

B. B. FAN AND HIS WAYS

Some Striking Peculiarities of the Base Ball Booster.

ALL VARIETIES IN THE CLASS

Being Who Makes the Professional Game Possible and Profitable—A Genuine American Product.

The American spectator seen at his sporting contest differs in every respect from his prototype of the old world. He "enthusiases" to a degree that astounds the staid Englishman and the phlegmatic German. "Playing the game from the bleachers is an expression which means nothing outside America. To those who attend foot ball, racing, boxing and base ball matches in this country, however, it is thoroughly understood and appreciated. Since base ball has been aptly termed the national sport, it is natural to look for the highest development of the national characteristic in the stands surrounding the diamond. Even the casual observer cannot fail to detect its presence, for the enthusiasm of the base ball fan excels that of all others. He enters into the spirit of the game in a manner that marks the typical American who concentrates his efforts on either business or pleasure. The average foreigner who visits our athletic contests contemplates what we take our sports too seriously, that we place too much stress on victory. Leaving aside the athlete of the question, the fan remains that victory is the goal sought, and the "fan" uses every artifice at his command to help the home team reach it ahead of competitors. Scenes occur every day at base ball games that are witnessed in no other contests or competitions. Business and professional men forget for the time their standing in the community and shoulder to shoulder with the street urchin, "root" frantically for the hit needed to win the game. Superstitious to a degree, the "fan" will rise to his feet with all his fellows on a mame for a stretch in the "lucky seventh" if the home team is being outplayed, and so it goes.

Impartial Cheering.

Yet the ardent does not blind his eyes to the ability of the visiting team. In no other branch of sport is high-class play, either individual or team work, so quickly recognized and applauded as in base ball. This is due in all probability, to the fact that 99 per cent of the spectators understand the game even in its complicated development of today. Where is the man who as a boy did not play ball? Even when age and business cares make active participation out of the question, he still finds time to align his eyes on the game. It is only natural, then, that his enthusiasm should force him to do more than sit idly in his seat. To see him on a hot day, sans collar and coat, hurrying encouragement and advice at the players, is to see him in his true element.

Nothing of the doings of the players in the field or on the bench escapes his scrutiny. Dazzling play, wherein the ball travels from point to point on the diamond at lightning speed, brings forth roars of applause. Stupid blunders result in howls of derision and caustic comment that stings even the hardened professional. Viewed broadly, however, the "fan" is in the aggregate fair and quick to show his appreciation. In no other sport is the work of the contestants so closely followed and judged unbiased. The batting and fielding averages of the leading players are ever on tongue tips. "Play to win" is the slogan, and was beside the individual whose efforts give the impression of shirking. The thumbs-down cry, "Take him out!" expresses the sentiment of the "fans." On the other hand, a desperate try, even though it be unsuccessful, is a credit mark for the earnest player.

Thrills of Close Contests.

Much as the game has improved during the last decade, the "fan" has kept step in the onward march. Years ago the regular followers of the home team asked for nothing but victory. Today it is different. The old desire is still there, but it is curbed and polished by the craving for close contests and high-class play. The biggest crowds file through the turnstiles on the days when rival teams of about equal caliber meet on the diamond. A series wherein the superiority of one club over another is apparent is a poor drawing card. The "fan" demands fast, dashing play, exciting situations, and a climax. If the home team wins, so much the better, but, above all, it must be base ball at its best.

This attitude extends to the players as individuals. Star pitchers and batters draw crowds just as the leading operatic singers swell box office receipts. Hans Wagner, Hal Chase, Christy Mathewson, Ty Cobb, Three-Fingers Brown, attract hundreds to ball parks daily because of the sensational feats they perform. Their presence on the team is worth thousands of dollars in a season to the club owners, and the managers, realizing this, pay them salaries double and treble the average league stipend.

For players who lead the league in their respective positions there is always a hearty welcome either at home or on the road. Their caliber is recognized, their superior ability appreciated. The "fans" set a high standard for them to play up to, and this keeps up the men to top speed. Much as they are admired, though, nothing pleases the followers of the home team so much as to see them outplayed by home talent. The spectacle of Hans Wagner or Frank Chance striking out with two men on bases fills a New York crowd with unalloyed joy. The Pittsburgh or Chicago "fan" would rather see Christy Mathewson driven to the bench by the local diamond representatives than witness an entire series taken from Brooklyn or St. Louis. In the battle on the ball field, no quarter is given or asked by either players or "fans." The temporary disconcerting of a big league star is the signal for a round of laughter and wittolisms at the expense of the player, highly pleasing to the "fans" if quite the reverse to the star.

Fairness of the Fan.

It must be said, however, that the "fan" of today is much fairer in his attitude toward visiting players and umpires than he was in the early days of league play. The class observer realizes that the arbitrator is trying to give both teams a "square deal" and that he is in a position to decide close plays more justly than the "fan" in the stands. This holds true in every city represented in either major league. In fact, the "fan" of any given locality will assure you with earnestness that his city is the fairest of any on the circuit. The axiom that "circumstances alter cases" holds true, however, in base ball as well as in law. The clubs of certain cities arouse more rivalry when competing on the same field than other teams of the same league. This is due to various reasons, some of which are entirely outside base ball. The resident of Pittsburgh or Chicago insists that New York is of no greater importance on the map of North America than is his home city. The spirit animates to the ball teams, although it frequently happens that not one of the leading players was born or lives in the city the name of which he bears on his uniform. Dangerous contenders for the pennant are not treated with the same leniency by the

"fans" that a weaker team receives. Defeat for the visitors means a double victory for the home club, and in a close race the "fans" can always be found on their feet at critical moments "rooting" for the downfall of the invaders. There is also a marked difference in the attitude of the spectators toward those in uniform, according to the day of week on which the game is played. The Saturday and Sunday gatherings are inclined to be more partisan in their support of the home combination than those of the midweek. This is explained by the argument that holiday crowds are composed in great part of those who, because of their employment, are unable to attend with the same frequency as the business, professional or clerical man whose day's work during the summer months is completed about the hour the game begins. Veteran players on the big circuits contend that the week-end crowds do not grasp the finer points of the play with the same ability the regulars do, and are prone to blame the umpires and visiting clubs for slip-ups in the play which are clearly due to laxity on the part of the local team members. The fact that the week-end "fans" are more demonstrative can also be traced to the courage that numbers give, and the feeling that personal identity is lost in a throng of 15,000 to 25,000.

Rooting Demands.

The desire for victory brings out another feature of the "fan's" composition. He is an ardent admirer of the star player or the brilliant club manager, so long as he can outplay and outwit the other clubs of the league. But any veteran of the game will tell you scores of experiences which prove that no man can hold his following on past performances. Just as soon as he shows a permanent falling off in his form the brilliant records of past years are of no avail. If he shows up the team work or younger players by his inability to keep step his major league career is at an end. Sentiment has no place in the search for pennants, and the enthusiastic follower of a club knows this. Consequently, he demands that the manager secure new men in order that the team may hold its own in the annual struggle. This passing of former diamond celebrities is one of the darker sides of the game. Many of the modern high-priced stars, realizing that their years of activity in base ball are few, prepare for the future by investing their money in various enterprises which promise to yield them good incomes when their diamond days are done.

That the "fan" has his personal vagaries is well known to those who are brought into contact with the game and its many angles. Certain regulars will sit nowhere except back of first base, and will go to the grounds an hour ahead of the throng in order to secure the desired position. Others want to be near third base or behind the home plate, and will grumble all the afternoon if crowded out of their favorite spot. The true basebalter laughs at the grandstand occupant and declares that he knows nothing about base ball, for if he did he wouldn't sit where he does. The thirty-third degree "fan" is the one who cultivates the acquaintance of the players both on and off the field. The length to which this hero worship is carried is surprising to the uninitiated. To know and to be seen in the company of prominent players is the acme of his ambition. He will use every artifice to bring about the desired result, and many is the complaint and curt remark that his perseverance

WILL EITHER KILL OR CURE

Jeffries-Johnson Mill is Expected to Influence Future Fate of Sport.

SQUARE FIGHT IS PREDICTED

General Opinion Among Sporting Authorities is that Public Sentiment Will be Swayed One Way or Another.

A Famous Fan.

Even the president of the United States is a "fan" and has placed his seal of approval on the national sport. He attends the games played in Washington whenever the pressure permits of the relaxation. He understands base ball in all its details and is conversant with the damage of the men who by their efforts have made history in the sport. The status of William H. Taft in fandom was permanently fixed last fall by a remark he made while attending a game in Chicago. Several months previously he had been invited to be the special guest of the Chicago National league club during a game with the New York Giants. ("Pop" his acceptance a special "President's Day" was announced by the club. The double attraction of the president's attendance and the Giants and Cubs in battle brought forth a record-breaking throng. A special box had been constructed for Mr. Taft and his party, and a great roar of welcome greeted his appearance. The club manager, however, when he asked as a special favor that he be permitted to "sit with the fans."

Rooting Demands.

The president proved on this occasion, as at other times, that he was a true base ball "fan" in all the word conveys. He arose and "stretched" with the rest of the multitude in the "lucky seventh," and in other ways demonstrated the fact that he appreciated a well-fought base ball contest as well as any of his brother "fans." So if, on the next warm day, you are tempted to forget, temporarily at least, your business cares and go to the ball game, remember there is a strong precedent in favor of the action. If in the seventh inning your neighbor arises and pounds you on the back while yelling for a hit that will win the game, don't become annoyed. Pick up your glasses and recollect that he is a brother "fan," perhaps a trifle too exuberant to suit your ideas, but still a "fan."—Edward B. Moss in Harper's Weekly.

Hit that Made a Fortune.

In his article on "bating" in the July American magazine, Hugh S. Fullerton, the great base ball expert, describes as follows the longest hit ever recorded: "Lange, who was of seventh inning year of the game, made a hit in Cincinnati which is regarded by many as the longest hit ever made. The ball cleared the center field fence, which was on top of a high embankment, sailed across Western avenue, went through a window of a saloon and was found behind the bar. The hit made a fortune for the saloon man, as big crowds went to see the ball on exhibition."

Putting it Off.

"Spoonamore," said his elderly friend, "why don't you marry?" "Marry? I'm not married." "Yes, you. Why don't you?" "I simply can't, Wiggins." "You have a love affair with somebody or other on hand all the time. You ought to marry and settle down." "Wiggins, I'm not in a position to marry." "Priggle! All you need to do in order to be in the proper position to marry is to stand up with the girl before a preacher."—Chicago Tribune.

Preventives and Remedies

(From the Motorist.)

A noisy exhaust on a launch spoils the pleasure of motor boating for the owner, as well as annoying any one else within earshot. Contrary to more or less popular opinion, a well designed muffler does not cut down the speed or power of the engine. For four-cylinder and six-cylinder engines, a single expansion chamber, with water circulation will make the running very quiet without endangering the speed. A two-cycle engine, however, needs two expansion chambers, water circulated to give good results. A water cooled muffler is more efficient than an air cooled one, for the reason that the water keeps the exhaust line cool and helps greatly in minimizing the noise.

Any motor will, after continued use, accumulate rust and grit deposited in the water jacket. This is especially the case with launches moored in muddy water. If this deposit is not removed sooner or later, its presence will cause the motor to overheat. If the cylinders are removed and turned bottom up, a good strong stream from a hose will remove a great part of this deposit. A sharpened piece of drill rod or stout wire will assist greatly in loosening up any of the rust flakes inside the jacket.

It is a great mistake to use an automobile or launch engine a whole season without giving it any attention except to feed it with oil and gasoline. Any engine after a hard season's use will have accumulated a good deal of carbon on its pistons and cylinders. This carbon causes trouble and should be removed. This can be done with kerosene quite easily by pouring some of it into the cylinder and turning the engine over by hand so that the kerosene will thoroughly clean the sides of the pistons and cylinders. If this does not prove successful it will be necessary to have the engine overhauled.

To examine the spark plug first disconnect the wire, unscrew the plug from the combustion chamber, reconnect the wire and place the plug on a metal portion of the frame, or on the top of the combustion chamber, taking care that only the metal portion of the spark plug is in contact; not the cap or screw. Then turn the starting handle. If no spark, or a weak spark, results, it may be taken for granted that the plug is at fault, therefore it should be examined in detail. If the points of a spark plug are placed about 1/32 of an inch apart—about the thickness of a dime—and there is a good voltage from the battery on making contact, so as to set up an induced current, a "fat" spark usually results.

The steering gear should always have the most careful inspection. In an old car there will probably be some play at the foot of the steering column, so that it is possible to turn the steering wheel some distance before the front wheels are in contact. On many types of cars provision is made to take up this lost motion, but on others no such arrangement is included, and if there is so much play that the steering is dangerous, a new steering outfit will have to be purchased.

Chattering sounds that are sometimes made by the brakes are caused by the friction surfaces getting too dry. Oil or grease will give relief, but care must be used not to put too much on or the brakes will lose their efficiency. A mixture of oil and graphite, mixed to a fairly stiff consistency, will be found an excellent and lasting remedy for this complaint.

A short circuit may occur in the wiring leading from the magneto to the igniter plugs on a make and break engine. This may be due to some fault in the wiring between the igniter plugs and the switch which grounds the current in order to stop an switch caused by grounding through bad insulation or switch defect.

A Bachelor's Reflections. It's good luck not to risk much money on your luck. A woman has a natural genius for being understood by all men except her husband. If a man chews tobacco he can get just as mad as anybody else with people who chew gum. The time a young man thinks he amounts to most is when he can't get anybody else to think so. If a man happens to remember the year some horse won a big race he thinks he's got all about breeding thoroughbreds.—New York Press.

Having Him. "Mr. Chairman," said the new member of the literary club, "I move you, sir—" "I rise to a point of order, Mr. Chairman," interrupted one of the other members.

"State your point of order." "The gentleman says, 'I move you.' It is not only out of order but utterly absurd for a man of 124 pounds to talk of 'moving' the chairman's edifice which weighs 20."

"The point is well taken," roared the presiding officer, bringing his gavel down with a resounding thud. "The gentleman will merely 'move' or 'take' the seat."—Chicago Tribune.

A Friend in Need.

Algie—I say, Fred, you're—a—a friend of mine, aren't you? Fred—Sure. Algie—Then be a good fellow and—aw—help me out. I'd like to have that purty cousin of yours learn all about my—aw—good ol'ma, don'tcha know? Fred—I am helping you, old chap. I argued with her for two hours yesterday, trying to convince her that you weren't as big a fool as you looked.—Chicago News.



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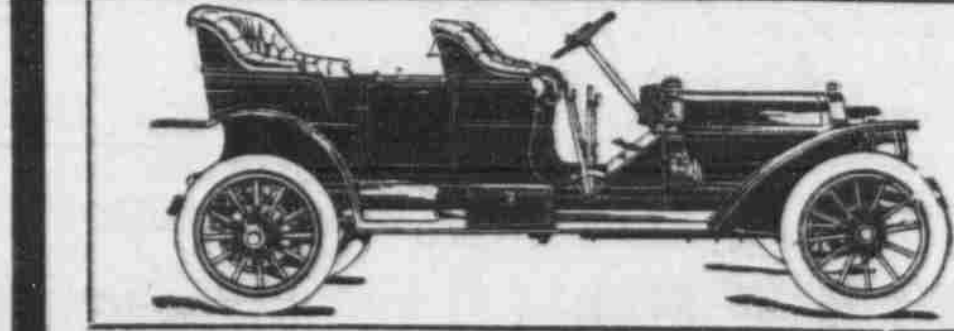
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