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WALTER STEFFENS

Walter Steffens, captain of the Chicago University football team, is considered one of the best quarterbacks in the west. He is very fast in handling the ball and in running back punts he is without a peer.

SOME PITCHERS ARE ALSO GOOD BATTERS

Many Twirlers Who Can Line Out Ball When Hits Are Needed—Some Examples.

"Pitchers as a rule don't clout the ball much, but there are a lot of the sluggers playing ball now that used to hurl up the curves, and some of them will last a long time yet," said the fan.

"Cy Seymour can line 'em as well as anybody in the business. We used to think that Cy was the whole head of cheese as a curve flinger, and he was, too. But even before Cy got through pitching he was shoved into the outfield, not because he was a world beater as a fielder, but because he could bring the ball hard. His reputation for pulling down home runs came after.

"And how about Roger Bresnahan? This fellow started out as a pitcher in Washington, but the wise manager down there soon learned that he could hit 'em on the nose, and it was a case of put on the mask and get behind the bat. Since then Roger has developed into a good all-around man, but it is his batting that makes him the big thing that he is in baseball today.

"Two of the old standbys of the famous White Sox of the days of Pop Anson's regime were pitchers before they began to shine as hard hitting fielders. The two men I refer to are George Van Haltren and Jimmie Ryan, both of whom are still playing ball. Old Van certainly could line 'em out and was a mighty valuable man to the Giants until he broke his leg.

"Then we have Jesse Burkett and Bobby Wallace. Both of these men were good pitchers, and were turned out into the field long before their usefulness as pitchers had passed, and all because they could make the base hits.

"Frank Isbell of the present White Sox team was a pretty good pitcher in his day, and so was Jimmy Callahan. Both these men struck terror to pitchers when they stepped to the plate. Charles Hickman, Pat Dougherty, Joe Yeager, and the two Stovalls were other pitchers who battled their way into the baseball limelight.

"But Donovan, Ed Killian, and George Mullen need not worry about their livelihood after they pass their usefulness as box artists. All three of them are good hitters. Ed Walsh of Chicago is a natural hitter. But he has several years to go as a pitcher."

FOOTBALL NOTES

Coach Larkin of Cornell is out of the hospital and has again taken up the task of coaching the Ithaca's backs and ends.

The idea of secret practice on the college football fields oftentimes is more to teach the players work without the distraction of having the spectators about them to drill the team on special plays or formations.

The Lafayette team, which held Princeton to a 0-to-0 tie, has not a senior classman in the lineup, which augurs well for next year. The last time Lafayette met Princeton was in 1905, the Tigers winning 22 to 4.

Bob Cook, the old Yale oarsman, will have to share his unique distinction which he gained when he coached the Yale crew on horseback on the bank, with Harry Kersberg of Harvard, who coached the guards from a motor cycle at Cambridge Wednesday.

In all the years that "Hurricane" Yost has been at University of Michigan, no team except Penn or Chicago until the other Saturday had tied or beaten his team. Penn beat Michigan twice, and Chicago took a 2-to-0 game a couple of years ago. This makes Michigan's 0-to-0 game with the state college of Michigan especially disappointing to the coach.

PAST SEASON A SAD ONE FOR EAST IN BASEBALL

All Honors Taken by Western Teams in Major Leagues—Giants Near-Pennant Winners.

Sad indeed are the baseball fans of the east. Gloom is selling above par in gay New York. The season of 1908 has been a pretty tough one not only for New York, but the other eastern members of both the big league circuits.

While the Gotham fans can get some enjoyment out of the fact that the Giants were near-pennant winners, there is but little for the followers of the Highlanders to enthuse over. Last spring the club owned by Frank Farrell looked like a sure pennant contender, and for six weeks it lived up to its reputation. Then the gas bag sprung a leak and the Highlanders began a drop, that ended only when the cellar was reached. The New York American club has the distinction of being one of the worst tail-enders in the history of Ban B.'s league. There isn't much to be happy for in that.

In Philadelphia the fans have had but little to brag about. The Athletics have been a rank disappointment. From a pennant contender last year, the club dropped to a poor sixth in the season just closed. True, the Phillies finished fourth in the older organization, but Murray's team played such erratic as well as brilliant ball that the supporters of the game in Slowtown never knew what to expect. Both clubs promise to be in the race in 1909, but you can never tell.

The Red Sox look pretty good to the Boston fans and they expect much from Taylor's youngsters next season. There is no question about the material being there, but the club lacks a leader to develop it. The biggest mistake ever made by the Boston club was the release of the veteran "Jim" McGuire. With McGuire leading, it's a cinch the Boston American team would have been up in the race next year, but with its present manager the club is but a possibility. The National league team under Joe Kelly has been a huge failure.

Patsy Donovan has had a bad year of it in Brooklyn and gives but little hope for next season. Washington fans are up in the air over the Nationals. In the games at home this year the team managed by Cantillon has shown the ability to play high-class ball, but on the road it has been more or less of a joke.

The leaders of the eastern teams realize that their only hope for a winner next year depends on the success of the youngsters already picked up and those who will be grabbed up during the winter. On the form shown in the fall games it looks as if some mighty promising minor leaguers had been corralled.

Chase Drawing \$45 Per Game.

It is said that Hal Chase, the premier first baseman of the New York Highlanders, who jumped to the Stockton team in the California State league, is receiving \$1,000 to play out the remainder of the season with Manager Cy Moreing. This sum, with transportation both for himself and wife from New York to California, was offered by Moreing. Chase was hired to play 23 games, the number on schedule, and at the above rate is getting \$45 a game.

Coy Elected Captain of Yale Eleven. Edward Harris Coy of New Haven, Yale 1910, has been elected field captain of the Yale football team and will have charge of the work of the team during the games for the rest of the season. Capt. Robert Burch will not be able to play even in the final games, but will retain his title and direct the work from the side lines. Coy is 20 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, and weighs 194 pounds.

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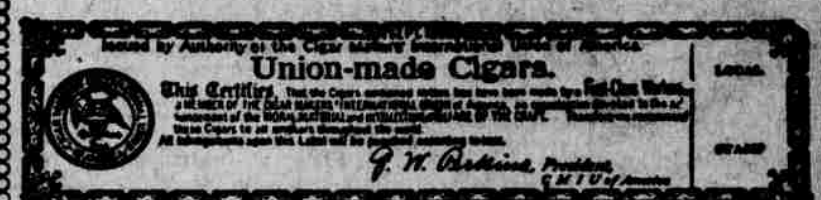
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