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SPORTING NEWS

RATIO OF HITS TO RUNS IS MISLEADING DOPE

Jibes With Standing of Chicago, Pittsburg and Cincinnati, but Falls Down Hard on Five Other Clubs—Brooklyn, with 2.39 Hits Per Run, Tied with Boston, Which Has 1.75.

By "HICK."

Figures do not lie, but, when indifferently handled, they can be made to support either side of most controversies. That should be carefully remembered by students of baseball dope and by the feeble-minded who are ever willing to hearken to the vaporings of highly paid professional authoresses of our sport.

Nothing helps more to add to the interest in baseball than the fact that it can be reduced to figures, and to a certain extent the study of the game's log is fascinating for very much the same reason. These are the only two sports in which the dope is compiled along a number of different lines.

One of the lesser cases of doping in baseball was that furnished in the dictum laid down by Bill Phelon of the Cincinnati Times Star to account for the rise of the Cubs and the subsequent fall of the Cincinnati Reds. Bill contended that the Cubs were the best of the National League because they made more runs in proportion to their hits than any other team in the circuit, and that the Reds were in every respect the reverse that they made less runs in proportion to their hits.

As regards these two clubs, the contention is undoubtedly good, even allowing for the fact that the Cubs are a better team than the Reds, because Any Reader compiled on competitions in which the human equation is such a tremendous factor as in baseball cannot be expected to be anywhere near exact, but they may furnish a general rule. In this case the rule is so general, as shown by the figures themselves, that it is almost worthless.

Some Glaring Inconsistencies

Taking the National League race as it stood yesterday, let us consider a few glaring inconsistencies which, according to Phelon's theory, that which would be false. For instance, the Brooklyn Superbas, if Phelon were right, should be a bad seventh or eighth in the race, for the reason that their total number of runs for 12 games has been pitifully small, only 57, compared with Boston, 141, or even Pittsburg with its 123.

Brooklyn has scored a little a run for every 2.39 hits, standing next to the Reds in the undesirable distinction of needing more hits per run than any other team in the league, seventh or eighth. It is not. Brooklyn is tied for fourth place with Boston, and the two of them are only half a game behind Pittsburg. The Bucs defeated Pittsburg at Ebbets Field this afternoon in the first game of the four-game series, and Brooklyn's victory put the Superbas a full game behind the Pittsburg Fourth and Boston fifth. It may be recalled that the one game the weather allowed on Saturday in the Ebbets Field series, the Bucs and the visiting team, Boston, divided the honors of five innings, which was something for the fans to chew on when the Bucs left Brooklyn.

Another Inconsistency in Dope.

According to Phelon and his followers, it is obvious that if he were right Brooklyn and Boston should be far apart in games won. Boston stands fifth in the race, with 141 runs in 12 games required for runs, with 1.75 hits per run. Boston and Brooklyn have each won 6 games, and Brooklyn, although ranking 7th, with one exception, has required more hits, to wit, 2.39, than any other club in order to score a run over. That concrete inconsistency

RATIO OF HITS TO RUNS IN NATIONAL LEAGUE			
The following table ranks the National League teams according to the number of hits per run this season. The figure in the column in the standing of the team in the race:			
Club.	Runs	Hits	Ratio
Chicago (1)	157	361	2.30
Pittsburg (2)	123	283	2.30
Boston (5)	141	247	1.75
St. Louis (4)	112	241	2.15
Philadelphia (3)	101	231	2.29
New York (6)	97	227	2.34
Brooklyn (7)	57	137	2.39
Cincinnati (7)	101	249	2.47

is even more clear and convincing as an argument for him. Cincinnati has scored 101 runs, which is only 44 more than Brooklyn, but Cincinnati is not last in the race, but tied for 7th place, and Brooklyn is next to the last and Brooklyn next to the worst team in the league in regard to effective hitting, for it has the tied in percentage of victories.

Pittsburg and Philadelphia.

Philadelphia will come back and point to Pittsburg, which ranks 2d in hits, and would account entirely for the position of the Pirates, who are third in the race, behind Chicago and Boston. Phelon would add that if he was right, Chicago and Pittsburg, and came reasonably close on Cincinnati, he had laid down a general rule worthy of serious consideration. Philadelphia, with 101 runs, would, after allowing for average records of Brooklyn and Boston, set up a rule which would be false in regard to Philadelphia. The Phillies are second, three full games ahead of Pittsburg, and three and one-half games of Brooklyn and Boston, yet they are a run per hit behind Brooklyn and below the St. Louis Cardinals, although in the race they have an edge of four full games on the Cubs. In order to have a rule which would be required a team with 2.30 hits per run than have the tail-end Giants.

Another oddity is that, although the Phillies are 4th in the race on Saturday, and up go Bancroft's men in one day, the Phillies are seventh in runs batting, fourth in long distance hits and sixth in fielding.

Long Hits Tell the Story.

What would improve a casual observer would be the fact that, although the curious fact that the standing of the clubs in long distance hits is almost exactly the reverse of that in the league table. It is as follows:

LONG HITS BY CLUBS.				
	W.	L.	Pct.	Pts.
Chicago	9	3	.750	18
Boston	9	3	.750	18
Pittsburg	8	3	.727	16
Philadelphia	8	3	.727	16
Brooklyn	6	6	.500	12
St. Louis	5	6	.455	10
New York	4	8	.333	8
Cincinnati	3	9	.250	6

Chicago is second in the extra-base specialty, instead of fourth, and the Phillies are fourth, instead of second. With these two exceptions the standing is the standing of the league. Boston, which is 5th in the race, ranks from that on games won and lost, gives six out of eight teams in the league a run for supremacy in the order, the departure is going within a score.

But don't think the pennant is won by the team that makes the most long hits. The Cincinnati Reds, whose games won percentage and the long distance records this week is largely a matter of luck, and the Giants, who are now the first may not be many terrible statistics in the extra-base hit rating as in the rating on the basis of hits per run.

"WIN THE PENNANT? SURE," SAYS EBBETS

Boss of the Superbas Tells Woodlawn Club Some Inside Facts.

Has Brooklyn a chance to win the pennant this year? Just ask Charles H. Ebbets, president of the Brooklyn Nationals. He will tell you his team has all the chance in the world; the players are a fine lot of clean, energetic, hard-working men, as able as any in the league. And they believe they are going to win, which, of course, is a very important factor. If his men are sure of winning the pennant, why should not he be?

That is what Mr. Ebbets told the members of the Woodlawn Club last night in their club house at Cedar Island avenue and Avenue N. He also told them why he was sticking to baseball in Brooklyn. Mr. Ebbets is not in the baseball business for the money and alone; that is rather incidental. He realizes the sport is the best in the world, as well as the cleanest, and that it offers a young man a chance for honest profession paying better than most other lines of work, all in one piece. And, then, Mr. Ebbets thinks he owes a debt to the people of Brooklyn who have stood by him through thick and thick, and who have often forgot him in his political aspirations. To pay this debt he decided to give to Brooklyn a team for the national game not to be surpassed in the country and one which would last and give the people of Brooklyn pleasure for years to come.

Mr. Ebbets gave the members of the Woodlawn Club much genuine inside information on the game, and showed them a little of what the proprietor of a big league club had to attend to. Nine was of peculiar interest to the audience was Mr. Ebbets' story of how he came to buy the Superbas, the firm hold it now has on the American people is serious thought of as a sportsmanlike game, and the organization he always has been proud of being a civil engineer. After Frankchay of Boston, to say what we know on baseball among the liars on the diamond, Mr. Ebbets was called to appear in the South and West and the formation of the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs. He set it on the high plane it now occupies.

Before Dreyfuss declared in for the baseball diamond so it is today, the game was a disgrace to decent people. But the clever engineer discovered the proper layout for the game. Baseball then got in shape and now enjoys the country with a grip that has never loosened. Soon after this clubs were formed in the eastern cities and played match games. Among these were the Atlantics of Brooklyn, Mutuals and Gothams of Manhattan and the Excelsiors and Atlantics of Brooklyn. The Atlantics were champions of the National Association of Amateur Baseball Players in 1858. But as this league had little control over the players and was practically dominated by the Atlantics, it died a natural death in the end of the sport. The Civil War put the finishing touches to the amateur association, but during the war the South and West were taught the game by the soldiers, and when it was over there were teams from the opposing armies.

The formation of the National Association of Baseball Players was formed and survived until 1871. Although the association was promoted and under the direction of business and professional men, the players were unable to drive out the drinking element, which was rapidly ruining the game. Then came the formation of the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs, which immediately started to drive out the sinkomer players and drinking element.

It was a hard fight, Mr. Ebbets said, but, backed by public sentiment, the organization was successful. Some of Cincinnati Reds teams were caught red-handed selling a game; they were expelled and the Cincinnati team for a season was wiped out. Gambling was not so common in the baseball world as it was in the sport, but it had a good time. They have passed away before the power of Ebbets and Dreyfuss, the leaders of Ebbets said, there is not a dishonest sport or business than baseball, and if baseball were not on the level the least fight between leagues would bring out all the crooked business in it.

"The best assurance I can give that the game is on the level is the fact that, if it were not, I would not invest my all in steel and concrete over there in Bedford avenue, if I thought it would be proved by the players the first time they got a chance."

This is my thirty-third season with the Brooklyn Club, and I can say there is no game more clean, more honest, demanding all those qualities most admired in manhood than baseball. Gentlemen, clergymen and fair play than baseball. Brooklyn has a club to be proud of, and I believe the people will show that they are going to get that pennant."

BIKE RACES POSTPONED: WEATHER WILL NOT PERMIT NEW VELODROME OPENING

Work was again delayed yesterday because of the weather. The men were for instance, were unable to get the carpenters to be idle. The races announced for tonight have been postponed until Saturday, when the opening will be thoroughly completed for the opening.

The track which is already in shape for the opening, is the finest track in the world in this country, and the heavy turns and short stretches force the pace. This, of course, means that the speed of the bicycles will be the same as at least three days this week.

MANY FISH CAUGHT.

The war on the bass was caught from the steamer Taurus on Sunday morning. The bass are coming in quantity. The bass are coming in the mouth of his day's pleasure. All dynamite poles in these fish being the bass, and they will be plentiful.

BASEBALL TOMORROW EBBETS FIELD

BROOKLYN VS. PITTSBURG

3:30 P. M.

LED THE FIELD IN QUALIFYING ROUND FOR WOMEN'S METROPOLITAN GOLF TITLE

Miss Marion Hollins.

BROOKFEDS ARE PLAYING A DOUBLE HEADER TODAY

BY A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.
(Special to The Eagle.)

Pittsburg, May 24—(Sun.—Carefully) little black weather (nice is certainly following sine around the world. Is an amazing persistency. Yesterday it was cold and cloudy, and it had been so Monday morning, but the sun came off until just before noon, when a torrential rain lasting two hours put the grounds in unplayable condition. The sun appeared around 2 o'clock and during the rest of the afternoon Pittsburg experienced an ideal summer day. The ever-present sun-shine was missing, yet another game had to be called off. As the Rebels have also been rained out in Brooklyn yesterday, manager Calvin and Mayer reluctantly agreed to play a double head-o' today.

Yesterday's chilness is the fourth in nine playing days, which is not handling the Brooklyn in the last. Had these postponements come at home, the team could have held practice sessions, but this is impossible on the road. Almost all Magee can do is to call club meetings to discuss plays, but there is no chance to put these theoretical plans to a test. From now on, however, for a period of ten days, there will be some prospect of morning workouts when the club reaches the Pittsburg Pirates.

The first game today was scheduled at 1:30, with either Upham or Wiltse in the box. Leffler or Stoner will pitch in the second chapter. The rooters who came to see the game yesterday should be taken as an indication of his true form. The big fellow is in better shape than he was a week ago, but he is not the pitcher he was in the prevailing weather conditions. Stoner, who was Brooklyn's mainstay of pitching while on the contrary Hendrix couldn't have found the plate with a barn door, is still showing which made it next to impossible for Seaton to control his curves. Stoner is in good form, but he is not the fast one and he is not fit the other hand Hendrix worked to perfection, the wind exhausting him to get a bigger break to his curves. Hendrix's performance in the overhead day is expected to show a long stretch of wins.

Bill Brennan Scores Marion.

Bill Brennan, chief of the Gilmore artillery, came to Pittsburg on the same train as did the Brooklyn. Bill, who is a rooter for the Brooklyn Rebels, behind whom he umpired on Saturday, I never saw a fast ball pitcher in my life, and I have been in Chicago," said he. "I had a long-to it that was amazing, and he showed his judgment in sizing it with his slow and curve. When right, the Brooklyn pitcher is a fast ball pitcher. It's too bad that he fell down on the one easy fielding chance he had, for it cost us the game."

Of the last fast Brennan is a mighty likable person, and he is never averse to talking with the rooters. He related many of his experiences in umpiring the games in the Federal League, in which he was asked to give his judgment regarding the resultant decisions. Brennan, of course, is the only instance in baseball where an umpire has become himself. Here is one of the

With runners on first and second, Chief Wilson hammered a drive to the left field fence, which was caught and was killed at third in an attempt to catch it. The umpire called the run on the play. But in rendering the decision he was not in the right field. The pitcher called for the ball and tossed to the first sacker, who was on the bag, and Brennan was forced to change his decision and call the play at the first sack. Of course, rationally the tactics sale blow and the two runs were allowed to stand.

"I know," explained Brennan, "an umpire is not supposed to call a decision on a play he has not seen, but his attention is called to such overnight. The minor league judge made his decision correctly in both cases, and it's the only case where he has ever been called on to do so. I am quite well at home make a decision and call a man out only in the event a player has dropped the ball rather crushing the runner. That is not reversing, it is simply correcting a wrong decision."

A Stopping at Washington Park.

Brennan also told another on him. He was umpiring at Washington Park when the Superbas made three grounds their home. It speaks well for the deceptive powers of Jimmy Sheckard and only proves that Brennan, in the instance, could not reverse himself. It has to do with the infield fly rule, which, as everyone knows, it is the only decision which an umpire can take his time in making.

The bases were loaded with one first and two out. Jimmy Sheckard flew an infield fly to Pop Dyer, Tinker's head. Dyer was under it and as I was just breaking in I wanted to show people I was on the job, so I called the play at the end of my voice. Sheckard heard me and came tearing in. Dyer let him by he called to Tinker to take the opposite side. Jimmy scooped the ball up and ran to third, but Tinker was beating two bases put the ground in unplayable condition. The sun appeared around 2 o'clock and during the rest of the afternoon Pittsburg experienced an ideal summer day. The ever-present sun-shine was missing, yet another game had to be called off. As the Rebels have also been rained out in Brooklyn yesterday, manager Calvin and Mayer reluctantly agreed to play a double head-o' today.

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