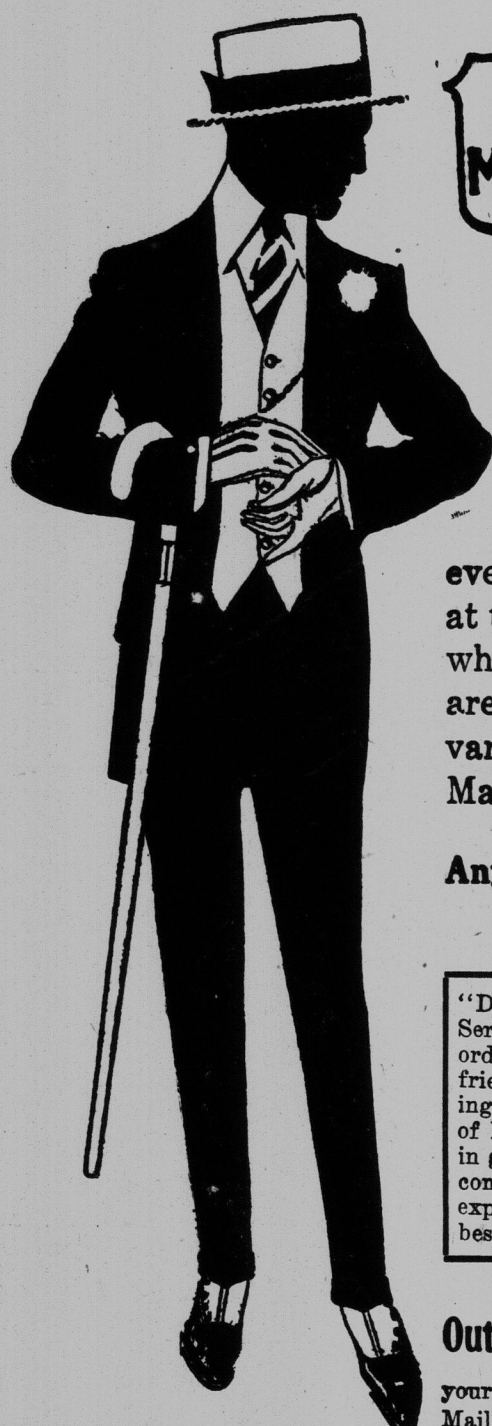


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Catching of Cowdy Has Transformed The Pitching Staff of Boston Braves



By Hugh S. Fullerton

There never has been a championship baseball club that did not have a brainy catcher. There have been great catchers, and mediocre catchers who were smart, and always, if you study the past of the game, a smart catcher was one of the main causes of victory.

Going further: you seldom will find a great pitcher who has not worked with a brainy catcher; for a good catcher, with brains and a memory, an instinct for judging what the batters and runners are going to do, can develop pitchers wonderfully.

The Boston Braves are not a violation of these rules. Some players who have worked with Gowdy in the past may laugh—but it is a new and transformed Gowdy who is catching now. Gowdy was, this early spring, a joke as a catcher. It wasn't because he had not the ability or the brain; it was because he never had been taught to catch, did not know the finer tricks of the trade.

They called him "Feather" because Stallings, in a fit of anger, named him Featherhead and Featherbrain. But he was learning. Under the teaching of Stallings and Evers, Gowdy suddenly developed into one of the best catchers in the National League.

The improvement of the pitchers of the Braves was coincident with Gowdy's development as a catcher.

In the first forty-six games that Boston played this year only nine were well pitched. In the games since then only four have been badly pitched.

Rudolph perhaps is the most surprising success of the sensational trio of twirlers. He is small. McGraw knew he had ability and discarded him alone on account of size. McGraw wants big men who can pitch often. He miscalculated on the durability of the wiry Rudolph. He swept through eleven straight victories before he fell in a smashfest in which he tried to rescue Tyler.

James is a different type. He has strength, speed and bulk and he can whizz them through. His curve is a terror and he uses it now with more cunning, mixes it better and uses a slow ball.

Tyler is a peculiar case. This fellow has been for several years one of the best left handers in the business. But he never could find a catcher who would or could work to his satisfaction. Maybe it was left-handed imagination, but the players told me that when he exploded it was because of anger over

some blunder of a catcher in most cases. He "fought" his catchers.

Stallings tried to get his brother to catch him. Now he has trained Gowdy so that he catches Tyler even better than he does the others. Tyler thinks him the best catcher in the world—and there you are.

Boston is not so badly off for pitchers as it would seem. Crutcher is one of the most promising youngsters. Hess is a veteran, of course, but when he is right he is unbeatable. I think Stallings could use one reliable experienced veteran pitcher; a fellow steady and wise, to jump in and stop a break, if such a thing should come. He evidently realizes this—for he was grabbing for Charlie Smith when O'Day jerked that ancient twirler back to the Cubs to keep Boston from getting him. But even without help Stallings' pitching staff looks better than that of any of his rivals for a finish fight. And do not forget that it has all the confidence of youth.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven Catarrh to be a constitutional disease and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They often cure Catarrh in a few days for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

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3.15 p.m.—Free acts before the Grandstand.

4.00 p.m.—Daylight Fireworks.

4.30 to 6.00 p.m.—Band concert in Main Hall.

EVENING

8.00 p.m.—Concert in Main Building.

8.15 p.m.—Evening performance before Grandstand.

10.00 p.m.—Doors close.

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