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BATTING HEROES ALWAYS POPULAR

Hard Hitters Make Themselves Sold With Baseball Fans.

PITCHERS ARE AN EXCEPTION

Their Twirling Ability Is of More Value to the Team Than Their Stick Work Hitting of Wagner, Cobb and Lajoie Make Them Heroes.

Speaking of baseball heroes, it is generally the pitcher who gathers in the largest number of laurels of any individual member of a team. He has more of an opportunity to distinguish himself individually than any other member of the team and is censured or praised in accordance with his work. His place on the team is held only by his pitching ability; his stick work is not considered if he is a great twirler. With other infield positions, however, it is slightly different.

A player must not only have the ability to cover his position well, but must have a batting eye as well. Both qualities come in for an equal share of consideration. For instance, Hans Wagner is a great shortstop, but a greater batter. It is phenomenal stick work that has made him a baseball idol. Larry Lajoie of the Cleveland team is another example. He has an enviable reputation as a second baseman, but his work at the bat has overshadowed it.

On the other hand, we find a man, like Hal Chase of the Yankees, whose work at the initial sack has been responsible for his success on the diamond. Chase is a fair hitter, but had it not been for his phenomenal work in the field he would probably not be so famous.

There are scores of such cases. In the infield, where a man's reputation as a ball player is based on either his fielding or batting ability. With the out-



STARS WHOSE STICK WORK MAKES THEM HEROES.

field, however, it is different. Outfielders, of course, must be able to field a ball, but their main qualification must be their ability to hit. All outfielders who have achieved great reputations have invariably been great sluggers. A glance over the roster of the big league teams today will bear out this statement.

By Cobb of the Detroit Tigers is undoubtedly the best known outfielder in the American league. His average last season was by no means the best, with fourteen errors in 187 games and a percentage of .907, but he stood at the head of both leagues in his stick work, with an average of .336. Speaker of Boston fell slightly below Cobb both in fielding and batting, his later average being .340, which would make him a desirable addition to any team. O'Rourke of the Athletics is another star. He led the league in fielding with an average of .978, making only six errors in 184 games and a batting average of .308.

It is such men as these that retain their positions on a team, not for their ability to cover ground and catch a fly ball, but for their work at bat. They are the main factors in the offensive work of the team and occupy obscure positions on the defensive, and for this reason the personnel of the outfield is always a strong permanent factor.

NO CHANCE FOR EARL MACK TO PLAY WITH FATHERS' CHAMPIONS

There is just one young baseball player who is doomed never to play with the Athletics as a regular while Connie Mack is manager of the team. The young man is Earl Mack, son of Connie Mack, the first and only. True, Earl played in one championship game in the American league last fall, but that was just a special occasion. "Some people think that Earl is going to become a catcher for the Athletics some day," said Connie, "but they are mistaken. Earl hasn't a chance of playing with my team. It doesn't do to mix up family affairs with business. Naturally I want to see my boy at the top of the profession, but if he ever gets there or good enough for a major league he will have to play under some other manager." Earl is now catching for Scranton.

HUNTER MAY FILL BILL

Pirates' New First Baseman Playing a Brilliant Game.
Much interest is being taken in the work of Fred Hunter, Pittsburgh's new first baseman. According to Manager Fred Clarke, his new guardian of bag No. 1 is the goods and will improve as the season advances. For seven years first base has been the one big weak spot on the Pirates, and every



FRED HUNTER, PITTSBURGH'S NEW FIRST BASEMAN.

year there has been a fresh experiment, and every year before the echoes of "Aha—at last!" have died away the agents of the club are digging through the bushes for new material. But this season it appears different.

One year it was Clancy; another year it was Swacina, then Abstein, who was followed by Flynn. This season the Pirates' hope is Fred Hunter, and the word "hope" is used advisedly, for the average canancy of the initial sack berth in recent years has been less than a single season. From the players' point of view the pillow has been a graveyard of baseball ambitions. Clancy, Swacina and Abstein have gone back. Of the four who have carved around the cushion in so many years Jack Flynn alone remains in the elite circle, fighting for prestige and place.

Hunter has been holding the bag in the style since the season opened. He is a splendid thrower, handles the bag well and covers a great deal of ground. His batting could be improved upon, but he gives promise. Hunter started out on his baseball career as a pitcher for the Chillicothe (O.) team. He twirled a good ball. He then took up playing the initial sack and made good from the start. Last year he was with the Kansas City team, and he was generally regarded as the best first baseman in the American association.

SHEPPARD GOING ABROAD.

Scottish Mel Says He Will Race in Scotland.

Melvin Sheppard, the best middle distance runner of this country, is going abroad this summer. He will sail early in July and compete in three big Scottish meets. They are the Celtic, the Rangers and the Athlone games. Inability to raise his best condition is the only thing that will keep Sheppard's chance.

McFarland Is Benighted Fugitive.

Packey McFarland is investing his pugilistic earnings in Chicago real estate. "It was a long road to success, is the way McFarland puts it, and when the time comes for me to retire I am going to have something back of me to carry me along for the remainder of my days."

Germany Had Crook Swimmer.

Paula, a German swimmer, has just set up a new back stroke record of 3 minutes 50.24 seconds for 200 meters in a recent contest in Germany.

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