Forty-one Hitless Games Have Been Pitched in National League; Twenty Are Listed in American Circuit Records

GREAT HURLERS ABSENT FROM NO HIT CIRCLES

Alexander, Johnson and Plank Unable to Enter Hall of Fame.

MANN OF PRINCETON FIRST TO TURN TRICK

By FREDERICK G. LIEB.

The crop of no hit games in the major leagues this season has aroused quite a little conversation over these pitching masterpieces. During the first five months of the season Tom Hughes of the Braves, George Foster and Dutch Leonard of the Red Sox and Joe Bush of the Athletics have pitched games in which their opponents failed to strike a blow. Are no hit games becoming cheaper than they were when four pitchers can turn the trick in one season? The no hit records answer the questions themselves.

By scanning the list of no hit pitchers of recent years a fan may get quite a surprise to find the names of such knights of the pitching craft as Walter Johnson, Grover Alexander and Eddie Plank conspicuous by their absence. Walter and Grover unquestionably are the greatest pitchers in the game to-day, while Plank is the greatest left hander of all time.

Eddie has been pitching winning ball for sixteen years, but the no hit will o' the wisp has always eluded him. Only a month ago, when this forty-one-year-old was mowing down all opponents like schoolboys, he permitted five hits for three consecutive nine inning games, holding Washington to two, Boston to one and Cleveland to two, but he couldn't keep his slate entirely clean.

Johnson Almost There.

Walter Johnson has pitched a flock of one and two hit games since he broke in with Washington in 1907, but he never could hold an opponent hitless. However, nothing but ground rules beat the Washington gatling gun out of a no hit game in the opening contest of the 1912 season in the District of Columbia. Frank Baker pumped a fly into the overflow crowd in the right field for two bases for the only hit made by the Athletics. On an open field the ball could have been an easy catch.

Grover Alexander's career with the Phillies since graduating into the major leagues in 1911 also is dotted with low hit games. Time after time he has limited his opponents to one hit, but so far he has been denied a niche in the imaginery no hit hall of fame.

Perhaps another example of how really rare no hit games are is the fact that though New York has been in the American League since 1903 not a Yankee pitcher has ever carved out one of these masterpieces. And during their time the Yankees had some mighty fine pitching talent, including such stars as Jack Chesbro, Al Orth, Jesse Tannehill, Jack Powell, Harry Howell, Clark Griffith, Billy Hogg, Russell Ford, Jim Vaughn, Ray Caldwell and Ray Fisher.

Former Yanks Among Elite.

Two former pitchers of the Yankees, however, pitched no-hit games for the Boston Braves. They were George Davis, the Williams College boy, who was picked up by the Yanks in 1912, and Tom Hughes, who was with the New York Americans while George Stallings was manager in 1909 and 1910.

If a pitcher could forget, after pitching six hitless innings, that he had not permitted a hit, no-hit games would be more frequent. Just as soon as the fans take notice that a pitcher has gone about two-thirds of the distance without allowing a hit and start pulling for a no-hit game, then the blowoff comes. Baseball writers are superstitious about spoiling no-hit games, for just as soon as somebody says "Shawkey hasn't allowed a hit for six innings," etc.—Bing! the visitors get their first hit.

The twenty-seventh out is always the hardest to put into the box score. Lots of no-hit games have been wrecked with two out in the ninth inning. A notable incident of this sort occurred in Brooklyn a few years ago, when Nap Rucker had the Reds almost on his no-hit list. Not a hit had been recorded for eight and two-thirds innings, and Bob Beacher was the only one who stood between Nap and a second no-hit game.

Bob had no desire to stand between either. His team was way behind and he intended to go out as easily as possible. He took a careless swing at the ball, and to his surprise it bounced over second base for an undesired single. It was one of the few cases on record where a ballplayer was sore because he had made a hit. Bill Steele of the Cardinals also went eight and two-thirds innings without allowing a hit in Brooklyn, when he was deprived of his glory.

Perhaps no pitcher ever had a tougher break which deprived him of a no-hit game than befell Jimmy Lavender of the Cubs last spring. Lavender had pitched a no-hit game against the Giants last fall, and the meanest kind of a sickly infield safety deprived him of a second hitless game against the Giants when the Cubs made their first 1916 call on the Polo Grounds.

Kauff bounced a little bounder at Lavender, which 999 times in a 1,000 would have been an easy out. Jimmy only had to move about two feet to get in front of the ball, but just as he was set for it it hit a clump of dirt and bounced over his wrist. Lavender made a quick recovery, but the fleet Henny beat the throw to first by an eyelash. If that ball had not taken that freakish bounce, Lavender would have been the only National League pitcher that ever pitched a no hit game twice against the same team.

There are several cases on record where pitchers have held opponents hitless for nine innings, only to have been deprived of no hit games by allowing hits in extra innings. This is about the hardest luck that can befall a pitcher, and most of them will wish defeat. It is a moot question whether a man who has pitched nine hitless innings belongs in the no hit records, though it is hard to include a man among the no hit artists where he has allowed hits.

Tough on McIntyre.

The toughest break which ever befell a pitcher gunning for a no hit game undoubtedly befell Harry McIntyre of Brooklyn on August 1, 1906. Harry turned back the then hard hitting Pirates ten innings without a blow, allowed the first hit in the eleventh inning, and was defeated, 1 to 0, in the thirteenth. Leon Ames, the unluckiest pitcher that ever wore a Giant uniform, held Brooklyn without a hit for nine innings in the opening game on the Polo Grounds in 1909, but was defeated in the eleventh inning by Kaiser Wilhelm, a mediocre pitcher, by a score of 3 to 0. Jim Scott of the Chicago White Sox held Washington without a hit for nine innings a few years ago, but lost in the tenth.

In the National League there have been forty no hit games in the forty year history of the league, averaging just one a season. In the American League there have been twenty in the seventeen years of the league. The three no hit games pitched by George Foster, Dutch Leonard and Joe Bush this season have brought the American League average a little more than one a year.

In the American League no hit games seem to come in fits and starts. There were none in 1900 and 1901, one in 1902, none in 1903, two in 1904, three in 1905, none in 1906 and 1907, four in 1908, none in 1909, two each in 1910, 1911 and 1912, none in 1913, one in 1914, none in 1915 and three in 1916.

The first man to pitch a no hit game was Joseph McElroy Mann, the famous Princeton pitcher of the '70s and the man who is credited with pitching the first curve.

Mann undoubtedly was one of the real pitching pioneers, and though he was a collegian was regarded as one of the premier pitchers of his day. Pitching for Princeton against Yale at New Haven on May 29, 1875, he beat the Blue 3 to 0 and did not allow a hit. That was a year before the start of the National League.

The first professional no hit game was recorded a few months after Mann pitched his game. It was pitched by Bordon of the Philadelphia Athletics against Chicago on July 28, 1875, in a National Association contest. The National Association, it will be recalled, was the forerunner of the National League.

The National League's first no hit game was pitched by Bradley of St. Louis against Hartford on July 15, 1876. There was a lull of four years before the next hitless game was turned in by a National League pitcher. It was pitched by J. Lee Richmond of Worcester against Cleveland on July 12, 1880.

It was the first perfect game pitched in an established league, as not a Cleveland Spider reached first during the game. It was an unusual game for that time and was won by Worcester, 1 to 0, only three hits being made in the entire game. Arthur Irwin, the former Yankee scout, made two, playing short for Worcester, and Richmond made the other.

Richmond, who was a left hander, was unquestionably a star, and his perfect no hit game in 1880 was his third in two years. In 1879, while pitching for Worcester's strong Independent Association team, he pitched two no hit games only a month apart. He pitched a no hit game against Chicago in June of that year and a second against Springfield in the following July. Richmond, by the way, is now a professor in the Toledo Central High School.

Only five perfect games such as Lee Richmond pitched were ever turned in in big league baseball. There have been two in the National, two in the American and one in the old American Association.

Strangely enough the second no run, no hit, no man reach first base game pitched in the National League came just five days after Richmond's feat. It was pitched by John Montgomery Ward, golfer, lawyer, former manager of the Giants, and in recent years president of the Boston Braves and business manager of the Brookfeds. Pitching for Providence on July 17, 1880, Ward pitched a perfect game against Buffalo. No pitcher in the National League has been able to turn this trick during the last thirty-six years. It seems almost time for Alexander to get busy.

The third perfect big league game was pitched by Mountjoy of Cincinnati against Toledo on October 21, 1883, in an American Association game, the association then having a major league rating. This was a freak game [illegible] much as only one hit was recorded in the entire game, the Reds making only one bingle off Cushman, who pitched for Toledo.

There was a lapse of twenty-one years before the fourth perfect game was pitched. On May 5, 1904, grand old Cy Young of the Red Sox pitched a game against the Athletics in which not a Mackman reached first base. The fifth and last perfect game was pitched by the late Addie Joss against Ed Walsh on October 2, 1908, while the Clevelands and White Sox were fighting tooth and nail for the pennant. Walsh struck out fourteen, but it didn't help him as long as Addie wouldn't permit a runner to score.

Few pitchers pitch no hit games. You can count the men on your two hands who have pitched two no hit games, while only two men pitched three no hit games in established major leagues. Cy Young pitched three, one in the National and two in the American League. Eleven years separated the first and the third. The first was pitched while he was a member of the Cleveland National League club against Cincinnati on September 18, 1897. The second was the perfect game against the Athletics in 1904, and the third was pitched against the New York Yankees on June 30, 1908. In this game the famous old Cy almost duplicated his no man reach first base game against the Athletics. Only twenty-seven Yanks faced him, but Harry Niles, the first man up, walked and was promptly nailed stealing.

Corcoran Turned the Trick.

The other pitcher to twirl three no hit games was Larry Corcoran, all of them being pitched while a member of the old Chicago White Stockings. Corcoran's no hit games were stretched over a period of four years and came at intervals of two years. The first was against Buffalo in 1880, the second against Worcester in 1882 and the third against Providence in 1884.

The men who pitched two no hit games were Jimmy Galvin, star of the old Buffalo Nationals; the late Adonis Terry of the Brooklyns, Atkissen of the Athletics, Breitenstein of the old Browns and later with the Reds, Matty the well beloved; Joss, and Frank "Piano Legs" Smith.

Jimy Galvin really pitched four no hit games, and was perhaps the only man who ever did it. He pitched two in 1876 while with the St. Louis Reds of the Independent Association. He beat Philadelphia on July 4 and repeated over the strong Cass team of Detroit on August 17, when not a man reached first base. This is the first perfect game in the records. While a member of the Buffalo National League team Galvin pitched a hitless game against Worcester in 1880 and another against Detroit in 1884.

Terry and Atkissen both pitched their no hit games in the old American Association. Terry while with the Brooklyns held the famous old Browns without a hit in 1886 and pitched a second no hit game against Louisville two years later. Atkissen pitched his first no hit game against the Alleghenys team of Pittsburg in 1884, and in 1886 Mutrie's old Mets of New York were his victims.

Breitenstein a Marvel.

Breitenstein, whose left arm lasted a quarter of a century before it wore out, pitched his first no hit game with the Browns against Louisville in 1891, and seven years later, in 1898, while with the Cincinnati Nationals held Pittsburg without a hit.

New York fans saw neither of Matty's no hit games. His first was over the Cardinals in St. Louis in 1901, and the second in Chicago four years later. On June 13, 1905, he let down the Cubs without a hit. Matty was forced to pitch hitless ball that day. He had one of his first famous duels with Mordecai Brown, and the Giants squeezed out winners, 1 to 0. Quite a little different from the Matty-Brown debate of last Labor Day when Matty was cuffed for fifteen hits and Mordecai for nineteen.

Addie Joss was the only pitcher who ever pitched two no hit games against the same club. The Chicago White Sox were his victims in both 1908 and 1910. Frank Smith, while with the Chicago White Sox, pitched a no hit game against Detroit in 1905, and a second against the Athletics in 1908.

Two umpires in each major league have pitched no hit games, Bill Dineen in the American, and Mal Eason in the National. Bill, while with the Red Sox, pitched a hitless game against the White Sox in 1905, and Mal, while a Brooklyn serf, held St. Louis hitless in 1906.

Wiltse's Remarkable Stunt.

George Wiltse, the lean left hander, once of the Giants, is the only pitcher who ever pitched ten hitless innings in either the National or American league, yet won his game. George beat the Phillies on the Fourth of July morning game in 1908 by a score of 1 to 0 in a ten inning pitchers' battle with George McQuillen. The game was played on the Polo Grounds and only thirty-one Quakers faced Hooks. Wiltse had the toughest kind of luck or he would have pitched himself into the Richmond-Ward-Young-Joss class. Only one man reached base, and that was McQuillen, the twenty-seventh man to face him. He was hit by a pitched ball.

In 1899 King of Chicago was as "lucky" against Brooklyn. He pitched ten hitless innings only to meet defeat. Brooklyn seemed to be mixed up in all of these ten inning hitless games, as the only other ten inning no hit victory outside of Wiltse's was pitched by Kinzer of Brooklyn against Toledo in an American Association game in 1884.

LIST OF NO HIT GAMES PITCHED SINCE LEAGUES WERE ORGANIZED

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

July 15, 1876—Bradley; St. Louis vs. Hartford.
July 12, 1880—*Richmond; Worcester vs. Cleveland.
July 17, 1880—*Ward, Providence vs. Buffalo.
Aug. 19, 1880—Corcoran; Chicago vs. Buffalo.
Aug. 20, 1880—Galvin; Buffalo vs. Worcester.
Sept. 20, 1882—Corcoran; Chicago vs. Worcester.
July 25, 1882—Radbourne, Providence vs. Cleveland.
Sept. 12, 1883—Dailey; Cleveland vs. Philadelphia.
June 27, 1884—Corcoran; Chicago vs. Providence.
Aug. 4, 1884—Galvin; Buffalo vs. Detroit.
July 27, 1885—Clarkson; Chicago vs. Providence.
Aug. 29, 1885—Ferguson; Philadelphia vs. Providence.
June 22, 1891—Lovett; Brooklyn vs. New York.
July 31, 1891—Rusie; New York vs. Brooklyn.
Aug. 6, 1892—Stivetts; Boston vs. Brooklyn.
Aug. 15, 1892—Jones; Cincinnati vs. Pittsburg.
Aug. 22, 1892—Sanders; Louisville vs. Baltimore.
Aug. 16, 1893—Hawke; Baltimore vs. Washington.
Sept. 18, 1897—Young; Cleveland vs. Cincinnati.
April 22, 1898—Hughes; Baltimore vs. Boston.
April 22, 1898—Breitenstein; Cincinnati vs. Pittsburg.
July 8, 1898—Donohue; Philadelphia vs. Boston.
Aug. 21, 1898—Thornton, Chicago vs. Brooklyn.
May 29, 1899—Phillips; Louisville vs. New York.
Aug. 6, 1899—Willis; Boston vs. Washington.
July 12, 1900—Hahn; Cincinnati vs. Philadelphia.
July 15, 1901—Mathewson; New York vs. St. Louis.
Sept. 18, 1903—Fraser; Philadelphia vs. Chicago.
June 15, 1906—Mathewson; New York vs. Chicago.
May 1, 1906—Lush; Philadelphia vs. Brooklyn.
May 8, 1906—Pfeffer; Boston vs. Cincinnati.
July 25, 1906—Eason; Brooklyn vs. St. Louis.
Sept. 29, 1907—Maddox; Pittsburg vs. Brooklyn.
July 4, 1908 (10 A. M.)—Wilter; New York vs. Philadelphia (ten innings).
Sept. 5, 1908—Rucker; Brooklyn vs. Boston.
Sept. 6, 1911—Tesreau; New York vs. Philadelphia.
Sept. 9, 1914—Davis; Boston vs. Philadelphia.
April 15, 1915—Marquard; New York vs. Brooklyn.
Aug. 31, 1915—Lavender; Chicago vs. New York.
June 16, 1916—Hughes; Boston vs. Pittsburg.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.

Sept. 20, 1902—Callahan; Chicago vs. Detroit.
May 5, 1904—*Young; Boston vs. Philadelphia.
Aug. 11, 1904—Tannehill; Boston vs. Chicago.
July 22, 1908—Henley; Athletics vs. St. Louis.
Sept. 5, 1908—F. Smith; Chicago vs. Detroit.
Sept. 27, 1908—Dineen; Boston vs. Chicago.
June 30, 1908—Young; Boston vs. New York.
Sept. 18, 1908—Rhoades; Cleveland vs. Boston.
Sept. 29, 1908—F. Smith; Chicago vs. Athletics.
Oct. 2, 1908—*Joss; Cleveland vs. Chicago.
April 20, 1910—Joss; Cleveland vs. Chicago.
May 12, 1910—Bender; Philadelphia vs. Cleveland.
July 29, 1911—Wood; Boston vs. St. Louis.
Aug. 27, 1911—Walsh; Chicago vs. Boston.
July 4, 1912—Mullen; Detroit vs. St. Louis.
Aug. 30, 1912—Hamilton; St. Louis vs. Detroit.
May 31, 1914—Benz; Chicago vs. Cleveland.
June 21, 1916—Foster; Boston vs. New York.
Aug. 26, 1916—Bush; Philadelphia vs. Cleveland.
Aug. 30, 1916—Leonard; Boston vs. St. Louis.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

Sept. 11, 1882—Mullane; Louisville vs. Cincinnati.
Sept. 19, 1882—Hecker; Louisville vs. Alleghenys.
Oct. 10, 1882—Briscoll; Alleghenys vs. Louisville.
Oct. 21, 1883—*Mountjoy; Cincinnati vs. Toledo.
May 6, 1884—McKeon; Indianapolis vs. Cincinnati.
May 21, 1884—Atkisson; Athletics vs. Alleghenys.
May 29, 1884—Morris; Columbus vs. Alleghenys.
June 5, 1884—Mountjoy; Columbus vs. Washington.
May 1, 1886—Atkisson; Athletics vs. Metropolitan.
July 21, 1886—Terry; Brooklyn vs. St. Louis.
Oct. 8, 1886—Kilroy; Baltimore vs. Pittsburg.
May 27, 1888—Terry; Brooklyn vs. Louisville.
June 6, 1888—Porter; Kansas City vs. Baltimore.
June 26, 1888—Seward; Athletics vs. Cincinnati.
July 31, 1888—Weyhing; Athletics vs. Kansas City.
Sept. 15, 1890—Titcomb; Rochester vs. Syracuse.
Sept. 4, 1891—Breitenstein; St. Louis vs. Louisville.

INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION.

July 4, 1876—Galvin; St. Louis Reds vs. Philadelphia.
Aug. 17, 1876—*Galvin; St. Louis Reds vs. Cass of Detroit.
May 24, 1879—Lynch; National of Washington vs. Baltimore.
June 2, 1879—Richmond; Worcester vs. Chicago.
July 28, 1879—Richmond; Worcester vs. Springfield.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

July 28, 1875—Bordon; Philadelphia vs. Chicago.
Aug. 4, 1875—Devlin; Chicago vs. Philadelphia.

BROTHERHOOD LEAGUE.

June 21, 1890—King; Chicago vs. Brooklyn.

UNION ASSOCIATION.

Aug. 26, 1884—Burns; Cincinnati vs. Kansas City.

*No hit, no run, no man reached first base game.

FOUR PITCHERS WHO GAINED NO HIT FAME THIS YEAR AND A FEW WHO JOINED SELECT CLASS IN PAST YEARS

LAST OUT OFTEN SPOILS A GREAT FEAT IN FLINGING

CHAMPION PIRATES WIDELY SCATTERED

Release of Gibson Leaves Only Wagner as Survivor of 1909 Stars.

The release of George Gibson, the veteran catcher, by Pittsburg, leaves Hans Wagner as the survivor of the Pirates who lost Detroit for the world's championship in 1909.

Gibson was born in London, Ont., Jan. 22, 1880, and began playing ball in the Kingston team of the Hudson River League in 1902. He went to Boston that year and in 1904 was with Montreal. He was secured by Fred Clarke that year and has played in Pittsburg since. In 1909, the year the Pirates won the National League pennant and the world's series games, Gibson caught 17 consecutive games, which is the record. In 1907 he won the accurate throwing contest at Cincinnati. In 1912 his batting, .300, was the highest ever made in the National League, although regular catchers have the same record.

Henie Peitz and Fred Carisch were the catchers when Gibson joined the Pirates, but before the season was over George was asked to do the bulk of the work, and he has been doing it ever since. On September 29, 1909, in the position Paris, he caught Nick Maddox in the game in which Nick did not allow the Brooklyns a hit.

With Gibson gone, only Hans Wagner remains as a remnant of the Pirate machine that won the National League pennant and then downed Detroit in the world's series. Babe Adams, the hero of that series, was let go a few years ago and now Gibson, who caught every game against the American League champs, follows his battery mate.

The first break in the membership of the 1909 crew came with the letting go of Bill Abstein, first baseman, for Willis, pitcher, in 1910. Abstein cured the displeasure of the Pirates by making a foolish play in a game at Detroit. He disobeyed orders in coming in from third on a hit and was an easy out at the plate. Clarke vowed then and there Abstein would not play on the Pirates again, and he wasn't seen in Pittsburg after the series. Willis went to St. Louis, but didn't last long and went to his hotel in Delaware.

In 1911 Maddox was let go to Kansas City team of the American Association, whence he graduated to Louisville, then Washington, and is now a big league player. Pat Ayres was also sent to Kansas City in 1911, and with the St. Louis Nationals and the Pittsburg Federals in 1914. Ed Konetchy, of Ansonia, Conn., this year in his 16th year, he was let go.

In 1912 Deacon Phillippe, a mainstay for the Pirates in the days of 1901, 1902 and 1903 in the United States League, left the Pittsburg team and became a cigar store man in Indiana. The same year Tommy Leach and Owen Leifeld were exchanged with the Cubs for King Cole and Artie Hofman, now dead. Hofman is with the Boston Americans, while Leifeld is with the St. Paul and Leach is manager in the International League.

In 1913 Howard Camnitz and Byrne were sent to Cincinnati in exchange for Cozy Dolan. Fred Clarke always regretted this, and he is still with the Phillies, but through playing, while Dolan is in the American Association.

In 1914 came the biggest shake of the old machine, when Jack Miller, Art Wilson, Art Butler, Rance Rellim, Cozy Dolan were exchanged to the St. Louis for Bob Harmon, Mike Mowrey and Ed Konetchy. Everyone knows how disastrous this turned out. The Pirates played so poorly that they were outright and Konetchy joined the Federals. Hans Hyatt was let go to the St. Louis Cardinals by the waivers in 1915 and was sent to Chattanooga.

At the end of the 1915 season Fred Clarke resigned as manager of the Pirates, thus leaving only three of the champions of 1909 on the roster, Wagner, Gibson and Adams.