

Freak Plays

That Decide Baseball Championships

By Hugh S. Fullerton

Detroit's Tigers and Philadelphia's Athletics were struggling in the final series of the baseball season in the Tigers' lair. Upon the outcome depended the championship of the American league, and the chance to meet the Chicago Cubs for the world's championship. The Athletics were ahead in the race, and although Mack's team had not ripened to its full strength it looked as if it would hold its lead. The game was the first of four that were to be played in Detroit, and in the eighth inning the Tigers were leading by the narrow margin of one run. Every member of the two teams knew that the first game probably would decide the series.

Detroit was clinging desperately to the one run lead that was earned by two terrific drives by Crawford and Cobb. Donovan was pitching magnificently, yet he could not prevent the Athletics from hitting; time and again the Tigers were thrown back on the defensive and saved by the wonderful fielding feats of Cobb and Bush. The eighteen athletes were strained to the breaking point and each one was "on his toes" every instant. In the eighth inning the Athletics got a runner to second base with no one out. It looked like a tied score, perhaps victory, when one of the strangest freak plays ever seen intervened, saved Detroit, and turned the entire tide of the season. The batter twice attempted to sacrifice, failed and was forced to hit. He swung at a fast ball, high and outside the plate, and sent a twisting, teasing fly over the head of the first baseman, perhaps seventy feet back of the bag, and the ball was falling almost on the foul line, one of the few spots on the entire playing field where balls fall safe almost every time, just out of the reach of any fielder. Rossman, the first baseman, turned and tore down the foul line, his back directly to the plate, but from the first it was evident he could not reach the falling ball. Schaefer, who was playing second, had been playing in perfect position to cut off a right-field hit from the bat of a left-handed hitter. He started the instant the ball was hit and sprinted at top speed toward it. From short right came Ty Cobb, who, seeing the victory snatched from his team by sheer luck, had turned on the wonderful burst of speed that has made him the marvel of baseball. It looked as if Cobb might reach the ball by a feat possible only for him, yet Schaefer, although slower, had made a quicker start, claimed the catch and reached the ball. His final leap, made with hands outstretched, brought him to the ball just inside the foul line and, as he accomplished the wonderful catch, and while the crowd was roaring with applause, Cobb, unable to check himself in his frantic effort, crashed against Schaefer, turned a somersault over him and, as he went down, Schaefer allowed the ball to fall from his hands. A groan arose from the crowd. The Athletic runner on second had tried to get back to the base when he saw that Schaefer would reach the ball, and now he turned and raced for the

Oddly enough, when one begins to study the freak plays that decide games and not infrequently settle pennant races, it will be found that most of the strange bits of play that seem inexplicable, happen to clubs during their winning streaks. In looking over the queer plays of the last two seasons in my records I picked out twenty and discovered in every instance that the "luck broke" for the club that was at the time having a "winning streak." There are times when "everything breaks for" one club, when nothing another club may try will win.

During the early weeks of last season it seemed as if, no matter whether they did well or ill, the freak plays all resulted in their favor. "It's the only team I ever saw," mourned Fred Clarke, "that can win games by making errors." There was one play that must still remain impressed upon the memories of those who saw it. The game was at Chicago and had gone into extra innings. In the tenth, I believe it was, Chicago had a runner on third base with two out. The batter smashed a fierce drive just inside the first base, the game seemed over and the victory Chicago's. Konetchy, the Cardinal first baseman, dived at the ball as it was passing, slapped his mitt down and by this despairing effort, he managed to make the glove hit the ball. But instead of stopping, the ball rolled slowly back into right field on fair ground and stopped perhaps twenty-five feet behind the bag. Like a flash Konetchy leaped in pursuit of the ball, retrieved it and whirling he threw to the pitcher who was covering the base at top speed, only a step ahead of the runner. Konetchy is one of the most powerful throwers in the business and he threw with all his force in an effort to make the play and save the day. The ball flashed past the pitcher so fast he hadn't time to put up his hands, shaved the head of the runner, who dodged, and bounded perfectly into Bresnahan's hands at the plate. The runner coming home from third with the winning run had been loitering, and when to his amazement he saw the ball beating him to the plate he made a belated effort to slide, but Bresnahan blocked him and touched him out. It perhaps was the only time on record when a wild throw to first base ever caught a runner at home and saved a ball game. It was merely an exaggerated example of the manner in which fortune followed the Cardinals during that period.

The most sensational game I have ever seen during twenty seasons of watching major league baseball was that between the Washington team and the Chicago White Sox late in 1911. It was filled with freakish plays from start to finish. The Washington team just then was in the only lucky streak it enjoyed during the season and seemed a certain winner. First, Walter Johnson hit one of the longest drives I ever saw, a ball that on a still day would have cleared the deep center-field fence. A high wind, however, was blowing directly from center toward the plate and the ball, soaring high, was caught by it. Rodie had started straight outward at top speed seemingly without a chance to reach the ball, but as the wind checked the force of the drive, the ball began to slow up and then fall, at first directly downward and then backward toward the pursuing fielder, who actually overtook it, and made a spectacular catch. A few moments later Walker, in left field for Washington, raced to left center in pursuit of a vicious line drive. There was a puddle of water in his path and Walker appeared to be watching that puddle more than he was the ball. He skirted the water and turned as if in pursuit of the ball and, glancing up, he saw that the high wind had broken the flight of the ball and that it was coming straight at his head. He ducked, threw up his bare hand as if to ward off the blow, and the ball struck his hand and stuck there.

Inning after inning of sensational catches, startling stops, line smashes aimed straight at fielders, rapid double plays, followed, keeping the crowd rolled up and wild with enthusiasm. Finally "Prince Henry" Schaefer capped the climax by starting a play that became historic, and started never ending discussion. Clyde Milan, a fast and clever runner, was on third. Schaefer was on first, two men were out and a weak batter was at the plate. On the first ball pitched Schaefer stole second, loitering purposely and trying to draw a throw from the catcher that would give Milan a chance to score. As two runs would not do any more damage than one, the Sox let him run unmolested, feeling certain the batter could not hit. On the next ball pitched, also a strike, Schaefer stole from second back to first, again striving to force Chicago to throw. The White Sox instantly raised a protest. The umpires were silent. They could not tell the Chicago players what to do, although palpably the play was for the first baseman to run ahead of Schaefer, take the throw from the pitcher, force Schaefer back to the first base and touch him out. Milan hadn't a chance to go home if the play was

made that way. Schaefer had no right to first base but was free to return to second if he could escape being touched, as no runner is out on the bases unless touched or forced. Chicago, evidently ignorant of the rules, was arguing heatedly and Manager Duffy ran from the third base coaching line to the pitcher's slab to appeal to the assistant umpire. Finally the ball was thrown to first base, but behind Schaefer, who instantly started for second and when the ball was thrown to second Milan made a dash for the plate. Schaefer achieved his purpose, even though Milan was caught at the plate. Then Washington protested the game, in case of defeat, on the grounds that, when the play was made, Chicago had ten men in uniform on the playing field.

The game went to the twelfth inning and finally, with a runner on third base, and Schaefer again on first, the batter drove out a clean single that ended the contest. Still unsatisfied with the freaks of the day Schaefer ran from first down to second, stopped, looked around to see if anyone (especially an umpire) was looking, walked all the way around second base without touching it, and, satisfied that he had duplicated Merkle's famous play, came off the field grinning. That evening he held a celebration to gloat over the White Sox and the umpires, not one of whom had observed his failure to touch the bag.

Among the abnormal incidents that figured in the earlier history of the



Germany Schaefer.

national game, perhaps none is as well known to old-timers as the one which happened to Cliff Carroll, on the St. Louis grounds, when he was a member of the famous "Browns." Perhaps you have wondered why baseball players have plain shirt fronts, and why so few players have breast pockets. Cliff Carroll is the reason. He was running forward to take a base hit on the first bound. The ball bounced crooked and hit him on the chest. He grabbed at the ball hastily and, as he clutched it, he shoved it down into the handkerchief pocket on his shirt front. The runner saw Carroll tugging and straining to tear the ball out of the pocket and instead of stopping at first, he sprinted on to second while Carroll, still trying to dislodge the ball, ran to second. The batter passed the fielder and turned for third with Carroll in pursuit. At third Carroll stopped and tried in vain to release the ball, and the runner kept on across the plate and scored the winning run. Chris von der Ahe, who at that time was at the head of the euphonic trio, Von der Ahe, Muckenfuss and Diddlebock, which operated the club, was furious and ordered all pockets removed from baseball shirts. Other teams followed and the pockets never have been restored, except by a few players who are willing to risk the repetition of the accident.

Of all the good luck freaks that I ever heard recounted, the best was that which happened to Frank Isbell when he was playing with St. Paul in the old Western league. In those days baseball on Sunday was not permitted within the corporation limits of St. Paul, and a Sunday park had been erected outside the city's jurisdiction. The ground was extremely small and was inclosed by a high fence. So small was the inclosure that batters hitting the ball hard against the fences were compelled to sprint to first, because if the ball happened to rebound directly to the fielder, he could throw a slow runner out. As it required about four hits of their equivalent in errors to yield a run, small scores were the rule. In the ninth inning of this game Milwaukee had two runs the advantage and there were runners on first and second with Isbell at bat. St. Paul's only logical hope was for a home run over one of the high fences. Isbell hit a hard line smash to right field against the fence. The runner on first was a slow man and the fielder squatted, expecting the ball to rebound to him and to whirl and force the slow man at second base, ending the game. But the ball didn't rebound. It impaled itself on a wire nail about ten feet up the fence, and while the Milwaukee outfielders were hunting a ladder, Isbell circled the bases and won the game.

Another peculiar play once gave the Chicago White Sox a game that

seemed lost. Harvey, a left-handed pitcher, was compelled to play being base because of the badly crippled condition of his team and in the seventh inning, Chicago being one ahead, the opposing team got runners to first and second before anyone went out. Naturally the play was for the batter to push down a sacrifice bunt. The White Sox had a system of play designed to kill the sacrifice in that situation. The shortstop and second baseman, aided by the pitcher, were to hold the runner at second as close to the base as possible. The third baseman was to play close, as if intending to take the bunt, but as the ball was being pitched he was to run back, cover third, while the pitcher fielded the bunted ball, threw to third and forced out the runner at that point. Harvey had been carefully coached how the play was to be executed, but the batter, detecting the play from the actions of the shortstop and second baseman, changed signals and decided to try to drive the ball past Harvey hard instead of bunting. As the pitcher wound up Harvey whirled and sprinted back to third. The batter chopped the ball hard and sent a line hit straight toward third base. The ball struck Harvey on the back of the head, and bounded high; the sub-third baseman, as he went staggering on over the base, caught the ball and, by a fast throw to second, doubled the runner off. As Harvey came off the field nursing the bump on his head Manager Jones remarked: "That's using your noddie, Old Man."

Leeford Tannehill was the hero of a remarkable play late in the season of 1906, and as the play saved the game for Chicago, and as the White Sox won the pennant by a one-game margin and then beat the Cubs for the world's championship, the freak play might be said to have given the Sox the world's championship. The game was against St. Louis and with the White Sox one run in the lead, an error and a two-base hit put Brown runners on second and third with one out. The infield was called close to cut off the runner at the plate and prevent a tied score, as Jones, the manager, saw his team could not hit the St. Louis pitcher and figured a tie probably meant a defeat. The ball was hit fiercely and straight at Tannehill, who is one of the surest fielders in the business and possessed of a wonderful pair of hands for blocking hard-driven balls. The ball appeared to be bounding true but on the short bound, it struck something, shot straight at Tannehill's chin, hit him and, as he reeled from the knock-out blow, the ball fell back directly into his hands. He threw to the plate, then sat down looking foolish and took the full count before he was able to get up.

Larry Doyle's lucky kick which almost gave the Giants the National league championship in 1908 is another historic freak of play. Those perennial rivals, the Giants and Cubs, were playing what seemed the deciding series of the year; the Cubs needed one run to tie and had two men on bases, when the batter hit viciously between Doyle and second base. Doyle reached the ball but it broke through his hands, and it seemed as if the error had given Chicago the game. Instead, the ball hit Doyle's shin, bounded straight into the hands of Bridwell, who was on second waiting for the throw, and an easy double play retired the Chicago team, New York winning by one run.

The tales most often told are those illustrating how ill fortune will pursue teams and the instances of "runs of luck" and "tough breaks" are as numerous as there are games multiplied by players. The Chicago Cubs never will cease mourning the fact that George Rohe, of the White Sox, one of the weakest players that ever broke into the American league, and a weak hitter, beat them out of one world's championship. Rohe, who wasn't strong enough to hold a sub-



Ty Cobb.

stitute position on the team more than one more season, made two three-base hits and each of them gave the White Sox a victory.

Hal Chase lost a game for New York last season in a peculiar fashion. Two runners were on the bases and two men were out when an easy boulder was hit to third. Hartzell made a perfect throw and the inning seemed over, but as the ball came near to him Chase dodged suddenly, threw up his hands as if to protect his face, two runs scored and the Highlanders recorded another hard luck defeat. It developed later that a photographer was squatting on the ground outside the coaches' box and the sun reflected from the metal of the camera dazzled Chase just at the critical instant and caused him to lose sight of the ball.

ANCIENT CITY TO HAVE FETE

Witham, England, Near London, Will Celebrate Its 1,000 Years In History.

London.—Witham is a little town of Essex, thirty-nine miles northeast from London, which is to celebrate its millenary this year. It has a population of about 3,500 and is situated on the River Brain, also known as the Gulth, a form indicating the origin of the name of the town. In the days of the ancient Britons it is said the place was called Gulth-avon. In that part of the town called Chipping Hill are earthworks thought to be the remains of fortifications ordered made by Edward the Elder in 913, but held by some to be of British origin. Roman bricks appear in the old Church of St. Nicholas. The tower of the church formerly was of



Chipping Hill.

wood, but was rebuilt with brick in 1743. An old smithy there is pointed out as one where Dick Turpin stopped to have his horses shod when on one of his pilgrimages for plunder. The Spread Eagle hotel is six centuries old and has been said to be the only four-gabled inn to be found in England. Witham will recall events of 1,000 years ago, including the reconquest of England from the Danes.

DOLL SOLACED DYING MOTHER

Kansas Woman Took Substitute for Her Dead Baby Down to the Grave.

Trinidad, Colo.—It was only a doll—a big, golden-haired, "shut-eye" doll; but to the fever-racked mother who tossed on tear-stained pillows in the county hospital, it took the place of another little doll in a Kansas cemetery.

She cared for it as she had cared for the baby which death had taken from her. And as death approached she hugged the waxen image to her breast and begged that it share her grave.

She was penniless, a county charge; she looked forward only to a tiny plot in the potter's field. But her pleas touched the doctors who attended her and a little group of hospital attendants afterward stood beside a new made grave in the Catholic cemetery where lay the woman and doll.

The woman was Mrs. Florence Stancel of Great Bend, Kan. She came to Trinidad two months ago, just a month after her three-year-old girl died. She had quarreled with her husband, she said, and left her Kansas home.

One day she saw the big doll in a store window. It was just the size of her dead baby. She bought it, and from a trunk took the little clothes her own baby had worn. With them she dressed the doll. Around its neck she placed a necklace of beads and earrings adorned its waxen ears. It was only a doll, but when her constitution broke down and peritonitis set in, she took it with her to the hospital to remind her always of her own little one. And thus it lay beside her body in the morgue; and thus it was buried by her side.

MEMORIALS ARE RESTORED

Damage by Vandals on the Gettysburg Battlefield Almost Obliterated by Skillful Repair Work.

Gettysburg, Pa.—Successful efforts at the restoration of the nine memorials on the Gettysburg battlefield, defaced by vandals on the night of March 5 last, are now being made by Lieut. Col. E. B. Cope of the national park commission. Several of the memorials have already been placed in their original condition, and the others are expected to be completed before the battle anniversary celebration in July.

The day after the vandalism many of the large pieces which were chipped from the granite monuments were found nearby and preserved. Where these are sufficient size they are being tinted to correspond to the stone.

Missouri River Gets His Farm. Atchison, Kan.—Joseph Frakes, who four years ago owned a 260-acre farm near here, will cultivate a rented farm this year, as all his own place has been washed away by the Missouri river. Two months ago 20 acres of his land remained, but the last acre of this recently dropped into the river.

Woman Weds Three Brothers. St. Louis.—Although she married three, Mrs. Jessie Young did not have to change her name. All her husbands were brothers. The first and second husbands were killed in mine accidents.

Sues for \$100,000 Damages. Newark, N. J.—Damages of \$100,000 were asked by the executors of Louis C. Green, who, they claim, was fatally injured when caught in the suction of a speeding Pennsylvania express train.

A Difficulty. "There is one bad thing about beginning a joy ride." "What is it?" "You are apt to end on the trouble wagon."

Mrs. Winslow's Smoking Syrup for Children. Coughing, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, etc. See a bottle.

A man's sins find him out eventually, but his wife usually beats them to it.

New York uses \$70,000 worth of postage stamps every day.

You're Out!

If you have not perfect digestion, liver activity and bowel regularity. These should be daily functions in order to maintain health.

Hostetter's Stomach Bitters

will help you when those organs become weak and lazy. We urge a trial today. Insist on Hostetter's.

The Man Who Put the EEs in FEET

Look for This Trade-Mark Picture on the Label when buying ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE. The Antiseptic Powder for Tender, Aching Feet. Sold everywhere. Sample FREE. Address, ALLEN S. OLMSTED, Le Roy, N. Y.

LEWIS' SINGLE BINDER

THE BEST QUALITY STAMPS-CIGAR ALWAYS RELIABLE

NO NEED TO "HOLD PHONE"

Sound Magnifying Trumpet which Will Tell You When It is Time to Talk.

There is a sound magnifying trumpet of flat shape, behind which is a small attachment intended to support the telephone receiver. When it becomes necessary to hold the line, when calling up or replying, instead of the person standing with the receiver glued to his ear he places the receiver upon the time saver, bringing the ear-piece into position with the sound magnifier. He is then at liberty to resume his duties until such time as the person required at the opposite end attends his instrument.

This is notified by the speech transmitter being magnified by the time saving device so as to be perfectly audible at a distance. The receiver may then either be withdrawn and held to the ear in the usual way, or left in connection with the magnifier, hearing being quite as simple and easy as under normal conditions. Another advantage of the invention is that the user's two hands are left free to carry out any other requisite task, such as the turning up of documents, making references, writing down messages or instructions from dictation, and so on.

In the Park at Night.

First Broken-Down Actor—Not a seat to spare. It reminds me of my palmy days. Stalls full! Circle, gallery, pit—all full! Just like that.

Second Broken-Down Actor—And all of 'em fast asleep. What?

One thousand families control nearly all the soil of Mexico.

BEGAN YOUNG.

Had "Coffee Nerves" From Youth.

"When very young I began using coffee and continued up to the last six months," writes a Texas girl. "I had been exceedingly nervous, thin and very shallow. After quitting coffee and drinking Postum about a month my nervousness disappeared and has never returned. This is the more remarkable as I am a primary teacher and have kept right on with my work."

"My complexion now is clear and rosy, my skin soft and smooth. As a good complexion was something I had greatly desired, I feel amply repaid even though this were the only benefit derived from drinking Postum."

"Before beginning its use I had suffered greatly from indigestion and headache; these troubles are now unknown."

"I changed from coffee to Postum without the slightest inconvenience, did not even have a headache. Have known coffee drinkers who were visiting me, to use Postum a week without being aware that they were not drinking coffee."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Write for booklet, "The Road to Wellville."

Postum comes in two forms. Regular (must be boiled). Instant Postum doesn't require boiling but is prepared instantly by stirring a level teaspoonful in an ordinary cup of hot water, which makes it right for most persons.

A big cup requires more and some people who like strong things put in a heaping spoonful and temper it with a large supply of cream.

Experiment until you know the amount that pleases your palate and have it served that way in the future. "There's a Reason" for Postum.



Hal Chase.

plate. Schaefer, dazed by the shock, reached for the ball, and, in a sitting position, with a last effort before going "out," threw wildly to the infield, in hope that someone would catch it and stop the runner at third. He threw without aim, but the ball, going over Rossman's head, struck the grass, and went on the first bound into Schmidt's hands at the plate, retiring the runner who was striving to score from second. Philadelphia failed to score. Detroit won the game, won the series and finally won the pennant in the last few days of play.

This play reveals the manner in which one turn of fortune may change an entire season's outcome and upset all the calculations of the baseball world. No one ever has been able to figure out the percentage of luck in the national game. I have heard players estimate that luck is 20 per cent, while others claim it is at least 65 per cent.