

vals, and have gained ground in the hunt. It was freely predicted that they would win if they could get home a game or so in the lead, or even a game from the top.

Play of the last ten days indicates the Red Sox will return to their lot with a wider margin than they started with. And they they have a long series among the folks back home. Spilling them under those conditions will be too stupendous a task for the White Sox and Tigers.

In their progress through the west the Red Sox have played three games with White Sox, four with Browns and two with Tigers so far. Seven of these nine battles resulted in victories, the White Sox giving them their only defeats. In the same period the White Sox have played ten games, winning seven, not quite as high a speed as attained by the Bostonese.

There is a striking illustration of the mountainous bunker the South Siders must hurdle to grab the flag. They have played .700 per cent ball, above their average for the season by nearly 100 points, and have failed to gain. Even should they maintain such a pace, which is improbable, the Red Sox would have to fall down woefully, and there is no intimation of such a catastrophe.

The recent strain on South Side pitchers has been heavy, and the heavers are beginning to show the effects of too much work. In the last five days, counting a pair of double-headers and four extra-inning games, the Hose have played 76 innings of baseball. Every available pitcher has seen duty, and Faber, Russell, Benz and Scott have been in nearly every day. Cicotte tried to come back yesterday, but the injury to his hand kept him out of practice too long. He was ineffective.

Pete Johns debuted on third base for the Sox. He has just been secured from Columbus of the American ass'n. Pete started in fine shape, pulling some sensational fielding plays and plugging one hit. He is

not to be judged on one game, however.

There were several rough spots in the Sox work that helped Washington. Eddie Collins tried to make a smart play, fell down, and looked foolish. And the baserunning was off color at one important stage, when victory was close.

Joe Tinker's ball team doesn't look as strong now as it did in the forepart of the season. The infield has crumbled somewhat. Fred Beck has slowed considerably, and there has not been the improvement in Smith that was expected. Hauser is a fair substitute for him, but the former Cardinal has been out of the game too long, and has had too much trouble, to star at the outset of his comeback.

Rollie Zeider is playing real baseball and is the corner stone of the infield. His pivotal position at second base is responsible, and he manages to steady the other fellows. Westerzil can hammer the ball and field fairly well, but is a trifle slow.

To win the Tinks must have excellent pitching, for the batting is only average. Three or four fellows on the team are resonant clouters, but they have a burden to tote. And the pitching hasn't been of the purest water, taken clear through. McConnell and Brown are good, but Prendergast, Brennan, Black and even Hendrix are uncertain.

Yesterday was a fair sample. In the first battle Ad Brennan was hit opportunely and the Sloufeds earned every run they made. In the second Mike Prendergast pitched one of his good battles and the win was not difficult for the Whales.

The mental and mechanical lapses of the Cubs were slight yesterday, but they were enough to give the Braves a win. Especially as Dick Rudolph was tight with hits.

The play that sunk the ship came in the first inning with Fitzpatrick on first base and none out. Evers singled to center and Fitz legged it to