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## BILLY EVANS SOLVES BASEBALL PROBLEMS

(Written Especially for This Paper by the Famous American League Umpire.)

Stealing home is a play that invariably makes trouble for the umpire. There are so many different angles that can arise, that there is almost sure to be some interference protest made one way or the other. Usually, the play is close, and the team getting the wrong end of the decision has a kick coming on the question of judgment.



In a game in one of the minors last year, there was a runner on third with two down and the pitcher up. The man on third was fairly fast, while the pitcher was a very weak hitter. With two strikes and no balls on the batter, the runner from third made a break for home on the next ball pitched. He had a pretty good start and his chances for making the plate looked fair. The catcher, in his anxiety to retire the runner, rushed in front of the plate, received the ball before it had passed over the plate, and retired the runner from third.

Not thinking, the umpire waved the runner out, but immediately allowed the run, as he realized where the catcher was when he received the ball. He declared a balk because the catcher had left the line of his position. The declaring of the balk entitled the runner from third to score. Then another argument started. The batter insisted that he had intended hitting at the ball, and, since the catcher had gone in front of the plate and received the sphere, that player had interfered with his intention of hitting. The umpire then allowed the batsman to go to first because of the catcher's interference. There was a big kick, but the umpire stood firm. The next fellow up hit for a home run, winning the ball game.

What would you have done had you been in charge of the game, and did the umpire rule correctly?

Answer to Problem.

The umpire was perfectly within his rights in declaring the balk, as the catcher had left the lines of his position to receive the ball. Since the umpire declared the actions of the catcher as a balk, the runner on third was entitled to score. The declaring of the balk suspended play, making it impossible for anything to happen afterwards. The verdict of balk had priority over all other angles. In sending the batter to first the umpire erred, for it was impossible to make two such rulings on the same play. With an interference allowed on the batter, there could be no balk, as such interference would suspend play and merely allow the batter first, but no base runners to advance unless forced. Consequently, the two runs resulting from his ruling and the home run were illegal, and the president of the league was forced to throw out the game and have it played over.

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## INTERESTING SPORT PARAGRAPHS

Most fighters are featherweights in everything but their weight.

When a boxing match is "roasted" it is not necessarily "cooked."

Hans Wagner had his salary cut and immediately grew too old to play.

Washington (D. C.) Athletic club has 150 members and aims to secure 1,500.

Nick Altrock has abandoned his hope of being a vaudeville star and has gone into business.

It seems that in order to be a true amateur you must become famous as a professional.

Watt Chestnutt, who umpired in the national league last season, has fled from baseball.

According to a statement in Pittsburgh, President Dreyfuss of the Pirates admits that his club has lost \$70,000 in the past three years.

There are two hard things to do in cricket. One is to serve ten and the other is to keep score.

"It requires great patience to play billiards," writes an expert. Especially to play Willie Hoppe.

It has been suggested that in case of war all baseball pitchers could be used as hand grenade throwers.

The New York State League club owners have decided on the double umpire system for the coming season.

Some ball players who insist on being paid "what they are worth" would have to go to the poorhouse if they got it.

Proposed match for one-armed golfers suggests a similar tournament for deaf-and-dumb golfers—if a mute can play golf.

Peter Kilduff, shortstop, who was with the Western league last season, has been purchased by the New York Nationals.

Ruby Robert used to put 'em to sleep with his fists, and now he is going to turn preacher and put 'em to sleep with his mouth.

Now that golf is rapidly becoming a game for the poor man as well as for the rich, there is nothing left for the exclusives but polo.

Erwin, who umpired in the South Atlantic league last season, will not be in the Sally league next season, as he has accepted a position to render decisions in the Eastern league.

## RUNNER TO QUIT ATHLETICS

Ted Meredith to Retire After National Championships Are Run in St. Louis in September.

Ted Meredith, considered by many to be the greatest middle-distance runner of all time, will quit the athletic arena for good after the national track and field championship of the A. A. U. which are to be held in St. Louis September 7 and 8.

Lawson Robertson, coach of the University of Pennsylvania, who was



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Ted Meredith.

engaged largely through Meredith's instrumentality, is the authority for this announcement of the Quaker flyer's forthcoming retirement.

In the spring of 1912 Meredith first came into prominence by astonishing the athletic world by running a fast quarter-mile at the University of Pennsylvania relay games as a member of the Mercersburg academy one-mile relay team. Less than three months later he won the Olympic 800-meter championship and raced on the 890 yards, setting a world's record of 1 minute 52 1/2 seconds.

In the fall of 1912 he entered the University of Pennsylvania, and, becoming eligible to represent the Red and Blue the following year, has been the most conspicuous athlete on the American cinder path. His career as a college champion culminated last spring, when he set a world's half-mile record of 1 minute 52 1-5 seconds in a dual meet with Cornell, and made a new world's mark of 47 2-5 seconds for the quarter-mile.

Cups for Best Scholars.

An alumnus of the University of Missouri has presented the athletic department of that institution with a fund for the purchase of loving cups, which are to be given annually to the athlete of the university attaining the highest scholarship during the university course.

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