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BEST HITTING TEAMS

Championship Pennants Won by Good, Hard Slugging.

Batting Counts More in Long Run Than Team Work, Base Running or Inside Play—Some Few Exceptions to the Rule.

Batting is what wins pennants in spite of the fact that now and then some fan or baseball expert will argue that team work or base running or inside play is the factor that counts more than base hits in the winning of games. The claim is frequently made that the best batting team often finishes behind teams in the pennant race that are not noted for their prowess with the bat.

Their argument has been good a few times, but in the majority of cases the club that leads the league in batting also wins the blue ribbon. It can't be denied that the team that makes the most hits gets the chances to steal the most bases and otherwise takes chances that the weak batting teams cannot.

There are, of course, exceptions to the rule. The Athletics, winners of the American League pennant last season, led all the other teams with a club batting average of .294 per cent. The Giants, prospective winners of the National League race, led the league with an average of .271 per cent.

In 1910 the Giants batted some seven points better than Chicago, yet the Cubs won the pennant. On the other hand, the Athletics won out and led in batting also. In 1909 the batting leaders in the big leagues were Detroit and Pittsburgh, both champions. In 1908 Detroit had the best batting outfit in the America and won the bunting, but New York led the Chicago pennant winners at the bat.

Detroit led both ways in 1907, but the champion Cubs were third by four points in the National League batting list. Back in '06 the Naps carried off the batting honors by a big margin, while the White Sox, who took off the championship, were absolutely last as hitters, the Naps finishing third. The Cubs, however, led in victories and batting that season, only to lose the world's series to the hitless wonders.

In 1905 the Athletics, second to the Naps in batting, won the pennant and then lost the series to the Giants, who had led the National League batters.

This resume shows that in the last six years four American League pennant winners have also led the league in batting, while in the National League three pennant winners have also been batting leaders, the champions twice being the runners-up in hitting.

UNITED STATES LEAGUE FAST

"Bugs" Raymond and Claude Ritchey Among the Veterans That Could Not Stand the Pace.

The United States League is too fast for some of the veterans—most any league would be. Claude Ritchey has been released by the Pittsburgh club of the independent organization and "Bugs" Raymond has had the cur-



"Bugs" Raymond.

tain drawn on his efforts to pitch for Chicago. Another player released by Pittsburgh is Jack Himes, formerly a first baseman in the Tri-State and other minor leagues.

BROADWAY'S LURE LEADS TO GRIEF

Atlanta Waiter's Desire to See the Great White Way Results in Trouble.

Mount Vernon, N. Y.—A sudden desire to see the great white way and to live for a short time like a millionaire, led George Kaul, who was arrested here late the other night by Police Lieutenant Silverstein, to loot the trunks, containing \$29,500 worth of jewelry, belonging to Sol Gilsey in Atlanta, on April 17. Such was the confession made by Kaul to Lieutenant Silverstein. Kaul, who was a waiter in the Piedmont hotel, Atlanta, Ga., where Gilsey lived when in that



hid the jewels in his wife's trunk. city, had visions of affluence and chorus ladies when he learned what Mr. Gilsey had in his trunk's.

After several hours of cross-examination by Silverstein, Kaul broke down and confessed that he, with George Wren and George Roddy, all employed in the Piedmont hotel, had plotted the robbery and had divided the jewels.

"I have worked hard all my life," Kaul, "and I welcomed the chance to come to New York and see Broadway and have some fun with the chorus girls. I wanted to live like a millionaire, if it was only for a week. I know Mr. Gilsey had a lot of jewelry and the temptation was too much for me. That's all."

Kaul was traced to New York, where he was lost. Silverstein located him at the home of his cousin, Arthur Von Gastel, at 161 Eleventh avenue, Mount Vernon. He was remanded without ball.

WIRELESS ROUTS A LEOPARD

Operator on Steamer Saves His Life by Frantically Pounding on the Key.

New York—Another use for wireless has been discovered by James Pickerell, operator on board the steamship Vasari the other day.

Among the cargo of the Vasari was a leopard. About 400 miles southeast of Sandy Hook, the Varasi ran into a terrific gale, and during it the leopard escaped from its cage.

Mr. Pickerell was at his key on the upper deck with the door ajar, when he glanced out and saw a pair of gleaming eyes. Without asking leave the leopard came into the room.

"I did not know what to do," said Pickerell. "I had no weapon of any



There Was a Flash.

kind. The beast stood there and looked me over, and I could see he was getting ready to have some fun with me. Accidentally my hand fell on the key and there was a flash. The beast stood spellbound as he saw the spark. Then I saw I was to be 'served by wireless' and I pounded the key for all I was worth. Every time the spark flew the beast became more frightened until he finally became so scared he ran from the room."

Pickerell sounded the alarm, and after an hour's chase all over the vessel, the leopard was cornered and taken back to its cage, but not until some of the crew had been scratched.

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