

NEWS OF THE SPORT WORLD

FAN PICKS SOX TO TAKE BIG SERIES

One of the Best Posted Men in West on Game Gives His Opinion.

The White Sox will win the world's series, in the opinion of Jack Moffatt, one of the best posted men in the west on the national game. In former years Mr. Moffatt gave his opinion to Post readers. He knows the secrets of every player in the two leagues and his opinion is valuable. A player himself, and one who probably would have reached the big leagues had he continued playing, he has followed the game since he was knee-high to a grasshopper. Jack is in Thompson, Nev., at the present time on a big job, but at the request of the sports editor of the Post he has stated his selection and reasons therefor.

Here is how he hopes out the series: "It is the best even money bet in world series baseball that I have ever seen. But all the inside dope points to White Sox. I'll tell you why I do so."

"The American league in my opinion is 15 or 20 per cent better than the National and yet the Sox win their league honors by about as wide a margin as did the Giants. Another thing—if the Giants were in the same league as the Sox, I don't believe they would finish better than third. The Red Sox would be sure to beat them out of second place."

"Chicago outdoes everything in the American league which consists of such really great teams as the Boston Red Sox and the Cleveland Indians."

"Let us take a look at the players: 'Schalk, catcher, the best in the big leagues, outclasses anything that McGraw can show."

Have Edge at First.

"Gandil, first base—Chick is about a par with Holke and will prove best in this series for the reason that he has had more experience and is a game and aggressive sort of player under fire. Holke's greatest playing is still to be done as he is six or seven years younger than Gandil."

"Second base—Old Eddie Collins is on guard here. He has played Collins baseball all year and that means world's series baseball. This is Eddie's fourth blue ribbon venture. Opposed to him will be old Charlie Hoge, another world series hero and probably next to Johnny Evers the greatest of the game. For the past two months Charlie has not been himself due to having had a fall on the floor of a depot in Chicago. Still, I believe that he will surely be back and not quit and has been giving his best to McGraw every day. He is the type of player who calls on every ounce of strength in an important series and even shows better in a world series than at any other time. There is surely going to be some wonderful play around that second sack."

Brains of Infield.

"Herzog is best in the National and Collins has no superior in the American league. Woodie Dill, player and great strategist that Herzog is, I must give the plum to Eddie as the better man. He is simply a marvel in the field, at bat or on the bases and is in perfect health, whereas Herzog is far from being in the best of shape. It will tell in a world's series. They are both captains of their respective teams and represent the brains of the infield."

"Shortstop—Weaver is a really great ball player, probably the class of the American league, a wonderful fielder with a good noodle, a fast man on the bases and hits about 24. Opposed to him will be Fletcher, an old hired man of McGraw who is a veteran of the National league. He is not the wonderful fielder that Weaver is but is just as fast on bases and is a powerful hitter. He has hung up a batting average of .294 in a world's series."

"Third base—McMullin is a mighty good man, a fast infielder, and a good head, but he can't hit the size of his hat and, comparing him on every way and is a slinger of the Sam Crawford type, liable to break up a game any time."

The Outfielders.

"Outfielders—Burns, Robertson and Kauff, of the Giants, and Collins, Jackson and Felsch, of the Sox. He has the edge over anything the Giants offer. Burns probably is the equal of Jackson and Kauff as far as Collins. So the outfield is a toss-up."

"Pitchers is where the Sox win by a large majority. 'I believe the only man that can stop the Sox is Freddie Schupp, the White Sox southpaw. He might win two games and is almost sure to win one. Lay off the betting when he pitches in this Cloutier's series. He has had a big year but I don't look to see him win over one game. I expect Russell, Cloutier, Faber and Williams to win one each."

STANDING OF THE CLUBS

AMERICAN LEAGUE.

	Won	Lost	Pct.
Chicago	109	54	.619
Boston	90	68	.569
Cleveland	84	64	.571
Detroit	79	72	.522
Washington	72	80	.474
New York	70	81	.464
St. Louis	57	97	.379
Philadelphia	54	97	.358

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

	Won	Lost	Pct.
New York	96	56	.632
Philadelphia	87	63	.589
St. Louis	79	70	.529
Cincinnati	74	76	.494
Chicago	74	80	.481
Boston	70	79	.470
Brooklyn	64	79	.448
Pittsburg	51	103	.331

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE.

	Won	Lost	Pct.
San Francisco	100	53	.654
Los Angeles	93	54	.631
Salt Lake	80	65	.554
Portland	80	65	.554
Oakland	89	65	.584
Vernon	74	112	.398

MAY PITCH OPENER.

Philadelphia, Oct. 3.—John McGraw, manager of the Giants, today announced that unless next Saturday's weather at Chicago is cold, Slim Salter will pitch the opening game of the world's series for his club.

If the weather is cold he will rely on Freddie Schupp to beat the White Sox, McGraw said. After the first game he will profess to have no idea how he will work his pitchers.

ALEXANDER SCORES HIS THIRTIETH GAME OF 1917

Philadelphia Star Twirler Turns Trick for Third Successive Year.

Grover Alexander, the crack Philadelphia mound artist, scored his thirtieth victory of the season yesterday when he defeated the New York Giants in a doubleheader. The first game was won by McGraw's men.

This is Alexander's third successive year that he reached the 30 victory mark. By scoring five runs in the third inning the Boston Braves took a fall out of Brooklyn.

SEES A DEEP-LAY PLOT.

Ed Brown, the Vancouver baseball boss, has given out a newspaper interview in which he says that the Pacific Coast league has laid a deep plot to have the Northwestern league territory declared vacant when the National Association holds its meeting at Louisville. The idea of the plot is to grab Seattle for Coast league purposes. Brown calls upon the Northwestern league to rally and fight for their rights.

SPORT CHATTER

The White Sox arrived in Chicago this morning ready for their last exhibition game with the Indians. They will rest tomorrow and Friday for the big game on Saturday with the Giants.

Montana State college eleven meets Colorado on the gridiron Saturday. Cullen and his warriors leave today for Denver. It will be their first game of the season. They will also clash with the Denver university before their return.

Carl Morris has at last won a fight—strange as it may seem. Last night he landed a haymaker on Tex McCarty's jaw and the latter took a nap. The accident happened in the second round of a scheduled 10-round bout at Albany, N. Y.

"Batting" Levinsky and "Bill" Brennan boxed 12 rounds to a draw at Boston last night. The fight was fast throughout.

The Giants finish up their regular schedule today at Philadelphia with a doubleheader. Tomorrow they will arrive in Chicago at noon and the afternoon will clash with the Cubs for practice. It will be known as an exhibition game but it is a safe bet that McGraw will not work any of his tricks as the whole White Sox outfit will be an hand to watch the play.

Both the National and American leagues officially close their seasons tomorrow. Some of the teams played doubleheaders today in order to have it over with.

Billy Miske is trotting along at a two-month clip these days. Last night he met Charles Weinert of New Jersey and put it over him in every round of their 10-round mill.

Nick Williams is the first Northwestern league manager to make plans for next year. He has already signed Denny Hickey to return to his old position in the Spokane city league this year.

"Hiltz" Bentz, captain of this year's Montana university team, has returned to Missouri to resume his collegiate duties. Bentz has been spending the summer in South Dakota on a ranch.

The shipbuilders league in Seattle has completed its schedule. The pennant was won by the Duhal club, composed mostly of Northwestern leaguers or men who at one time had been in the league. Among them were "Dutch" Hoffman, Bobby Coltrin, Frank Guigni, Lyle Higbee, Dave Hillyard, Bill Cunningham and others.

SPEED MERCHANT THINKS SOX WILL BATTER DOWN MCGRAW'S SOUTHPAWS

BY H. H. FRY

Sporting Editor of the Washington Star.

Walter Johnson, the brilliant pitcher of the Washington club, is undoubtedly one of the hardest men to interview now in the national game. He is always back-patting, expressing an opinion of other players for fear of hurting someone's feelings.

Walter was caught off his guard last week in a conversation at the Washington park, the great pitcher never dreaming he was talking for publication, and for this reason his views on the coming world series can be taken as a true-blue opinion.

"The world series this year," said Johnson, "is going to be an extremely hard-fought contest, but I believe the White Sox have just enough edge on the Giants to win out."

"I understand McGraw and the followers of the New York team are building on the pitching force of their three left-handers, but before the series is over they will be using right-handers or I miss my guess. Joe Jackson and Eddie Collins don't like southpaws as a rule, but they are far from weaklings when going good against them. McGraw will have to figure on beating the White Sox with his right-handers. It will be a close thing, but I believe the Sox will win."

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"There are no 300 hitters among them this season, but their winning strength, through with safe hits when there are men on the bases, and I need not tell you that that is the time to hit the ball. I don't believe any of the White Sox can be classed as batters, when a hit means a run or victory, at least I have always found them at their best at a critical time."

"I have pitched against only two or three of the Giants, but I have seen them many times in action and almost the same applies to them. Kauff, Robertson and Burns are natural hitters, with Zimmerman almost with them. There is a youngster on that team by the name of Holke, whose I have seen handle a bat cleverly and I wouldn't be surprised if he would turn out to be the best hitter of the Giants in the big series."

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LOCAL COACH FEARS THE ANACONDA SQUAD

Shirey Will Place Light and Inexperienced Eleven on the Field Saturday.

Couch Shirey of the Butte high school eleven expects to take 18 men to Anaconda Saturday for the opening game against Anaconda high. It is the intention of the coach to use each of the 18 men in the lineup. The boys will make the trip in automobiles.

While Coach Shirey will try his best to defeat Anaconda he has small hopes of doing so. Reports from Anaconda are to the effect that the team there has rounded into good shape in the two games it has already played. As the game will be the first for Butte this season and as there will be only three men in the lineup who have faced an opposing team, Coach Shirey fears the handicap will be too great for his boys to win.

When the team is eventually rounded out, the coach expects the eleven will average 140 pounds. This will be considerably lighter than last year.

BACKSTOPPING BIG FACTOR IN RESULT

Under Greater Strain Than Any Other Player Except Pitcher.

New York, Oct. 3.—Analysis of the work of the various players in positions in past world series emphasizes the fact that with the possible exception of pitchers no member of the team is under greater physical or mental strain than the catcher during the battles for the championship of the major leagues. In the handling of delivery and signals, close plays at the plate, throws to cut down base stealers and in backing up first and third, in throws from the outfield, the catcher is both a busy and important factor in the contest.

A sharp eye, steady judgment, a powerful throwing arm and cool courage are necessary requisites for the player who dons the mask and wind up in the most important of all baseball games. It is fortunate that both the Chicago Americans and the New York Nationals are equipped with catchers of this caliber for the series of 1917 which begins in Chicago next Saturday. While the Giants have a slight advantage in quantity, in this department of the game, the White Sox are generally conceded to have an edge in the quality of the receiving staff.

The Chicago catchers include Ray Schalk, Byrd Lynn and Joseph Jenkins, while the New York quartet consists of George Mearns, William Eardien, George Gibson and John Chase. As both Jenkins and Onslow are comparative newcomers, they are not likely to figure in the series to any extent and their chance of seeing service is extremely remote. Schalk is expected to bear the brunt of the White Sox in every game of the series unless he should be incapacitated by accident or illness. He has caught in more than 77 per cent of the season's games while Lynn has acted as receiver in the others.

Eardien has done the greater amount of the backstopping for the Giants this year but in part to the fact that Mearns broke his leg early in the season and was out of the game for several months. Gibson, the former Pittsburgh receiver, is the third string catcher for New York.

McCarthy in Doubt.

If McCarthy can stand the strain of the game, and it is the impression among the New York players that he will be physically fit for the fray, he will undoubtedly have first call upon the position. This will bring him into action against Schalk. The latter is unquestionably one of the best catchers of the day. He knows the weaknesses of the various batters and, as he can handle the delivery of any and all the Chicago twirlers, he will be able to signal for any form of curve or break that he may think puzzling to the man at the plate.

The outstanding feature of his play, however, is his fast and accurate throwing to the bases. He must be a speedy sprinter and perfect slider who would pit his skill against Schalk with any degree of success. McCarthy is not so able to signal in this feature of the catcher's art but he is an excellent director of the work of the hurlers and is a far stronger batter than Schalk. According to the season averages there is little chance in the fielding work of the two catchers, but the White Sox backstop is much faster on the base lines than McCarthy is the latter's accident is likely to prevent him from taking chances at base stealing except in an emergency.

An injury to Schalk during the early stages of the coming series would work havoc with the Chicago club, for while Lynn is an ambitious player, he lacks the experience and self-reliance ability of the veteran catcher. In this respect the New York team is in a better position to face such a disaster, for either Eardien or Gibson, owing to their greater experience, can step into McCarthy's place with less disconcerting effect upon the team play than would be the case were it necessary to substitute Lynn for Schalk. This can be seen from a comparison of the following records which include the batting and fielding averages, stolen bases and double plays of the five catchers who may participate in the series:

NEW YORK NATIONALS.

	G.	B.	Ave.	F.	Ave.	S.	B.	P.
McCarthy	48	258	.376	—	—	0	—	—
Eardien	96	278	.376	3	6	—	—	—
Gibson	31	175	.384	1	4	—	—	—
Onslow	—	—	1.000	—	—	—	—	—

CHICAGO AMERICANS.

	G.	B.	Ave.	F.	Ave.	S.	B.	P.
Schalk	121	228	.382	15	11	—	—	—
Lynn	26	212	.389	1	1	—	—	—
Jenkins	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

FAVOR THE GIANTS IN BIG BETTING

New York, Oct. 3.—Big betting commissioners agree that the New York team will win the series before the season opens at Chicago next Saturday.

Wagers of \$1,000 against \$1,000 and \$1,000 against \$1,000 that the Giants will win the opening game have been offered here.

Offers were \$10 to \$15 that the White Sox will win the series. Curb brokers now have \$25,000 to wager that the Giants will win the series, but regardless of the large sums offered elsewhere on the White Sox, there have been but a few bets placed at this figure.

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