

Boxing
Baseball
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The Sporting World

Sports of
All Kinds
in Brief

Sport Jibes and Jabs

By The Clipper

WALTER JOHNSON IS CREDIT TO BASEBALL

Content With His Present Berth With Washington.

Stove League Fans Make Many Trades and Among Others Shift Sensational Pitcher to Comiskey's White Sox.

When the stove league fans got into full swing last winter, all kinds of trades and sales were made of all the leading players in both major leagues, and, as usual, Walter Johnson, sensational pitcher of the Washington Americans, was tagged for shipment to several of the teams in the Ben Johnson circuit.

One report had it that Sir Walter in 1920 was to do the hurling act for the Chicago White Sox. The significant thing about this proposed deal, however, was that neither Manager Clark Griffith or Johnson himself had been consulted in the matter.

Walter Johnson's contentment as a member of the trailing Capital City club seems to bother those daring fans



Walter Johnson.

who delight to shift the players of the majors about to suit their own ideas. Johnson is perfectly satisfied with his berth at Washington and as far as is known, Clark Griffith is quite content to shoulder Johnson's big contract for at least another season.

Although the fans may not generally know it, Johnson had a chance to go to Cleveland a year ago, and he turned the offer down because he did not want to leave Griffith. At that time, Magistrate Dunn of the Cleveland team was in the quest of pitching material to bolster an otherwise classy club. He made Griffith an offer for Johnson—said to be \$80,000—and Griffith took the matter up with his pitching ace. Griffith did not want to lose Johnson, but he felt that Walter had been such a faithful worker he did not care to stand in his way of getting a substantial boost in pay, if the pitcher really cared to make the change.

When Johnson was asked about it, he promptly replied that he was perfectly satisfied with his job and did not really care to make a move. It is said Johnson dislikes to change about. He has come to know Griffith and Washington fans, and as he puts it, he is content to continue pitching for that team, regardless of the fancy amounts he could possibly obtain from other club owners.

LEFT-HANDED PLAYERS

In baseball in all positions left-handers have held their own with the best of them.

Ruth and Cobb, the two greatest batsmen in the American league, both left-handed.

Left-handed pitchers like Kerr of the White Sox and Sallee of the Cincinnati Reds, carried off leading honors in the baseball blue ribbon of last year. In the olden days Waddell, Plank, Marquard and other left-handed pitchers led all others in baseball and held their own near the top for years.

Tyler of the Cubs and Williams and Kerr of the White Sox are only a few of the left-handers who are expected to do great things in the major leagues this year.

While Cobb and Ruth, both left-handers, were leading batsmen in the American league last year, in 1915 Wheat of Brooklyn, Roush and Southworth of Cincinnati, all left-handers, were the three top men in the National league list. That proves how effective left-handed batsmen are and shows the advantage they have over right-handed players when it comes to reaching first base on a hit.

Read The Labor Press—Labor's paper.

Who's Who and Why in Sport

Shortstop Shay certainly fills the gap at short, and the team as a whole seems to have braced up since his coming.

The way that the various recruits are coming and going looks like the locals were going to give New Haven fans a winner before the season is well under way.

Mique O'Dowd, the popular middle-weight boxer, who lost the title to Johnny Wilson, the Boston Italian, recently, had held the title since early in 1917, when he licked Al McCoy. The fight went 12 rounds. O'Dowd was the aggressor throughout the contest, but Wilson, a left handed boxer, scored repeatedly with his right. O'Dowd excelled in fighting, but seemed unable to fathom Wilson's style of boxing. Eight of the rounds went to Wilson, two to O'Dowd, and two were even.

The popular Mike is booked to appear in New Haven on the 21st, when he takes on Jack Curtiss for six rounds at the Police Department bouts.

O'Dowd's defeat caused as much surprise as when Terry McGovern lost his first fight with Young Corbett in Hartford.

"Peppery Jack" Flynn and "Howling Dan" Howley are both having their early season troubles, but both are leaders of the first water and their teams will undoubtedly be up front when the Glorious Fourth rounds by.

Pete Herman and Joe Lynch are matched for a 12 round decision bout at Lawrence, Mass., on the 29th. The bantam title is at stake, but Herman feels pretty safe, as Lynch has not been going well lately.

The new park is expected to be finished and ready for the approval of New Haven fandom by June 1.

Herman Bronkie, the Manchester "boy," is back in the old haunts again, having signed with Hartford. Herman has covered the dizzy corner for several of the big leagues since his last appearance in this section of the woods.

Willie Jackson and Johnny Dundee are evidently after the record set by Jack Britton vs. Ted Lewis and Sam McVey vs. Sam Langford.

Joe Dugan, the venus of the Dugan family, is in town resting up. He was holding his own with the leaders in the American league when he tore a ligament which forced him to lay off.

Jimmy Leach is back with his Fair Haven friends after a short stay with Bridgeport. Jimmy had his salary cut, and like a good union man he quit, after winning the only game he pitched.

Johnny Evers, the former Cub second sacker, has joined the Giants as head coach. McGraw has always recognized Evers as one of the brainiest players the game has produced. He is given the credit for the Giants' defeat the year Fred Merkle failed to touch second, whereby a championship was lost.

Charlie Bergin is down to box Collie Pines six rounds at the Policemen's bouts next Friday night, and the Tanac Kid will make Collie hustle, if appearances count.

This is Ty Cobb's 15th season as a big leaguer. Tyrus Raymond has been slow in getting started, but he finally got his eye on the bulb and is gradually going up where he belongs.

If the American Legion team becomes a reality we will see Hen Falsely, Duke Rowley, Red Quinn, Ossie Krall, Tom Newman, and a bunch of other well-known stars in the line-up.

Pitcher Coveleskie of the Cleveland Indians has won his seventh straight game. The Shamokin boy is Speakers' mainstay this season. With Steve O'Neil, who hails from the little coal mining town of Mingo, Pa., Cleveland has a real coal miners' battery, and a good one, too.

Lefty Davis, the locals southpaw, looks like the goods. He is leading the New Haven slabsmen and Bender has great confidence in him.

Manager Mike Mitchell of the Cubs put the damper on the faculty displayed by several members of the team, when he fined Fred Merkle \$25 and gave him an indefinite suspension, and Flack was dealt a \$25 fine also, but was not suspended. More power to ye, Mike.

Patsy Wallace, the Italian Quaker City floored Jimmy Wilde recently, by banking for another bout with the champion. Wallace's manager has offered Wilde a guarantee of \$5,000 for a six round bout in Philly and Al Werbe of the Detroit National A. C. has made Wilde an offer of \$10,000 for Wilde's services for a 10 round no decision bout in his club.

Pitcher Wayne Wright of the Louisville club, has been completing his college work at Ohio State university, and has been late in reporting as a consequence.

Yankee fans are hopeful that Fawcett will entirely recover from his injuries and that some time next summer he will be able to resume work on the ball field.

Baseball has become one of the features of Peoria. It has a club in the Three-I league. The other day the city voted a bond issue of \$50,000 to build a baseball stadium.

Akron got Ray Morgan from Baltimore for the International league waiver price, of \$1,000. It paid the same sum for Billy Purcell, claimed on waivers from Toronto.

Ted Easterly, the old Cleveland catcher, and lefty Bill James, who once tolled on the Cleveland slab, both are now members of the Beaumont team of the Texas league.

GOWDY IS BASKETBALL STAR

Famous Catcher of Boston Braves Kept Himself in Condition Playing at Columbus.

Hank Gowdy, famous catcher of the Boston Braves when that team won the world's championship and who was the first baseball player to rally to fight the Germans, played basketball last winter with the Columbus Kenyons.

Hank is a good court performer and was on the same team with such players as



Hank Gowdy.

ers as "Shifty" Bolen, formerly of Ohio State; Snooks, Rub, Waite and Davis, who played football with the Columbus Panhandles last fall.

Gowdy's team was one of the strongest in Ohio and made a fine record on the courts.

NOTES OF SPORTDOM

San Francisco golf exponents are agitating a public course.

Frank Moran of Pittsburgh won on points over Tom Cowler of England in a London ring.

Jose R. Capablanca, the Pan-American chess champion, has gone to his Havana home for a rest.

The boxing game received a boost with the opening of the Olympic Athletic club at Idaho Falls.

Cleveland's central Y. M. C. A. physical department attracted 141,304 men in the eleven months previous to March.

MOST UNIQUE STRIKE

Red Faber made, perhaps, the most-unique strike ever seen on the bowling alleys of the Chicago Elks club. Faber rolls with terrific speed, which accounted for the freak. He cut the ball loose and it hit a little to the left of the center pin, leaving No. 8 standing. One of the pins flew clear to the pit, hit the wall, caromed off the wooden side of the alley and got the lone pin standing. When the game finished the pin boy remarked: "Tee sho! glad that big red-headed man is done finish, 'cause if he ain't I is."

DIAMOND NOTES

No big leaguer has shown better all around work this spring than Bobby Veach.

Rumor has it that "Stuffy" McInnis has been placed on the market by the Red Sox.

Davy Bancroft, who had a mild case of flu, has recovered and is once more guarding the shortstop spot.

Fred Thomas is a fine fielder, but his weakness as a hitter may mean a new third baseman for the Athletics.

Marsans, the Cuban player, has found it a tough job trying to regain his old playing form after his long layoff.

Rabbit Garrity, with Galveston last year, is playing with the Caspar, Wyo., team, managed by the Texas veteran, Arbogast.

Gene Robertson, infielder, has been released by the St. Louis Americans to the Columbus club of the American association.

Pitcher Grimes expects to do a lot of work for the Brooklyn team this season, having declared that he will pitch 30 games.

A rather tough season is in store for Babe Ruth, if he tries to deliver all the wonderful stunts expected of him by Gotham fans.

With Pitchers Joe Bush and Harry Harper lined up, Manager Barrow looks for a big improvement in the Red Sox pastime.

REDLEG PITCHERS HAND IVY WINGO FINE BOOST FOR PATIENT WORK BEHIND PLATE



Ivy Wingo, Cincinnati catcher, may never seem to lose patience with a not be regarded generally as a star receiver, but since Cincinnati won the National league flag and then copped the world's championship from the White Sox, he has two boosters who never pass up an opportunity to sing his praises. The boosters are Walter Ruether and Jimmy Ring, members of the Cincinnati hurling group.

Ring and Ruether both declared Wingo has been cheated out of his share of publicity for his work behind the bat. They say Ivy does not court publicity, nor does he expect any, and consequently he is overlooked by the scribes.

Best Work Never Seen. According to Ring, Wingo's best work is never seen by the fans, because he is most valuable as a help to pitchers. "A pitcher never worries or frets in a critical situation when Ivy is behind the bat," he said, "because Ivy knows how to encourage a man and dwarf the danger of the situation regardless of what it may be."

It seems Wingo is one of the precious few big league catchers who

OLD CY YOUNG IS ONLY MAN IN DIAMOND HISTORY TO WIN 500 BASEBALL CONTESTS



In all baseball history only one man ever won more than five hundred games. And that star of stars was Cy Young, who garnered a total of 508 victories in 1887 games during his 22 years as a big leaguer. His yearly average was 23 victories against 15 defeats for a percentage of .603. During all the years of Young's career—his novice days, his prime and his waning power—he struck out an average of three men per game and yielded only about 1 1/2 passes.

Mathewson's Record. Christy Mathewson alone challenged the supremacy of Young—but, the mighty "Big Six" fell far short of the record of the veteran of bygone days. Mathewson lasted only 17 years as a twirler, during which time he scored 372 victories. His yearly winning average was 22 victories against 11 defeats for a mark of .664. In all those 17 years Mathewson issued only 717 passes on balls in 625 games—a showing that eclipses anything ever exhibited.

Looking back over the records for the three best consecutive seasons shows that Joe Wood is the percentage leader and that Walter Johnson and Cy Young are tied in the matter of total triumphs during such a period. Wood during 1912, 1913 and 1914

won 54 out of 67 games for the remarkable average of .806. His yearly showing was 18 victories against 4 defeats. Second place in the percentage ranking belongs to Chief Bender, who, from 1909 to 1911, inclusive, won 59 out of 77 games for a mark of .766.

The three best years that Cy Young ever knew were 1891, 1892 and 1893. He won 97 and lost 49 games in that period. Walter Johnson tied Young in winning 97 clashes in 1912, 1913 and 1914. But the showing of Johnson surpasses that of Young because while Cy was losing 49 games Walter dropped only 36. Walter's average for the three years was .729. Young's was .664.

Won 90 Games. In addition to Young and Johnson only three other pitchers ever won 90 or more games for three straight seasons. Those men are Mathewson, Alexander and Jack Chesbro, the famous Yankee pitcher of years ago.

Chesbro, by winning 41 games in 1904, set the mark that no one has been able to fracture since that time. Ed Walsh made a desperate effort to beat out Chesbro in 1908, but 40 victories was the best he could do. Christy Mathewson, with 37 victories in 1908, made the best National league showing since 1900.

Joe Boehling, the left-hander, who was quite a pitcher with Washington, predicts that he will make a sensational comeback this season.

Tris Speaker says that the greatest handicap under which the Indians are working is that all the writers are picking them to win the pennant.

Pitcher Bill Ryan, formerly of Holy Cross, has made a brilliant showing with the Giants and will most likely win a permanent berth with McGraw's team.

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Tris Speaker is raising an objection to the player limit. He is the only playing manager in the majors and thinks that he should be exempt, thus giving the Indians one more athlete.

Last season at least three clubs in the American league drew more than 50,000 people in the home games. By way of comparison, the Atlanta club led the Southern association with 195,633 paid at home.

SANDLOTS FURNISH STARS

Mordecai Brown, Former Cub Pitcher, Says College Boy is at Big Disadvantage.

The boy from the sandlots makes a better ball player than the college youth, according to Mordecai Brown, the one-time three-fingered pitching marvel of the Chicago Cubs.

"If I were to select one of two players of equal ability—one of them a boy off the sandlots and the other a college star—I would take the sandlot youth every time," says Mordecai.

"I do not mean to depreciate the ability of college players. Some of the really big men of the game have been developed by the colleges. But it has been my observation, both while in the major league and since leaving it, that the college player is at a disadvantage.

"This, I believe, is due to the fact that many of them have not been up against the world. They cannot give and take as the player who has had his start in semipro baseball."

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