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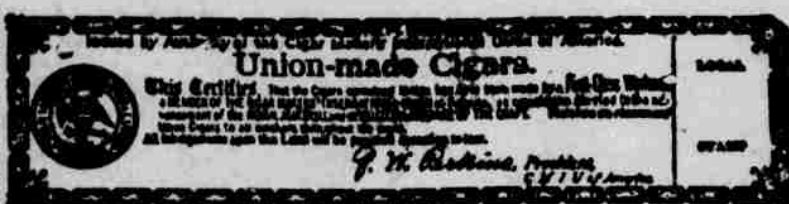
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WOULD ELIMINATE THE ERROR COLUMN



Cut out the error column. This is the suggestion of Fred Tenney, famous first baseman, once manager of the Boston National league club and now with the New York Giants.

By the elimination of this column in the tabulated score, with the exception of wild throws on which base runners advance an extra base, this veteran believes that another step forward would be made. His idea, when carefully considered, presents conditions that are worthy of thought.

"How many times are batters robbed of what are almost sure base hits?" says Tenney. "This is especially true in line drives to the infielders. No great credit is due the infielder for getting these balls, as a rule, for they are shot straight at him. Of course, there are exceptions, as there are to almost everything, but that is the rule. As a matter of fact the batsman is almost entitled to a hit. Surely he hit the pitcher hard enough to get one, but the luck of the game, that cuts such an important figure in baseball, happens in that instance to be against him.

"So I figure that if the error column, so far as fumbled balls or bad throws to a baseman are concerned, was eliminated, making everything a hit, it would only just about even up for those infield line drives that the batter loses because the infielder happens to be right in front of a hard-hit ball driven straight into his hands.

"Naturally the scoring of a fielder's choice would remain just as it is today, for the batsman is not entitled to a hit where the infielder makes the play on some other base-runner when the batsman could have been thrown out at first. Again, there must be some way of scoring extra bases taken by a runner on a bad throw. For that I would leave the error column in the box score, but it would represent wild throws, not fumbled balls, or a bad throw to first on a batted ball.

"This would naturally make some difference in the batting and fielding averages of the players, but I don't think it would boost any batsman very much, while it would take away that excuse for a fielder shirking a hard

chance for fear he might be penalized for a misplay. There are some such men playing the game, you know, though one of that kind is never a high-class performer.

"It wouldn't take long for those who are watching the batting averages closely to figure out the difference this change would make in the hitting of a player. And, I say, why should a batter be penalized by having a hit taken away from him when he manages to hit the ball in such a way that an infielder musses it up? Rather, I think, to do justice on all sides, a base hit should be credited.

"No one who follows baseball closely ever thinks of judging a player's ability in the field by the official fielding averages. We all know well that a good player goes after everything within reach, never fearing a possible error through a fumble or a bad throw to first. He is there to try to make the play, to get everything he can get his hands on, and if he shirks because he is afraid of that error, then he isn't going to get lots of balls that he might have handled cleanly and gone through with for a put-out. The present fielding averages are practically worthless, for it is almost always that the best players have the lowest percentage, while those who don't or can't cover much ground get away with the fewest errors and, therefore, are at the top in the averages. Hence, in picking young ball players, scouts judge by what they see them do, not by what they read in the fielding averages.

"I believe that such a change in the scoring rules would make good ball players of some of the poorer ones, and that it would make still better performers of the best of them. To me it looks as though it would be a step in the right direction, keeping pace with the rapid advances now being made in baseball. No one would be hurt, while both batsmen and fielders would be benefited.

"I would like to see the Baseball Writers' Association of America take this question up at its meeting this winter and present it to the joint rules committee of the National and American leagues for serious consideration."

CRACK KANSAS CITY PITCHER



Pat Flaherty, up to a few months ago a member of the Boston National league twirling staff, has been doing fine work since joining the Kansas City American association team. Flaherty has served in both the big leagues and while pitching good ball, has always been more or less unfortunate.

GRIDIRON GOSSIP

Seven of last year's Pennsylvania team will be missing this fall.

Yale's call by Capt. Coy has been sent out, although the quarterbacks, including Corey, French and Johnson, started work at Greenport, L. I., some time ago. There will be more than seventy men in the full squad.

T. A. Butkiewicz, former guard and tackle at Princeton and Pennsylvania, has been engaged to take charge of the Princeton squad, his attention being particularly directed to the line men.

Princeton has lost by graduation Tibbott, Eddle Dillon, Booth and Dowd, but has a wealth of good material to fill these and other places.

Havana will enjoy a big boom in football sport this fall. The last game scheduled this year is between Rollins college and University of Havana on December 25.

Heydler Signs New Umpire. William Brannan, who has been umpiring in the Wisconsin-Illinois league, has been added to the National league corps of arbiters by President Heydler. Brannan is a giant, standing six feet three inches.

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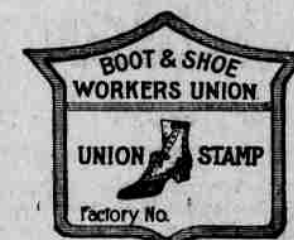
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