

LITERARY DIGEST

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BABE RUTH'S ANNUAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

THE ten best ball players that Babe Ruth can pick from the major leagues go into an unofficial diamond hall of fame. Ruth started picking these teams as a result of a clubhouse argument, and his annual selection, now made for the eighth time, has become a national institution. The team is selected for the *New York World*, in which the decision appears. The All-America aggregation, outlined in a copyrighted article in that journal, includes these players:

Third Base	TRAYNOR	Pirates	National
Left Field	SIMMONS	Athletics	American
First Base	FOXX	Athletics	American
Right Field	HERMAN	Dodgers	National
Second Base	HORNSBY	Cubs	National
Center Field	WILSON	Cubs	National
Catcher	COCHRANE	Athletics	American
Shortstop	JACKSON	Giants	National
Pitcher	GROVE	Athletics	American
Pitcher	BUSH	Cubs	National

The job is not an easy one, Ruth remarks, as he tells us how he does it:

There are so many good men for every position, so many men who are almost on a par, that the final selection is always difficult. To select a team that will please every one is, of course, impossible. Not this year, or any year, are there ten players who stand out so prominently in their various positions that they can be picked without argument.

No doubt there will be differences of opinion this year as there have been in other seasons. In answer to those who dis-

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agree with my selections I can only say that I have made my selections without bias, and according to my best judgment and the judgment of the sports writers who served on the committee with me.

That there has been no prejudice is best shown, I think, by the fact that I have named six men from the National League and only four from my own league, the American. That there has been no personal feeling can best be shown by the fact that I haven't named a single man from my own club, the New York Yankees, the men who play alongside me day after day through the season.

This year, as in other years, I have had the benefit of the opinions of a committee of baseball writers representing each city in the two major leagues. These men have done a tough job mighty well. Through their eyes I have been able to see more closely certain National League stars.

For the first time in the eight years I have made the All-America selections, my own team corresponds in every particular with the team named by the consensus of the writers. In every other year I have disagreed with the writers' opinion in from one to four positions. This year we have been in accord.

Each writer made his own selections and stated his reasons. Not all agreed on the same men in their selection, which is natural enough.

Of those named, Herman, Wilson, Foxx, Grove, and Bush have never been named before. Hornsby, Simmons, and Cochrane all were members of last year's team.

I do not name this team as the best possible. Probably our readers could give me an argument on each position, and with good reason. But I do believe this team, as it stands, represents a mighty high plane in baseball.