TIGER YOUTHLEARNED BASEBALL WITH RATTLE AND NOW HE'S PLAYING A RATTLING GOOD GAME

FLAGSTEAD SHOWED BASEBALL ABILITY **BEFORE HE WALKED**

Jennings's Young Outfielder Was Bear With Rattle in Baby League-Ira Makes Good With Tigers After Only Two Years in Minors

A QUARTER century ago, way up in Montague. Mich., a certain father drew the assignment of minding his infant son while the mother went on a shopping tour. The baby was fretful, as babies usually are, and refused flatly to be silenced, as bables usually do. The father played everything, from "bow wow" to big hear, but the infant would not be entertained.

From among the assortment of the many toys which are used as bribes to keep the pence in the realm of infants the father picked a rattle in the shape of a round bail. He held this fantalizingly in front of his young son's eyes. The howing storged, and while the big tears still were rolling down the clubby clocks a far ave band was stuck out in the general direction of the ball.

With the rattle in his hands the haby was contented. He took great delight In examining the boy and shaking it. Then as if tired of it, he drew back his little num and chucked is against the side of the carriage. With great amazement he watched it because back, and the process had to be repeated several times. The youngster must unstary a new discovery

Each time the rattle bounced back from the side of the carringe the baby let out a squeal of delight. This area was almost perfect. For a number of times in succession he hit the target, and then he missed aim. The ball cheared the side and fell on the floor. There was no mistaking the reason for the howl that followed. The wanted that sattle, and wanted it quick. The got action from his daddy and in a few seconds he was bounding the ball again.

In the little white rattle the father saw the crystal glass of the future when his son had grown up in physique and the affairs of men. He was driven from his dream by another howl and he hastened to retrieve the rattle.

"Well, you can never tell." he said, "but I think he'll be a ball player. He's a right hander and has a great arm. But at that he has a great voice for an umpire, as he's as erabby as one."

 \mathbf{T}^{HAT} enjoys terrible was Ira Flugstend, who has worked his way from the satile until now, twenty-flee years later, he is playing a rattling good given in right field for Mr. Frank Navin, Mr. Hughie Jennings and the Intent Tores.

League Player Only Three Years

THERE was nothing really remarkable in the early career of the new Detroit star, for it was not until three years ago that he broke into league ball. And in three years he has hopped from the minors to the big leagues and is now well established as a regular with the Detroit club.

Fingstend's hitting has been the talk of the league and base-runners are getting a healthy respect for his throwing arm. Proof of the strength of Ira's arm can be had from Bobby Roth. During the recent series here with the Tigers Captain Robert was on second base. George Burns singled to right on the run-and-hit play and Bobby had passed third when Flagstend picked up the ball. He was benten by the chuck by a good two yards. And Bobby isn't any slow-footed young man at that. The fact is he is one of the wisest and fastest base-runners in the game.

Three years ago Flagstead was a recruit in the Northwestern League with the Tacoma club, and now he's up among the leaders in the race for the American League batting honors. The last week has been one of the best that the youngster has passed through this season. He has collected eleven hits out of twenty-two times at bat for an average of an even .500.

These figures show how the newcomer has been slugging the ball during the last week :

	1.	AST WEE	K'S RECO	ORD	
Games	A.B.	R.	н.	S.B.	Ave.
44	147	17	47	2	.320
THIS WEEK'S RECORD					
50	169	24	58	3	.343
	RE	CORD FOI	R ONE WI	EEK	
6	22	7	11	1	.500
ALL three	e of Jenning	N'x regular	outfielders	are among	the first

A batters in the Johnson circuit. The combination of Veach, Cobb ond Flagstead is as good, if not better, than any outfield in the league.

Takes Horace Greeley's Advice

WHEN he was sixteen years old young Flagstend graduated from the sand-



SULLIVAN AND FITZ CHAMPIONS WHO HAD **POPULACE WITH THEM**

Popularity of Former Ring Kings in Distinct Contrast to Popular Appeal Made by Present Incumbent, Jess Willard—Dempsey Has Following

> IN THE SPORTLIGHT-By GRANTLAND RICE (Copyright, 1919, all rights reserved)

To Sport

In you I feel the Pulse of Life; In you I see Art and Romance; Born where red-flowing blood is rife, Of Courage—and the Goddess Chance; The call on Nerve and Brain and Heart Where each in turn must do its part,

You've shown the fickleness of Fame, How brief the laurel's fleeting day, The emptiness of all acclaim That greets the player-and the play; How one at morning knows the height, But passes, long forgot, by night.

You've shown the fickleness of Fame, But with it the eternal worth Of one who dares to play the Game Beyond the scorers of the earth; Who sees above the din and roar A dream beyond the final score.

But more than all you hold the heart Around the morning time of life; For you are Youth along life's chart, No matter how the years are rife; You are the thrill that stalks the moors, The open road—the great outdoors.

New Champions

"MOST people are pulling for Dempsey to win," remarks a contemporary, "for the simple reason that most people always want to see a new champion, as they soon get tired of the old."

Not always. We recall dimly and faintly, almost as belonging to another existence, the vast anguish that arose when James J. Corbett replaced John Lawrence Sullivan.

About the only one in the nation pulling for Sullivan to lose, as we recall the bygone details, was J. J. Corbett.

Nor was there any great demonstration of joy when Jim Jeffries knocked ut Bob Fitzsimmons. . . .

SULLIVAN and Fitz, particularly, carried a wide popular appeal. They both had the populace with them. Willard has never been the Popular Champion type, and while few know anything about Demp-sey, most of them are willing to take a chance on a switch.

Pulling for the Reds

TN THE same way, for some mysterious reason, you'll find a rolling tide of

folks pulling lustily for the Cincinnati Reds. There is, first of all, the old human yearn to observe the under dog rise

up and start something. Thea, again, Cincinnati has done more than her share in the past in the Mathematic and Donlin to New York, Overall and Steinfeldt to Chicago, Dode

produce pennant-winning clubs. Year after year the Reds have made threatening gestures in May, only to

ollapse and sink by June. They even drove Hank O'Day back to umpiring. But here, after a forty-five year lapse, they are romping along in second place around the pink edge of July. This in itself is one of the most spectacular turns of many years.

IF YOU don't think so and have no other way of killing time, ex-amine the July standing of the clubs between 1875 and 1919.

Random Observations

REPUTATION for nerve very often develops because the other fellow had 1 an off day.

OUGH luck rarely stops an entry who is willing to accept it as part of the game. But how many do?

. . .

the lion's share of the nonors. In Norman Ross of Portland, Ore., now representing the Illinois A. C. of Chicago, the home team has one of the greatest all-around aquatic stars even developed and a contestant of invalu-able character because of his wonderful the end stemine the nonormal developed and a contestant of invalu-able character because of his wonderful the end stemine the final round entitled him to the the end stemine the end stemine the end stemine the final round entitled him to the the final round e

ines to the town team at Montague, but after playing one season he Proposed out of the club and the town. At that time Horace Greeley's words were ringing in his ears. The "Go West, young mun, go West" slogan caused him to pack his fittle grin and start out for what he thought was the wild and woolly West.

He went to Olympia, Wash , where he proceeded to forget baseball and think about cleaning up a fortune overnight. When youth's dream was knocked in the head Ira turned to steamfitting, and he completed his trade before he noticed that there was a semipro club in town. He joined the team and played whenever he had a chance.

Talk of his ability reached the cars of the bosses of the Tacoma club, and in 1917 Flagstend's name was placed at the bottom of a contract. He was a pensation immediately and before the season was over he was grabbed by Detroit. A year ago he was sent to Chattanooga, in the Southern Association, but early in the baseball year he entered the service. In both the Northwestern Lengue and Southern Association he hit close to .400.

He was recalled by Jennings before the beginning of the present season and was taken South on the spring training trip. The Detroit scouts and friends of the club had filled dennings's cars with long talks about Flagstead. his great hitting and his murvelous arm, and Hughie decided to give the youngster a thorough tryout before he ordered him back to the sticks this time.

Luck was a little kind to the one-time crying Ira. It so happened that Jennings was in need of an outfielder. Harry Heaman had been moved over to first base and Cobb hadn't reported. Flagstend subbed in center and played well in the exhibition games, but still Jennings had no idea of using him regularly. . . .

CHICK SHORTEN had been abtained from the Red Sax in the trade that sent Vitt to Buston, and Jennings possessed the idea that Chick would be his regular right fielder. But again Fate favored Flagsteud.

Shorten's Loss Is Flagstead's Gain

CHORTEN injured his leg near the end of the training trip, and although he got into the first game of the season against the Indians, he was forced to retire and then Flagstead was called upon. In his first big league game Ira connected for three singles and has played excellent ball in all departments ever since. He has been hitting .300 or close to it since opening day and his fielding at times has been sensational.

Many other ball players with batting averages almost as big as Flagstead's have come up from the side shows and failed under the big awning. Tra may also fail, but the chances of his going out in the near future are very, very slim. He has faced the best pitching in the league and has hit far above the average. Many minor league phenoms have been curve-balled out of the majors, but Flagstead has shown no weakness against this kind of pitching.

. . . FLAGSTEAD is not only fast on his feet, a hard hitter and a good thrower, but he is cool. He has faced some trying situations and has proved that his head isn't merely a place to put his hat.

GUSSIE LEWIS STOPPED

Benny Valgar Knocked Out Kensington Lightweight in Second Round Lowell, Mass., June 26 .- Benny Valar knocked Gussie Lewis, the crack inker City featherweight, into dreamnd in the second round of a scheduled elve-round bout here last night,

Cuban Stars Forfeit City. N. J., June 27. -One games this season, finish route when the Cuban Sp



G| SHIBE PARK, 3:30 P. M. A Athletics vs. Washington M Served at Gimbata' and Spaldings' E HERE TODAY

He has threshed 100 yards, free lamp. A few playful taps in the sev-in 55 2-5 seconds, set world's enth and more visits with short blows the eighth gabe Williamson a beaurecords from 220 yards to one mile, won tiful optic when the final gong sounded. the national 150-yard back stroke.

championship in close to international Best Bout time, and covered 200 yards with the

style.

breast stroke within four seconds of the world's standard. warriors. They met in the semifinal,

The inter-allied card includes free style races at 100, 400, 800 and 1500 meters, back stroke at 100 meters, breast Tomp Marine, the former New York Young Marino, the former New York stroke at 200meters, and relay contest toung Marino, the link Billy Bevans, at 400 meters for teams of four. George Cunha, of Honolulu and San Francisco; John Hincks, of Yale; Sydwindup and surprised by outfighting the slashing, slugging Billy. Marino trailed for three rounds, but gained courage ney Biddell, of Boston; Greff Allen, of this city, and Ben James are sprinters for three rounas, out gamen comage who compare favorably with the cham-is the battle progressed and was going strong at the end.

pions likely to oppose them in Paris, and strong at the end. Willie Spencer, the Gloucester lad, Charles Montgomery of Pittsburgh, as well as Biddell and James, rank well won a hard battle from Little Bear, as middle-distance swimmers, leaving This was an eight-round slugfest. no doube of a handsome collective tally Joe Davidson lasted five rounds in the free style events and relay.

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Jack Perry, challenger, went twelve rounds last night. After the fifth round it was an even battle. Britton fought open with very little covering, and test with Eddie Coyle. Joe Boggs from the start, tried for a knockout, but stopped Jimmie Brown in the second It was a warm night, but the heat failed. There was no decision, but the round. failed to slow down the willing little local newspapermen generally are giv ing the bout to Perry by a shade.

Another Coach for W. V. U. Morgantown, West Va., June 27.—Andrew emper Shelton, W. V. C. '09. under whose advership the Mourathner's basechail team as won twenty-sizht games, lost seven and led one in the past two years, has been added to the football coaching staff for this fill, and will assist Coaches McIntire and while as backstop. Earl Mack's selec-tion is Friday and Delaney.



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