the American and 21 in the National—a total for the two big leagues of 392. The first squeeze was by the Cardinals of their league, the Pennsylvanians, and the last was by the Browns of the Missouri combinations working Donoher.

In the way of winning games, the squeeze play paid poor dividends. Just 13 of the 392 squeeze plays resulted in third starting for the plate after he had been tipped off the batter was going to swing. The rest of the squeeze plays were five of these controversies, the squeeze box three, the Yankees three and the Cardinals one.

Shocker Could Lay 'Em Down.

The most fearless hunter on the scene was the Shocker of the Yankees, who now the property of the Browns. During the year he adopted tap tactics and was the only pitcher assessed against him. Joe Gedeon.

shocker from the Empire to the Show-biz star, tried to turn a man in from the inside. "I was in the room when he succeeded to center field," said the 37-year-old, 170-pound, 5-foot-10-inch, red-headed, blue-eyed, and balding manager. "I was in the room when he was leader. I was in the room when he was the only best of athletes in the league. I was in the room when he spread the word that he was the best in the Wisconsin-Illinois League when he lost his job because he tried the play. I was in the room when he was the man-making money as John's opinion or has—that it is one of the non-essential things in baseball—and moreover, until they reached the end of the line, never had heard of the play and thought that the leader had gone insane. It was only when I saw the play on the news from the Old Fox, stating that the Yankees frequently used the play with success, that I was convinced that it was in the favor of my employers. He returned to the squeeze again, however, as long as he

The double squeeze appeared a few times last season, the Mackmen, when they were at the best in 1913, being supposed to have discovered a new mode of attack, since they were experts at getting two runs on one ball.

again that historians come to back up some data regarding the double squeeze long before the Athletics introduced it into the American League. This is clipping from the New York Sun of July 15, 1905, describing a game between the Cubs and Superbas:

"In the fifth the Chance men worked the squeeze play with variations. Slagle singled and the Cubs doubled. Chance was hit by a pitched ball, filling the bases. The base runners all came tearing along as Jones pitched the ball, and had such a start when Tinker bunted only one, but two of them scored on the play before the horrified Brooklynians came to."



The first of the double squeezes of 1817 cropped up at the Polo Grounds on April

BY GENE KNOTT

The Red Sox also were in double squeeze No. 3, pulled on the Nationals, Dumont pitching, on June 25. Lewis was the batter and Barry and Hohlitzel were the runners. No one was able to field Duff's hit and he smothered his batting

average instead of keeping it stationary.

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