CHICAGO'S STAR OF ALL TIME ILL ONLY WEEK

APR 15 1922

Succumbs After a Sudden Relapse.

(Pictures on back page.)

Adrian C. Anson, idol of Chicago of the '80s and early '90s, manager of the famous original Chicago White Stockings, and famous an an exemplar of clean sports, died yesterday afternoon in St. Luke's hospital.

Death came unexpectedly after an operation for glandular trouble. Anson was stricken last Sunday while out walking and was taken to the hospital. For two days his condition was critical, but he rallied and was reported practically out of danger. A relapse set in yesterday morning and he weakened rapidly.

The death of "Pop," as he was known wherever baseball is played, came as a shock to thousands of Chicagoans who had watched him play in the earlier days of the national game. Hundreds had seen him only last week, when, looking as hale and hearty as ever, he visited friends in various parts of the city, extolling the virtues of the new Dixmoor Golf clubs, where he planned to pass the coming summer as manager.

Known in Many Lines.

While principally famous as a baseball star, "Cap" Anson would have been known to thousands if he had never handled a bat or caught a ball. He had been prominent for years in Democratic politics. He served one term as city clerk under Edward F. Dunne in 1905 and 1907. At one time he had been a candidate for the Democratic nomination for sheriff, rolling up thousands of votes without organized support of any kind.

He was almost as widely known among members of the theatrical profession. Practically every actor and actress of prominence who came to the city became a personal friend of "Cap" Anson. He himself was an actor for several years, appearing on the vaudeville stage after his retirement as city clerk.

He was also widely known as a billiard player, a bowler, a golfer, and as a promoter of semi-professional baseball.

Just 70 Years Old.

Anson was born in Marshalltown, Ia., and would have reached his seventieth milestone next Monday. He was the first white child born in the then Iowa village. It was in his home town he first played the game which later made him famous. He was still in his teens when he attracted attention as an unusual player, and he soon became known as the "Marshalltown Infant."

His first professional engagement was at Rockford in 1871.

Anson came to the Chicago club of the newly formed National league in 1876. For two years previous he had [illegible] with the Philadelphia Athletics.

Was First a Third Baseman.

He came here as a third baseman, but with the natural build of a first sacker he was soon moved to that position. In 1877 he was made manager of the team, then known as the White Stockings. He succeeded A. G. Spalding. Anson held the position until the close of the 1897 season.

In recent years he had devoted most of his time to playing golf and billiards. During the summer months he was a familiar figure on the public links, where he was affectionately spoken of as "Old Pop Anson."

He is survived by four daughters. They are Mrs. Walter H. Clough, Montclair, N. J.; Mrs. C. E. Cherry, 204 East Garfield boulevard; Mrs. Arthur C. Dodge, 7234 Merrill avenue, and Mrs. Arthur W. Sottmann, 1370 East 61st street.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock at Jordan's chapel, 164 North Michigan avenue. Interment will be at Oakwoods.

LEFT IMPRESS ON GAME

BY E. S. SHERIDAN.
[Sporting Editor of The Tribune, 1897-1907.]

"Cap" Anson, or even "Captain" Anson, he was to the very end to the great majority of persons who knew him.

And there is more than a passing significance in that fact. The title won on the ball field clung to him with a certain propriety that was unusual and that exemplifies particular traits which made Anson a really great figure in baseball because of his personal influence on the great sport.

Anson brought to professional baseball four great qualities of personal character that have helped to make the profession what it is. He had in-

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tegrity, sobriety, personal purity and dignity—the last named quality almost to the point of arrogance. In giving to the game in its incipiency, as the most conspicuous figure in the nation actually engaged in playing professional baseball, a conspicuous tinge of these four qualities he had an influence that can hardly be overestimated.

Always Backed Himself.

Anson was honest. No one ever questioned that. He was a fanatic about betting—about backing himself or his ball team in every imaginable kind of contest that he was engaged in—but he always backed himself. He was not looking for the "best of the odds." His "Anson Backs Colts to Win" became an annual spring joke that clung to him long after his team lost its preëminence on the ball field.

Then Anson was temperate to the extent that he was held up as a model by every manager who ever tried to steer the steps of a young player. Anson never took a drink of intoxicating liquors. He did not even smoke. There is no need of elaborating on the effect his example in these particulars had on the national game in those pioneer days when he was its leading representative. It is sufficient only to emphasize that he was famous for it.

And then you need only to go to any of the surviving players who ever were on one of Anson's teams or to any who knew him intimately to be assured that he was a model husband and that in this great fame-attracting pastime in which he was a stellar figure for so many years, he was, everywhere that he went, an example of a man who was deaf to the particular type of flattery and feminine attention that flirts about the heels of him who gains notoriety. The importance of this—to the game alone, to the place it has attained in the nation, its popularity with the youth, its recognition by parents—is entirely beyond need of elaboration.

His Dignity Ever Present.

And lastly, was dignity. There was always that square, upstanding physical impressiveness, on the ball field, on the street, everywhere. And with it went an aggressiveness of address. In his early days as a manager it at once acquired for him the reputation of being a "bulldozer."

In fact, this was hardly true. It was his mannerism rather than his acts that gave him the reputation. He approached the umpire to make his protests in a really dignified way, but his large figure and stern voice gave him the appearance of being more aggressive than he really was. His conception of a field leader was to be dignified, and he held to it.

And there was a side feature to this element. Anson was dignified on the trains and at the hotels with his teams in their traveling about the country, and he insisted upon a degree of such deportment upon the part of his players. It was commonly said of him that when introduced to some noted personage it was not Anson but Senator Blank who apparently was being honored by the presentation. And then Anson always insisted on taking his ball teams to the best hotels, and in those early days when baseball did not draw much of a patronage.

Helped All Players.

Anson set this example for the national game, and was backed in it by Messrs. Hulbert and Spalding, and the thousands of professional players today can put a flower on his grave because of that precedent.

Anson's chief value as a player was his batting. Let a few figures show: 1876, .342; 1877, .335; 1878, .336; 1879, .407; 1880, .338; 1881, .399; 1882, .362; 1883, .307; 1884, .337; 1885, .310; 1886, .371; 1887, .421; 1888, .343; 1889, .341; 1890, .311; 1893, 322; 1894, .394; 1895, .338; 1896, .325; 1897, .302.

As a fielder he was only ordinary, and he was handicapped as a baserunner by his large physique. As a field general he naturally belonged to the old school, and with the development of a newer generation playing "inside" baseball there came a school to which he may not possibly have properly belonged. But the loyalty of a large part of the public never wavered, and there was much criticism when eventually the veteran leader was allowed to drift elsewhere.

His Great Team.

Anson managed championship teams for Chicago in 1876, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1885, and 1886. His "great" team—the team which sometimes has been rated as the greatest in the history of the pastime—was that of 1885 and '86. In these two years the Chicago champions played the St. Louis Browns, winner of the American association, in a post-season series, the 1885 series ending in a draw of four victories each and the Browns winning the 1886 series with three games out of five. I will not attempt an opinion on the merits of these early "world series," but will only say that National league partisans always have been slow to concede that the outcome of the series represented the relative strength of the two teams. It is certain that the two leagues did not, in those days, as they do now, lead up to the world series as a grand finale of the baseball season.

Thinks Browns Lucky to Win.

Also it is sure that in both seasons the Chicago White Stockings were handicapped by overconfidence. After the final of the 1886 series (I was in my last year in school in '85) I met President Spalding of the Chicago club, coming down the stairway at his hotel in St. Louis, preparatory to taking the train for Chicago. His opinion of the series was:

"Well, I'll say one thing for them (the winning Browns), they know how to get the luck." That represented the prevalent National league opinion of these two first world series.

Of course all of that reflects on another famous old baseball general now in our immediate midst—one Charles A. Comiskey, for he was the manager, captain, and first baseman of the then St. Louis Browns.

To interpolate a strictly personal opinion of my own, drawn from a view at this late date rather than anything I knew of the game then, for that was the first year I ever had written baseball or seen more than a few dozen professional games: The two series may have been a first meeting between the new "inside" baseball and the old game, for the Browns certainly represented the former.

"Spoiling Good Ones."

I will give an example from the opening game in the '86 series in this city. The Browns went first to bat. Latham led off. He accumulated four straight called "balls" and no strikes. In those days it required seven "balls" to pass the batter, and fouls did not register as strikes. Latham then proceeded deliberately to foul off "good" balls. He "sliced off" one after another of the perfect ones that Clarkson shot across the plate until he had run the count up to "six" and "two," and in doing it had fouled off exactly eleven perfectly good strikes!

Latham, I feel sure, was the first great master at this intentional fouling. Kelly, it is true, picked it up at once—what was there in the great pastime that he couldn't do as well as anyone else when he tried?—and others followed so rapidly that eventually it led to the rule requiring fouls to be registered as strikes, but it was new then in its accomplished form.

Finally Strikes Out.

Incidentally, Clarkson struck Latham out on the twentieth pitched ball, and the demonstration by the Chicago crowd, which had been keen to appreciate the cleverness of the St. Louis player, when Clarkson eventually won the sparring match, was one long to be remembered.

The White Stockings won this game, for the Browns could do nothing with Clarkson but the next day there came a different story. With Carruthers (a Chicago boy, incidentally), pitching, the Browns came back and won. I think the score was 12 to 0. There was much gossip about dissipation on the Chicago team as having contributed to this result as well as to the two defeats in St. Louis. Whether that is true or whether it is the somewhat natural alibi of a loser I cannot say.

Some Poor Judgment.

But I know that in the final game in St. Louis—the first two of the series were played in Chicago—it was charged at St. Louis that the celebrated catcher of the Chicago team made steady trips between innings to some spot under the grand stand to imbibe something that is supposed to add pep to one's playing even if it may confuse the mind, and it was charged by those excusing Chicago's defeat that the signals given by the catcher in the final inning, in which the Browns won by a single run, were not as shrewd as they might have been under other circumstances.

It is well known baseball history that the tenth inning defeat of Chicago on this occasion—the last on which Anson officiated as manager of a championship team—was started by the misjudgment by Dalrymple, the Chicago left fielder, of a drive by Latham. The hit, half liner and half fly, should have been snared by Dalrymple but he first started forward, then retreated, but was was unable to get back in time to reach the drive, which thus went for extra bases.

Then Gleason — "Bill" Gleason, shortstop of the St. Louis team, who is still living in that city, I believe—came through with the necessary clean hit that sent the winning run across the plate.

Great Team Broken Up.

But it was not Dalrymple's blunder and St Louis' victory that accounted for the setting of Anson's championship star. The next year, besides Dalrymple, Kelly and Clarkson were lost to the team, and perhaps others—I do not remember. Whether this was Anson's judgment was never authentically made known to the public, but it was the beginning of the feature of "selling" players which led to the "Brotherhood" rebellion in 1890. Kelly and Clarkson were sold to the Boston Nationals, Kelly then becoming known as "the ten thousand dollar beauty," and the price astonishing the baseball world.

It is not wholly contrary to the general estimate of Anson's character as a confident manager to assume that he may have believed he would be able to get together a new group of champions as he had in the past.

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