

HERZOG HAS TURNED BASEBALL ONE GRAND GAMBLE; VIRTUALLY ALL MODERN STARS COST CLUBS LITTLE OR NOTHING

Eleven Greatest Players, Originally Secured as Gifts or for Pittances, Attain Money Value of Approximately \$600,000

ROULETTE, monte, poker and craps are admittedly regular games of chance, though winning adherents of the great American indoor pastime commonly known as "draw" allege that it is an exact science. Baseball also, so diamond partisans contend, is an art or a science, depending upon the point of view. A casual view of the records, however, tends to prove that baseball is the biggest gamble of all games. Certainly its greatest stars, almost without exception, were long shots and obscurities when they started upon careers that have brought fame and fortune to club-owners and nice fat recompense to themselves.

The eleven great diamond stars of modern times undoubtedly are or have been Cobb, Speaker, Wagner, Mathewson, Johnson, Lajoie, Collins, Jackson, Alexander, Sisler and Hornsby. Five of these cost absolutely nothing, while the remainder, excluding Wagner, represented a total money inducement of \$1875. The entire outfit, therefore, originally represented in financial values the sum named, while their total worth at the zenith of their playing power rose to the appalling sum of approximately \$600,000. Here is the way the comparative figures line up:

Nap Lajoie, Walt Johnson, George Sisler, Eddie Collins and Christy Mathewson didn't cost as much as a shoestring. True, the veteran Amos Rusie was sent to the Cincinnati Reds in exchange for Matty, but the transaction turned out to be a gold-brick trade. The others cost railroad fare only. Speaker and Alexander were the highest-priced stars of the galaxy, each compelling big-league managers to lay down the magnificent sum of \$500 to see what they held. Rogers Hornsby represented an investment of \$350, while Connie Mack pulled Joe Jackson out of a South Carolina mill at a price stated to be \$225. Alex cost the Phils \$500 draft money. According to report Lajoie, Johnson and Hornsby came to their respective teams, the Phils, Senators and Cards, by word-of-mouth tip from friendly fans who had seen them perform in the brush.

HONUS WAGNER brought almost nothing when he lighted into the big ring, being secured along with a whole ballteam, including other notables like Rube Waddell, for \$25,000, when Barney Dreyfuss acquired the Louisville team and transplanted it to Smoke-town.

Cobb Most Valuable Player of All Time

BASEBALL authorities differ as to the relative value of players, but none outside of Cap Anson and a few others of a vintage of the long ago who have failed to keep pace with the procession fail to agree that Tyrus Raymond Cobb is the greatest player and attraction the game has ever seen. Cobb, who cost \$300, admittedly is worth at this time in the open market the sum of \$100,000 as baseball values go, which sum is indeed small when it is figured by the Detroit management that he is worth \$250,000 annually. This estimate, no doubt, takes into effect the value of the plant and the franchise, for both certainly hinge upon the great player's performances and personality.

Other player values are about as follows: Speaker was figured in the trade which took him from the Red Sox to the Indians to be worth \$55,000, and that figure would seem to represent just about his real baseball value. Christy Mathewson easily was worth a like amount, and also Honus Wagner. The Great Dutchman made a millionaire out of Barney Dreyfuss, Pirate mogul, and he has been worth in salary and as a drawing card anywhere any sum that his clubowner might have been willing to pay him. Eddie Collins, Rogers Alexander, George Sisler, Walter Johnson, Nap Lajoie and Grover Hornsby may be rated as \$50,000 talent, though, of course, the last named has passed from the big star ratings. Hornsby is said to represent \$25,000 more than the sum named in the estimation of Magnate Wegman, the Cub spendthrift. Joe Jackson was valued at \$30,000 in the trade that sent him from the Indians to the White Sox.

And besides those named many other great players of modern times cost virtually nothing, the list including Connie Mack's entire great world-beating cast, Plank, Melnitz, Baker, Barry, Bender, Coombs, Strunk and others cost nothing, while Johnny Evers and Buck Herzog were postage-stamp acquisitions.

THAT baseball is a real gamble presents an interesting reverse angle. Fortunes spent for fluffers like Marty O'Toole and Leo Magee equally show how uncertain is the baseball wheel of fortune.

Baseball Chief Item of Interest in Camps

THE average run of baseball fans, clubowners and managers may feel a more than ordinary doubt about the game the coming season, but if they have occasion to worry it is in the army camp bug who is chiefly involved, for baseball is the main item of interest in the cantonments. And it is not the local brand, for the camp team is recognized primarily as an item of training and recreation. Camp or branch of service rivalry is not sufficient to make the soldier boys take a vital interest in any branch of camp athletics.

BACK THE HANDS OF THE CLOCK TO GAIN TIME FOR HOLDING OUT



LOCAL GUN CLUBS AFTER GROUNDS Independents and Whites Using Phila. Electric's Traps Temporarily

Philadelphia gunners feel the need of a public shooting grounds. Three well-known local clubs, because of their being no suitable place around town which could be leased for such purposes, have been forced to stage their matches at a suburban club, so far as it can be ascertained, programming the target matches at the out-of-town club in only temporary.

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VETERAN HURT IN TENNIS TILT Alexander Sprains Ankle but Pluckily Continues Play With Partner

NEW YORK, April 4.—Frederick B. Alexander, the former international, displayed the brand of grit which characterizes champions in the national indoor tennis championship in the seventh round match yesterday.

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MORAN'S TROUBLES INCREASED WHEN MIKE PRENDERGAST HURTS ANKLE IN LEAPING FROM STANDS

Phils Have Few Pitchers and Former Cub's Services Were Needed—Good News From Whitted Brightens Camp

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., April 4.—THE hospital list in the Phils' camp was increased yesterday afternoon when Mike Prendergast, the flinger from Chicago, sprained his ankle in an effort to jump from the grand stand to the ground. Mike was in good jumping form and had lots of technique, but a slippery step caused by some loose ice cream caused him to make a mess of it. He landed on the side of his foot and hopped to the clubhouse where he was attended by Mike Dee, the busy trainer.

Whitted Signs

There was a report last night that George Whitted had signed his 1918 contract and soon would join the Phils in St. Pete. No one could verify it, but Pat Moran said he had received word from the office in Philadelphia. However, a wire from Durham, N. C., stated that Whitted had mailed in his signed contract.

SEIBOLD'S TEAM WINS ANOTHER GAME Led by Former Athletic Twirler, Company I Defeats Company K, 18-3

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PITCHER DELL ALDERMAN BELIEVED A WAR VICTIM

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