

UPS AND DOWNS OF BATSMEN

How Big League Hitters Advanced or Fell Back.

COMPARISON OF RECORDS INTERESTING

In the American a Majority of the Players Improved, While in the National a Majority Did the Reverse.

Comparison of the official batting averages of the American league of this year with those of the year previous shows that of 102 players whose names are found in both sets the averages of fifty-four increased over 100 and forty-eight decreased. The official averages of the National league for the two seasons reveal that forty players had a better average for 1906 than for the year previous and that fifty-nine fell off in their stick work. A majority of the American league batters did better in 1906 than in 1905, while a majority of National league batters slumped more or less. In short, the American league hitters made more improvement than their National league brethren.

There is no existing for any erudite explanation of the need for condition. It might be argued that the National league pitching was better this year, on the other hand it might be argued just as reasonably that the American league batting was better. One can suit himself as to which explanation he prefers. Probably the best explanation is that it just happened so. Ups and downs in hitting are hard things to account for. The reverse of this year's happenings might come to pass next year.

Individually there were many notable performances in batting progress and retrogression. There was a general improvement among the best hitters of the American league. The first eleven men, men who played enough games both years to have their averages officially recorded, all show an increase over their 1905 figures. Three of these men, Lajoie, Flick and Koster, are not as high in the batting order this year as last, yet improved in points. Lajoie, next to the two leaders this year, was first last year, but in twenty-six points ahead of his 1905 percentage. Flick, sixth this year and fourth last year, improved five points; Koster, fifth last year and ninth this year, bettered his batting figures by two points. These things, in connection with the fact that more batters improved than fell off, show that the American league as a whole batted better this year than last.

George Stone, the American league leader, advanced from eighth to first place and advanced sixty-two points. Catcher Clarke, who is tied with Stone, jumped from sixteenth to first place and advanced 150 points. Hal Chase of New York advanced from thirty-sixth place, and improved his percentage by seventy-four points. Jim McGuire went from fifty-seventh to eleventh place at a bound and jumped eighty points. One player, Jack Anderson, has the same average for 1906 as for 1905, yet advanced twenty-seven points in batting order last year—further proof of the general improvement of the 1906 batting. Al Orth of the New Yorks made a big increase.

Pitcher Bernhard of the Cleveland fanned his batting average to the extent of 125 points, while among the pitchers retrograde movements, equally extensive, are to be found. Griffith fell off 103 points and Patterson 116. Eddie Hann, the outfielder whom Griffith released to Chicago, hit the tologogan for ninety-eight points in his batting and slid down from second to fifty-eighth place.

Hans Wagner, the National league batting leader for 1906, improved his standing by one position, ranking second in 1906, yet fell off thirty-eight points. Evidently, then, the National league batting championship was not as hard to earn this year as last. St. Seymour, who stood first year, dropped less this year than last. Mike Donlin also lost points, but it is fair to assume might have done better had he played the season out. Harry Steinfield made a big increase both in standing and in number of points, and marked advance was made by Johnny Kling, who rushed from sixteenth place to eighth and swelled his percentage by ninety-four points. Frank Chance, sixth last year, was sixth again this year, and improved his average by three points. A big stride forward was made by Sammy Strang, who from the lowly niche of thirty-third in 1905 rose to sixth place in 1906.

A majority of the better hitters of the National league improved in their stick work, even if a majority of the whole relapsed. As to the size of the leading averages, however, the standard was not as high as in 1905. Three National league players, Ewing, McClellan and Rieck, each lost over a hundred points this year. As in the American league, one batter did his average of the year before. Gibson was the man. Witte of the New Yorks, one of the best hitting pitchers in 1905, fell off eighty-

seven points, and tumbled from twenty-first to sixty-sixth place. Luther Taylor improved his average considerably, while Ewing Phillips made great progress. He was 121 points better off this year than last.

In the appended tables, where two or more men share a position, the next man is ranked the same as if there was no tie ahead of him. Lajoie, for instance, is ranked second, when in reality there are two men ahead of him. But for the sake of convenience ties are considered as if one man were in the position, the relative standing of the batters not being affected by the arrangement. The following tables show the batting rank this year and last, and the increase or decrease in points from 1905 to 1906:

AMERICAN LEAGUE. Table with columns: Name, Rank, 1905, Rank, 1906, Inc. Dec. Lists players like Stone, Chase, Koster, etc.

NATIONAL LEAGUE. Table with columns: Name, Rank, 1905, Rank, 1906, Inc. Dec. Lists players like Wagner, Ewing, McClellan, etc.

THE HANDY DOCTOR IN YOUR VEST POCKET. Advertisement for a medicine box.

THE HANDY DOCTOR IN YOUR VEST POCKET. Advertisement for a medicine box, describing its benefits for various ailments.

THE HANDY DOCTOR IN YOUR VEST POCKET. Advertisement for a medicine box, mentioning its availability and price.

NEW COLLEGE ATHLETIC UNION. Advertisement for the National Athletic Association.

NEW COLLEGE ATHLETIC UNION. Advertisement for the National Athletic Association, detailing its goals and membership.

Yale Wins Basket Ball. Report on a basketball game between Yale and Kansas City.

HOT AIR WARRIORS ACTIVE. Report on a hot air balloon race and the participants.

STALH UTTERS A GOLDEN TRUTH. Interview with Jake Stahl regarding coaching and pitching.

Jake Says Poor Coaching Loses as Often as Poor Pitching. Further commentary on coaching quality.

WITH THE BOWLERS. Report on a bowling match and the participants.

ONIMODS. Report on a game or event, possibly related to the bowling match.

BLUE RIBBONS. Report on a game or event, possibly related to the bowling match.

GANS AND HERMANN READY. Report on a game or event, possibly related to the bowling match.

Colored Men Agree to Bet \$5,000. Report on a betting agreement between colored men.

PLAN FOR FISTIC CARNIVAL. Advertisement for a boxing event.

TONOPAH Sports Will Offer \$100,000 for Meeting of Pugilistic Stars. Advertisement for a boxing event in Tonopah.

Omaha V. M. C. A. Wins. Report on a game or event between Omaha and M. C. A.

Yale Wins Basket Ball. Report on a basketball game between Yale and Kansas City.

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Advertisement for Rock Island Frisco Lines, featuring a large illustration of a steam locomotive and text promoting travel and special railroad fares.

Advertisement for CONNELL SEEKS MANDAMUS, detailing a legal case involving Judge Sutton and Attorney Barringer.

Advertisement for RECEIVED at THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY, listing office locations and services.

Advertisement for Deright Automobile Co., featuring an illustration of a car and text promoting their vehicles.

Advertisement for Weak Men, Frail Men, Young Men, Old Men, featuring a portrait of a man and text promoting Dr. McGrew's medicine.

Advertisement for COMPLETE RETURNS OF GANS-HERMAN, featuring a portrait of a man and text promoting their services.

Advertisement for Ed Rothery's Restaurant, featuring a portrait of a man and text promoting their dining services.