

GROVER ALEXANDER OUT OF THE MAJORS

Leaves Big Leagues First Time
in 20 Years; 43 Years Old;
Notable Career

Grover Cleveland Alexander, last of the mighty pitching triumvirate of Mathewson, Johnson and Alexander, is missing today from the Major league roster for the first time since he came out of Nebraska 20 years ago as a gangling youngster with blinding speed, says a United Press report from Philadelphia last week.

His Major league career ended where it started—in the hand-box ball park of the Philadelphia National League club. William F. Baker president of the Phillies, announced today that Alexander had been made a free agent and that all National League clubs had waived on him.

Won 372 Games

The passing of the 43-year-old Alexander takes out of the Major leagues a man who compiled a record that surpassed even that of Christy Mathewson for he won 372 games. It also removes a personality that had no parallel in baseball's history.

Experts generally concede that there have been three great pitchers of modern times — Walter Johnson, specialist in speed; Christy Mathewson of the famous "fadeaway"; and Alexander, who combined speed, change of pace and infinite cunning. Johnson's pitching days are over and

he now is manager of the Washington Senators; Mathewson is dead, and today Alexander takes the back trail that waits for all ball players.

Cubs Release Him

In the spring of 1926 the Cubs under the new management of Joe McCarthy were convinced Alexander would not keep training and asked for waivers on him. He was written out of the Major leagues by many critics but St. Louis obtained him and that summer he pitched them into the world series. Twice during the world series he was called upon to start against the heaviest hitting team in baseball — the New York Yankees. Twice he beat them, allowing only four hits in the first game and eight in the next. In the seventh game with the winning run on base for the Yankees, Alexander was called to relieve Haines. He struck out Lazzeri, and St. Louis won.

Numerous suspensions for failure to keep training dot his career and it is believed that this laxity was instrumental in the trade last year by which Alexander went back to the Phillies. This spring time took its toll from him and he failed to win for Baker.

20 Years in Majors

He closes 20 years of Major league service, during which he pitched almost 600 games. And it is no secret that for the last five of those years the strength has been missing from his arm and that "Old Pete" was out there pitching them up and still fooling the batters with nothing but his head and his heart.

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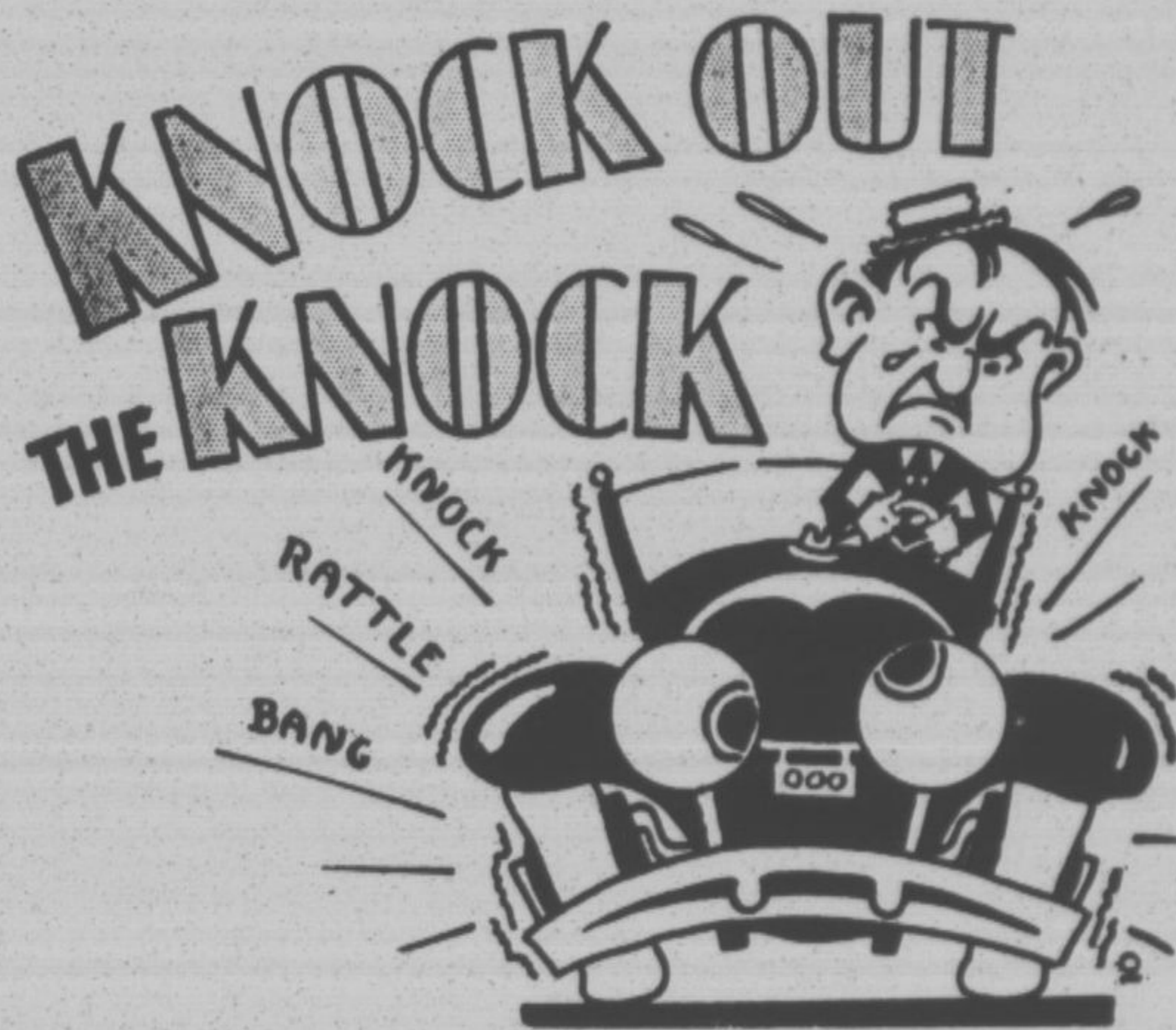
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