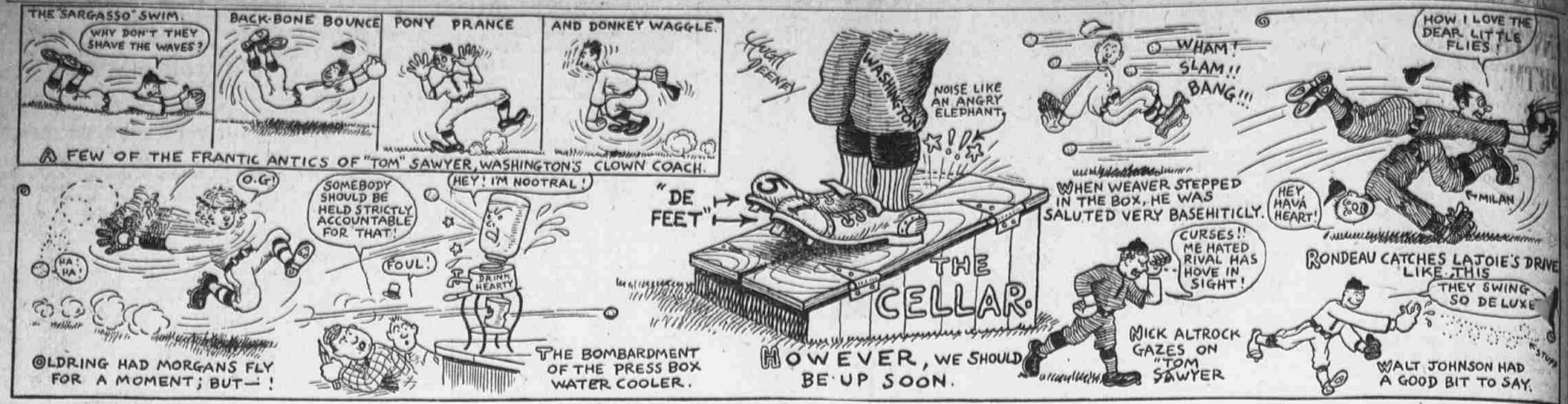


# IDAHO WONDER IS STILL IN RUNNING FOR TITLE OF GREATEST HURLER OF ALL TIME



A STRIP OF YESTERDAY'S DOINGS AT SHIBE PARK

## WALTER JOHNSON IS BETTER TODAY THAN IN 1912, WHEN HE WAS BREAKING RECORDS

### Washington Marvel Has Developed Wonderful Curve Ball After Neglecting Delivery for Many Years, But Has Old Speed

DURING the winter there was quite a lot of talk about Alexander the Great and Walter Johnson having trouble with their pitching arms. Some critics insisted that Alexander had been worked so much last season that he would not come back, while Johnson, it was said, was losing his speed. Alexander satisfied the fans in his first two games here that his arm is as good as ever, while Johnson in one day dispelled all doubt as to whether he has lost his speed.

Unless some youngster who has not shown himself yet should break into one of the two major leagues with a string of marvelous performances such as the good old game has never known, it is reasonably certain that at the end of the season Alexander and Johnson will still be kings in their respective leagues, and the fans will still be arguing as to which is the greatest hurler in the game.

As Grantland Rice once remarked: "When you see Alex you go home convinced that he is the greatest pitcher in the game, and if you see Johnson the next day you change your mind, and then again if you should see Alex the following day you would switch again."

Local fans who saw Walter Johnson toy with the Athletics yesterday are convinced that the Idaho wonder is going to have the greatest season of his career. When a man has hung up a record such as Johnson has made, it seems ridiculous to say that he is improving after being the marvel of the American League for at least eight years of his career, but we are convinced that Johnson is a greater pitcher today than he was when he was shattering records back in 1912.

### Johnson Now Has Wonderful Curve Ball

MARVEL that he was, Johnson never really had a good curve ball until this season. In the early part of his career Johnson seldom used a curve ball, excepting as a waste pitch after getting a batsman in the hole, and his curve then was a bender and not a sharp, breaking hook. Last season Johnson got his curve ball shooting instead of bending, but it was not as good a curve ball as a score of other pitchers have. The frequent use of his curve and slow ball, and an inclination to save his strength with Washington out of the race, caused the critics to believe Walter was losing his speed, but such is far from the case.

Yesterday Johnson's speed was as wonderful as it was 10 years ago, when all he knew was to heave the ball plateward with all his strength. With it he had a curve ball which looked every bit as good as the famous hook of Alexander the Great. Mackmen who have batted against Johnson for a number of years declared after the game that they never saw Johnson with as much "stuff" as he had yesterday.

They say that they have batted against Johnson when he was just a trifle faster, and on dark days found him harder to hit, but that he never had a better assortment of shots, or mixed them up so well, as yesterday. As Johnson is the most consistent hurler the game has ever known, it is safe to predict that he will have just as much in nine out of every ten starts.

### Johnson Uses His Head Now

LIKE most great pitchers of the past, Johnson is just beginning to reap the reward for years of careful study of batmen and excellent physical condition. He is reaching the stage where he can go to the mound and defeat teams when he is not at his best, because he has learned that the head is mightier than the arm after one has been hurling at top speed for eight or ten years.

Johnson's victory over the Mackmen yesterday was his fifth of the season, and if the Senators do not go completely to pieces—and there is no reason why they should, though it is not the best team in the league by a long shot—the Idaho wonder is one pitcher who will turn in 30 victories. He is off to a great start, and if he retains the curve ball he had yesterday, is likely to hang up a new major league record.

We had always believed that Rube Waddell was the greatest pitcher of the last 20 years, but after seeing Johnson at his best have come to believe that it is impossible to be better than the Washington star, and as every one admits that it is a toss up between Johnson and Alexander, the old timers will have to decide for themselves which of this pair is the king of them all and forget the famous southpaw.

### They See Them, But Can't Get Their Bats Around

AFTER the game "Stuffy" McInnis, recognized as one of the greatest and most consistent hitters in the game, was asked how Johnson looked to him. He replied: "Everything Walter throws always looks good coming up, but you can never get your bat around in time. I never saw him with a curve ball like he had today. Let me tell you, he is the greatest pitcher in the world, and with something to spare."

As mentioned before, there was nothing to the ball game but Johnson, but at that the Mackmen gave the Senators quite a battle for eight innings. While it was apparent that the Mackmen were at the mercy of the Idaho wonder, the fact that the Senators could not do much with Tom Sheehan gave the Athletics a chance until the ninth, as one can never tell when a batsman is going to take a blind swing at one of Johnson's speed balls and drive it into the next county. It also was possible that one or two men might have gotten on base somehow, just prior to the making of such a hit.

Sheehan pitched a peculiar game of ball. He had a world of stuff, and when he got the ball over the plate the Senators were baffled. Eddie Foster crossed Sheehan and slammed a fast ball down into right for a triple, and Milan followed with a line single to center in the fifth inning, earning one run, but, aside from this session, the league leaders did not bother him much.

### Sheehan's Work Satisfactory Despite Winded

NINE of the Senators were given free transportation to first and Sheehan made two wild pitches. These passes kept the bases well populated most of the time, but between the batsman popping up easy flies and Wally Schang picking off would-be base stealers, little damage was done. Sheehan's first two passes were in a measure responsible for a run, but if Oldring had not erred, it would not have been tallied.

Sheehan also showed a tendency to "cross" Schang on signals. This has happened so often in the last two games that one begins to wonder if Wally is not crossing himself or covering his signs up so closely that the pitchers do not get a good look at them. All things considered, Sheehan made an excellent impression, and it was a real ball game, despite Johnson's presence on the mound, until Harry Weaver replaced Tom, who retired in favor of a pinch hitter.

## WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN BASEBALL TODAY

| NATIONAL LEAGUE. |      |       |      |            |
|------------------|------|-------|------|------------|
| Club.            | Won. | Lost. | Pct. | Win. Loss. |
| Boston           | 11   | 5     | .687 | .092 .615  |
| Phillies         | 8    | 6     | .571 | .066 .533  |
| Cincinnati       | 9    | 7     | .562 | .219 .348  |
| Chicago          | 8    | 7     | .533 | .263 .270  |
| Pittsburgh       | 7    | 9     | .438 | .471 .412  |
| New York         | 7    | 11    | .386 | .117 .269  |

| AMERICAN LEAGUE. |      |       |      |            |
|------------------|------|-------|------|------------|
| Club.            | Won. | Lost. | Pct. | Win. Loss. |
| Washington       | 11   | 6     | .647 | .570 .430  |
| Cleveland        | 11   | 7     | .611 | .622 .378  |
| St. Louis        | 9    | 8     | .526 | .471 .529  |
| New York         | 8    | 8     | .500 | .329 .671  |
| Baltimore        | 7    | 9     | .438 | .338 .662  |
| Chicago          | 10   | 10    | .500 | .224 .776  |
| St. Louis        | 6    | 10    | .375 | .412 .588  |
| Athletics        | 6    | 12    | .333 | .204 .796  |

| INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE. |      |       |      |            |
|-----------------------|------|-------|------|------------|
| Club.                 | Won. | Lost. | Pct. | Win. Loss. |
| Newark                | 5    | 4     | .556 | .579 .421  |
| Richmond              | 5    | 5     | .500 | .375 .625  |
| Providence            | 3    | 5     | .375 | .412 .588  |
| Baltimore             | 3    | 4     | .429 | .143 .857  |

**SCHEDULE FOR TODAY**

**NATIONAL LEAGUE.**  
 Boston at New York—postponed.  
 Cincinnati at St. Louis—clear.  
 Chicago at Pittsburgh—clear.

**AMERICAN LEAGUE.**  
 New York at Boston—cloudy.  
 Washington at Philadelphia—postponed.  
 Cleveland at Richmond—clear.  
 St. Louis at Detroit—cloudy.

**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.**  
 Buffalo at Baltimore—clear.  
 No other games scheduled.

## PAT MORAN WANTS KILLEFER RESTORED

### Tener Sounding Club Heads on Question of Making Catcher Eligible

BROOKLYN, N. Y., May 5.—President Tener, of the National League, is sounding the sentiment of the club presidents on the subject of restoring Billy Killefer to the active list of the Phillies, although Billy has, including today, 31 more days on the disability list and would ordinarily be barred from playing until that time expired.

Pat Moran presented a strong case to the league boss this morning, arguing that it was a case of necessity for the Phillies to have another catcher. Jack Adams had his old wound on his throwing hand opened so seriously in the eighth inning yesterday that he is not expected to work again for at least a month. The crack is deep and every movement of the fingers tends to make it worse.

President Tener intimated that some way would be found to get Killefer into the lineup at Harris, were he in the next days, but could make no positive statement.

## Giants Release Pitcher Ritter

NEW YORK, May 5.—The New York National League Club tonight released William Ritter, a pitcher who was loaned to the Boston Club, of the International League, under an optional agreement.

## OTHER SPORTS ON PAGE 19

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 Chester & Phila. Races start 10 P.M. Adm. 25c.

## HEIGHT OF TENNIS-PLAYER PARTLY DETERMINES POSITION

By WILLIAM T. TILDEN, 2D

WHAT is correct position on a tennis court? This question has caused many good players' sleepless nights. Once learned, provided you know the reasons for it, correct position becomes automatic to a good tennis player.

A shot to be made in correct position should not be hurried, and the player should be on top of the ball when it reaches him, not chasing it as it passes him.

The back-court position should be about from 2 to 4 feet back of the base line and a little on the side of the centre of the court in which the ball is in play. In other words, be closer to the straight return from your opponent than the cross-court shot, since, first, it has a shorter distance to travel in your court, and therefore gives you less time to cover it; and, second, it will be a faster shot on the average than the cross-court.

By playing behind the base line in this manner one can run in on a shot, and meet it, while one is never forced to run back which is so disconcerting to correct footwork.

In playing net the question of position is twofold:

First. How close to the net?

Second. In which part of the court parallel to the net shall a man play?

The first is determined by the height of the player and varies from 6 to 10 feet from the net. The taller the player the closer he can afford to go. Still, do not let the shorter men and boys get in the habit of staying back, or of coming in and playing deep and getting caught on their feet. Always be close enough to the net to volley a drive on the full and not have to trap it.

As regards the question of position in playing net the question of position is twofold:

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 Tickets on sale at telegraph and Spalding's.

OLYMPIA A. A. Head & Baldrige  
 Monday, May 5, Harry Edwards, Mer.  
 Young Johnny Dundee vs. Johnny Ray  
 Mickey Donnelly vs. Billy Hines  
 Jack Carroll vs. Larry Williams  
 Johnny Kilbane vs. Willie Jackson  
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## ALL-STAR SHOW National A. C. National A. C.

TOMORROW NIGHT—TOMORROW NIGHT  
 Billy DeFoe vs. Eddie Campbell  
 Frankie Conliffe vs. Stanley Hinkle  
 Young Fulton vs. Lew Stinger  
 Johnny Casper vs. Frankie White  
 Darby Casper vs. Billy Cahill

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shot in follow the general line of the ball and stay closer to the side line the ball is near than the centre. The wider you shoot to the side line the closer to that side line you go, always closing the shot down that line. Remember that the deeper the shot the harder it is to pass you, so follow in on your deep shots and stay back on the short ones. Remember.

too, that the faster shot is the straight shot, and a fast, sharp, cross-court shot will often go out.

Good position in the back court is merely avoiding getting caught at the feet. Net position must be learned carefully and studied out on the rules given above.

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