

FIRST SACKERS IN GREAT DEMAND

Several Big Teams Hot After Crack Initial Bag Holder

PITTSBURG COULD USE ONE

Pirates seem to be up against it for men who answer all requirements—Chicago White Sox and Boston Nationals are in some boat.

Good first sackers have been scarce this season. Several major league teams are all to the bad without them, and you can't extract any of the five ones from the present crop for any money. Among the eight that would be first baggers are New York and Pittsburgh, and then the others.

While the New York team has been looking for a first baseman and some other young ones, the latter is really looking up the list of players. First baseman, once one of the greatest players that ever played in the first bagging game.



NEW YORK AMERICAN'S CRACK FIRST BAGGER

In about through. Merkle has been sitting on the bench for two games or so, but he has not even yet played that the classes with the masters of the job.

Brooklyn has the big left hander, who is all O. K. who might be the best are in the line. With the Cardinals have a good one in league named DuPont. DuPont, who has been in the center, having been passed for many years, but he is not to have the credit and to be really to deliver them.

The Boston Nationals don't seem to know just what they will do for a first baseman and are really at a loss. They need a lot of other players on that Boston team, but they surely do need a first bagger.

The credit and fox leader Frank Chance of Chicago isn't shy on first basemen, though. He is all there himself, of course.

Chicago is all right. Dick Hobbs is the real walloping kid and can play the base besides. Philadelphia is fairly well off with Brannan.

The champion Pirates are in trouble. They find their first bagger, and how they don't know whether Elton, the man they are trying out, will do or will prove a flier. The St. Louis Nationals are all to the good. Joe Baile is a star both on the bag and at changing the leather on the heavy pedal.

The New York Americans are all right, for that Chase is right in the mouth of his playing powers. Boston's Red Sox are well off with Jake Stahl. The big boy can cover the bag superbly and seems to be getting better all the time as a slugger. Condo-Mack still relies on Harry Davis, a most artistic and capable player, but one who is beginning to grow old.

McAleer, at Washington, is perplexed. Bob Unglaub is a pretty good first baseman, but is also useful in other places, and Jimmy would be delighted to land a fresh and ambitious juvenile.

Comiskey's two great first basemen, Isbell and Donohue, are both gone now, and he is trying to train a new star from a bunch of candidates, with only professional success. At Cleveland McGuire, although owning a good first baseman, Stovall, has put Lajoie at the bat so that Turner can work on second.

The champion Detroit Tigers are worried, inasmuch as Tom Jones is showing up and getting a little listless. Semmes would be glad to hear from a lively kid with first base ability.

St. Louis will try a National league discard, Abstein, and may meet good with him—or may fail. O'Connor wouldn't mind having a sturdy youngster in reserve.

Great chances for young first basemen these days if they promise only a few years to be found.

KLAS TO MEET PAPKE.

Pittsburgh and "Illinois Thunderbolt" Will Travel Over Long Route May 14. With the understanding that the winner will be matched to meet Stanley Kras for the eight-night championship of the world, Frank Klau of Pittsburgh and Billy Papke of Cincinnati, Ill., will exchange just and opponents before Jimmy Coffey's club at Central Col. May 14, in a game that will be practically a double, as the men have agreed to battle forty-five rounds.

The coming meeting between Papke and Klau will be their second, but the previous bout was merely a trial fight, as neither man could then be matched in a six round journey. In that bout, however, Klau gave the Pittsburgher an over-hand with the same line of punches of Ketchick, and Klau's friends of the time were inclined to believe that he had a good chance to defeat Papke and get a sporting wage for his first professional fight.



MILLY PAPKE, THE "ILLINOIS THUNDERBOLT"

Reasons for Klau's selection whether he will do it or not are a matter of opinion. The man who is most likely to win is Klau, who is said to be six foot, eight inches tall, and weighs 170 pounds. He is a young man in years, with the added advantage of living in a clean life. Giving Klau all the credit, it looks from here as though Mr. Klau had been rather busy in matching with a trainer of the Papke type, and for his fair pay may pay the penalty if he does not to win. However, Klau's record in the betting game, the question of getting the credit in the West, Klau's record, and the same thing may happen again. But next after the fight Klau will have to be awarded the best chance.

Papke has all the necessary experience after years of hard work in California, and this probably makes him any one thing will win the fight. Some say Klau's "records" will be secured with the youth of Klau's side, but as one can see that Klau is a young man in years, with the added advantage of living in a clean life. Giving Klau all the credit, it looks from here as though Mr. Klau had been rather busy in matching with a trainer of the Papke type, and for his fair pay may pay the penalty if he does not to win. However, Klau's record in the betting game, the question of getting the credit in the West, Klau's record, and the same thing may happen again. But next after the fight Klau will have to be awarded the best chance.

OVERALL ANXIOUS TO CATCH

One of Cuba's Star Twirlers Gets For Chance Debird Bat. Overall, the Cuban National team is in a state of anxiety to catch the bat of the Cuban National team. The manager of the team is anxious to catch the bat of the Cuban National team.

During the yellow days at the University of California, Overall had some experience as a catcher, and his attention is said to date from those days. He and Nick Williams, now with the



OVVERALL, CUBA'S GIANT PITCHER

San Francisco club of the Pacific Coast league, composed an interchangeable battery that was the despair of all the other "rub-rub" nine and half the professional clubs on the coast. Overall never misses an opportunity to do a big mitt in practice and he is so happy as when receiving the speedy slants of Mordca Brown. Although Chance turned down the opportunity without consideration, Overall declared that when his opponent was a pitcher who was over in the line of the bat, he would catch it.

STORIES OF THE DIAMOND.

Rucker Says Intuition Is Needed For Success In Baseball.

FAST-THINKING WHAT COUNTS

Brooklyn's Star Southpaw Twirls Points Out Why Many Players Succeed or Fail When They Get Trial in Fast Company.

No. V. BY NAP RUCKER. Copyright, 1914, by American Press Association.

A young pitcher may come into the big leagues from a minor club with a great record. He may have good curves, fast control and great speed, and may be able to throw a ball that is all that is needed to be successful in the big leagues. This is true, however, the pitcher must possess all these qualities and get them to be for the fast company, and he must be able to control the ball. It is the little things that count the most for the winner in the big leagues. For instance, many are a fast pitcher, but they do not know how to control the ball. They must learn how to get the ball down in the strike zone, and they must learn how to get the ball up to the next batter. This is the secret of success in the big leagues. Another important part for a young pitcher to master is covering first.



TRAP RUCKER, BROOKLYN STAR PITCHER

My advice to young men who aspire to success as pitchers is to learn how to throw a straight ball with perfect accuracy, either very fast, very slow or halfway between, as the occasion demands. I've found that my most effective ball is a high, swift, straight shot, cutting the inside corner of the plate. Of course this should be varied occasionally with a slow tosser, and in a tight pinch a curve or a slow drop will do no harm. Just make it a point to remember that when his opponent is a pitcher who is over in the line of the bat, he would catch it.

Every now and then the fans read of "homebats" in baseball. The reason for this is that they do not possess a substantial mind. Many times there are plays on the diamond which the pitcher must see soon as the ball is hit, know exactly what to do, lift his hand and feet must be ready to act with his mind. Many pitchers call this "instinct," but it is nothing else, it is the power of the mind. In this regard, the pitcher must be a fast thinker, and he must be able to think fast. The pitcher must be able to think fast, and he must be able to think fast. The pitcher must be able to think fast, and he must be able to think fast.

How many times have you read about the wonderful curves that some young pitcher has, and just as soon as the season lengthens how true do you hear of him? A pitcher with a break ball and curves does not last very long in the big leagues. In the first place, throwing that kind of ball all the time is so hard on the muscles of the arm that one cannot stand the strain very long, and secondly, in time the batters are bound to get wise to curves, and then all their all over the diamond.

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