

STORIES OF THE DIAMOND

Jack Doyle Says Old Orioles Were Greatest Ball Team.

PULLED OFF MANY STUNTS.

Tricks and Stunts of Baltimore Club May Rank in History Would Almost Fit Book—How Single Was Forced Into Home Run.

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By JACK DOYLE.
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Every now and then one will read of some daring, sensational or brainy piece of headwork pulled off on the diamond. To the average fan this or that stunt may appear wonderful, but to the player himself it is only part of his work. I do not want to be egotistical, but it is a fact. When I was a member of the old Baltimore Orioles I managed to pull off many clever stunts and helped engineer several sensational plays which were very successful and thought nothing of it. It was part of my daily work. I've always said and still think that the old Baltimore team was the brainiest aggregation of ball tossers ever brought together. The tricks and stunts they worked successfully on the diamond would come pretty near filling a book.

For instance, here is one they pulled off and what I consider the greatest I ever saw. It was made by Willie Keeler and Johnny McGraw in a game with Washington away back in the nineties. Willie was on first and McGraw at the bat. The latter shot a neat single into left field, and Al Helbach loafed a bit on it, seeing that Keeler was sure to make third with ease, but expecting him to pull up there. Willie instead of pulling up went full steam ahead for home plate, and before Bill Joyce had received the ball was virtually over the plate. McGraw never stopped at first, but hurried on second to draw a throw that would enable Keeler to score. McGraw recognized Helbach's loaf, and like a flash he guessed that Keeler was going home. He never hesitated at second, but dashed for third, arriving just as Joyce was gathering in Helbach's throw out of the grass. Thus McGraw did some very quick thinking. He remembered that Joyce had a bad arm and thought that the catcher would not be expecting a throw. Without pulling up at third at all he scooted for the plate. His quick thinking turned out to be right. The deer from Keeler's side was just hitting as McGraw dived for the home plate and beat in the throw with a close decision. There were runs scored on what should have been only a single, though the never had to give McGraw credit for a home run. This is just a sample of what was three pennants for Baltimore.

Recently a manager of a prominent club in the American league was quoted as saying that he had a long list of these stunts that could not be beat. The fellow's ideas are all wrong. No team should have a long list of stunts. It is not always the ball club with the most stunts that wins games. The old Baltimore club, of which I was a member for several seasons, had very few stunts, and what they did have were very simple ones at that. Still, the team managed to win three pennants in a row and came very near capturing the fourth. Here is another instance. When Jimmy Collins managed the Boston Americans and was three days on signs were used in all excepting, of course, those necessary between the five ends of the batteries. The most complicated system of baseball, while theoretically astounding, has never been a practical success.

A short time ago I had quite a little chat with Amos Rusie, the famous old New York pitcher. Amos is now a hardworking lumberman in Muncie, Ind., and not a pearl diver at \$150 a day, as has been reported many times, and the big fellow is contented with his environment. In his day Rusie was the greater twister doing slabs duty. He had everything that a twister needed—control, speed and good curve—and well I know it, for I caught him in many games. I'll never forget my first trip with Rusie on the road. The members of the team told him that every trip they made on a Pullman a number of pairs of shoes were stolen. They said that suspicion pointed to the porter, and Amos was asked to act up and watch for the midnight raider. Rusie selected a seat in the smoker prepared to do detective duty and a little banging duty on the side. He coasted off after a while and wasn't awakened until about 2 in the morning, when the porter walked into the smoker with several pairs of shoes that he intended slipping in order to get a morning tip. Rusie at once decided that he had found his victim and jumped from his seat and grabbed the porter. In less than three minutes he had the colored man in wadded condition than Voltaire had Nelson.

The porter spent a week or so in the hospital as a result of the mixup, and it cost the New York club several hundred dollars to square things.

Jack Doyle

WAGNER AND COBB COMPARED

Now Two Greatest Ball Players in Game Size Up.

DIFFERENT STYLES OF THE MEN

Tyrus Wins Admiration by His Grace, While Hannu Aves One by His Boldness—Both Have Achieved Great Results.

As has been the case for the past few seasons, Hannu Wagner of the Pittsburgh Nationals and Tyrus Cobb of the Detroit Americans are again corraling all the batting and base-running honors of their respective leagues. Nearly every spring report from the training camps tell that the equals or superiors of these two stars have been found. But slowly after the season opens these words are given a different twist. There is only one Ty Cobb and one Hannu Wagner. They are the two greatest players in the game today.

The comparison between Cobb and Wagner is an interesting one. Both achieve great results, but not in the same manner. Wagner is a ponderously perfect athlete, while Cobb is a slender, delicate appearing chap, possessing ability which is constantly brought to the surface by his brilliant plays and the wonderful spirit that has made him envied and hated by others.

Both men are wonderful hitters. Wonderful base runners and wonderful fielders. For more than twelve years



HOW THE TWO GREAT PLAYERS PERFORM ON THE DIAMOND

Wagner has kept up a dizzy pace. He has played every position and, not only that, but has been a sensation in all. He has the speed of Cobb, the terrific hitting powers of Babe Ruth, the energy of Jennings and the disposition of Willie Keeler. Cobb, on the other hand, has been setting the King's pace for but four years.

Two have different styles. Tyrus Cobb is Cobb with pride as the ideal ball player, and then you watch Hannu Wagner and smile at the comparison for all that Cobb is, except in ability to "get there." Wagner isn't.

In action Ty Cobb comes closer to the athletic ideal than any other man in baseball. Built like a greyhound, his lithe body is always a study. Wagner is without precedent in the athletic world. An Cobb was admired by his peers, Wagner was one by his fans. Wagner just bounces all over. He has to have shoes made to order, he is cramped in an ordinary bed, he eats a meal worthy of three men, and his hands are as big as good stout hands.

When Wagner waddles to the plate swinging his great bat it looks as if Gibraltar were toppling over. But when he is set to swing there is action—wonderful action.

Wagner can run the hundred yards in close to ten seconds any time during a season's play. He doesn't sprint in the sense of the word, nor does he gallop. No one has been quite able to describe just what he does, but he gets there.

In heading left the same way. In Hannu's great hands the ball assumes the size of a pea or close to it. The most terrific drive in his direction becomes a puny tap when he reaches for it.

Wagner hits 300 every year by force of habit. He has no equal at short, and his base running is always of the best. He is paid probably the biggest salary of any player in the game.

Cobb is a study. Just picture yourself as you are. Imagine adding your picture in the paper every night in every town you went to with lines under it to the effect that fifteen or more men in every city had vowed to "get you." Wouldn't you feel a little squeamish, and wouldn't you the next time you went out be a little more careful?

But not Tyrus. For four years now threats have been made against him by every disgruntled player he has shown up. But he has kept right on playing better ball every day, and now he stands with only one man on his level, and that is Wagner.

JEFF CAN'T COME BACK

So Says Billy Delaney, His Old Manager. Billy Delaney, the veteran manager and the man who made Jeffries the heavyweight champion of the world, does not believe that the big fellow can come back. Although he has not seen Jeffries in his recent workouts he has watched his movements very closely since the former champion started out on his theatrical tour, and now Delaney has about come to the conclusion that Jeff has bitten off a larger bunk than he can chew.

"Those severe astringent spells are bad for the big fellow, and in my opinion, they show signs of internal weakness," said Delaney. "Jeffries never got come back and fight if he stiffens up and sweats, fails to respond to Sibling and treatment, as they tell me he does. It's too much to think that a man of his build can stay out of the game for five years and then expect to come on and trade his best speed. I may be mistaken, but I have had forty years of experience with the best of them, and I can't see where Jeff is an exception.

"This statement coming from one who know that Jeff and I have split up, but nevertheless I am giving my candid opinion of the big fellow. When I had him he was like a top, and he never stiffened up. His perfect action was natural, and his ocean weight always came off easily, but training camp. He was a hard man to manage, but what I did generally was, although I used to have many a tough old time trying to coax him to a win.

"I have not seen Jeff in training, and I don't want to. We have parted forever."

WELSH FEELS CONFIDENT

British Believes He Will Have No Trouble Defeating McFarland. Freddie Welsh, England's lightweight champion, is so confident of defeating Toney McFarland at Chicago at the National Sporting club of London the night of May 30 that he has announced his intention of meeting young champion in a bout for the welterweight title. As a matter of fact Welsh has already had claim to the welterweight title for the reasons that he whipped Joseph in eleven rounds at Mountain View, in Wales, last July.

Joseph was not the welterweight champion at that time, and besides Welsh was on a fine race track. He was one and one-quarter mile faster than the other, while Welsh has captured the right to be called lightweight champion, having received Lord Lonsdale's belt.

FUTURE SPORT EVENTS

Syracuse crown will go to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., June 5. The annual New York short will be held in Syracuse, N. Y., June 7 to 10. An agreement has been entered into between the Amateur Bowling association of England and the American Bowling association.

Cincinnati will have a regatta, including motorboat races, on the Ohio river this summer. Prizes of \$2,500 will be given for the motor races. Nat Butler, the old bicycle racer, will make his first appearance as a professional aviator at the big meet to be held at Atlantic City from June 20 to July 10.

The Harlem regatta committee at New York city has appointed a committee to arrange the handicaps for a major single-mile handcap event for a one and one-quarter mile contest for the May 20 regatta. The quarter will be given a time handicap.

FORTUNES WILL BE SET ON BIG MILL

As a betting proposition the forthcoming fight between Jim Jeffries and Jack Johnson will probably be without equal in the history of the sporting world. Coming the wages that are being made in this country, as well as the hundreds of thousands of dollars that will be staked on the outcome in other quarters of the globe, it is estimated that between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 will be set on the hands.



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