

# COLOR LINE BARRED

## MANY GREAT STARS

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[SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE.]

New York, June 18.—The color line drawn so tightly around major league baseball has barred from major league fields three of the greatest pitchers the game ever has produced.

One of the trio, John Donaldson, pitching semi-pro ball in Kansas City, recently pitched thirty innings without allowing a hit or run—a record without parallel.

"If Donaldson were a white man, or if the unwritten law of baseball didn't bar negroes from the major league, I would give \$50,000 for him—and think I was getting a bargain," said John McGraw of the Giants, after seeing Donaldson pitch several games in Cuba.

Donaldson, just before establishing his record of pitching thirty innings

without being hit, struck out twenty-five men in a twelve-inning game—an average of better than two strikeouts per inning.

Donaldson just now is twirling for the All-Nationals, a Kansas City team composed of players of all nations and an outfit that baseball sharps claim is strong enough to give any major league club a nip and tuck battle.

Frank Wickware is another negro pitcher who would rank with the Walter Johnsons, Joe Woods and Grover Alexanders if he were a white man. Wickware performed some marvelous pitching feats in and around Schenectady, N. Y., and has since moved on to Chicago, where he has become a sensation among the semi-pros.

Wickware has marvelous speed, a weird set of curves and wonderful control. And he has a trick that has made him feared among batters. He throws what seems to be a "bean ball," but his control is so perfect that he never yet has hit a batter in the head. But when the batters see the ball, propelled with mighty force, come for their heads, they jump away—and the ball, taking its proper and well-timed curve, arches over the plate for a strike.

Wickware has compiled a wonderful strikeout average. He figured in

about thirty games over a stretch of three years from 1912 and struck out something like 250 batsmen—an average of eight and one-third to a game. In one game he fanned fifteen men. He has allowed on an average of only five hits to a game for the last twenty games pitched and over a stretch of fifteen games he allowed twenty-six runs less than two runs to a game.

In Cuba there is a negro pitcher by the name of Mendez. He's known as "the black Matty" and his work has been almost as brilliant as that of "the Big Six" of the Giants. Mendez is only of medium height, but he has terrific power in his arm.

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