

FANS BET ON ANYTHING
IN OLD BASEBALL DAYS

No Matter What Situation Was, It Was Always Possible to Get a Wager—Some Good Yarns.

Numerous instances there have been of championship games being interrupted for some extraordinary or some unusual reason, but perhaps the oddest of them all happened in a game at Cincinnati one day fifteen or twenty years ago, says Frank Bancroft.

"We were having a red-hot battle with Chicago that day," says the famous business manager of the Reds, "and in the eighth inning—with the score 1 and 1—McPhee hit a ball down to short stop hot for Dahlen to handle cleanly."

"McPhee had been anchored on first about two seconds when two men jumped over the rail separating the grand stand from the field and started out toward 'Biddy.' It all happened so suddenly that at first we thought McPhee was to be given some kind of a present or other, but we were soon undeceived."

"In those days the fans bet on everything that could possibly happen—the next delivery of the pitcher would be a 'ball' or a 'strike'; bet that the batter would strike out; bet that he wouldn't; bet that he would go out to the infield; fly out to the outfield or foul out; bet that the umpire would call the next man who tried to steal 'out' or 'safe'; bet it would rain or snow; bet the game wouldn't go nine innings; bet it would end in a tie, and so on to the uttermost possibilities of the game."

"Well, on this day one of the men who had wandered out on the field to talk to McPhee took off his hat, and, addressing the popular second baseman of the Reds, in a tone clearly audible in the stands, said:

"Biddy, to decide a bet, will you please tell us whether that was a hit for you or an error for Dahlen? I bet this man 2 to 5 that you would make a hit, and ain't able to decide which it was."

"Before the umpire and the captains could chase the men off the field McPhee piped out:

"Say, if you guys live to be a million years old you'll never see a cleaner base hit than that."

"And it is my recollection that the official scorer was of the same opinion."

Napoleon Lajoie had been on the old Philadelphia team but a few weeks when he was the innocent cause of a game between the Phillies and the Boston being temporarily stopped.

"Larry" was playing at first in this game—it was played in Boston—and a lot of his friends from Fall River and Woonsocket were on hand to see their old idol.

Everything went along merrily until the seventh inning. At that particular stage of the game the Phillies were leading 3 to 1, and the crowd was yelling its approbation of Lajoie, who had batted in about seven of the visiting club's nine runs.

As Lajoie took his place at first, in the eighth inning, a man climbed over the front railing of the fifty-cent seats and almost before he was noticed at all had made his way over to where the hero of the day was anchored.

The umpire and the groundskeeper made a rush in the direction of first base just in time to hear Lajoie's unwelcome visitor say:

"Nap, old boy, I've got to get that 5 o'clock train back to little old Woonsocket. Stake me \$2, will you?"

"Larry" didn't allow himself to be frustrated by this little incident. He gave the high sign to Manager Shettsline, who was sitting on the bench, and his old neighbor got his \$2 with no serious interruption of the game attending the transaction.

Detroit's Great Baseball Coup of 1885
By HARDIE RICHARDSON

And Charlie Ebbetts says baseball is in its infancy. I disagree with him. It was a pretty lousy chick away back in 1885. Why you should have heard the roar that shook the four corners of the baseball firmament when the sale of the "Big Four" leaked out of the Wall Street. The bottom falling out of Wall Street would be a mere circumstance. Every fan in the country sat up nights speculating whether or not the gigantic deal would be sanctioned by the authorities and rival baseball magnates chagrined at the coup they had been pulled at their expense, fought as hard to annul the transaction as magnates to-day would fight to prevent any club gathering together Cobb, Lajoie, Wagner and Collins.

One Sunday afternoon in August in 1885 the first wedge was inserted which was eventually to pry the "Big Four" loose from Buffalo. A man whom I had never before seen strolled to the Laclede Hotel in St. Louis and asked to see either Richardson or Dan Brotherton. We happened to be together, so he talked to us both. He said that he was W. H. Watkins and that he wished to secure our services for Detroit. He offered tempting salaries, so tempting that we decided at once to accept. Then we suggested that White and Rowe be engaged to make the transfer of an entire infield. With a promise from us that we would go to Detroit in case the deal came off without a hitch Watkins departed.

A wire awaited our arrival in Buffalo. It was from Watkins. He said that Erick K. Stearns and Messrs. Edison and Moore, of the Edison-Moore Co., would accompany him to Buffalo on a certain date to talk business with us. They also requested that Rowe and White be engaged to proceed to purchase the Buffalo club for \$7200. The Detroit people agreed to run the Buffalo club, the balance of the season at their own expense.

After the game next day we settled up so far as our dealings with Buffalo were concerned. Back was waiting at the gate. We bundled in and hurried to the depot. We arrived in Detroit early the following morning. New York pitchers, play that day. But the news of our capture had preceded us and New York absolutely refused to go on with the game. Any of our four of us were permitted to take part. Protests began to rain in from every quarter. Rogers and Beach of Philadelphia, Bon and Pittsburg were all heard from in big time. The league officials tried to get hold of us to learn whether we had received money from Detroit. So we were told to separate and "beat" it before we could be questioned. We were instructed to keep a communication with the office in case we were needed.

I had no sooner doubled back to Utica, N. Y. than I received word from Detroit that on my way to the train I met a letter carrier, who handed me a well-filled envelope. It was from J. J. Rogers of Philadelphia and it made me sit up and take notice. It contained an offer. When I reached Detroit I found

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Bowling Chat

Tuesday night saw the race for the second series of the City League start when the B.B.C. Company put in the season's high team total when they hung up 2942, also heading the list for first week by taking all three from the College five. The Royals showed a revival of their old-time form by taking the Brunswicks into camp for three games. Parkdales and Paynes were the other winners, taking two each.

The following is an estimate of the five-men final entry for the Buffalo tournament: Buffalo, 150; balance of New York State, 125; Ohio, 40; Canada, 35; Pennsylvania, 30; Illinois, 25; New Jersey, 20; Maryland, 20; Michigan, 20; Four, all of whom had gotten back to the City-of-the-Strats somehow. Judge Durfee supplied us with guns, ammunition, rubber boots and fishing tackle. Truman Newbury placed his handsome yacht at our disposal. The yacht was well stocked and well manned, and we set out upon an extended duck shooting and fishing trip. We let the cook do most of the fishing. But he caught "Particular Ned" in the ball game. We were on the trip that the party danced on the brink of eternity. Also, it was one of the few occasions upon which Dan Brotherton waxed eloquent and to the point. Eight of us were across the St. Clair Plains in a cat-in-a-hat. There was not room for all to be seated, but standing or sitting, everyone had to work like a Trojan to halt out water to prevent us from being swamped. Those who couldn't find tin cans or buckets took their hats. The waves were breaking in, on and over us. This stage setting made Dan Brotherton's speech all the more melodramatic. Said big Dan:

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