

Fast Infield Is Necessary for a Team to Become a Pennant Contender

McGraw Points Out Necessity of Speedy Men

Second Baseman Will Make or Break an Infield, According to Manager of the World's Champions.

Send Your Baseball Query to JOHN J. MCGRAW, 1015 East 12th Street, Omaha, Neb. He will receive personal replies from Manager McGraw. Give name and address.

Baseball fans of all the United States have been flooding John McGraw with questions about the "inside baseball" question. McGraw has decided to establish a "baseball query" of his kind—let Manager McGraw be the judge, or remember—it does not necessarily have to refer to major league baseball but may cover a baseball question in any league or right here on local sandlots.

As manager of the world champion Giants, John McGraw is the paid baseball expert of all time. As manager of the Giants, he has won eight pennants. John McGraw is considered the greatest living baseball authority and strategist.

Send your question to John J. McGraw, 1015 East 12th Street, Omaha, Neb. Make questions brief. Questions from fans and answers by McGraw will appear exclusively in this paper.

If your query is selected, you will receive a personal reply from Manager McGraw. Give name and address.

By JOHN J. MCGRAW, Manager World's Champion Giants.

The major and minor league races straighten out a little, wrap into real shape, the most significant feature to me, as a practical baseball man, is the ever-increasing importance of the infield. The standing of the various clubs is in almost exact ratio to the strength of the inner defense. A club with a slow infield, or even a mediocre one, apparently has no chance for the pennant whatever.

Major and minor league managers all over the country have noted this. Many of them have discussed it with me. The infield question has just about rivaled the pitching in importance.

In St. Louis, for instance, the Cardinals would be a real contender if more speed could be thrown into the infield.

"If I could build up my infield," Arthur Fletcher said to me a few days ago, "the Phillies would be a ball club."

The same thing is true in Boston with the Braves.

Ty Shifts Too Much.

Over in the American league Detroit's failure to give the Yanks a real fight has been due largely to Ty Cobb's inability to get his infield straightened out. He has made shift after shift. Still he has not found the combination. As a result the expected strength failed to develop.

Cleveland has suffered from that cause and so have the White Sox.

"Why is it?" I was asked upon our return to New York, "that the necessity of a fast infield is more pressing than in the old days?"

That was asked by a member of an old-time championship club.

"You'll remember," he called to my attention, "that in the old days we often carried a slow moving infielder on account of his hitting and managed to get away with it."

That is quite true. By glancing back a little you can recall many of the famous infields where one, and sometimes two, of the players were slow, but were kept for their hitting. In the days of Dan Brouthers, Cap Anson, Ganszwell, well, any number of them—speed in a first baseman was not considered important. A manager couldn't get away with that today.

The sudden importance of the fast infield. I answered my friend's question, "is due, I think, to the introduction of the lively ball. If there are any gaps in an infield in this era, and time that ball will whip through them. Many a game has been lost this season by a second baseman not being fast enough to get over toward first and head off that lively ball."

True Also of Minors.

He agreed with me, saying the same same thing applied in the minor leagues.

"A few years ago," he explained, "many big leaguers went to the minors because they got slowed up in ground covering. They got away with it with the old ball, but with this lively one there isn't a chance. Teams with fast, young infields are forging to the front in every minor league in the country."

The average fan does not realize the difference between a good infield and a very good one. The difference is around second base. Right there hinges many a pennant. It is having a marked effect on the present race. For example, take the clubs that are real contenders—Giants, Yankees, Pittsburgh, Athletics, Cincinnati.

Every one of them has a fast infield, not only capable of breaking down fast hit bouncers, but also fast enough to make double plays.

Did you notice, by the way, how Wilbert Robinson worked his head off to get his infield patched and braced with speed? At first his club seemed hopeless. He saw the answer immediately. Then, with his infield braced up, Brooklyn was right in the race.

Take the poor clubs in both leagues and you'll find all of them have slow infields.

The peak of speed in an infield must be at second base. A man of fair or ordinary speed may be used at third. He can't get away with it around second.

Eddie Collins of the White Sox was

Keep "Old Glory" Out of the Ring - - - - - By Ed Hughes



ABE ATTELL ONCE CAME IN THE RING LIKE THIS—THINGS AREN'T QUITE THAT BAD NOW!



THERE'S NO DOLLAR IN THAT RED WHITE AND BLUE ANYWAY

THE MODERN FIGHTERS FLAG COLORS SHOULD BE GOLD, SILVER AND GREEN!

RED, WHITE, BLUE AND BLACK—DO YOU LIKE IT?

THE other day H. R. Schaeffer, a gentleman with wholesome ideals, wrote me protesting the use of the Stars and Stripes by fighters in the ring. It was excellent criticism and I reprint it for that reason:

"Today I saw the Kilbane-Criqui fight, and while I was sorry to see our American representative lose to a foreigner, the part that made me feel sad was to see a man wearing the American flag go down to defeat and carry that flag with him, a flag that knows no defeat. I hope your paper will be the sponsor of a campaign to keep the Stars and Stripes out of the ring."

"When the flag goes down to defeat, and with the help of God may this never happen, let's see that it is on the battlefield and not around the waist of some prize fighter."

An Imperishable Thought.

Speaking of perishable thoughts, it may not be amiss to quote one which will never perish:

"The flag of our stately battles, not struggles of wrath and greed.

slow in getting started this season and the club went up and down with him, a thermometer. Fans miss these things as a rule because they only note the plays that are made. They seldom observe the glaring cases where plays are not made—and should be.

Phillies Are Slow.

The other day I noted three distinct cases where the Phillies failed to make double plays that would have affected the score. I noticed this also with the Braves. To win a pennant or get up in the race a club must be able to make double plays. What is still more important, they must give the other club the impression that they are going to try it.

The will to make double plays is almost as important as the actual making of the play. A slow man at short or second, realizing his lack of speed, has a natural tendency to play safe. Rather than make a bust of it he simply gets one runner and lets it go at that. That loses many ball games and makes pitchers look bad. The average fan does not see what effect even an effort to go through with it would have.

Fast base runners, knowing this timidity on the part of slow infielders, take advantage of it. Once they are conscious of speed around second they will not take as many chances. Of course, there are many double plays so simple that even amateurs can make them. A team may have three in one day and still be slow. It is the willingness in infielders to take a chance—a feeling of speed confidence, that makes the opposing runners stand back and take notice.

Just as a matter of interest, some of you fans make a note some day of double plays that should be made and are not even attempted. You'll be surprised, particularly if you are watching a slow club.

Then watch some fast infielders like Bancroft, Frisch, Pinell, Gallo-way, Scott, Holocheer—note the difficult chances they accept. Then watch the slow ones—men who let sharp grounders go hopping through. You'll see the difference. You'll see certain clubs are far down in the race and others up in the first division.

Yes, infield defense right now is a real barometer in baseball. It ranks very close to pitching.

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McTigue-Carpentier Match in New Jersey Called Off by Rickard

New York, June 30.—The proposed bout between Georges Carpentier and Mike McTigue, world's light-heavyweight champion, set for August 11 at Boyle's thirty acres in Jersey City was called off today by Tex Rickard. Rickard said he had cabled the Frenchman and Descamps, his promoter, regarding the bout and had failed to receive a reply, canceled it.

Six Horses Nominated in Latonia Derby Today

Latonia, Ky., June 30.—A small, but select field of thoroughbreds will start in the \$15,000 added Latonia derby, which will be contested over the Latonia track tomorrow. Six were named over night to race for the honors and the \$15,000 purse which will go to the winner of the one and a half mile race.

New York.—Tom O'Rourke, Polo Grounds Athletic club matchmaker, announced that he had signed Harry Graham, Pittsburgh, and Johnny Wilson, Boston, world's middleweight champion, for a 15-round decision this bout at the Polo ground, on August 21.

Frankie Frisch First Player to Touch Century Mark

By Associated Press.

CHICAGO, JUNE 30.—Frankie Frisch, the "Fordham Flash" of the New York Giants, smashed out his 100th hit, last Wednesday and is the first player in the major leagues to touch the century mark. He also shot himself into second position among the batters of the National league, who have participated in 40 or more games, according to averages released today and which include games of last Wednesday. He is hitting .382 and is the runner-up to Zack Wheat of Brooklyn, who increased his average 13 points, and tops the list with .392. Charley Grimm of Pittsburgh underwent a batting slump and slipped to third place, four points in front of Bob O'Farrell of Chicago, whose batting in the last few weeks has been sensational. O'Farrell's brilliant work includes seven homers and 14 doubles.

George Grantham of the Cubs is steadily pulling away from the other star base stealers, and by the piling of four sacks during the last week and ran his string up to 17.

Cy Williams of Philadelphia leads in home runs with 29. Williams, since his return to the game, has had a batting slump which has carried him out of the leading group. His total base record, however, was brought up to 146, which is six more bases than credited to Jimmy Bottomley of St. Louis.

Fred Haney of Detroit, one of the new comers, is hobnobbing with the veterans at the top of the batters in the American league. Haney is fourth with an average of .356. A week ago he was sixth. His teammate, Harry Heilmann, continues to head the list. Heilmann is batting .425. Charley Jamieson of the Cleveland Indians gained one point and moved into second place with an average of .378. Eddie Collins of the White Sox lost six points and dropped to third place with .358.

Collins improved his record for stolen bases and now has 26. A gain

of two over the previous week. He also ran his string of sacrifice hits to 36.

"Babe" Ruth has been unable to improve his long-distance hitting mark of 14 homers, but increased his record as a run-getter, by two runs, making a total of 56 tallies to his credit. Ruth's total base record of 137 is being endangered by Heilmann, who has a record of 136 total bases. Heilmann's string included 21 doubles, three triples and eight homers in his collection of 85 hits, while Ruth's mark is 71 hits and embraces besides his homers, 14 doubles and five triples.

Paul Murray Picks Dempsey to Beat Tommy

PAUL MURRAY, professor of boxing at the North Side club, has the Fourth of July battle between Dempsey and Gibbons all figured out.

Murray boxed with Dempsey when Dempsey was here several months ago and he knows considerable about the champion's form and punch. Moreover, Murray has successfully picked the winner and the knockout round in the last two championship fights, hence his view is of some interest.

He believes Dempsey will get Gibbons in the 11th round with a body blow. He declares that the champion's body blows are of terrific power and more to be feared than blows to the face. He also believes that Gibbons' stomach is weak.

Gate Receipts in Big Fistic Goes of Past

Following is recorded receipts of all big fistic encounters in recent years since the gate receipts took the major interest away from the fact that two individuals were seeking world's honors:

Dempsey-Carpentier	\$1,500,000.00
Dempsey-Willard	432,222.10
Jeffries-Johnson	279,725.00
Dempsey-Brennan	162,760.00
Willard-Moran	152,000.00
Leonard-Mitchell	136,408.36
Wilson-O'Dowd	108,619.65
Leonard-Welling	99,750.00
Johnson-Burns	97,000.00
Jackson-Kansas	85,362.50
Lynch-Herman	82,883.16
Chaney-Sieger	75,384.85
Gans-Nelson	69,715.00
Jackson-Fitzsimmons	68,873.30
Willard-Johnson	68,000.00
Britton-Lewis	66,910.00
Jeffries-Sharkey	66,300.00
Jeffries-Corbett	63,340.00
Corbett-McCoy	56,350.00
McGovern-Ernie	52,000.00
Jackson-Dundee	51,836.70
Dundee-Welling	51,749.50
Brennan-Martin	51,579.65
Smith-O'Dowd	50,127.50

Abraham Lincoln Daniel Enke Battles Omaha Pitcher

The C. B. & O. Gibson baseball team will play the Denver division club at 1:25 p. m. Sunday at Fort Omaha.

Abraham Lincoln Daniel Enke, Southern Omaha pitcher, has been matched for the New Orleans club of the National association.

Because only five managers of Gate City league teams were present at a regular meeting last night, it was impossible for the league to transact any business. The meeting was held at the City hall.

Nationally ranked tennis players were in action in the Pacific coast tennis championship yesterday and all but one admitted.

The qualifying round for the Takoma County club golf championship will start this afternoon. Weather conditions permitting.

The annual Chamber of Commerce golf tournament will be held over the Omaha game series with Bruce Holmes White announced this morning.

Connie Curry and Newshay Brown, Sioux City boxers, have been matched for a bout in Sioux City next Tuesday night.

The Calgary Gray Sox, colored team of ball players, have cancelled their three-field club course July 12. It was announced. The first game of the series was scheduled for the Buffaloes' park this afternoon.

Manager General of the Fairbury club of the Nebraska state league has sold Centerfield Hill to the Houston team of the Texas league for \$1,000. Hill joined Fairbury from the Omaha club, coming to the Buffaloes as a pitcher.

Titleholders From Hyer to Jack Dempsey

Here is a list of the heavyweight champions of America and the years each held the title:

Jacob Hyer	1816-1820
Tom Hyer	1841-1847
John Morrissey	1853-1858
John C. Heenan	1858-1861
Joe Coburn	1862-1864
Bill Davis	1864-1865
James Dunn	1865-1866
Mike McCoole	1866-1869
Charles Gallagher	1869-1869
Tom Allen	1869-1876
Joe Goss	1876-1880
Paddy Ryan	1880-1882
John L. Sullivan	1882-1892
James J. Corbett	1892-1897
Robert Fitzsimmons	1897-1899
James J. Jeffries	1899-1905
Tommy Burns	1905-1908
Jack Johnson	1908-1915
Jess Willard	1915-1919
Jack Dempsey	1919-1923

New York.—The proposed bout between Carpentier and Mike McTigue, world's light-heavyweight champion, set for August 11, was definitely called off by Tex Rickard.

Schlaifer's Poor Showing Against Rock Smith Causes Lots of Talk

"Kid" Schlaifer about through as a fighter, or was his poor showing against Rock Smith Friday due to his ring idleness?

To those who witnessed the "Kid's" battle against Smith in a Council Bluffs ring last night, it appeared as if Schlaifer was about as fit as a fiddle at the end of his rope. Perhaps he wasn't in the best of shape and then again maybe he didn't try his best. Whatever it was, Schlaifer didn't show the same brand of ring warfare that he displayed against such boys as Wells, Shade, Karr, Schoell and others.

About a year ago Schlaifer knocked Smith out in the second round of a bout at the Omaha ball park. Last night he knocked Smith down for a count of nine in the fourth and ninth rounds, but failed to kayo his opponent, although he won the fight on points.

If ring idleness was responsible for his poor showing last night, then he should get busy and ring into condition before he fights again. He propelled his mittens like a windmill. Rock Smith is not a clever fighter, yet he made the "Kid" miss time and again. Schlaifer was not accurate with his wallop and neither could he time very many of his punches. He was slow on his feet and several times during the bout caught rights from Smith's shoulder. The "Kid", however, can still take 'em.

Schlaifer won five frames of their 16-round bout, seven by narrow margins and others by wide margins. Three rounds were called even by the writer.

Smith, if he was a smart fighter, would be the victor over Morris this morning, via the foul route. Schlaifer hit Rock low several times, twice in the fourth round and once in the fifth, that would have caused any fighter to flop to the floor.

BURGESS-NASH COMPANY.
"EVERYBODY'S STORE"

Cool Tropical Suits

\$30

Their Weight Gives Summer Comfort
Their Tailoring Gives Style and Fit

Cool, light weight tropicals, styled and tailored as these are, make an ideal suit for summer. In business, for sports, or outing, they have an air of comfortable smartness that we dressed men appreciate. These offer a maximum of value, too.

Suits purchased Monday will be altered in time for the Fourth.

"Styleplus" Mohair Suits
\$18.00

Tailored by the same expert workmanship, and resembles our regular "Styleplus" clothing, men find great satisfaction in their moderate prices.

White Flannel Trousers \$10.00
A complete line of sizes in plain white and white with invisible stripes.

Separate, Blue Coats \$20.00 to \$22.50
Well-tailored of blue unfinished serge or flannel. Sizes 33 to 42.

Men's Straw Hats
\$1.85

A special purchase enables us to offer this exceptionally low price on these hats.

New Weaves Latest Styles
at just the time when you need them for over the Fourth.

Newsey Sportlets

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