

Strange Reversals of Form In Players and Teams

BASEBALL

National Game Very Uncertain—A Modern Base Running Trick

A BALL player frequently wins the reputation of being an "in and out" man. Of course this term means that the man in question is in good form one day and out of form the next. In other words, the quality of his playing varies. There are a great many "in and out" men in the National and American leagues. Strangely enough, some of them have been drawing princely salaries for several years, and yet at times they go to pieces and commit errors that are often as laughable as they are costly. Some pitchers will have lax arms when their choicest batters are sent "all over the lot" by teams of inferior batters. Two or three days later they step into the box and shut out the league leaders, holding the high averaged savants down to three or four straggling hits. Unforeseen happenings of this sort are just what make baseball one of the most uncertain pastimes that ever mortal man indulged in. But not all the in and outers are

pitchers. We find them in every corner of the diamond—in the infield and outfield. Many batters belong in this class too. So far as pitchers are concerned, however, Rube Waddell of the Philadelphia Americans, Luther ("Dummy") Taylor of the New York Nationals, Howell of the New York Americans, Hess of the Cleveland Americans, Jack Weimer of the Chicago Nationals, Jack Cronin of the Brooklyn Nationals and Winters of the Boston Americans are star members of the in and outers.

Waddell and Taylor.

Waddell has been known to strike out sixteen men in a single game; in other games he has been touched up for almost as many safe hits. Taylor may never be depended upon to win a game, as may McGinnity and Mathewson of the New York Giants, and yet he may go in and hold a fast team down to three or four hits. I have seen him strike out three men in one inning; then, again, I have seen him hit for six safeties in a single inning. Cronin's twisters were slaughtered unmercifully by the Giants one day early in the season in Brooklyn. A few days later he pitched against McGinnity in New York, and the same Giants could only win from him by one run, and that in the tenth inning. On that occasion Jack Warner saved the day for New York by a home run in the tenth inning. Brooklyn was one run ahead. Two men were out. Warner had two strikes on him. One more strike, and Cronin would have won the game against the sensational "Iron Man" McGinnity. But instead of striking out Jack sent a screaming liner into the right field bleachers and brought in Devlin ahead of him.

Al Selbach.

Al Selbach, the chunky, spunky left fielder of the Boston American champions, also one of the best bowlers in America, is an in and out at the bat if ever there was one. The reason for his inconsistent hitting lies in the fact that he swings at the ball with all his might, thus becoming inaccurate. Al will make a couple of singles and a two or a three bagger in one game and then will not increase his average for three or four games. Sometimes he will bat like a demon for a week. The next week he hangs out the "nothing doing" sign. Selbach, by the way, is the largest winner on the grand old of the most nervous batsmen in the major leagues. While facing the pitcher he pulls at his cap, hikes up his



EL GEERS, GREATEST OF ALL HORSE-TRAINERS.

El Geers has a promising stable of trotting and pacing candidates for grand circuit honors. "The Silent Man From Tennessee," as Geers is best known, was the largest winner on the grand old of the most nervous batsmen in the major leagues. While facing the pitcher he pulls at his cap, hikes up his



W. A. LARNED; AMERICA'S CHAMPION TENNIS PLAYER.

Larned is playing in rare form and is picked to win the tennis championship of the United States again this year.

trousers, knocks the dirt from his shoes two or three times with the bat, rubs his eyes, fingers the buttons on his shirt and finally, after nervously pounding the plate with the bat, lets drive at the ball with the force of a battering ram. Then if he misses Al goes through the programme all over again.

Ganzel Has Improved.

John Ganzel of the New York Americans is another uncertain quantity at the bat. He won the nickname of "Pop To-John" a year or two ago because of his propensity for sending up infield flies. Now, however, he has a better batting eye and frequently slams the sphere into the outfield for two or three sacks.

Teams Have "Off" Days Too.

Then, again, an entire team will make a reputation as a shining light in the "in and out" division. The Cleveland Americans are the "real goods" when

it comes to exhibitions of what turf writers term "form reversals." For instance, in a single game in New York recently the brawny tribe of Bluejackets under Larry Lajoie put dents into the reputations of three pitchers—Bowell, Clarkson, the Harvard recruit, and old reliable Jack Chesbro. They piled up a total of sixteen runs. Oh, dear, how lovely that was for Larry! But what happened the very next day, beginning promptly with the sound of the gong at 4 o'clock? Listen, and you shall hear. Clark Griffith's New Yorkers hypnotized the boys in blue as they trotted out on the field and beat them to the tune of 20 to 3.

A Sad Day For Cleveland.

The errors the Clevelanders made would have really and truly caused a self-respecting high school team to disband and form a Saturday afternoon sewing circle. Big Bill Lush in left field muffed two easy flies that let in runs. Charley ("Piano Legs") Hickman

at second juggled a couple of grounders, muffed a fly and also threw wild to first. The last named error let two men pound the rubber.

The total number of errors would have made a bank statistician cross-eyed. In one inning after two men were out the New Yorkers made no less than ten runs, two of them being homers. In these two games the Clevelanders played what was without doubt the most striking reversal of form seen on a diamond in a decade. Certainly the making of ten runs in one inning after two men were out is a record never before equaled in a major league.

A Base Running Trick.

Brainy base runners have developed many little tricks that sometimes aid a man considerably. In stealing second, for instance, some players succeed in reaching the bag safely by jumping outward as they near it (thus avoiding the outstretched hand of the baseman that has caught the catcher's throw) and grasping the mere outfield corner of the base. Players thus increase the distance between themselves and the baseman and offer but their hands and forearms as targets for the hand containing the ball.

The old school base runners were content with sliding along the base line, depending on their speed to carry them to the sack ahead of the ball.

In order to make sure of touching one of the up to date base runners the second baseman must stand directly over the bag, thus multiplying his chances of being knocked over by the runner.

BEN TAVIS.

ENGLISH JOCKEY CLUB.

At their next meeting the members of the English Jockey club will be invited to discuss two important proposals. The one concerns the licensing of trainers, and the other relates to the institution of half mile races for two-year-olds. At the present time the vocation of a trainer is open to any man so long as he is content to carry on the business away from Newmarket. The stewards of the Jockey club now propose that every trainer in Great Britain shall be compelled to take out an annual license and pay a yearly subscription of \$5 to the Bantock benevolent fund. It will, I think, be generally agreed that this is a move in the right direction. For one thing, it removes an anomaly. Why should Newmarket trainers alone be licensed? If it is desirable that they should be under the direct control of the stewards it must be advisable to put their "brotherhood" on the same footing. The autocratic rule of the Jockey club is cheerfully acknowledged by everybody associated with the turf, and so long as this is the case it is to the general advantage that their powers should be as far reaching as possible. No one for a moment supposes that the proposal to license trainers will be in the slightest degree detrimental to any man honestly and conscientiously discharging his duty to his employers. On the contrary, it will give him an official status and guarantee to some extent his fitness for the work he undertakes to discharge. But it is conceivable that circumstances might arise which would render it desirable that a trainer should retire, tempo-

rarily or otherwise, from the pursuit of his profession, and this licensing scheme will give the stewards an opportunity of exercising discretion in such cases.

It was not to be supposed that Lord Durham would allow his tenure of the office of senior steward to expire before he had displayed his zeal for reform in one direction or another. Followers of racing look upon the head of the Lambton family as the apostle of turf reform, and any proposal put forward by him commands close and sympathetic attention. He is acting as sponsor for the proposal that two-year-old races of four furlongs shall be permissible prior to the Epsom summer meeting. Lord Greve has come forward with the suggestion that the proposed innova-

year-olds are not allowed to race before Aug. 1, but something should be done in order that young horses may be saved from the excessive exploitation of which they are so frequently the victims.—M. A.

"LETTY."

There is reason to believe that when Charles Frohman announced William Faversham's tour in Pinero's "Letty" he withheld a most important detail of the news. In "Letty" there are two parts equally strong. In the London production these were played by H. B. Irving and Irene Vanbrugh.

It is most important that an actress of splendid capabilities should play the role opposite to Faversham, and it is not unlikely that Mr. Frohman may de-



CONNIE MACK, CAPTAIN-MANAGER OF THE PHILADELPHIA AMERICANS.

Connie Mack's ex-champions of the American league are not playing up to their form of years past, but a brace is certain to be taken at any moment. Mack's team is one of the strongest in Ban Johnson's organization and should never be counted "out of the running." Waddell, Plank and Bender are all able twirlers, and if the Quakers improve in batting—their fielding is always first class—these three pitchers will speedily place the team up among the leaders.

tion shall be confined to selling races or plates of which the clear value to the winner does not exceed \$1,000. Lord Durham further intends to ask the Jockey club to decide that two-year-olds shall not run more than five furlongs before the Epsom summer meeting, not more than six furlongs or in handicaps before Sept. 1 and not in handicaps with older horses. This solicitude for two-year-olds is to be welcomed. It is certainly quite time that some measure of protection was accorded them. We cannot, of course, hope to be able to resort to the heroic plan they adopt in France, where two-

cide to give Mr. Faversham a co-star, possibly Fay Davis or Virginia Harned, inasmuch as these actresses haven't been notably fortunate in the allotment of plays up to this point.

The following exchange of cable messages between Mr. Frohman and E. H. Sothern, which took place a few days ago, indicates that Miss Harned's immediate future is still in doubt:

"I have a new play for Miss Harned," called Mr. Frohman.

"So have I," replied Mr. Sothern.

Is it possible that "The Light That Lies in Woman's Eyes" is to have a sequel?

World Famous Athletes to Compete

OLYMPIC GAMES

Valuable Prizes—Javelin Throwing Rules

THE great Olympic games to be held at the St. Louis exposition Aug. 29 to Sept. 23 are attracting worldwide attention, and James E. Sullivan, chief of the department of physical culture at the fair, who is conducting arrangements for the contests, is one of the latest men that old Sol shines on these days.

The fame of the Olympian games, originated centuries ago in Greece, has spread into every known portion of the globe, and their revivals, first at Athens, next at Paris, then at the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo and now at St. Louis, have aroused public interest to a noteworthy degree.

Greatest of the Series.

The coming games should prove the greatest of the series. Teams from America, England, France, Germany, Australia and Ireland have already entered, and spectators will surely witness record breaking performances.



FRANKIE NEIL, THE CLEVER SAN FRANCISCO BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION.

Frankie Neil is now the acknowledged bantam champion of America. He has defeated all the best boys in his class and is now yearning for new worlds to conquer. Sam Harris, manager of Terry McGovern, former "feather" champion, is trying to arrange a match between Neil and Terry's brother, Hughie McGovern, who has won several good bouts.

MUSIC AND DRAMA.

Josef Hofmann will open his season at San Francisco the first week of October and will play in New York a week later.

Among the professionals who are spending the summer in Europe are Margaret Anglin, Blanche Walsh, Viola Allen, Fritz Scheff, Fay Davis, Aubrey Boucicault and Lawrence D'Orey. Although Mrs. G. H. Gilbert is one of

The international Olympic committee, composed of men of title and of others of high standing, will have a large representation at the games, and Chief Sullivan, who is also secretary of the Amateur Athletic union, is making elaborate preparations to entertain them.

An Athletic Host.

Mr. Sullivan, by the way, is making a wide reputation as a host. Among his guests thus far at St. Louis have been Secretary of State John Hay, Secretary of War William H. Taft and Miss Alice Roosevelt, the president's oldest daughter, who distributed prizes to winners at one of the earlier athletic meetings at the exposition. When Mr. Sullivan finishes with the princes, barons and counts of the international committee in September his record will be somewhat more than complete.

Mr. Roosevelt Honorary President.

President Roosevelt is honorary president of the games, and ex-Governor Francis of Missouri, president of the exposition, is active president. "Surely such notables have never before sponsored an athletic meet in this country." The Irish team will be made up of Dennis Hogan, the famous weight thrower and shot putter; the Leamy brothers, crack jumpers, and Peter O'Connor, runner and jumper, who has broken all kinds of track and field records.

The Milwaukee A. C. Team.

One of the strong American teams will be that representing the Milwaukee Athletic club. Its members include Hahn, the fast sprinter who has been hailed as a second Arthur Duffey; Schule, who, like Hahn, was developed at the University of Michigan; Beckman, Breitkreutz, McEachern, Miller and Hall. Schule is a remarkably speedy hurdler.

Hahn is in tight shape and is expected to win the handsome trophy offered by Director F. J. V. Skiff for the winner of the 100 meter run.

Ex-Governor Francis has also offered a valuable prize to the winner of the Marathon race, a revival of the famous old Greek contest of the same name. Cups for various events have also been offered by A. G. Spaulding, H. H. Baxter and Charles J. Dieges of New York.

Programme of the Games.

The Olympian games will be conducted under the rules of the A. A. U. The programme is as follows:

Monday, Aug. 29.—Sixty meter run, throwing the sixteen pound hammer, 400 meter run, 2,500 meter steeplechase, standing broad jump, running high jump.

Tuesday, Aug. 30.—Marathon race, forty kilometers.

Wednesday, Aug. 31.—Two hundred meter run, putting the sixteen pound shot, lifting bar bell, standing high jump, international tug of war (trials), teams of five men each, weight unlimited; 400 meter hurdle.

Thursday, Sept. 1.—Eight hundred meter run, throwing fifty-six pound weight for distance, 200 meter hurdle race, running broad jump, running hop, step and jump; tug of war (final), dumbbell competition, first section.

Saturday, Sept. 3.—One hundred meter run, throwing the discus, dumbbell,



THOMAS Q. SEABROOKE IN "PIFF, PAFF, POUF."

Thomas Q. Seabrooke, the popular comedian, is once more appearing in one of the Casino productions in New York. He is a "Casino favorite" in every sense of the word, having appeared in that theater in many plays. In "Piff, Paff, Pouf," he plays the role of August Melon, a light hearted, affectionate soul with a bevy of unmarried daughters.

With Eddie Foy in the leading role, supported by Seabrooke, Alice Fischer and Grace Cameron, this "musical cocktail," as the production has been termed, should continue to draw well throughout the summer.

Mr. Seabrooke, comedian, athlete, whip and amateur sailor, is a resident of Rye-on-the-Sound, N. Y., where he was born thirty-nine years ago. Mr. Seabrooke, having made himself a prime favorite of Casino companies, remarked recently that during the past six years he has played two-thirds of that time on the Casino stage. There is perhaps no other actor in the metropolis that has succeeded so well in putting himself into the atmosphere of characteristic New York comedies as has Mr. Seabrooke, and any musical attraction that is strictly characteristic of New York city, as "Piff, Paff, Pouf," is, would seem incomplete without his presence in the cast. Although having been employed in some one of the big New York productions every summer, Mr. Seabrooke manages to get as much pleasure out of his residence on the sound as do any of the cottagers who spend their time out of the city expressly for recreation.

It is safe to say that Mr. Seabrooke in the role of August Melon is giving to the public one of the most superb bits of comedy acting he has ever done.

second section; 1,500 meter run, 110 meter hurdle, pole vault for height, three standing jumps, international team race, each country to start five men, distance four miles, the team scoring the least number of points to win, scoring to be one point for first, two points for second, etc.

In connection with the Olympic games for world's championship titles the following handicap events will be given: Monday, Aug. 29.—One hundred and twenty yard hurdle, running broad jump, 850 yard run, putting the sixteen pound shot.

Wednesday, Aug. 31.—One mile run, 100 yard run, high jump, pole vault.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 1.—Two hundred and twenty yard run, 220 yard hurdle, throwing the discus, throwing the fifty-six pound weight for distance.

Saturday, Sept. 3.—Sixty yard run, 440 yard run, throwing the sixteen pound hammer, team race, handicap, one mile, teams of four men, each to run 440 yards.

Rules For Throwing the Javelin.

A javelin throwing contest was a part of the programme of the recent Irish games held at St. Louis. As no rules had ever been published governing this event Chief Sullivan was appealed to, and he evidenced his versatility and thorough knowledge of the intricacies of sport by writing in three minutes (actual time) a set of rules that will govern javelin throwing in future on both sides of the Atlantic. The rules are as follows:

The javelin shall be three feet six inches in length, including the head.

The head shall be spear shaped and made of steel.

The spear shall measure sixteen inches with the socket included.

All throws shall be made from a circle seven feet in diameter.

The circle shall be a metal or wooden ring, painted or whitewashed, and sunk almost flush with the ground.

The throw shall be for accuracy.

Sixty feet from the circle shall be the object post which shall be one foot square, of very soft wood, and shall be sunk into the ground, leaving four feet above the ground.

The contestants spearing the posts shall score ten points for each time the post is speared.

Striking the post with any part of the javelin shall score two points.

In case all the contestants fail to spear or strike the post the contestants spearing the earth nearest to the post shall win.

All throws to be counted must either spear the post or ground, and the method of throwing shall be as follows:

A throw shall be made with one hand only and the contestant may assume any position in the circle before the throw.

Three trials shall be allowed.

FREDERICK R. TOOMBS.

MASON TO SUPPORT MRS. FISKE.

The first engagement announced for the new company which is to be associated with Mrs. Fiske and established at the Manhattan theater, New York, next season is that of John Mason. Mr. Fiske has secured Mr. Mason for leading parts. He will make his first appearance with Mrs. Fiske as Rawdon Crawley in "Becky Sharp." Mr. Mason has been prominently identified with the New York stage for a number of years. For two seasons he was connected with Daniel Frohman's stock company, and he starred in "The Altar of Friendship." The last two seasons he has been with Miss Annie Russell, playing in "Mice and Men" and in "The Younger Mrs. Farling."

AS TO PLAYS.

A prominent actor who is more at home on the stage than in the pulpit nevertheless occupied one of the latter by invitation in Toledo lately. Among other things he remarked "You complain of the quality of the plays you get, but it is your own fault if you get poor ones. The manager is in the business for the money there is in it. He prescribes just what the public demands. Don't blame us if you get plays of low moral tone."

ADE'S LITTLE JOKE.

George Ade, the humorist and playwright, does his own improving and rewriting instead of leaving that important work to stage managers and advance agents after the shock of an opening performance. Apropos of his resolution is a reminiscence of the first night of "Peggy From Paris" in the Boston summer run of the piece.

It seems that the last act as originally written was much weaker than the first, and when the final curtain fell Mr. Ade and Mr. Savage, who staged the production, remarked the fact simultaneously.

"Never mind," said Mr. Savage. "I'll fix it up all right."

"Oh, no, you don't," Henry.

"It will be first Ade to the injured," you know."

retorted the playwright. "I'll attend to that part of the business. When my stage writing needs 'brushing,' bandaging or amputation I shall lead off. It will be 'first Ade to the injured,' you know."



LOUIS SCHOLES, HENLEY WINNER.

Scholes, winner of the Diamond sculls at the regatta at Henley-on-Thames, England, is to row at St. Louis in the American championship contests. Scholes is a Canadian. His father was a famous sportsman in his day.



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