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IT IS ART TO FIND PLAYERS

Reply is Made to President Ebbets of the Brooklyn Team.

ONLY SYSTEM WITH RESULTS

Some of the Best Known Players Who Came Out While in College Are Chance, Mathewson, Collins and Stahl.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—That wall from President Ebbets of the Brooklyn Base ball club regarding the spending of much money on new players only to have the latter turn out badly doubtless arises primarily from a bird's-eye view of those teams that have been picking up young collegians and making good with them at small initial expense. The man from the minor league is looking for money when he decides to make a change, while the collegian is seeking primarily for a chance. If the latter "comes through" he need not fear that the money will not be forthcoming in due time. But at the start he is, in nine cases out of ten, "bargain" material.

One thing that Mr. Ebbets forgets, however, is that it is something of an art to pick up the cream of the collegians every year, and that as a rule it requires just as much expert scouting as it does to snare the wily professional, although, as a matter of fact, a few of the professionals have been innocent enough. Chance and Mack have been the leaders in the gathering in of the festive college ball players. The University of Illinois has for years been practically a feeder for the Cubs, and there is no better school for young men who care to keep on at the professional game than this particular institution. Connie Mack confines himself to no particular school of ball playing, but has the "dope" on the college teams all over the country. He is a poor youngster, indeed, whose record is not down in Connie's good books, and kept right up to the minute, year after year.

It takes system to get results in anything connected with base ball. Sometimes the system has done harm to the collegians, notably in the case of one of the Clarksons some years ago, but the fact remains that the big club owner or manager cannot sit down in his office and expect the mails to bring him in applications from all the star college ball players throughout the country.

Many Collegians in Game.
In 1910 there were fifty-seven ex-college men in the two major leagues, and the percentage has fluctuated but little since that time. Many of these young men fall to keep the pace, but it is rarely through any difficulty in handling them. They come to the big leagues already thoroughly disciplined and with an interest in the team that goes far deeper than salary. Half the time it is necessary to keep them from over-working themselves rather than to prod them. They take kindly to coaching, and they do not have to go through the hazing that was their lot in the old days.

The professional branch of the national game is deeply indebted to such institutions as Notre Dame, Illinois, Cornell, Georgetown, Villanova, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania State, Fordham, Princeton, Williams, Amherst and Virginia. Some of the best known players who first came out while in college are Chance of Chicago, from Washington; Mathewson of New York, from Bucknell; Collins of Philadelphia, from Columbia; and Stahl of Boston, from Illinois. A full list of the collegians now in the professional ranks would take up a deal of space.

But if President Ebbets is to keep pace with this branch of scouting he will have to systematize it and take a leaf from Connie Mack's book.

The following opinion of the college ball player in the professional ranks, by Thomas J. Lynch, president of the National league, was called forth some time ago by a query from the editors of the *Tate News*, who were anxious to get a headquarters view. What Lynch wrote in reply is as true today as it was the hour it was written.

"The college base ball player," wrote Lynch, "in the professional league is an asset of which every club owner recognizes the true value. These collegians who demonstrate their ability to play the fast base ball necessary for admission into the big league, and who desire for any reason to adopt this means of livelihood for either temporary or extended periods, are eagerly sought after by the scouts and executives of the various clubs. There are a number of reasons why such players are of great value to league clubs.

"In the first place, they bring with them from the college campus that spirit of true sportsmanship and determination to win which they have learned in college,

and which is a peculiar feature of all university sports. Through discipline and educational advantages they are particularly amenable to suggestions and easy to manage. As a rule they come to the clubs in excellent physical condition, and understand thoroughly both the necessity and the methods necessary to maintain such form. Their training has taught them the benefits to be derived from such a course, and they have few habits which cause the club managers concern.

"Their whole career previous to entering the big games has been of instruction, which enables them to grasp the finer points of base ball as played in the big leagues and the futility of attempting to transgress the rules and regulations laid down to preserve the integrity of the game. While the college player is anxious to win every game possible for his club he does not carry his aggressiveness to the point which brings him into unpleasant contact with umpire or spectator.

College Boy Has Aptitude.
"I am led to believe from my observations covering a long period of years that the average collegian who takes up base ball as a serious business proposition soon finds his way into the major leagues. He has that aptitude and discrimination which enables him to ascertain for himself his personal ability in base ball. If he is satisfied that his game is equal to that played on the big circuits and really desired to adopt base ball as a means of livelihood the club owners are ready and willing to try him out, and such trials usually lead the managers to coincide with the player as to his worth and qualifications.

"From personal experience and talks with the owners of the big clubs I know that there is a field in the professional leagues for those college players who desire to continue the game after leaving their universities. They are a credit to base ball and a big help in maintaining the standards set by the owners and officers of the big league clubs."

CARTOON LOADED WITH SOBS

Homer Davenport's First Job Lifted the Lid of Editor's Tear Tank.

Not very long before he died Homer Davenport, the cartoonist, got to talking with some friends about the early years of his pursuit of art. His first sketch, as he recalled it, was of a stove, in answer to a demand from the advertising department. That stove was so whopper-jawed, so slab-sided, so decrepit, that, in response to the next demand from the advertising department, young Mr. Davenport moved on. "But I kept learning a little more about the game," said he. "I watched the things that other men were doing, until by and by I felt myself competent to take another position as an artist. It was on a little western paper. The editor frankly told me that he could not afford even the small salary he paid me, but he had a sporting streak in him. He would take a chance. He paid the \$1.12 laundry bill I had accumulated and paid my board a week in advance, and by the expenditure of a total of \$12 placed me on the sunny side of Easy street. Then he sent me out on my first assignment. I wanted to make a hit and I put everything I knew into the picture I drew.

"The assignment had been to cover the funeral of a well known town character, and I depicted a lonely grave in a cemetery, surrounded by tottering, drunken tombstones. The grave was but half filled. The grave digger was leaning on his spade and the wreath of flowers purchased by the friends of the deceased had been carelessly thrown against the pile of wet brown earth. An unhappy dog howled in the background and the rain was falling in long, slanting lines. A sob came up in my throat when I viewed my completed work. That would have brought tears to the eyes of the mummy Rameese. Immediately after I turned it in the editor, sent for me. 'Davenport,' said he, 'I'm a tender hearted man, and I can't bear the sight of that appalling picture you have just drawn. More than that Davenport, I feel that I can never bear to see you again. I know that I'd burst into tears if I met you anywhere after this day. And while I'm crying,' Davenport, he continued, 'you want to take it on the run. Because if I get to thinking about that \$12 I'll kill you.'"—Cincinnati Times-Star.

WESTERN WOMEN DEVELOP

Eastern Tennis Players Beginning to Recognize Sisters.

CALIFORNIANS HARD HITTERS

This is Due, it is Believed, to the Fact that the Courts in the California Centers Are Made of Asphalt.

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—With many excellent women tennis players in the east there is at present no one likely to dispute the claims for supremacy of the wonderful collection of women players that have come out of the far west since Miss Mary Sutton first made the Pacific coast famous among racquet wielders.

Miss Sutton was followed by Miss Hazel Hotchkiss, now Mrs. G. W. Wightman, who in turn took the highest honors by winning the woman's national championship. No sooner had Mrs. Wightman retired, at least temporarily, than another juvenile wonder was unearthed in Miss Mary Browne, a girl in her teens, who proved an able successor by winning in the final of the national event this year from Miss Adelaide Browning of the Ardley club, who battled pluckily but unsuccessfully for the east against the invader from the coast.

Various Reasons.

Various reasons are advanced for the superiority of the California women, whose proclivity is as marked as their skill with the racquet. But the one most favored is suggested by one of the men players from the same district. The Californians are tremendously hard hitters for women and very fast in covering the court. This is due, it is believed, to the fact that the courts at the Golden Gate are of asphalt and the ball travels so fast that from the moment they begin to handle a racquet the players have to show speed in order to keep pace with the ball at all. When they play on the comparatively slow courts in the east their natural speed gives them an immense advantage over the girls here who have had their education on grass courts or on clay.

Eastern women by no means have given up the struggle to recover the laurels that used to come so easily for them, and the great improvement shown by Miss Browning leads to the belief that in the near future the rising generation will copy the methods of the visitors and put up a winning fight for the title. Miss Browning is only 18 years old and much of her skill is due to coaching received from Miss Hotchkiss, who visited her at Ardley in the intervals of her campaign last year. Added to this the Ardley girl received many pointers from Jimmy Burns, the club professional. She proved an apt pupil, and in another season or two may be able to turn the tables on her conqueror.

The Eastern Brigade.

Miss Louise Harmon was another who was looked on with favor as a possible contender until she married and lost much of her enthusiasm for battles at the net. Probably one of the most successful of the eastern brigade is Mrs. Barger Wallach, who plays a remarkable game considering that she has only one effective stroke, a forehand drive. Tom Pettit, the Newport coach, developed this stroke so well that Mrs. Barger Wallach won the championship, and this was thought a great feat in view of the fact that an underhand service is the only one at Mrs. Wallach's command and that she is unable to volley from overhead. Pettit taught her the science of anticipating the direction of the returns, so that by an early start for the ball she was able to get in position to use the forehand stroke where a less active court coverer would have had to depend on a backhand delivery.

Miss Eleanor Sears, one of the greatest if not the peer of any all around woman athlete, is another that might have attained the highest honors in tennis but for the fault of unsteadiness in her game. Miss Sears boxes, fences, rides and plays polo and golf better than many men and has the strength necessary for a really successful tennis player, but lacks the fitness which is the accompaniment of every champion at the lawn game.

Had the Californians made their invasion when Miss Bessie Moore was in her prime there might have been a different story to tell of the relative merits of the east and the west. Miss Moore has won more championships than any other woman player, but at the present time is unable to hold her own with the speedy young expert, Miss Marie Wagner is another New York girl who lacks but one essential to make her a champion. That is confidence in her own ability. She is prone to be overawed by the importance of the contest and it is only when she forgets that there are spectators watching and begins to play as if the match were for fun that she shows the excellence of her game.

How It's Done

Lady (to shoe clerk)—I should like to get a pair of shoes.
Clerk—Yes, ma'am. What size?
Lady—Size three.
Clerk—Yes, ma'am. Just let me measure your foot.
Lady—But I told you the size.
Clerk—Yes, ma'am; but we have three sizes of size three—size three for a size three foot, size three for a size four foot and size three for a size five foot.—Judge.

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