

# When "League" President Stopped A Game

## TEMPER OF FANS WAS THE REASON

### Post Season Series for Championship Was Being Played and Cleveland Fans in Mood for Gore.

By JOHN B. FOSTER  
(Copyright 1925 by The Advance)  
The baseball season of 1925 will be the 50th anniversary of the National League. In commemoration of this anniversary, which will be fittingly recognized during the coming year, the following series of articles, which will be written by the author of this column, will deal with the history of the league from its beginning to the present. The first article in this series will deal with the league's 15 greatest players and the league's 15 greatest pitchers. It is the most complete and the most readable of the series.

One of the most keenly contested games in the history of the National League was the first which was played in the post season series of 1922 between Cleveland and Boston. That year was the only year in which the National League ever played what is known as a divided season.

Somebody got the notion that if the season were cut in two, and a first half were played, and a second half were played, and the winners of the first half were to play the winners of the second half, the fans would fall down and worship the golden idol. As it was the fans were suspicious all through the second half of the season that the Bostonians, who won the first half, were loafing and not trying because they wished to play a post season series. In Boston they were sure that the case when Boston won the post season series from Cleveland without the western team making enough showing to be considered a good contender. In any event there were no further experiments of that kind in the National League.

In Cleveland, however, a young ball team had played great ball to come through in the second half and everybody was enthusiastic over the post season series. There was never much suspicion that Boston had not tried and a great deal of hope that the Bostonians would be annihilated.

Cleveland had Cy Young in those days and Cleveland people had looked heavily on Young's skill to defeat Boston in the first game of the series which was played at Cleveland. There was a good crowd but nothing like the wild excitement of the world series of the present day although the crowd was very keen that Cleveland should win.

The game was ended at the finish of the eleventh inning without a run for either team. It was growing dark but games have been played in less light. The umpire, however, went to N. E. Young, who was then president of the National League, and asked him what to do and Young told him to stop the game, which is probably the only time in National League history that its president ever ordered a game to be stopped.

The reason for this action was because of the tremendous excitement of the last inning and the attitude of the crowd toward Mike Kelly of the Boston team and toward the Boston players. There were suggestions of trouble for the gay old ball player who had tried about everything on the ball field in his time and was at it again.

Kelly started the mischief by calling for another Cleveland player to catch a foul ball when Zimmer was running for one and Zimmer hearing the call let the ball drop to the ground on what would have been an easy out. Fortunately nothing happened on this play to give Boston a run but the crowd wanted Kelly put out of the game and umpire refused to do so.

Then came a chance for Cleveland to win. Burkett was tearing down the base line for the plate with the run that would have started Boston off to defeat instead of giving them the benefit of the tie against Young, the pitcher they had dreaded to face more than any other.

In all probability Burkett could have scored against any ball player but Kelly who was catching. The man who could use his wits in a sportsmanlike way and always to win a ball game at any cost, set himself at the plate and though the ball was slow in coming to him blocked Burkett in such a manner that the runner bounded off Kelly like a rubber ball and was touched before he could crawl back to the plate. The roar by the crowd was angry. The umpire heard it and backed to the box in which sat the president of the National League. The latter sanctioned calling the game and the Boston players got to their bus and back to the city in a hurry.

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# U. S. Could Probably Win Without Tilden

## But If Tennis Crown Should be Threatened by Big Bill's Quitting Game Danger Would Probably Come from France Rather than from Australia

By LAWRENCE PERRY  
(Copyright 1925, By The Advance)  
New York, Jan. 20.—With tennis players generally inclined to support the player writer rule as now formulated and the United States Lawn Tennis Association likely to adopt it, what would happen to our international tennis prestige were Tilden to retire? This just now is the chief topic wherever tennis enthusiasts foregather.

Granting that Tilden's absence from the courts would deprive the American game of a great deal of color—since the champion is picturesque in personality as he is great in ability—it really does not seem likely that foreign countries would be able to deprive the United States of its laurels for a few years to come, at least.

Aside from William Johnston, who is not through by any means, Vincent Richards should be at top notch for three or four years at least. He is now only 21 years old. Howard Kinsey is also young and is coming up by leaps and bounds, while he and Robert in doubles are not only the American champions but are getting more formidable as a pair, season by season. Snodgrass, who rates No. 7 this year, is also likely to improve his game and so is Hemmery of Indianapolis. Then two great youngsters, George Lott of Chicago and Alfred Chapin of Massachusetts ought to be coming along great guns in a year or so.

As for the veterans, Norris Williams can still turn in an unbeatable game when he is in the mood and Bill Johnston, as said, is by no means through.

It is doubtful, according to the best judges, that the two young stars of Australian tennis, Kaims and Schlesinger, will rise to the heights of the veterans, Brooks, Anderson, Wood and Patterson, who, it would seem, have given more than faint indications of slipping.

England offers nothing to worry about. France does. La Coste is making great strides and Cochet and Borotra are young, ambitious and capable of further development. If the United States is to lose her crown in the future, France perhaps will be the one to take it. But not, it would seem, in the next two years in any event.

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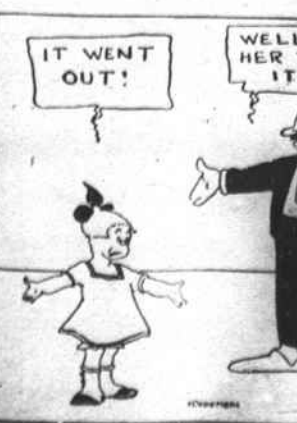
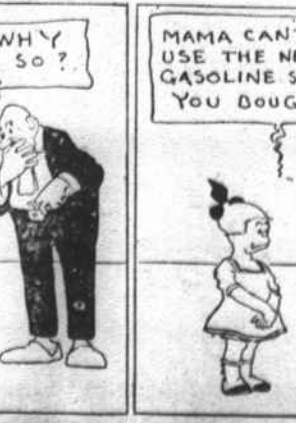
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## DOROTHY DARNIT



# OPERATION MAY MEAN COMEBACK

## McTigue Used to be a Kicker Out and If Surgeon Can Patch Up Maulies May be One Again.

By FAIR PLAY  
(Copyright 1925 by The Advance)  
New York, Jan. 20.—Can it be possible that Mike McTigue really has something wrong with his hands, especially his right, and that after an operation has been performed involving the removal of a bone he will do a Jekyll-Hyde stunt and become a knockerout? It looks that way. A really high class surgeon has actually gone on record to the effect that Mike has been troubled by floating bones or something like that in his maulies and that when the flaws have been repaired he will be able to hit out like a little man.

Every fight Mike has had in the past year or so he has put up a squawk about bad hands and the funny part of it seems to be that the hands were really on the blink. May he, when he has recovered from the effects of the surgeon's knife, will become a dangerous guy for any one to face.

As a matter of fact, some time back Mike was quite a knockerout. He used to stow away man after man, Johnny Klesch's promising career was cut short by Mike and such fighters as Jack Stone, K. O. Jaffe, Gene Brosseau and some fairly odd other young men were sent to sleep by him.

He won over Billy Beckett by a knockout in Jersey City two years ago and after that he seemed to improve his punch power, and became more defensive in his methods of mauling.

Mike says that when his hands get back into shape he is going to meet all contenders for his world's title without fear or favor.

Danny Kramer is going to join the exodus to the Pacific coast. Maybe he has planned to go because Lou Kaplan who beat him in New York a couple of weeks ago will be out there. Or perhaps he thinks that knowing California pretty well he will do better than most Easterners in that climate.

## NURMI BUSY FOR NEXT SIX WEEKS

New York, Jan. 20.—Paavo Nurmi, whose flying feet have rolled up numerous records in the past few days, today trained intensively for a schedule of 16 races within the next six weeks.

# YDE TOPS RECORD IN NAT'L LEAGUE

## Percentage of Games Won in First Year in Major League Matches Hughes' Performance in 1916.

By JOHN B. FOSTER  
(Copyright 1925 by The Advance)  
New York, Jan. 20.—Emil Yde, the kid pitcher of the National League, celebrated his very first year in major league company by equalling the record for percentage of games won in the National League by pitchers who hurled 10 or more games.

Yde won 16 games and lost 3, for a percentage of 84.2. Almost as surprising as the fact that a kid pitcher ran up such an imposing average is the coincidence that he exactly equalled the old mark, 84.2, which was set by Tom Hughes of Boston.

Prior to 1916, when Hughes made his record, there had been no pitcher from the beginning of National League history who had been able to produce such a large percentage of victories. Eight years later, a first year pitcher, who had left the West to the accompaniment of hints that the East would do well to keep an eye on him, was able to duplicate his feat.

Yde's work throughout the season was most extraordinary. For the greater part of the year it looked as though he were going to finish the season without a single defeat.

Should Yde succeed in 1925 as well as he did in 1924, he would create for himself a two year record without parallel in baseball, and possibly one that would survive for all time. It is hard to imagine how long a period might elapse before any player would be equally successful. The chances against such success are enormous.

There is still another record mark about the National League pitching of 1924. Yde was one of two pitchers to win more than 800 per cent of his games. Vance did the same thing. His percentage was 824. Anyone who is the least bit superstitious about figures can find something to think about in those figures—Yde, 842; Vance, 824, in which the arrangement of the last two digits is the only difference.

For two pitchers of a major league who worked in more than ten complete games to establish percentages above 800 is some achievement in these days of baseball, when the batters have been lapping the leather so hard that it has groaned whenever it has been hit.

## BASEBALL QUESTION BOX

If you have some questions to ask about baseball—If you want a rule interpreted—If you want to know anything about a play or a player—

Write to John B. Foster, the man who helped make the rules under which the game is played today. If you want a personal reply enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope. Otherwise your question will be answered in this column.

Address John B. Foster, Special Baseball Correspondent of The Daily Advance, 811 World Building, New York.

Question—If a runner passes first base and without thinking turns toward second base and runs half way down to second can he then turn around and go back to first base or is he out just as he stands?

Answer—He may go back to first base if he can get there. He has forfeited his right to return without liability to be put out but he is not out until some play is actually made against him.

Question—How did Pancho Villa get his start and how did he come to come to this country?

Answer—Some years ago a band of American boxers went to the Philippines and started to interest native boys in Manila in the game. Pancho was one of them. Frank Churchill brought him to this country.

Question—What man first held the world's prize ring heavy weight championship?

Answer—James Figg, England, 1719.

The combined record constitutes one of the best marks that the National League has set in its 50 years of baseball. Vance won 28 games and lost six to get as far as he did. Had he not dropped those three games to the Giants, two of which he grumbled about as his "tough luck" games of the year, he would have had a percentage of 921, which is astounding.

Thus, while Yde made his mark by vaulting a record, Vance was in a fair way to make the greatest record of all time—except that set by A. G. Spalding in 1875 when in the old National Association he pitched with a winning percentage of 934, using the bowling form of delivery in vogue at that time.

## Star Recruit



John McGraw expects John Wisner, International League star, to bolster up the New York pitching staff. Wisner is a big, husky, right hander who once received a trial by Pittsburg.

## FOOTBALL EMERGENS TO SIXTEEN CAROLINA STARS

Chapel Hill, Jan. 20.—Monograms and stars were awarded 16 members of the 1924 football squad of the University of North Carolina by vote of the committee on awards of the Athletic Association in session here last week.

Three stars were added to the monogram of Pierce Matthews, of Asheville, retiring captain, who ends his fourth year on the varsity, while two stars each were awarded Herman Melver, of Chapel Hill, captain-elect, and Chris Fordham, of Greensboro. Receiving their first star were Joe Epstein, of Rocky Mount; Joe Jackson, of New Bern; Clayton Hawfield, of Matthews; Billy Devin, of Oxford; Jack Merritt, of Chapel Hill; Emmett Underwood, of Fayetteville; Merle Bonner, of Aurora and George Sparrow, of Chapel Hill.

Monograms were awarded Russell Braswell, of Rocky Mount; Henry Hogan, of Chapel Hill; George Robinson, of Weaverville; Henry Farrell, of Chapel Hill; Jeff Fordham, of Greensboro;

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## TO THE PUBLIC

On Dec. 1, 1924, I retired from the office of Trial Justice of Pasquotank County, after serving a period of six years in that capacity. I wish to thank the public for their hearty support and cooperation during my term of office.

I am now once again engaged in the practice of law, civil, criminal, and maritime, at 225-226 Kramer Building, Elizabeth City, N. C., and will be very glad to have my friends and clients call to see me at any time.

Geo. J. Spence

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