



SPORT

SAYS CATCHING IS REAL JOB OF DIAMOND

NEW YORK, Nov. 23—Theoretical catcher, more time is required for a catcher or a pitcher to become a successful big leaguer than for an infielder or an outfielder. In practice it has worked out that way too, with few exceptions. The reasons are fairly obvious. Battery men have more to learn, they carry more responsibility, and so they need more seasoning.

This is especially true of the catcher. Crouching behind the plate, he is the only player to have the whole team before him. He must make a rapid study of each changing situation. He must know what signal to flash. He must worry about the runners on the bases. He must back up plays at first and third. He must have the courage to stand up and block the home plate and take a throw in the face of an onrushing runner. He is confronted by multitudinous other problems that require rapid thinking as well as ability under fire.

He doesn't learn all of that in the minors. He doesn't learn all of that in his first and second years in the majors. It takes time and concentration and hard work for a young fellow to mold himself into a finished performer behind the bat. Actual experience is also a prerequisite, and so, few catchers can meet big league standards satisfactorily until they are 25 years old, or even older.

Two notable exceptions among present-day catchers are Mickey Cochrane and Al Lopez. Cochrane was purchased for \$50,000 when he was 22 years old by Connie Mack and he played 134 games in his first year with the A's. Mickey was always the persevering type. His only weakness, aside from lack of knowledge of enemy batters, was in going after foul flies, and he soon mastered that art.

Lopez Regular at 22
Lopez had his first tryout with the Dodgers at the age of 20. At 22 he came up to stay and it wasn't long afterward that he was recognized as one of the smartest and most capable backstops in the National League. After his first year up, the late John McGraw made a tempting offer to the Dodgers for Lopez, but the bid failed.

Lopez had good baseball sense from the start. He did the right things instinctively and he had the reflexes of a cat. Few catchers ever showed as much speed in pouncing on bunts in front of the plate or in getting the ball away with a snap throw. His natural attributes were so hard to overlook that he made the grade almost immediately.

There is also Luke Sewell, the catcher who came up directly from Alabama University without any minor league training. Luke reported to the Indians, who were influenced in this move by his brother, Joe, the team's regular shortstop. However, while the catcher stayed with the Indians, it was fully six years before he became a regular.

A rumor, as yet unconfirmed, was spread the other day that the Giants offered Hank Leibert to the Cubs for Jimmy O'Dea, twenty-three-year-old second string receiver, and were turned down. That ought to give some idea of the premium placed on catchers these days. O'Dea, while a fine prospect, is still unfinished. But if the rumor is true, he is regarded as a more highly prized youth than Leibert, who is a valuable asset in his own right, and who did some heavy hitting in 1935.

The most expensive minor leaguer of the last season is Arnold Owen, of Columbus, a young catcher, who may come up to the Cardinals next spring. If Branch Rickey sells Owen the price will be one of the highest ever paid for a minor leaguer. Several clubs, recognizing the dearth of catching talent as one of the most serious problems in the big leagues today have bid for the youth.

Amerks, Detroit Winners in Week-end N. H. L. Battles

BASEBALL RULES NEED ALTERATION

By EDWARD T. MURPHY
Commissioner Kenesaw M. Landis has not yet announced his decisions on Players Bob Feller, Lee Handley and Leslie Scarcella, whose eligibility as major leaguers has been questioned. Baseball officials are awaiting the commissioner's verdict with keen interest and no little apprehension. Landis may postpone his decisions until after there are developments at the minor league meeting in Montreal next month. It is possible that the minor league officials may take action which will make it unnecessary for the commissioner to pass judgment. In that event Feller, the seventeen-year-old pitching sensation, would be retained by the Cleveland club, and infielders Handley and Scarcella would remain the property of the Reds.

The rule in the major-minor league agreement which is responsible for the doubt as to the eligibility of Feller, Handley and Scarcella and others to play in the major league club, it is believed, that perhaps is why no major league club carried a protest to Landis after Cleveland had used Feller in a championship game against the Browns last season.

The rule which limits major league clubs from signing as free agents only college players has created the tangles. It has many loopholes, all of which have been discovered by the major leaguers. Big league teams are not supposed to sign high school or sandlot players. They are supposed to keep their hands off so minor league clubs can get such talent. But minor league clubs, naturally, lack the necessary scouting facilities. They can't afford to hire scouts to cover high school and sandlot prospects. The major league clubs have large scouting forces and their ivory hunters come across players in territory not covered by minor leagues.

When a major league scout sees a promising high school or sand lot

player he sends his report to the front office. The player is signed to a minor league club contract. This is easily done, because every major league club either controls or has a working agreement with one or more minor league clubs. The major league club then buys the player's release. This is the way the Cleveland club obtained Feller.

The rule should be changed or tossed out of the major-minor league agreement. When a high school or sand lot player is signed to a minor league contract he should serve that minor league team for a stipulated period before a major league club can purchase his release. As the rule now reads, the player does not have to report to the minor league club which signs him to a contract.

No change in the major-minor agreement can be made without the consent of the minor leaguers. The Advisory Council, composed of Commissioner Landis and Presidents Ford Frick and Will Harridge of the National and American Leagues, respectively, can recommend amendments. In their Montreal meetings the minor leaguers may be asked by the Advisory Council to agree to change or consent to drop the rule.

All major league clubs are in favor of a change. If the minor leaguers take action which would make legal the procedure in which Feller became the property of the Indians, Landis would not have to decide the player's status. All other major league clubs are willing to have Cleveland retain Feller. If the pitcher were made a free agent, under the present rule, no big league club could sign him. If one did it would have to do so exactly in the same manner the Cleveland club did. In other words, the present rule would have to be violated.

Favoritism is Olympic Charge

REGINA, Nov. 23—Charges of "favoritism or a decided lack of knowledge of boxing" in decisions handed down in Olympic boxing events in Berlin last summer are contained in a report of the boxing and wrestling committee of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada presented to the union.

The report was submitted to the annual meeting by Charles E. Higginbottom, Toronto, chairman of the committee and manager of the Olympic boxing team. It referred to defeat of Billy Marquart of Winnipeg in his second bout in the feather-weight class at Berlin.

"In his bout Marquart was drawn against D. Rigyes of Hungary and even though apparently an easy winner the decision was given to the Hungarian," the report states.

"It might be mentioned here that some of the decisions in the boxing were the most weird exhibitions of favoritism or a decided lack of knowledge of boxing even to a moderate degree."

The report refers also to the fact Irving Pease, Tronto, middleweight and Mickey Hennessey, Montreal, flyweight, were sent home from Berlin before the games owing to their inability to make weights.

Three suggestions are made "to assist Canada" in making a better showing:

"1. A sincere effort on the part of the individual athlete to make weight or reducing the weight two to five pounds for trials (as in South Africa.)"

"2. Earlier trials.

"3. Financial assistance which would relieve the boys of their uncertainty of being able to go."

Some sort of support from the Dominion Government for Olympic teams is suggested because "so many countries (are) nationalizing their athletics."

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JACK ADAMS AND CREW BEAT TORONTO 4-2

All-Star First Line Shot 3 Goals in Less Than Two Minutes

DETROIT, Nov. 22—The All-star first line of the Detroit Red Wings shot three goals in less than two minutes tonight while the Toronto Maple Leafs were a man short, and gained a 4-2 victory that put them into the undisputed leadership of the American Division of the National Hockey League.

Before the 12,000 spectators were settled in their seats, Red Horner, Toronto defenceman was sent to the penalty box for tripping Marty Barry, Detroit centre.

The Red Wings drove into the Leafs goal to score three times, first by Eddie Goodfellow at 1:57, second by Larry Aurie at 2:47, and the third by Herbie Lewis at 3:30, before Horner returned to the ice.

Although the Maple Leafs, who lost to Detroit in last year's Stanley Cup finals, never slackened the speed of their attack for the rest of the game, they couldn't quite make up their handicap.

Boston in 4-3 Win
TORONTO, Nov. 22—Boston Bruins held a 4-3 decision tonight over Toronto Maple Leafs, the team that tossed them out of the Stanley Cup playoffs last spring. And they had the added satisfaction of having scored it without the help of ailing Eddie Shore, their ace defenceman.

Old Nels Stewart wore Shore's No. 2 sweater when Bruins matched the Leafs' speed in a rousing game Saturday night. More than 12,000 persons the best crowd of the early season watched Leafs tie the score three times and fail in a frenzied third period attempt to do it again.

N.H.L. RESULTS AND STANDINGS

National Hockey League (Canadian Section)

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Americans	7	4	1	2	16	11	10
Canadiens	6	4	2	0	13	11	8
Maroons	6	1	3	2	12	13	4
Toronto	6	1	4	1	15	17	3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Detroit	6	3	1	1	16	10	8
Boston	5	3	2	0	9	13	6
Rangers	6	3	3	0	15	12	6
Chicago	6	0	3	3	5	14	3

PLAYED SATURDAY

National Hockey League
Canadiens 3, Rangers 1.
Boston 4, Toronto 3.

International American
Springfield 4, Providence 2.
Syracuse 6, Cleveland 1.

Philadelphia 1, Buffalo 0.

American Association
St. Louis 7, Kansas City 2.

PLAYED SUNDAY

National Hockey League
Detroit 4, Toronto 2.
Americans 3, Maroons 2.

Boston 2, Chicago 1.

International American
Buffalo 3, Pittsburgh 1.
Syracuse 2, Philadelphia 1.

Springfield 2, New Haven 1.
Providence 4, Cleveland 0.

DUTTON CREW BEAT MAROONS BY 3-2 SCORE

Regain Possession of Lead in Canadian Section -- Bruins Win

NEW YORK, Nov. 22—Sharing a two-goal lead in the second period, increasing it by one in the third and then staying off a furious last period rally of their opponents, New York Americans tonight defeated Montreal Maroons 3-2 and regained sole leadership of the National Hockey League's Canadian group. The game commenced slow and the first period was devoid of both scoring and thrills.

Eddie Wiseman shot the Americans into the lead seven minutes after the start of the second period on a pass from Tommy Anderson. Herb Cain, Montreal wingman, was the real scorer, however, when he batted Wiseman's rebound past goalkeeper Alex Connell while trying to clear. Lorne Carr put the New Yorkers two up three minutes later with the aid of Art Chapman and Sweeney Schriner.

Canadiens' Overtime Victory

MONTREAL, Nov. 22—An overtime goal by Little Toe Blake that broke a 1-1 deadlock, gave Montreal Canadiens victory over New York Rangers here Saturday night and Johnny Gagnon added another overtime goal to

HOW MONTREAL GOES ABOUT ITS BENEFIT TO ATHLETES

Amateurism Against Pros

REGINA, Nov. 22—Amateur Athletic Union of Canada barriers stood firmly against professionalism in sport tonight as delegates to the 49th annual meeting here departed with rejection of proposals for amateur code relaxation the main business accomplished.

J. W. Hamilton, Regina, was elected to the presidency at the closing session yesterday, to succeed W. A. Fry, Dunnville, Ont., and the Union decided to hold its next meeting in Montreal with special jubilee observances to be considered.

make the final score of the National Hockey League game 3-1.

Cowley, Getliffe Star

CHICAGO, Nov. 22—Boston Bruins on Bill Cowley's third period goal, defeated Chicago Black Hawks 2-1 tonight in a National Hockey League battle waged before 14,000 spectators.

With the score deadlocked as the result of a first period goal by Hooley Smith and a Bruin goal in the second period by Bill Kendall, the Bruins went out in front, Ray Getliffe's perfect pass setting the stage for Cowley's winning shot.

MONTREAL, Nov. 23—Plans for the Darou benefit go on apace. The committee of sportsmen in charge of affairs wind up their arrangements this afternoon.

The Darou Benefit is for the worthy cause of trying to re-establish in life the crippled jockey Jimmy Darou. There will be a sport and theatrical programme at the Forum tonight. Local night clubs, theatres and orchestras have volunteered their services to help along this event.

Art Legrand who walked in and socked Cy Williams in his last bout will be one of the featured wrestling headliners. The affair will be rolled off at a fast tempo. Dave Legate will act as master of ceremonies, and there will be entertainment of various type from eight-thirty onward till eleven-thirty.

Response to the Darou fund has been good to date. Racing men came through yesterday when two of the committee made a personal appeal for their help, and received an encouraging sum to swell the contributions.

The story of Darou is well known by now. He is hoping to secure enough money so that he will be able to engage in some business that will make him self-supporting. Everything points to a success for his benefit.

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Dodgers Want Mortgage Extended

NEW YORK, Nov. 23—Brooklyn's baseball Dodgers asked supreme court for permission to extend the \$480,000 mortgage on Ebbets Field, their home grounds, explaining the club owes \$575,000 in outstanding obligations, nearly half of which is for salaries.

The petition asked for renewal of the mortgage for a five-year period at an interest rate of 4 1/2 per cent. instead of the current 6 per cent. The club offered to pay \$10,000 to the mortgage certificate holders, and to pay off 1 1/2 per cent of the face of the mortgage for the next two years, and two per cent for the following three.

The annual meeting of the Agricultural Society, Number 34, and its holding company, Fredericton Exhibition, Ltd., will be held in the city council chambers on Thursday, November 26, at three o'clock.

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