

CONSISTENT PLAYER
OFTEN AS VALUABLE
AS A BRILLIANT STAR

Athlete Who Is in Game Every Day and Giving Best He Has Holds Job Just as Long as the Flashy Chap; Killifer, Wingo and Rariden Are Good Examples.

By JACK VEIOCK.

New York, Dec. 22.—A good many base ball managers hold onto players year after year because they are consistent performers day in and day out.

This is true in the big leagues, as it is in the minors, and, though a ball player has to have a certain amount of class in any company, he does not have to be an exceptionally brilliant performer to hold a job if he is consistently good.

The player who chafes on the bench is a valuable asset to any ball club. He is the player who loves to be in there playing the game for the game itself. He isn't offering alibis that will keep him out of the lineup on every possible occasion, and he is worth twice as much as the versatile star who has the temperament of a prima donna.

In sizing up players of this class it is unfair to deal with the second string men who do not have the opportunity to get into the lineup that is given the regulars. And in glancing over the National league fielding averages for the past season it appears to us that for the amount of work they are called upon to do in a ball game the catchers have the call when it comes to mention for consistent playing. Players in other positions may be in there just as often, but they do not figure in as many plays as the backstops, and when it comes down to brass tacks they haven't the same amount of thinking to do, either.

Three National league catchers who were mainstays during the season of 1917 donned the mask and protector and caught more than 100 games apiece. We'll say that was a good season's work. The trio in question is composed of Bill Killifer, Ivy Wingo of the Reds and Bill Rariden of the Pirates. Rariden was forced to shoulder the heavy work behind the bat with the Giants when Lew McCarty was put out of the game with a broken leg early in the season, but Bill is a gent who loves work, and he is at his best when he is in there nearly every day. The fact that he has the ability to catch so many games shows that he knows how to handle himself behind the bat.

During the past season Rariden caught an even 100 games for the men of McGraw, and that is just about an average season's work for the hard working Hoosier. When Rariden was with the Boston Braves, before he took the hurdles to the Federal league, he was the first-string catcher for the Hub team, and in the "outlaw league" he was known as the hardest-working catcher.

Bill and Ivy High.

Bill Killifer, famous as the battery mate of Grover Alexander, caught 120 games of ball for the Phillies last season, and his work was of the same high standard that has ranked him as one of the greatest catchers in the game for the past few years. Ivy Wingo caught a like number of games for the Reds, and his work behind the bat with both the Cardinals and Reds for the past four or five seasons has stamped him as one of the greatest catchers in the game.

Frank Snyder of the Cards was also a hard-working individual during the recent campaign. Snyder caught 84 games of ball for the Cards, as did Traggator of the Braves, who was called upon to shoulder the heavy work when Hank Gowdy enlisted in the army. Rowdy Elliott and Art Wilson of the Cubs, and Bill Fischer of the Pirates, were among the hardest working backstops in the National league last season, with 65 or more games to their credit.

Toronto to Stick to Ship
No Matter What May Happen

"If the International league doesn't start next year Toronto will remain on the base ball map," says Arthur Irwin, business manager of the Toronto club. "We did a wonderful business this year in spite of war conditions, and we know that the fans still want base ball. The Toronto club, therefore, is prepared to play exhibition games with the major league teams at home, and it is possible that we may take the team to England and France, where the game is beginning to thrive because of the large number of American and Canadian soldiers on the other side. No matter what happens in base ball Toronto will not quit."

Ebbets Sincere in Plan
To Assist International

President Ebbets of Brooklyn was sincere and positive in his opinion that the major leagues should give the International real assistance. Besides offering to permit the placing of a club in Brooklyn, to use Ebbets' field for its playing ground, he declared that the majors should advance money to keep the International going. Its loyalty to organized base ball in the Federal fight, he said, demanded that it be given every consideration.

Bill Clarke Leaves for
Overseas With "Y" Forces

William Clarke, who was a catcher on the Baltimore Orioles, 20 some years ago when John McGraw, Hugh Jennings, Willie Keller and Wilbert Robinson made them famous, is going to France in aid of the Young Men's Christian association in the war. Clarke has been base ball coach at Princeton for several years.

Nig Clarke Sends Out Big
Boost for the Marine Corps

Nig Clarke, who is now in the marines, was in Detroit recently on a furlough. He declared it is the only life and said he is sorry that he didn't enlist years ago and never played ball. Clarke is stationed at Paris Island, N. C.

Former Philly Hurler is
Retained as College Coach

Stanley (Lefty) Baumgartner, former Philadelphia National league pitcher, who coached the Delaware college football team the past season, has been retained by the athletic council as also coach basket ball and base ball.

ROUGH IS GIVEN
PLACE AS T. COBB
OF THE NATIONAL

Red Outfielder Wins Batting
Championship by Consistent
Hitting and is Flash
on Bases.

Everybody expects Ty Cobb, of course, when he sets out to do a thing to do it a little better—or a whole lot better—than any of his fellows. When Ty decides to lead the American league as an offensive player he leads it and that's all there is to it. But it is something new for the National to produce such a leader, however, in Eddie Roush, who isn't an American leaguer today because Jimmy Callahan, then White Sox manager, couldn't see him.

When Roush, now champion batsman of the National league, was in the American league, four years ago, his batting average was just .100. He did not figure in enough games with the White Sox to have what he did reported by Official Statistician Irwin Howe and he only was played regularly by Jimmy Callahan in two contests. In neither of these did he make the hit that gave him the average that was 241 points less than his 1917 credit.

It was on September 11, 1913, in Philadelphia, that Roush, batting for Jim Scott, formerly of Death Valley, but now of the United States army, tore off the hit that gave him his average of .100. The hit was made off Chief Bender. It was a single.

The two real games that Roush played in the American league in 1913 were played in Chicago on August 20 and 21. Then he covered center field. One game was against the Red Sox, one against the Athletics. In each game Roush batted three times and in each game he failed to hit safely. The men he batted against were Fred Anderson, now with the Giants; Charles (Sea Lion) Hall, who used to be a Red Sox, and Bob Shawkey, at present with the Yankees.

And Now for 1917 Record.
In only 29 out of 136 games in 1917 did Roush fail to hit safely. He was one of the most consistent hitters in the National league and will prove a potent box office attraction before long. In Boston, the worst city in the world to show off a man's ability on account of the size of the Braves' field, a veteran critic said that Roush was the only National leaguer whom he saw that approached Cobb in his actions on the bases.

It was his opinion that Roush was the real second Ty Cobb. Roush won the batting championship of the National league by the consistency of his hitting. In only 29 out of 136 games did he fail to hit safely. Eddie's best consecutive hitting stunt last season was to collect one or more safe blows in a stretch of 15 conflicts. From June 30 to July 13, inclusive, the Cincinnati peeled off 22 wallops. He was stopped by Harry Saltee of the Giants.

Another good run for Roush came between August 1 and August 13. Then he delivered 24 blows in 13 contests. Frank Miller of the Pirates halted the Redleg when he was on his second batting jamboree. Four times during the year did Roush kick in with a quartet of clouts in games, the pitchers he hit on being employed by Brooklyn and St. Louis. The dope:

May 17—Roush, four singles, in five times at bat, against Brooklyn.
June 22—Roush, four singles, in four times at bat, against St. Louis.
July 23—Roush, two singles and two doubles, in five times at bat, against Brooklyn.
August 13—Roush, four singles, in five times at bat, against St. Louis.

A Hard Man to Strike Out.
As Secretary John Heydler of the National league, who always is introducing new features into the averages, and who now is writing introductions to them, has shown, Roush was a hard man to strike out, whiffing only 24 times. Eddie went until the morning fracas of July 4 before any pitcher was able to strike him out twice and then Vic Aldridge of the Cubs turned the trick. On August 24 "Chief" Bender and Eppa Rixey of the Phils, collaborating, made a carbon copy of the young Chicagoan's feat. Jim Vaughn, of the Bruins, going it alone on September 11, made Roush retreat twice to the bench, after taking three futile swings at the sphere.

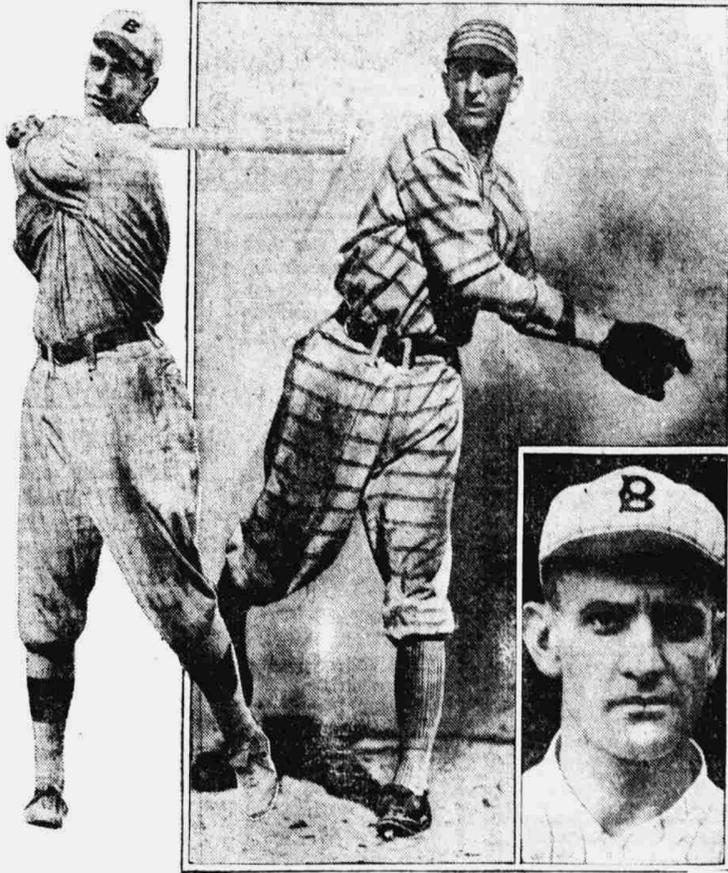
These are the men who had the honor of breezing the National league's champion batsman:

Boston—Nelf, 1; Allen, 1. Total, 2.
Brooklyn—Cherry, 1. Total, 1.
Chicago—Vaughn, 3; Aldridge, 2; Demaree, 1; Reuther, 1. Total, 7.
New York—Schupp, 2; Benton, 1; Saltee, 1; Anderson, 1. Total, 5.
Philadelphia—Rixey, 4; Bender, 1; Alexander, 1. Total, 6.
Pittsburgh—Steele, 1. Total, 1.
St. Louis—Watson, 1; Meadows, 1. Total, 2.

Phillies Lose Recruit
When War Call Steps in

The Philadelphia Nationals, who drafted Justin Fitzgerald from the San Francisco club, need not figure on him, for report comes from San Francisco that he has enlisted in the quartermaster's department of the army.

Those Restless Big League Stars



ZACH WHEAT

CHARLEY HERZOG

CASEY STENDEL

Charley Herzog will not be with the Giants next season. He has asked President Hempstead to be relieved because of his enmity to Manager McGraw. It was learned that the New York club is ready to let him go as soon as a good trade can be made.

According to the terms of his contract Herzog must be consulted before he can be sent to another club. The Giant captain has expressed a preference to go to Boston, Chicago

or Cincinnati. It is likely he will land in Boston as field captain. Recently Charles Weeghman said he was in the field for Herzog's services.

Pat Moran, leader of the Phils, and late manager of the famous Grover Cleveland Alexander-William Killifer battery, absolutely refused to consider a trade of Zachary Wheat, the slugging outfielder of the Dodgers, for George Whitted, the versatile member of the Quaker outfit.

While Charles Ebbets has not announced the fact, it is almost certain that he is planning to reconstruct his base ball machine that won the National league pennant in 1916, only to finish last in the past season. Casey Stengel of Kansas City is on the market. Wheat and Stengel both had trouble with Ebbets on the salary question last spring and the two outfielders would not mind a change of scenery.

Cream of Nation's Boxing Stars Now
Are Teaching Soldiers in U. S. Camps

Best Men in Fight Game Are
Engaged in Instructing Uncle
Sam's Lads at Can-
tonments.

The cream of the country's boxers, from featherweights to heavyweights, have answered the call of Uncle Sam for capable boxing instructors, and are now engaged in training camps of the country teaching soldiers how to defend themselves.

Realizing that boxing is the best aid to bayonet fighting, military authorities are making the art of self-defense compulsory, and the men are throwing themselves into the work with more earnestness than any other part of their training. It has been demonstrated that a good boxer makes the best fighter with the bayonet, as well as hand-to-hand struggles which occur in every trench raid. The men to teach boxing are those who are the most proficient in the game, and champions from every division have joined the roll to aid in the instructing.

No Small Job.
It is no small job to teach from 40,000 to 50,000 men to box, but this is the position which most of the boxers find themselves in. Those chosen to work in the camps are going into their work with a will to master the job, and reports from all over the country state that they are succeeding.

Willie Ritchie, who is boxing instructor at Camp Lewis, is instructing classes daily. The former champion

Roll of Ring Men
Who Are Teaching
In Training Camps

Here is the roll of American professional boxers who have been appointed to act as boxing instructors in our army training camps:

- Armstrong, William P., Camp Hancock, Augusta, Ga.
- Gibbons, Mike, Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Ia.
- Kilbane, Johnny, Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, O.
- Leonard, Benny, Camp Upton, Yaphank, L. I.
- Levinsky, Battling, Camp Devens, Ayer, Mass.
- McAllister, Bob, Camp Funston, Fort Riley, Kan.
- McFarland, Packey, Camp McArthur, Waco, Tex.
- Mandot, Joe, Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Ala.
- Russell, Frankie, Camp Pike, Little Rock, Ark.
- Mitchell, Ritchie, Camp Doniphan, Fort Sill, Okl.
- Smith, Jeff, Camp Dix, Wrightstown, N. J.
- White, Charlie, Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill.
- Dunn, Jimmy, Camp Taylor, Louisville, Ky.
- Ritchie, Willie, Camp Lewis, American Lake, Wash.

structor at Camp Lewis, is instructing classes daily. The former champion

Showing Forty Thousand Men
How to Fight and Uppercut
With Bayonet is No
Small Job.

is working hard, and he is well liked by both men and officers at the camp. Benny Leonard, lightweight champion, is also in the game for Uncle Sam, and besides he is boxing and giving a purse to military funds.

Battling Levinsky, the New York light-heavyweight, who is at Camp Devens, writes of his work there. He says:

"I have been here for the past four weeks, trying my best to make the men in Camp Devens as good boxers as I can. It will do a lot of good in the bayonet fighting and when they go over the top. I am teaching class boxing to noncommissioned officers and they instruct their companies. I am also trying to organize a class of commissioned officers. "All the men take a big interest in the work. I have a class now of about 96 men and expect soon to have a class of at least 200. You would be surprised to see them fall into boxing positions. They must be natural born boxers. Boxing will be a great pastime for all the boys as soon as the weather gets too bad for outdoor games. It seems that every red-blooded man likes boxing—either to watch it or box themselves."

Brooklyn Hurling Corps
Is Walloped by the War

No other major league club has been as hard hit as the Brooklyn Dodgers when it comes to pitchers going into service. Cadore, Smith, Miljus and Joe Pfeiffer have gone from the club. No wonder President Ebbets refused to consider any deal for Rube Marquard.

Revolt of Bolsheviki Players
Cossack Byron Saves Civilization by Clever Disguise

Scene—National commission headquarters, Zinzinnati, Grad, and wild disorder when Bolsheviki revolt led by John McGrawsky, John Eversky and Heinie Zim Trotsky surprises Base Ball's Triumvir—Caesar Johnson, Pompey Turner and Grassus Herrmann, who were having a stormy session. Premier McGrawsky stills mob of 200 base-hit hunters who are searching for Bill Byron and Cy Rigger with trimmings in chains.

Premier McGraw—Long have we waited, men, for this wonderful triumph of base ball democracy. Would that Sid Mercer were encircled in the secure links of that chain. I have not forgotten that \$1,000 fine and four weeks' vacation in the dark days of oppression and I will now gloat over the capture of my oppressor, who will crack under the strain before we get through with him. What say you, men?

Alibi grand shouts approval. Premier McGraw—Read the indictment, Comrade Eversky. Minister Eversky—Before indicting the arch enemies of the players and the friends of the umpires, I request that Hank O'Day's picture which hangs on the wall behind me be placed in my full view so I will be sure to have something hot to say. Shifting of Hank's picture. Minister Eversky—Autocrats Tener and Johnson, you are charged with long-distance fighting, a much more severe offense than the field argu-

Matty Peeved When McGraw
Offers Herzog for Groh

According to a report from Cincinnati, John McGraw offered to trade Charley Herzog to the Reds for Heinie Groh. It is said the friendship of years between McGraw and Mathewson came near being ruptured when Matty heard McGraw's proposition.

Ebbets Raps McGraw for
Young Player Proposal

Charley Ebbets of Brooklyn had a few words to say about John McGraw's proposition that each major league club should sign a dozen or so youths under the draft age and school them in base ball for future use. "The scheme of making ball players out of mere boys is a bad thing," said Ebbets. "They should be in school, but not a base ball school. Of course, lads of 19 have got in the majors now and then, but I do not believe in encouraging them to leave school to become ball players."

Cubs Grab Frank Walker
And Boehling by Waivers

While making big deals the Chicago Cubs are not overlooking lesser additions. Recently they claimed Outfielder Frank Walker from the Detroit Tigers and now it is announced they have claimed Pitcher Joe Boehling from the Cleveland Indians.

Big Prices Paid for
Famous Diamond Stars

Grover Cleveland Alexander and William Killifer, Philadelphia Cubs, 1917—\$100,000.
Tris Speaker, Boston Red Sox bought by Cleveland Indians, 1916—Price said to have been over \$50,000.
Eddie Collins, Philadelphia Athletics, bought by Chicago White Sox, 1915—\$50,000.
Frank Baker, Philadelphia Athletics, bought by New York Yankees, 1916—\$25,000.
Joe Tinker, Cincinnati Reds, bought by Brooklyn Robins, 1913—(Never reported).
Marty O'Toole, St. Paul American association, bought by Pittsburgh Pirates, 1915—\$22,500.
Larry Chappelle, Milwaukee, American association, bought by Chicago White Sox, 1915—\$18,000.
Lefty Russell, Baltimore, International league, bought by Philadelphia Athletics, 1913—\$12,000.
Fritz Marsall, Baltimore, International league, bought by New York Yankees, 1913—\$12,000.
Rube Marquard, Indianapolis, American association, bought by New York Giants—\$10,000.
Cy Seymour, Cincinnati Reds, bought by New York Giants—\$10,000.
Spike Shannon, St. Louis Cardinals, bought by New York Giants—\$10,000.

BOSTON BATTLER MAKES BIG
HIT BY BOWLING OVER FOES
WITH RIPPING K. O. WALLOP

Joe Eagan Startles Milwaukee Fans by Execution of Two Handed Punches; Tom Jones on Trail of Revenge Signs Walter Monaghan to Chase Jess Willard.

By RINGSIDER.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—Middle west boxing fans are singing the praises these days of a new welterweight scrapper who appeared unheralded a few weeks ago and earned a large-sized niche in the hall of fame by demonstrating that he is a real two-fisted fighter. He is Joe Eagan, a Boston youth, who has appeared in several scraps at Milwaukee.

Mack's Big Haul

Connie Mack has received a fortune for the Athletics' former stars. He sold Eddie Collins for \$50,000, Frank Baker for \$37,500, Jack Barry for \$10,000, Eddie Murphy for \$10,000, Bob Shawkey for \$5,000, Jack Lapp for \$3,000, and he probably got \$25,000 for Joe Bush, Amos Strunk and Wallie Schang. Mack, therefore, has cleaned up nearly \$150,000 since he decided to tear his great base ball machine asunder in 1915. Yet it is believed that as a result of his policy the Athletics have lost an equal amount in the past three campaigns. Quaker fans were beginning to shibe park last summer because they believed that Mack was building up a winner. But under the present circumstances another slump is looked for next year.

OMAHA GRAPPLER
HURLS GAS BOMBS
AT NEW YORKERS

Marin Plestina, Armed With Plenty of Coin, Bursts Into Metropolis With Much Noise and Clamor.

Armed with a large supply of gas bombs, hand grenades, heavy shrapnel, liquid fire and several United States certificates of large denomination, Marin Plestina, Omaha heavy-weight wrestler, arrived in New York Friday prepared to conduct a siege against the big city.

Plestina, in Chicago before he left had a heavy drum of challenges, defies, and dares. And at last reports, Marin had his enemies up the run.

Strangler Lewis, Jack Curley and the participants of the New York wrestling tournament, were the principal objectives of Plestina's drive on the big city.

Plestina, in Chicago before he left for New York, told the writer that he had made every possible endeavor to gain admittance to the New York tournament. "I offered to work without compensation," said Plestina, "but they flatly refused. They knew I could beat any man in the tournament and that would have interfered with their program."

On Trail of Lewis.
The minute the Omaha heavyweight arrived in Gotham he shot a challenge at Strangler Lewis, winner of the tourney. He put up his money as evidence of good faith and dared Lewis to enter the ring with him. He also offered to take on anybody else the New Yorkers had to offer.

Before leaving Chicago Plestina fired his batteries at several other wrestling persons. He announced that he had \$100,000 to prove that he could throw William Demetral 10 times in one hour. He further renewed his challenges to Joe Stecher and Earladdock. He agreed to meet either Joe or Earl under any kind of conditions and said he would give his entire share of the gate receipts to the Red Cross if one of them would meet him. Wladek Zhyzsko was another Plestina challenged to mortal combat.

Veteran Pitcher Breaks
Into the Aviation Corps

Jerry Akers, veteran pitcher, once with Washington and after that in various minor leagues, has enlisted in the aviation service.

OMAHA BOY NOW ENSIGN IN
UNCLE SAM'S NAVY.

Ensign Albert Burnett, U. S. N., it is now. It used to be just "Ebbie," when he was a foot ball star at the Omaha High school a decade ago. "Ebbie" as he was fondly known to all Omaha High school gridiron fans, was one of the best foot ball backfield men the local inter-scholastic institution ever had. Later he played at the University of Nebraska and coached the local high school.

Ensign Burnett now is home on a Christmas furlough visiting his parents here.

Many Clubs Seek Players
Freed by International

Under the impression that the International league has practically suspended and will not be in operation next year, inquiries already are beginning to come in regarding the players that may be his admit. Several Southern league clubs and certain Coast league clubs have asked for a line on such players. One Southern manager wined that he understood he could secure several players from the Toronto club, which already has announced that it hopes to hold its team together, even if only for independent ball games.

Ensign Albert Burnett, U. S. N.



Ensign Albert Burnett, U. S. N.