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World of Sport

Walter Johnson Says Hitting Is What Crowds Want, Not Pitching Says New Pitching Rules Make Better Game—Old Rules Weren't Clever—Just Aids to Poor Pitching.

Contrary to the belief obtaining among most pitchers, Walter Johnson, for twelve years one of the greatest hurlers the game has known, is of the opinion that hitting and not pitching is the paramount issue in baseball. He believes that the fans want to see hitting. This is in spite of the fact that he has made himself famous and has earned a big salary for checking hitting. While recently discussing the increased hitting this year Johnson said:

"There has been an unusual amount of hitting this season, but it is not solely because pitchers can't roughen the ball and discolor it. I think the principal item that threw the balance in favor of the batter was the cold, late spring. A spring such as we had this year holds up the development of a pitcher's arm, and it does not attain its normal effectiveness until long after the opening of the season. With this condition prevailing the batters had comparatively mediocre pitching to face, and their ringing hits followed. "Then there was a lively ball at the start of the season. No one ever actually announced it, but it is the truth. The outfielders were playing out, against the fences for mediocre hitters and every one was hitting the ball hard. I think that the lively ball has been withdrawn from my mind that it was used earlier in the season. That is not my opinion alone; it is the opinion of most of the players in the league. "Then the rules against roughening the ball or discoloring it have

helped the batter some. It is no more than right. With a ball that is cut, shined or discolored, any one can pitch. It takes no ability. A schoolboy can pitch effectively against a major league club if he is permitted to slash the ball to suit his fancy. It is next to impossible to hit a ball that has been 'scuffed' when it is thrown with great speed. Now, when a ball 'balls' it is immediately withdrawn from play. It brings in a new ball constantly and helps the game.

"There is no use denying that it is hard to curve a new ball. But hitting is the thing in baseball. In fact, it leads to all the baseball there is. In a 1 to 0 or 2 to 1 game you see two pitchers and possibly some nice fielding. In an 8 to 6 game everything that baseball holds is displayed. There is hitting, fielding, play or two. Where the advantage is constantly shifting the interest in the game is maintained, and such a contest is one that holds it. "By a great deal of hitting I do not mean a game in which the score is 10 to 3 or has some such one-sided result. Then, of course, interest is lost unless the team is winning. But where the advantage changes hands several times and not more than two or three runs separate the teams, I believe the public prefers the hitting much more. "Take the individual hitters, for instance. 'Babe' Ruth draws more people than a great pitcher does. It simply illustrates the theory that hitting is the paramount issue of baseball and that the public wants to see it."

Baseball Briefs

John McGraw has started to rebuild the Giants.

Babe Ruth, the colossal bambino, regrets that he has only one home to run to.

Milwaukee is still losing them through injuries. The latest is Johnny Mostil, who was severely spiked.

Earl Duncel, first baseman of the Flint team, has deserted to play ball with an industrial team at Alma, Mich.

One of the real marvels of the Western league is the St. Joseph team under the management of Johnny Kelleher.

Ed Hoek, an outfielder from an independent team at Portsmouth, O.,

has been taken on by the St. Louis Cardinals for trial.

Within a few days of each other Christy Mathewson and Mordcaid Brown, great pitching rivals of olden days, quit baseball.

Eddie Brown, who made his reputation as an outfielder for the Syracuse university ball club, has been signed by the New York Yankees for a trial.

Mike Kircher, who pitched the Richmond team into the lead in the first half of the Virginia league season, has been sold to the St. Louis Cardinals.

George Washington Grant has signed for his Braves Gladu, Holy Cross outfielder, and has turned him over to New Haven for the rest of the season.

At the end of the Texas league season, in return for players sent San Antonio by John McGraw, Claude Davenport will be turned over to the New York Giants.

Burfield, a right-handed pitcher sent by the New York Nationals to Rochester earlier in the season, has been transferred to the Waterbury team of the Eastern.

Still the Smiths come. The Boston Red Sox have signed a catcher named Paddy Smith, who has been playing ball in New York with Jeff Tesreau's independent team.

Louis Ziegler, a shortstop who has made good in Cincinnati amateur baseball, has been signed by the Reds and turned over to Springfield of the Eastern league for education.

The St. Louis Cardinals announce the purchase from the Ranger club



CANADIAN AMONG WINNERS. Archie McDermid, of Vancouver, who won fourth place in the 56-pound weight event at the Olympic games.



of the West Texas league of a right-handed pitcher named Chester Boyer.

Lou Carr, one-time third baseman for Pittsburgh and in various minor leagues, after ten years or more as coach for the baseball teams of Syracuse university, has resigned.

Pat Moran for the Giants next season! A Cincinnati oracle has read the crystal and see an offer coming from Stoneham to the noted Red pilot. Stranger things have happened.

The Browns are travelling at a dangerous pace for the other clubs now. Their showing against the eastern teams proves Burke's outfit is ready to put up a real battle for the rag this season.

The Pacific International league has expressed its official interest in the restoration of the old draft agreement with the majors.

Bowling on Queen's Green

At the bowling green on Tuesday evening, in the doubles, A. Turcott won from J. J. Baker by 13-8, and T. Frizell from W. H. Wormwith by 10-9. About twenty members have signified their intention of participating in a tournament which will take place on the local green on Labor day.

POSTIES DEFEAT MOVIES

Won Out By 10 Runs to 5 on Tuesday.

The Posties, comprised of several gentlemen from the post office and Joe Daly, put it all over the Movies on Tuesday evening when they tallied ten runs to the five of the Movie Stars. To say that the game was fast would be a lie and what is the use telling a lie when you don't have to. It was pretty slow, especially in the Movie side of the outfit. They seemed to be afflicted with infantile paralysis as well as dumbness. One of the members even went so far as to have noscular abscesses and how could a bunch of fellows play ball with all those ailments. Nevertheless they worked a little in spots. Quinn, in the box for them, threw two good balls for the support he had. When he tried watching errors he usually struck out the opposing side to get rid of them.

The Posties have gathered all the old has-beens, comebacks, used-to-bees and such of the last thirty years together and mixed them up with a few horsehoes and half a pound of horse-sense, and as a result they win most of their games.

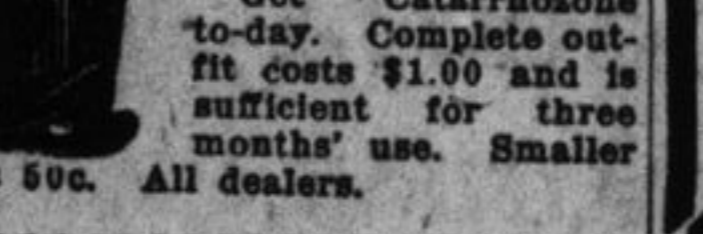
The line of battle: Movies—A. Quinn ss; Fitzgerald 3b; Ryan 1b; K. Quinn p; Cliff cf; Branigan 2b; Clay lf; Fowler c; Kehoe rf.

Posties—Kehoe cf; Kane 2b; Nicholson ss; Daly 1b; Mallory c; Morris 3b; Hubbard lf; Morrison rf; Hunter and Gilchrist p.

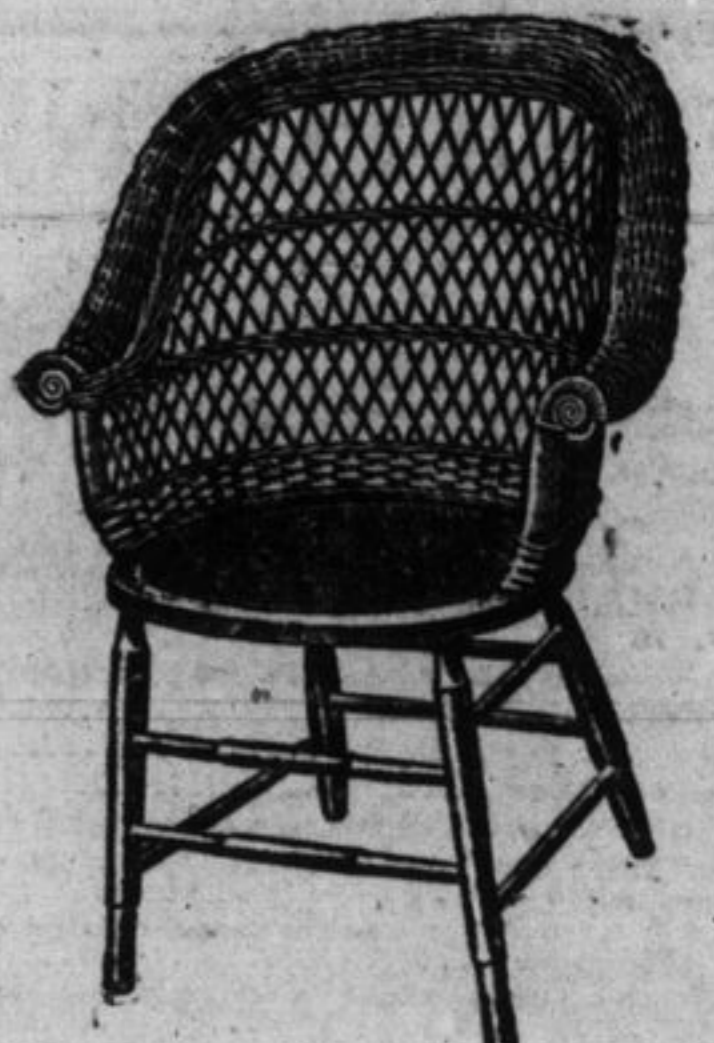
Umpires—S. Harrison and A. Twigg.

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