# WALTER JOHNSON IS AFTER A NEW RECORD, BUT IS HEADED IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

## WALTER JOHNSON FACES WORST YEAR IN HIS LONG CAREER; WILL BE LUCKY IF HE WINS TWENTY GAMES

Washington's Smoke Ball King Has Won 8 and Lost 11 Battles This Year and Shows No Improvement-Holds Strike-out Record

THE old story of the pitcher going to the well once too often can be sprung on the innocent bystanders these days after a thorough investigation of Walter Johnson's twirling record for A. D. 1917. The big fellow has pitched the worst ball of his career this season and has an excellent chance to equal his record of 1909, when he won thirteen and lost twenty-five games. However, there is little danger of his turning in a card like that, but he will have to step some if he comes through with twenty victories this season. This is very sad work for a person of Walter's reputation and it looks as if the well-known and efficient pitcher were making too many trips to the plate. Johnson has not been available more than once a week thus far and if he continues this stunt throughout the season, he cannot be walloped oftener than once every three weeks to keep beyond the deadline which divides the classy performers and the tramps. In other words, he cannot lose more than four games between now and the first of October and have a twenty-game year.

Isn't it strange how the mighty stub their toes and stumble into the steerage class? Not that Johnson is headed that way or even thinking of traveling in that direction; but the great twirler no longer is the wonder of the age either with the fans or the ball players. The batters now step up and soak the ball, whereas a couple of years ago they were shy and kept one foot at the plate and the other in the water bucket. In those days, it was quite a feat to get even a foul off his smoke ball. Judging from his ability, a season with only twent; victories for him is a disgrace. Even a season of twenty-five victories would be a scandal and less than thirty triumphs is a disappointment. So it can be seen that the Smoke Ball king is up against it and it is certain that he will have to regard the season of 1917 as his one bad campaign.

WORSE that that, Walter will be forced to suffer during the long winter months. He must expect the experts to discover this fall that he is going back and devote the entire cold spell to telling anxious readers that the end is near.

More Hits Made Off Walter Than Any Other Pitcher in League

As A matter of cold fact, Johnson has been nicked more often than any other twirler on the circuit. A total of 150 safe swipes have been registered against his twisters, and Dauss, of Detroit, comes next with 140. There is no comparison between the two, but the figures speak for themselves. In addition to that, Walter holds the record for games lost this season. He has suffered 11 defeats and won 8 games. Bob Groom is the other heavy loser in the league, having lost a total of 10. But Walter has the strike-out record, with 102 to his credit, with Babe Ruth running a close second.

The Washington club has been notoriously feeble on the Tally Trail, and it is well known that his playmates make it difficult for Johnson to win. Frequently they have neglected to score at all while he was on the slab, and that made it impossible to cop the combat. In the meantime, the other side amassed a healthy total, and on several occasions it required from 7 to 9 runs to win. Twice Washington has needed 7 runs to win when the star was pitching. Twice they needed half a dozen runs to get the money and five times this year the Griffs needed five tailles to put over a victory. In other words, in more than one-half of the games it has been necessary for his club's offense to perform at nearly double its normal speed in order to bag the verdict. Three of Johnson's eight victories were won on these stormy occasions. Two of them involved Detroit, and another time at St. Louis Washington won 9 to 6 after Walter had been knocked out of the bex. Last Sunday he was credited with a victory over the White Sox when he went into the box in the ninth inning and held the team runless after his predecessor had been removed. On Tuesday he lost an eleven-inning battle to Chicago, which makes his total eleven for the year.

WE are loath to believe that Johnson is through as a pitcher or that he has started on the down grade. His hard luck this year is due to a change in his pitching style. There was a time when Watter needed nothing but his fast ball to subdue the foe, but of late the speed has deserted him. Now it is necessary to use a few curves and work the batter. and as soon as Johnson gets the system he will be just as effective as of old.

### Important Series in American League Starts Today in Chicago

WITH a lead of 26 points separating them from the nearest contender, the White Sox will battle the Red Sox in the first game of the most important series in the American League this afternoon. Barry's battlers have been up and down for the last month and refuse to be left in the furch. They expect to do some damage to the prides of Chicago and will start their dirty work on the first day. The hard luck of the past has been forgotten and they are now looking into the future.

Completely ignoring the fact that more than once they have been more than 60 points in the rear, the champions have simply refused to let go. Every time the pitchers go to the bad and it appeared to be only a question of how much Charley Comiskey would charge for the world's series seats, there would be a sudden and startling reversal of form and the gap between the leaders narrowed. It will be remembered that the White Sox got an even break when they met the Red Hose in Boston. Now that they are playing on their home grounds and have a nice lead in the race, the players should go into the series with more confidence. Anyway the rough treatment handed to Boston in the St. Louis series doesn't speak well for the scoring ability of Barry's men.

In the other league, the Giants are leading the Phils by the comfortable margin of 104 points and appear to have hit a winning streak. The Cubs have been manhandled day after day, which strengthened New York's percentage in the won and lost column. The Phils increased their lead over St. Louis, winning from Cincinnati while the Cards were being walloped in Brooklyn.

WORLD'S series dopesters already are on the job selecting the Giants and the White Sox as contenders for the title in October. These teams were the favorites in the winter league and it looks as if they would hook up after the season ends.

### Connie's Crowd in Cleveland Today

IF MR, MACK during his stay in Cleveland runs across a team that plays ball the way Detroit is going at the present time, he will leave the West much better pleased than he is at the present moment. Critics who watched the second number of the even break double bill in Tigertown yesterday unanimously agree that no club in any game this season has made so many mental mistakes as the Bengala,

Mack's team also was pretty bad yesterday, but that probably was only because evil associations corrupt good manners. And the Athletics looked good by comparison with their rivals. It was the only really bad exhibition that the Mackies gave in five jousts staged in Detroit. They played pretty good ball there, though they won only two of the five. But they have an even break on the season with the Jennings outfit.

Joe Bush has Detroit puzzled. He has started a couple of games against the Tigers, and has been knocked out with celerity and dispatch, once in one round and once in three. Sent in to replace Johnson, with no chance to win and a chance to lose, in yesterday's second bill, he proceeded to mow down the Felines. But he was staggering at the finish, and would have been beaten had not Harper, who thinks he has to run every time any one shows him that there is another base between himself and home, kicked away a great eighth-inning chance. When the game ended Detroit had the run that would tie on second and the one that would win on first. The final count was 4 to 3.

ET Joseph, as a general thing, stars in the western cities. Chances are Y that his failures against Detroit are due to the fact that he is a speed artist. The men who simply blow them up there are the boys who baffle the Bengals.

### Seibold's Passes Proved Costly

TTHOSE last two games in Detroit were ragged ones. Scibold would have had a chance in the opener, which the Tigers took, 4 to 1, had he not been wild at the start, two runs scoring off him on a pair of passes, a mental error by Schang, a wild pitch and a foolish single. With Boland steady, that was enough. In the second contest Bill James was wild and easy to hit, and before he was taken out, at the end of the third, the Mackmen had the decision. Johnson did not look any too good, and, after he passed two men, with none out in the fourth, he was der-

FTHOUGH the Athletics have not made any wonderful sprint in the I West, their record has been a good one, and much better than any one had expected. Mack is satisfied and believes that his team will go well from now on. Detroit writers all speak in praise of it; and predicted that, with its hitting strength, if will break even in the Cleveland games.

Mayer and Killefer Combine to Stop Toney

ERSKINE MAYER atoned for the pummeling handed him on the occasion of the last visit of the Cincinnati Reds to Broad and Huntingdon streets. It will be recalled at that time the Mattymen drove Erskine from the mound and accounted for nine runs in the one inning before the fire was put out. Yesterday it was a different Erskine who labored. He was hit freely, but in the tight places was invincible. All the credit cannot be heaped upon the frail moundsman, for his battery mate. Bill Killefer, played a very important role in the triumph. The star catcher had two singles out of three official trips to the plate, and his safeties directly were responsible for all three runs. The stopping of Fred Toney was another noteworthy performance. Previous to his downfall at the hands of Mayer, the glant Red heaver had turned in five wins in his last five starts and led major league twiriers in victories with-sixteen. He was not hit hard, the Moranmen colcting only six, but two of these were the timely ones of Killefer and they turned

MOVIE OF THE BOSS WRITING ON TYPEWRITER AFTER THE WALLOPING REDS POUNDING BALL STENOG, GOES HOME



many fine features about the course that

this is not particularly noticeable except to

One of the holes has probably the largest

green in the country, and incidentally is one of the finest holes at Aronimink. T

tee shot is short or long, to the green which

and is very similar in lay-out to the first

ourses in the Philadelphia district

VIC SAIER NOW A PIRATE:

CINCINNATI WAIVES CLAIM

PHTTSRURGH Daly 19 - With the Clock,

nati National League club having waived its claim to the services of Via Saier, the

former Chicago National first baseman has

become the property of the Pittsburgh club.

## GOLF ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD TWO TOURNAMENTS IN ONE OVER ARONIMINK COURSE NEXT WEEK

Class Tournament and Midsummer Handicap Staged for Thursday and Large Field of Players Is Expected

F YOU happen to be one of the numerous | is beginning to tire. But there are army of golfers who break an eighty once or twice during a lifetime, and whose game uns somewhere between 80 and 20, rarely if ever below the first figure and too often Largest Putting Green in Country hove the second, there is a tournament at the Aronimink Country Club, beginning next the Aronnamic Country to the greatest interest.

If you happen to have a handleap anywhere liven scratch to eighteen there is another the top of a hill or from the foot of it, depending whether the top of a hill or from the foot of it, depending whether the top of a hill or from the foot of it, depending whether the vent at the same course. The first tournament, for the want of a better name, is called the Class Tournament, and is for men whose handicaps range from eleven strokes upward. The second tournament is the annual midsummer handicap, and is a cone-day affair. It is a two-ringed circus, as the great majority of the men eligible to an and consists of a drive and an iron and is a very similar in layout to the first men whose handicaps range from eleven strekes upward. The second tournament is the annual midsummer handicap, and is a ene-day affair. It is a two-ringed circus, as the great majority of the men eligible to play on the one can play in the other. The qualifying score for the class tournament is also turned in for the midsummer ban-

Killing Two Golf Birds With One Club It is the first time that the two tourna-nents were ever held together. Last year the Class Tournament attracted nearly a hundred entries, while there was an unusu-ally small field for the Midsummer event. So the Golf Association of Philadelphia hought they would kill two golf birds with Tournament attracted nearly a he shot this year and hold both tourna-nonts the same week.

Up until last year there was no oppor-

tunity for the higher rated golfers to have a tournament; all to themselves. You must have a handicap of ten strokes or less to play for the city championship or the Geist cup, while if you have not a handicap of eight strokes or less, you need not come around to the Lynnewood Hall cup tournament. When you begin to count up the golfers in any club, you will find that there are thirty to fifty men with handicaps of elevan strokes or less. The writer of this comment persuaded the golf officials to hold the tournament last year so as to give nity for the higher rated golfers to hav his great and growing class of golfers a

The higher rated player, if he happens to qualify in one of the bigger events, has as much chance as the proverbial snowball, and if he gets into another and lower flight the chances are that a lower rated player qualifies with a higher score than usual and, of course, he trims the other men

Golfers Must Stay in Own Class

There are three sixteens in the class tour-ament next week. The golfers are divided nto three classes, Class A, with handicaps if eleven to fourteen strokes; Class B, fif-een to eighteen strokes, and Class C, nineteen strokes and upward. Class A men must teen strokes and upward. Class A men must qualify in their class, but there is nothing to prevent the two other classes from mak-ing the first flight. But the Class B men cannot play in Class C. In this way every class is protected and the fight in each flight resolves itself into a struggle between players who are evenly matched. The cup nunter has no chance at all.

There will be no prizes awarded in either event, but some sort of a medal will be given. Each golfer who enters the class ournament will be assessed 22 and those in the midsummer \$1. The entire proceeds will go to the war fund of the Golf Asso-ciation of Philadelphia.

This is the first time since the Aroni-mink course was opened five years ago that mink course was opened he years ago that a fournament will be held over it. The amateur record in \$9, made last week by Norman Maxwell, but, needlers to say, the record will be in no danger next week. While the course is not yet completed, so far as the bunkering is concerned, Aronimink offers some spiendid golf shots. The course is laid out over a rolling country, and as possible flows was the last soft-curse aronic. Donald Ross was the last golf-course architect to improve the original links, this is surety of excellent holes. The chief objec-tion to the course is the way the course is laid out, as the easier holes come first and the last nine are not only stiffer, but there is considerable climbing, so that the hard holes are encountered when a player

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GAME AT 5:30 P. M.
Seats on sale at Gimbele' and Spaidings'

# A'S IN CLEVELAND TODAY ARE IDLE

Game Was Played on Sunday, June 17-Will Open Tomorrow

ATTEND GRAND CIRCUIT

CLEVELAND, O., July 19 .- The Athletics vill not open here against the Indians until

They originally were scheduled to start series with Lee Fohl's clan today, but as the game had been advanced and played on Sunday, June 17, the ball players and fans will get a chance to go to the Grand Circuit meet at North Randal, a suburb

#### JOCKEY DUGAN, IMPOSTOR, QUITS NEW YORK HOSPITAL

NEW YORK, July 19 .- Eddie Dugan, the star jockey, is riding in Russia, and, there-fore, is unable to be sick in this country, This explains why the young man who posed as Eddie and who sought refuge in Bellevue Tuesday left hurriedly yesterday

and is very similar in lay-out to the first of the famous Ditches holes at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. There are two new holes taking the places of the old second and third, but unfortunately neither is yet in condition for play. No golfer should miss this opportunity to play over what will be eventually one of the very best courses in the Philadelphia district. But After Willie Dugan missed Empire City to visit his "brother" and discovered the latter was a "phoney," the invalid departed in a rush. Flowers, fruit and wires for the sufferer kept the clerks busy. When the latter heard of the fake they grew wrothy, That's another reason why "Eddie Dugan" took his illness to the outer world. fairways and greens are in beautiful condi-tion and the rough is not too rough and what more can a golfer ask of a course.

#### FINAL M'GRAW HEARING IN NEW YORK TOMORROW

NEW YORK, July 19 .- National League officials and sporting editors were notified today that the third and last round of the McGraw repudiation battle will be staged morrow morning at National League hendquarters.

# HARDER THAN ANY OTHER CLUB SINCE LAJOIE WAS IN HIS PRIME

Have Made More Hits and Runs Than Any Other National League Team-Fred Toney Is Proving Big Aid to Heavy Sluggers

By GRANTLAND RICE

Limerick of the Links A golfer once shouted, "Good Heavens! Today I could wallop Chick Evans!" But the next day he started, quit, broken-hearted.

IP SOME one should coyly suggest that Cincinnati's embattled Reds had a more others, and when leading tennis player are amateurs after doing certain thing is

I Cincinnati's embattled Reds had a more powerful attack than the old Athletics or the old Cubs he would probably be hooted out of Rooters Row.

Yet the cold, clammy, pallid, uncontrovertible figures today show the Reds are rushing along with the heaviest wallop any ball club has shown since Cleveland one year showed up at mid-season with eight 300 hitters, led by Lajole in his prime.

Some while back a heavy wave of depression switted over those who esteem the wallop above all other features of the game, for the rumor was abroad that the good old days of sing and swat were about exold days of sing and swat were about ex-tinct. The Reds under Mathewson have revived the ancient glory of the game. For when they started this week's onslaught they had no less than six regulars at 300 or better—one of the most amazing batting records of modern play. Here were the marks early in the week—

Clarke, catcher—350. Roush, outfielder—347. Griffith, outfielder—314. Neale, outfielder ... 306. Chase, infielder—.302, Grob, infielder—.300.

Most managers are fairly well satisfied ben they have one .300 outfielder dallyor the assignment.

Those who have two produce three rous

ing cheers at stated intervals. It is only once in a decade that a manager has three sufficients over 300. The Yanks have been looking for one for the last ten years.

### The Red Assault

Brief mention has been made before of the Red attack. But it deserves more in this ago of effete batting, when the average ball player is around .245 or .250.
Last year the Reds had but one .300 glowworm, the same being Hal Chass. Roush Griffith, Neals and Grob were all under

79. Clarke was under 240, But the punch has come upon the Red supany with a compact rush. Today they ave made more hits and scored more run than any other ball club in either league. They are well out beyond the Giants and Tigers, the next two most powerful clubs. They have a club batting average of .287, up to the mark of the old Mackmen and beyond the drive of the old Cubs.

And with this assault they have in Fred

Toney the leading winner of the year, on his way to thirty victories. If Toney runs up this output he will be the first Red pitcher to get this far in thirty years. The power of the Reds is shown in the fact that of their last nine games against the Giants they have won six and lost three—and they have done the bulk of it by manling the missile, pounding the pill, swat-ting the sphere or hitting the baseball, just as you may care to have it put.

Francis Ouimet is now amateur champton f the West. In the East he is the most colated golfer the game has ever known. He refuses to play as a professional he is ineligible to play as an amateur. So while his home is along the Atlantic sea-board his tournament range must be west of the Alleghenies. The South stands with the West on this proposition, as most of

the West on this proposition, as most of the leading southern golf clubs are mem-bers of the W. G. A.

Some day Ouimet may be tossed into the peculiar situation of playing upon a course along the border line between the two sections—where for the first nine holes he will be an amateur and for the last nine a professional. Our sportive situation is in a beautiful and exquisite tangle when a

With nothing but sixes and sevens,

#### make leading golfers professionals. The H. R. K. Returns

Frank Baker, of New York and Trays, fought his way into the 300 class early to week for the first time since he surrander or swapped the bat for the hoe back in 1914. Last season Baker was unable treach 280, and for the first two months the present campaign he was sadly out of focus. But as the rumor went around hat the once eminent home-run king had she cated for good, the Trappe terror stans back for his own. In the last five week he has batted well over 400—up to the unark of his best years and a trifle beyond With his old confidence restored, Bake will now undoubtedly finish among the less well now undoubtedly finish among the less will now undoubtedly finish among the clear

With Baker and McInnis now over the mark, it remains for Eddle Collins to cover up the gap. Just at present Eddle is bec-around .274, but he still has the street

# YALE'S ATHLETIC DATES CANCELLED

No Varsity Football to Be Played by Eli Next

BIG WAR IS THE REASON

NEW HAVEN, Conn., July 19.—Take football schedule for the coming fall habeen canceled. The usual list of game was arranged last January and there has the formally well as the control of been some delay in formally writing a Yale's rivals and asking, in view of the war situation, whether the games cannot be given up. Only two of Yale's opposest Princeton and Harvard, have taken similar

CORNELL WILL CONTINUE INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS

NEW YORK, July 19. — Intercollegists athletics will be resumed at Cornell to versity next fall with the approval of the faculty, it was announced from Ithac to

MEN who haven't read a bexing column since Sullivan whipped Kilrain have been made fight fans again by the great \$20,000 match at Saibe Park, July 25, between Benny Leonard and Johnny Kilbans. Two world's champions in one ring make it the biggest fight card offered anywhere. Be one of the 20,000 at the scrap. It will make ring history. Tickets now on sale at Gimbels', Spaldings' and Harry Edwards'. \$1, \$2, \$3 and \$5.

