

Local Boy Solves Base Ball Puzzle.

Harwell West, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. West, publisher of The Dakota Scout, and a "devil" in The Times office, prepared the best solution of the Billy Evans' baseball problem, which was printed in the Fargo Courier-News. Harwell's solution was absolutely correct regarding the plays, except that he had reversed the method of advancing to second and third base.

Here's the problem:

In a game between Detroit and Washington, Ty Cobb is at bat.

Can Cobb reach first base on a foul fly that is caught, then score a run, although in his attempts to advance to the plate he is apparently retired at three succeeding bases, no assistance being rendered by any other batsman or runner?

If so, tell how.

The solution must tell how he reaches first base on a foul fly that is caught and describe his trip around the bases.

Here's the solution by Billy Evans, the world's greatest umpire. Harwell's answer tallies, except that he applied the interference rule for reaching second instead of the balk, and the balk in reaching third instead of interference:

Catcher tips Cobb's bat as he hits foul fly which is caught by the first baseman, creating an interference which entitles Cobb to first.

Cobb is caught napping off first and thrown out at second by the pitcher, but the umpire called a balk on the pitcher, entitling Cobb to second.

Cobb attempts to steal third, but the shortstop trips him as he passes causing him to be thrown out by the catcher, but he is allowed the base on account of the interference by the shortstop.

The catcher while standing outside the lines of his position when the pitcher delivers the ball, receives same and touches out Cobb, who is attempting to steal home. But by standing outside of his lines the catcher causes the pitcher to make a balk in delivering the ball and Cobb is permitted to score.