

# REVIEW OF PREVAILING ATHLETIC SPORTS

## FOURTEEN STAR PLAYERS WOULD BRING IN \$231,000

Picking the Major League for Its Greatest Stars Shows a Lineup Worth a Fortune—Wagner and Cobb Lead All Others in Cold Cash.

LOOKING over the big league roster for the All-Star club, the following team looks as if it could make a run-away of any pennant race, if ever corralled into one club: Pitchers—Matt Hewson, New York, National; Donavan, Detroit, American; Cy Young, Boston, American; Waddell, St. Louis, American. Catchers—Bresnahan, New York, National; Kling, Chicago, National. First base—Chase, New York, American. Second base—Lajoie, Cleveland, American. Third base—Wallace, St. Louis, American. Shortstop—Wagner, Pittsburgh, National. Left field—Donlin, New York, National. Center field—Crawford, Detroit, American. Right field—Cobb, Detroit, American. Utility—Hoffman, Chicago, National.

Of course, it is impossible to purchase the players mentioned, but if they were on the market it is a cinch that a quarter of a million dollars would be insufficient to purchase the stars on the list.

Take the pitchers. Of the four, Matt Hewson, the "Peerless Christy," he who won almost single-handedly the world's championship for his club, and Cy Young, the Boston veteran, who has stood among the first pitchers of the game, stand out the brightest. Fifteen thousand dollars would be instantly turned down for each release.

DOVAN AND WADDELL. Next comes Wild Bill Donovan, the famous Detroit twirler. An offer of \$12,000 for his services would result in the desert. Then comes the most wonderful pitcher the game knows—the erratic Rube Waddell. Notwithstanding the fact that the wild and woolly boy was purchased in the spring of 1908 for \$20,000, it's home runs to foul tips that McAleer would laugh at an offer of \$10,000 for the eccentric ball artist at the present time.

The two catchers. Opinion is divided as to which of the pair has the call on the title of "king of the mask and mitt." Some believe that the better receiver, but there are not many who will dispute the greatness of Johnny Kling as a general behind the willow. It's an ace-in-the-hole snap that \$15,000 would be passed up for either catcher as swiftly as the New York Central passenger train passes a hobo on a pedestrian out.

At first base Hale Chase has the package of enough dops on all initial sack-scissors, and \$15,000 would be sent back to the mint to grow, were it offered for his services.

THE GREAT NAPOLEON. Lajoie, the great Napoleon, though

hindered by managerial duties, shines at second base when comparison is brought out, as an electric light shines over a tallow candle. The \$15,000 sent out for his release would go begging for the last sack of the diamond. Robby Wallace of the St. Louis Americans looks the Sunday morning kid, though at present playing shortstop. Third base is the position at which Wallace became famous. While being tried out as a pitcher by Cleveland the third sacker of the Blues was injured and sent out of the game for the jump and head. After several unsuccessful attempts to fill the hole at the third corner, Wallace, though a pitcher, volunteered to take a chance as an infielder. He made good from the jump and has proved his sterling worth, going to the team when it was away down in the percentage column. Wagner's work has greatly assisted in placing the Smoke City team on the top of the ladder. What do you suppose would be said to one who offered \$25,000 for the great Hans?

For the left field the package should go to Mike Donlin, the great outfield slugger of the New York Nationals. Do you think for a minute that Donlin's release could be purchased for \$15,000?

For center field Detroit puts the runner up in the person of Sam Crawford. The great fielder and hitter would never get away from the Tigers on an offer of \$15,000.

Next comes the right garden, and Detroit puts another one on the pan in Tyrus Cobb, the Georgia boy, who is the real sensation of the baseball world. Would \$20,000 buy his release? Twenty thousand dollars, with an added five thousand, would look to Jennings the same as a blue shirt-waist would loom up at a pink tie.

THE GREAT UTILITY MAN.

For a utility player, Hoffman, the great all-round player wearing a Chicago Cub uniform, is the whole piece of broadcloth, and \$15,000 would be mere pocket change to the utility man, the grandest of all the utility men.

Mustered together as one club, does it seem possible to defeat such a team? Negatively speaking, the money to buy the releases, as estimated above, would be:

Matthewson ..... \$ 15,000

Young ..... 15,000

Donlin ..... 15,000

Waddell ..... 10,000

Bresnahan ..... 18,000

Kling ..... 18,000

Chase ..... 15,000

Wallace ..... 15,000

Wagner ..... 25,000

Donlin ..... 15,000

Crawford ..... 15,000

Hoffman ..... 15,000

Total ..... \$231,000

### BIG RUBE MARQUARDT FINDS ROADS ROUGH

Rube Marquardt, the \$11,000 beauty, who is to go to the New York National League club, has found hard sledding in the American association during the last month.

Since July 16 the big left-hander has undertaken to pitch seven games for Indianapolis and six of them have been defeats. The defeats were traceable to Rube's pitching, too, and his opponents have won by good, hard hitting. When he has gone along all right for eight innings, the other team has found him in the ninth.

On July 16 Toledo pounded him out three runs in the ninth and won, 5 to 2. On July 24 Rube won, 5 to 2, from Minneapolis. On July 23 Minneapolis hit him for five runs in the ninth and won, 6 to 5. On July 22 a single and triple in the ninth gave Kansas City two runs and the game. On Aug. 6 Louisville knocked Marquardt out of the box and won, 3 to 2, and last Sunday pitched him out again, winning, 3 to 2.

### THE SPORT OF KINGS DEALT A SEVERE BLOW

When the big racing men of the east, such as Keene, Whitney and Madden, withdrew their racing strings from the track, a severe blow was dealt the game in the east. The New York World says: That the racing was not a success was due to the desertion of the track by all the big stables. James R. Keene, Harry Payne Whitney, August Belmont, Francis H. Hitchcock, John E. Madden and R. T. Wilson, Jr., sent their best horses to Saratoga. Madden gave the association notice to believe that he would support it liberally with entries by writing them a note in which he stated that he had 43 head of horses in training and was willing to race them for purses as low as \$200. That sounded real sportsmanlike, but when it came to a demonstration, Madden joined the rest-and-water crowd and left three horses to take part in the struggles for the Brighton sweepstakes—Edward, Joe Madden and Chaparron.

### NEW COACHING STAFF FOR STATE SCHOOLS

The coaches for the state's universities and colleges for this year's football will see some changes in names. Maddock will stick with the university, as a matter of fact, the Agricultural college will thanksgiving, when he goes back to school. His place will be filled by Teitel, who is now in the east watching the development of new rules. He will stay there until the great Thanksgiving games to observe practice and play under the new conditions and will come to the A. C. well supplied with the latest wrinkles in the gridiron game.

Meanwhile, Teitel's place is to be taken at the University by Fred Bannion, who is now at the University of Pennsylvania, and the plugging game. Bannion will remain at the B. Y. C. at Logan.

### ALL AMERICA CLUB TO TOUR THE ORIENT

On Nov. 3, 1908, Reache's All-American baseball club will sail from San Francisco for Japan, China, the Philippines and Hawaiian Islands. This team will be composed of some of the star players of the United States. This will be one of the greatest trips that a baseball club has ever taken. In all covering a distance of about 20,000 miles. It will be the first time that an American club has ever visited Japan, China and the Philippines. In fact, the influence of this trip should make baseball the national sport in all these various places.

At the present time baseball is very popular in the Orient. In Japan they have a four-team league, composed of the Chicago Nationals, Great Overall of the same club, Jiggs Donohue of the Chicago Americans, Hal Chase of the New York Americans, Ty Cobb of Detroit, Bill Burns and Delahanty of Washington, Ed Doherty of the Boston Americans, Liefeld and Nealon of Deveraux, George Hildebrand, William Deveraux and Roulle Zelder of the Pacific Coast league.

When the series of games are played in Japan the people of Yokohama and Tokyo will be apt to break the world's record for attendance at a ball game. The Japanese are very progressive and will realize at once what an advertisement this would be to them, and as they have the population of these two cities to draw from there is no reason why the record should not be broken.

The club will sail under the management of M. A. Fisher, one of the best known baseball managers on the Pacific coast, and J. L. Woods, a sporting promoter.

### CHRISTY MATTHEWSON PICKS OUT THE GIANTS

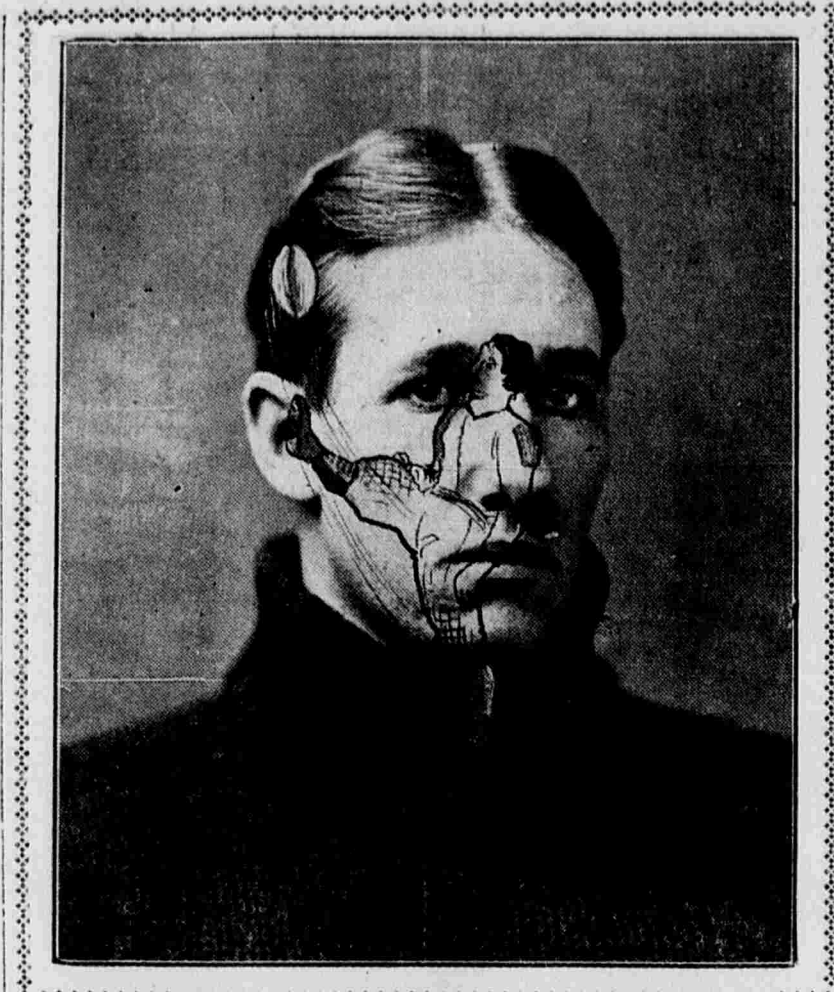
Christy Matthewson, pitcher for the New York Giants, is predicting that the Giants will win the National league pennant. Here's what Christy has to say for the New York American: "Chicago, in my mind, is the team we have to beat. I figure the Cubs stronger than the Pirates because of the presence of Frank Chance's men and the confidence that the successes of two consecutive years have engendered. It is hard to find a better team. Chicago boasts a crack back-pitching staff and has a hard hitting, fast fielding, speedy and aggressive team. I believe the Giants outgame the Cubs. In our work this year we have been very successful against the champions because we were able to more than stand them off at their own game. And I think this will win the pennant for us."

## Coach Bannion Will Introduce Autumn Field And Track Meets.

At the Brigham Young university in Provo this fall there is to be an innovation in athletics. Track and field meets are to be held together with basketball, taking the place of football, which finds no place in the school. To train Provo's young athletes, Fred Bannion, fresh from the University of Pennsylvania, has been secured. He comes to the school with a whole bag of new ideas athletically. Too, he comes wearing fresh honors in the field and track, for while at Penn he captured an event or two and brought it home with him. In the spring comes the state track meet at Provo and a dual meet with the university. The fall meets are expected to strengthen the Provo team for these events, and Bannion is confident that the Provo school will stand high up in the list when the scores are tallied.

Bannion's record as an athlete is known over the state and far beyond its borders. Five years of stellar playing at the university placed him in the limelight on both track and gridiron. He still holds the state hammer record with 136 feet 11 inches. In snow, put, 160 yard, and relay events he always acquitted himself with credit. In class meets he was entered in events of all sorts, and is qualified to take a team through all its centering.

Recent, while at Penn, saw some great basketball. And this is Provo's strong game. He witnessed the Penn five win the eastern championship by easily defeating the New England champions, Brown, and the victory of Penn over Georgetown, the southern champions. He also saw the Penn-Chicago game, which, however, was won by Chicago. Bannion played on the freshman team at Penn, filling half-back and full-back and being at the time the team captain. This team played ten games last season and won seven out of ten. The track Bannion won the hammer throw in the freshman meet and secured fourth place in the Philadelphia relay meet—the biggest track meet in history with 1,200 entries.



FRED BANNION, New Coach for B. Y. U.

## Picking the Winners in the Major League

PORTING writers throughout the National league circuit, men who discuss the playing ability of teams impartially, are now almost unanimous in declaring that the Chicago Cubs are not going to win the National league championship this year.

They say that the team is not playing together as it did last year and the year before, when it won pennants; that the dissension among its players is so plain as to be seen even on the playing field, and that he dashing spirit which made the team look better than all the rest for two years is now so conspicuous by its absence as to be apparent whenever the team plays. Even the Chicago sporting writers, who have always contended that there never was such another team as the Cubs, now admit that something is wrong about it and that there will have to be a change in the spirit of the players if they win another pennant this year.

All around the circuit the Philadelphia team is being lauded as looking the best of any in the league at present. Even the New York and Pittsburgh teams are not being touted as the Phillies and several whose baseball judgment is considered excellent have

picked the Phillies to win the pennant this year, even despite the lead Murray's men will have to overcome to do it.

Here is a culling of comments on the playing of the leading teams in the National league at present:

CHICAGO.

The best team in the league when it is playing up to its form, but not playing together as it did in 1906 and 1907. Pitchers not working as well as last year and several veteran members falling down when hits are needed—men who last year and the year before were pinch hitters par excellence. The dash and vim so characteristic of the team when it was leading, somewhat conspicuous by its absence. Rather a suggestion of lack of gameness in some of its members.

NEW YORK.

A fighting team every minute of the time. Strong in every department of play, and every member determined to win the pennant this year. Greatest weakness, retreating the batter, but not weak, by any means, in that department except in figuring it as a pennant winner. McGraw's aggressive spirit thoroughly instilled into every member of the team never beaten until the last man is out. An even bet against Pittsburgh and a 1-to-2 shot against the field.

PITTSBURG.

A one-man band, with Wagner shining out like a red light in a field of white. Likely to win the pennant if the inside circle of the batter, but pitchers continue the form they have shown of late and its members become

just a little more aggressive. A grand team man for man, but somehow does not look like a pennant winner. This year will be the easiest of the four new in the first division for the American league champions to beat if it should land the National league pennant this year and thus be the team to represent the National league in the world's championship series.

PHILADELPHIA.

An evenly balanced team throughout, game and determined. Few, if any, bright, shining lights in its line, but 12 or 14 players who would strengthen any team in the league if divided among the other seven. In the game all the time and pitching than any team in the league. A steady staff that looks as good as any in the league, strong behind the bat, a splendid infield, fair fielding and strong bases—not in the judgment of its men, but in speed.

Here are the figures of the way the country's leading writers pick the finish in the two major leagues:

NATIONAL.

	1st	2d	3d	4th
Chicago	3	7	0	0
Pittsburgh	5	4	6	0
New York	5	3	8	4
Philadelphia	2	1	1	11

AMERICAN.

	1st	2d	3d	4th
Detroit	7	2	0	0
Chicago	3	5	6	4
St. Louis	1	1	8	1
St. Louis	4	7	1	0

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## WAGNER, DONLIN & COBB STAND IN SPOT LIGHT GLARE

Who is the Greatest Baseball Player?—Do the Stars of Today Eclipse Those of Days Gone By?—G. O. Tidden Makes Answer.



EVER since baseball took a firm hold on the American public and became the national game one question has caused endless arguments among the enthusiasts and has never been answered to the satisfaction of everybody.

That question is, "Who is the greatest baseball player?" G. O. Tidden in the New York World declares that this does not mean the greatest batter, although it must be admitted that the man with the wallop comes first in the eyes of the fans; not the greatest fielder, nor the greatest base runner. It means, taking in all departments of the game, "who excels above all others, day in and day out, and whose work does more than any other man's to win games."

Years ago the late Mike Kelly, possibly the quickest thinker that ever played the game, would have been awarded the title of the "greatest player" by a big majority. Still other players who flourished in Kelly's time had their staunch adherents. What loyal followers of the Giants of the '90s would admit that Kelly had anything on Zack Lajoie or Johnny Ward? Philadelphia's today, and among them men who know the game well from every angle, claim that Charley Ferguson was the greatest all-around player of that period.

But all previous disputes on this subject were passed up in the nineties when Napoleon Lajoie and Hans Wagner, who won the National league pennants in 1907 and 1908, were in the same league the discussions as to their relative merits were mild. But when, in 1906, Lajoie cast his fortunes with the American league and Wagner stuck to the old organization the adherents of the two great players waxed warm in arguing over their claims to the title of the greatest player in the National league adherent to admit that the graceful Frenchman had anything on Wagner was impossible. It was as difficult to find an American player who would concede anything to a Dutchman as it was to find a Dutchman who would concede anything to an American.

LAJOIE'S YEARS TELL.

While Lajoie has recently shown flashes of his best form, his staunchest admirers have been compelled to admit that he is not the Larry of old. He has slowed up on the bases not record, never cutting over 235 in 1907 with 349, in 1906 with 329 and in 1907 with 350. His grand average for 11 years with Louisville and Pittsburgh is 332 per cent.

The statement was recently made that baseball is losing its sentimental side, and calling attention to the hero worship accorded the old-timers. Like Kelly, Rube Waddell, Amos Russett, John Montgomery Ward, Dan Brouthers and others. These great public idols of old did receive the homage of the fans. But nothing to equal the demonstration given to Hans Wagner.

COBB A NATURAL PLAYER.

It is claimed for Cobb that he is the greatest natural ball player that ever broke into baseball. To gain the distinction of being the leading batsman of a major league at 32 years of age has never been done by any other player. For a year Cobb has been easily the most discussed man in the game. He was the real thing in the American league last season, and before its close became a drawing card for the fans. Lajoie at his best. Under the able teaching of Hugh Jennings the young Georgian produced all the bases, home runs, and a grand slam from a scrapping fire eater to an earnest, hard working ball player.

To close students of the game a comparison of the batting and fielding averages for 1907 of Cobb and Wagner is of interest, showing as it does how the work of a young player in his first full season in major league company compares with that of the seasoned star.

Lois of men and women who are agreeable with others, get cranky at home. It's not disposition, it's the fact that you have in your mind that you are a cross around the house. Little boys worry you, just buy a bottle of Balm of Gilead and put your liver in shape. You and everybody around you will feel better for it. Price 25 cents per bottle. Write to J. C. McLaughlin, Drug Store, 15 and 174 South Main Street.

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after the game at the Polo grounds on July 25, in which the Flying Dutchman made five hits in five times at bat, was ever known in the history of the national game.

DONLIN AND COBB.

In the mean time two players have come to the front to do the day's work, the proud title of "greatest ball player." They are Mike Donlin, the Giants, and Tyrus Cobb, the Detroit, who has made greater strides to the front in his two years of major league service than any other player ever did in the same length of time. Mike Donlin's fans—and no man's club, who has made greater strides to the front in his two years of major league service than any other player ever did in the same length of time. Mike Donlin's fans—and no man's club, who has made greater strides to the front in his two years of major league service than any other player ever did in the same length of time.

Few players know the game as well as Donlin. From his position in right field he sizes up every play on the field and his captain of the team doesn't hesitate to "call" on him when they slip up or to praise them when they do good work. Donlin infuses the Giants with the spirit that wins pennants. He is the "call" on the field but nobody if it is forgotten after the game, and Mike never carries anything off the field with him.

JUDGES PICK DONLIN.

Donlin is ranked by competent judges as the best right fielder of the day, and covers big territory and judges difficult fly balls with fine accuracy. His throwing is powerful and accurate. Many a second baseman has Donlin nipped out of the base. Donlin is a big man, and many a one has refused to take a chance with Donlin after the ball. As a base runner Donlin excels the capabilities of the catchers. When he will undertake on the average catcher Donlin will hesitate about with Mike Kling or Billy Bergen behind him.

Four years ago Tyrus Cobb was signed by the Augusta team at a salary of \$50 a month. Con Strouthers, the manager of the club, says the youngest Cobb, who was only 18 years of age at that time, was so anxious to play that he would have been willing to sign for his findings and a little pin money. In the fall of 1905 the Detroit club purchased his release for \$750. This year Cobb has played for the Tigers under a contract calling for \$5,000 for the season.

COBB A NATURAL PLAYER.

It is claimed for Cobb that he is the