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# STANDBY OF THE WHITE SOX



FRANK OWEN

Frank Owen, member of the pitching staff of the Chicago White Sox, who is doing good work on the slab this season.

## HOW UMPIRE TIM HURST HANDED IT TO COOLEY

Latter Tried to Be Put Out of Contest, But Veteran Was On to His Game.

Of all umpires before or since there are none that have had so much newspaper space accorded to them as the chubby little umpire, Tim Hurst, says the Washington Post. There has never been one who has ruled the field with the same rod of iron as has Sir Timothy, and this in the days when ball players were men who would as soon trim an umpire as they would attend to any of the ordinary avocations of the day.

Such fisty giants of the grassy diamond as Pat Tebeau, Jimmy McAllister, Jack O'Connor, Glasscock, Virgil Garvin and many others too numerous to mention, who made it a point to go after the umpires of a decade and more ago, never tried any of their games on Hurst and came out of the big end of the horn. Tim always won out hands down, and, in addition, made the other fellows eat crow of the bitterest variety. Hurst always adapted himself to the situation in hand, and, as the song goes in the opera of "The Mikado," he invariably made the "punishment fit the crime."

Bill Bernhard, when in Washington last year with the Cleveland Club, told a story concerning Hurst and Dick Cooley, who was then a member of the Philadelphia team, as was Bernhard himself. The story, which has perhaps never before been in print, treats of one day when Cooley, in running backward to make a difficult catch, fell over on his head, and, in addition, got such a shaking up that he asked his manager to allow him to retire from the game, but Dick was a swell batter, and the manager, thinking that he was faking, refused his request.

But Cooley was surely hurt badly, for he began to miss balls and also to strike out, and then he suddenly thought of a plan that would enable him to get out of the game, and he started in to abuse Hurst, but Tim was wise to the situation, and he let Dick "chew the rag" to his heart's content, and, as Bernhard says, it was estimated by Tom Sampson, the mathematician of the Philadelphia team, that Dick did enough to be fined, at the smallest calculation, \$11,000, and to be put out of the game for 255 years.

Every decision made Dick would come running in and would abuse Tim frightfully, but Hurst, with a knowing smile on his face, would wave him to one side. Finally after an unusually fervid burst of billingsgate, Dick, sticking his face close up to Tim's, shrieked:

"Going to chase me from the game, eh?"

"Naw," leisurely replied Tim; "I'm going to keep you in the game, just to show the people what a bum ball player you really are."

## Jeffries Likes Baseball.

James J. Jeffries is about to take a hand in baseball. Unless the unexpected happens he will buy an interest in the new Los Angeles, Cal., franchise, which was awarded at the last meeting of the Pacific Coast league. Jeffries has always been a baseball crank. When he was traveling about the country defending his title against all comers he never overlooked a chance to take in a game, and since he has retired from the ring he has been an ardent supporter of the Angels. Several prominent sporting men will join Jeffries as a stockholder.

## Minor Leaguers Come High.

According to a baseball official who knows, purchase prices for minor league players are running pretty stiff this season. The \$11,000 paid by the New York Nationals for Pitcher Marquard is a sample. That amount was paid, too. One American league club bid \$8,500.

## LIFE OF THE AVERAGE BALL PLAYER IS SHORT

Strenuous Training Each Spring and Temptations to Drink Hard on Majority.

Just now while the annual Cy Young and George Van Haltren stories are going the rounds and the baseball writers are using up reams of paper telling how long these men have been in the game, a lot of folks are wondering why so many ball players last a few seasons, go back to the minors, and then disappear entirely.

The average baseball life is generally conceded to be somewhere between 10 and 12 years. A man may work in a rolling mill 12 hours a day for 20 years, he can make duplicate watches and high-grade works of art for a score of years, he can engage in all sorts of work that requires skill and good eyesight for perhaps twice as long as an average ball player retains his skill, and there must be some good reason for this.

It is a noticeable fact that all the ball players who have been in the game for years and who still play as they used to, never lay off and loaf for long periods. Ball players by the hundreds quit all kinds of work when the season ends in the middle of October and do not do a tap of work until March, when their clubs go south.

Then the winter laggards have to swelter and work in a hot climate to get down to playing weight. Taking off weight rapidly always saps a man's strength, as those who grow fat in the winter are in a weakened condition for several weeks and cannot do themselves justice.

The temptations to drink and lead a fast life are greater in baseball than in the more prosaic occupations. A star ball player is much sought, and hundreds of hangers on in places where a ball player shouldn't be are tickled half to death if the diamond hero will join them in a "good time." A lot of the younger fellows fall for it and in consequence come back in the spring in mighty poor shape.

An observer could name two dozen veterans of the American league who slow up just a little each season, who work and work to distraction each spring to catch on by the time the season starts, yet who spend their winters in luxurious idleness. It seems a queer way of doing.

Some one has suggested that club owners sign up their players in a 12-months' contract, and run a wood chopping brigade or a pedestrian club in the winter time. But the managers and magnates have enough woes keeping the men going during the season.

## GOSSIP OF THE DIAMOND

Manager Murray made a good move when he pulled Lefty Foxen from Jersey City. He has more than made good.

"Managers who stand for players who insult umpires are worse than the players, and poor baseball assets," declares an eastern baseball man.

Thomas Tukey, a pitcher of the Meriden team of the Connecticut league, has been sold to the Boston Nationals for \$1,500. It was announced that Capt. Gus Soffel of the Meriden team will go with the Boston team at the end of the Connecticut league season.

Jimmy Kane of Cincinnati is the lightest man in the National league. He weighs about 122 pounds, but is as fleet as any fielder in the game and can stick nicely.

The Cincinnati Reds will surely have a great string of young pitchers on hand next spring. They have already signed about a dozen, the latest being Russell Ford of Atlanta in the Southern league.

Big Ed Walsh of the Chicago Americans has pitched more games than any other big league pitcher. He has now performed in excess of 30 games, which is a season's work for many so-called crack pitchers. He certainly is a willing horse.

# "Which, We Rise to Remark"

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