

Every team in the league has been seen in action on the South Side, and it is hard to figure how the White Sox are going to be kept out of the first division. They are hardly up to championship form with the other teams intact, but with a few small breaks in luck might even battle for the crown of the universe next October.

One thing is certain, the teams in Ban Johnson's organization are more evenly balanced than for some years. Always the race for first position has been close between two or three teams. This season the weaker teams have strengthened, and are liable to tumble the so-called wonders any day. Five teams, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Washington, Chicago and Boston, must be conceded a chance for the pennant. If one or two of the stars of the leaders are injured upsets will follow that will catapult the lower teams to the top of the heap.

Already Washington is up against it, and Clark Griffith is keeping his team in the race through strategy and the work of Walter Johnson in the box. His regular third baseman, Foster, will be out for another five weeks, and Frank Laporte, who was subbing for him, was injured yesterday in Cleveland, necessitating his temporary retirement. Gandil, who has only been back in the game for a week after a lay-off of two weeks, hurt his sore toe again and must take a rest. It is a question if Griffith, with these handicaps, can keep up in the race.

Notwithstanding injuries to Birmingham and Lajoie, the Naps have shown surprising strength and are careening along at a dizzy pace, having just cleaned three out of four games from Washington. Mack can stand injuries in his outfield, but has no tip-top men as a secondary defense for his inner works. Boston has a good all-round infielder in Engle, now at first because of an injury to Manager Stahl, and a fair man in Janvrin playing third in place of

Gardner. Ball is a third fair reserve man. In the outfield Stahl has Olaf Henriksen, whose two-bagger created so much havoc in the last world's series.

Callahan is the best fixed man in the American League when it comes to substitutes. With the exception of second base, he has an infield on the bench that would be good enough for any team in the league. Two of these second-string men, Fournier and Berger, broke into the game because regulars were injured, and are going so good that it is doubtful if Borton and Rath can win back their places. If anything happens to Harry Lord, whose hitting has been terrific, Rollie Zeeder can be jammed into the line-up at third, and though Rollie will not hit with the captain he is a better fielder and base runner. Two sets of outfielders are carried and the catching quartet is the envy of other managers.

A team is no stronger than its substitutes. Callahan has the strong subs and that accounts for his optimism.

Ping Bodie replaced Mattick in center yesterday and poled two hits, each driving in a run, the Sox total. Ping did not fall down once while running. Mattick was not hitting hard enough to stay in the game.

There is no longer any doubt about Ray Schalk. The youngster has not done any stout batting while the team was at home, but his bingles have been timely, and he handles himself well at the plate, picking out the good balls. As a fielding catcher he is the goods. The boy is not old enough to vote, but he is the mainstay of the Sox receiving department. Ed Walsh likes him, and claims he can pitch better to the youngster than to any man but Billy Sullivan. As he gains experience Ray will improve, and in two more years should mount to the top of the ladder.

The muzzled, whispering Cubs are on their way home. Socially, their visit in the east was pleasant. Many,