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**THE WORLD'S GREATEST PITCHERS**

**Mathewson, Walsh and Johnson, Greatest of All—Interesting Figures for the Baseball Fans—Records of the Pitchers.**

(Baseball Magazine for September.) Three months ago the Baseball Magazine approached the problem of the greatest players in a somewhat novel manner. The best records of players were brought forth and offered in competition much in the manner of college field meet. For instance, the player who had the greatest batting average was accounted five points' credit, the player who had the second best batting average three points, and the player who had the third best average one point, just as in a track event. In this way, by comparing a certain number of records in batting, base stealing and run scoring, and adding up the points won by the victors, it speedily appeared that some half dozen players greatly outshaded the rest of the field, while Ty Cobb was easily supreme, just as most people thought he would be.

A pitcher's greatness is determined by a number of factors. In the first place, the amount of work he is able to perform is a notable feature in his effectiveness.

Another indication of a pitcher's greatness is the percentage of games he is able to win for his club.

A third is the number of games he has won during a season.

And then there is the question of control. More than any other one thing, control spells success in pitching.

These factors and a few others which might be mentioned may be said to determine a pitcher's comparative ability beyond question.

Following the system in vogue in college meets, as we explained, and allowing first place honors to carry five points' credit, second place three, and third place one, we find that the situation sums up as follows:

Christy Mathewson has two first place records, three second place, and one third. The Giant star totals an even 20 points.

Grover Cleveland Alexander is tied for second place once, is third twice and is tied for third once, yielding a total of 4 points.

Joe Wood is first once, netting 5 points.

Walter Johnson is first twice, second twice, tied for second once and third twice. The great Washington star gets a place in seven out of a possible eight events and has a total percentage almost exactly like Mathewson's, namely, 19½.

Ed Walsh also gets a place in seven out of a possible eight events. He is first three times, second twice, tied for third once and third once. His total is 22½.

In our grand field meet comparison of baseball stars Ty Cobb swept the boards by a wide margin. The Georgian had no close second. The pitching situation was not a parallel case. We candidly confess that before we began our reckoning we expected Alexander to loom higher in the list, and we didn't know that Ed Walsh had been quite such a power as he appears. We did expect Mathewson, and Walter Johnson to be close rivals and they are.

In the September issue of this magazine the records of the greatest pitchers are offered in the same manner, and it is by following this imaginary field meet that the names of Mathewson, Johnson, and Ed Walsh stand out pre-eminent as the greatest pitchers of the decade. The article in part says:

In any case the records are unbiased. They tell their straightforward story. If the man who was the chief bulwark of the White Sox club for many years needs fresh laurels he will find them in the knowledge that he excels all modern pitchers in the magnitude and variety of his exploits. In the tremendous volume and uniform excellence of his work he was clearly unrivaled and even in the unexpected item of control we find his name pushing strongly to the fore, though the spitball which he employed most effectively is in its very nature difficult to control. Ed Walsh was a wonder pitcher, and if his day is indeed done he may rest content in the knowledge that he has left the rest a mark to shoot at that should last for a generation.

Mathewson's day, too, is drawing to a close. And the wisest pitcher the game has ever known may also rest content on his illustrious laurels. The melancholy fortunes of Joe Wood are an unsolved mystery. The man who won sixteen straight victories, who established the most nearly perfect record of modern times, who was a marvel in every department of the game, ought to be spared for years to come. If not, he, too, has carved his name in indelible characters.

Walter Johnson and Alexander are still hale and strong with years of

brilliant work ahead of them. On all-round form Johnson has a long edge on his Philadelphia rival, a margin which can scarcely be expected to diminish. Alexander was last year the most effective pitcher in the game, but for a twirler who, while still in his prime, has a wealth of brilliant deeds behind him. Walter Johnson might well be called the "Pitcher of the Hour."

**Most Strike Out in a Season.**

Johnson	313
Walsh	269
Mathewson	259

**Most Seasons of 200 Strike Outs.**

Johnson	6
Walsh	5
Alexander	3

**Most Innings Pitched in a Single Season.**

Walsh	464
Mathewson	416
Alexander	376

**Greatest Number of Seasons of 350 Innings.**

Walsh	4
Johnson	3

**Most Games Won in a Single Season.**

Alexander	40
Walsh	37
Mathewson	37
Johnson	36

**Greatest Number of Seasons Winning 25 Games or Over.**

Mathewson	8
Johnson	5
Alexander	3
Walsh	3

**Highest Winning Average for Single Season.**

Wood	872
Mathewson	806
Johnson	788

**Average Number Bases on Balls Per Game per Best Season.**

Mathewson	.61
Johnson	.98
Walsh	1.14

**The Final Line-Up of the Great Pitchers' Field Meet.**

Pitcher	First	Second	Third	Total Pts.
Walsh	3	2	2	*22½
Mathewson	2	3	1	20
Johnson	2	3	1	19½
Wood	1	—	—	5
Alexander	1	3	4	—

\*A number of ties occur which results in half points.

**The Only One.**

"Do you take any periodicals?" asked them inquirer on his first round on parish visit.

"Well I don't," replied the woman, "but my husband takes them frequently. I do wish you would get him to sign the pledge."

Imagination spends more money than any other nation.

**IMPORTANT WARNING!**

**The Rifle Range on the South Side Hill will be in constant use from daylight till dark for Musketry Practice until further notice. All unauthorized persons are therefore prohibited from approaching the Range within 200 yards from either side or within 1,000 yards of the Targets to the eastward. Any unauthorized persons so doing will be liable to arrest, besides incurring serious danger from rifle bullets. This prohibition does not extend to any part of the hills west of the 1,000 yards firing point.**

(Signed),  
**JOHN SULLIVAN,**  
Inspector-Genl. Constby.  
**W. H. RENNIE,**  
Captain (in charge of Musketry Instruction).

**GERMANY'S CRITICAL TIME**

**Holding Out Till Next Harvest—Roumania's Surplus**

(London Times)

Further evidence has been obtained by an authoritative observer whom we quoted last month as to the food supplies of the Central Powers. It tends to the conclusion that the coming harvest will not carry them far into next spring, and that the critical period from now to the reaping of the harvest will produce much suffering; but that, while the effects of the economic pressure will be immense, only military defeat will reduce these Powers.

Owing to unfavourable weather the German harvest will afford only a "middling yield," and there seems to be little ground for the optimistic statements of the authorities. The newspaper assertions of a like character are made with the view of reassuring a public which, however, gives little credence to them.

Until the harvest is reaped suffering will have to be undergone. There are indications that the poor children of the large towns are going hungry, their diet consisting of potatoes and of very little, if any sugar. It is known, too, that diplomats in Berlin are receiving food from foreign countries. It is certain that the soldiers at the front are being fed largely at the expense of the civil population, but even the soldiers, it appears, have had to be put on shorter rations in order that those soldiers who are destined to make an attack may have full rations and a good allowance of meat.

Riots arising from food scarcity have occurred in many towns, including Berlin. For the most part the rioters were women and children, but occasionally soldiers have joined in the demonstrations.

That the Central Powers be forced to rely strictly on their home resources during the last year there is a great probability that they would have known starvation by this time. The blockade, which has constantly increased in stringency, together with the reduction of supplies from neutral Powers with which we have made rationing arrangements, has had effect, and were it not for the supplies which the Central Powers have been able to obtain from Roumania, their food stocks would have come to an end. The export of foodstuffs from Roumania to the Central Powers, Bulgaria, and Turkey has been such as to produce a serious shortage in Roumania herself.

In this fact we have a hint as to our future procedure. By military success, of otherwise, we should seek to prevent the surplus harvest of Roumania from reaching our enemies, and thus hasten their exhaustion. Although many neutrals believe that the economic pressure we can exercise would be sufficient to bring the enemy to his knees, yet too much should not be expected in that direction. Military defeat alone will bring about the collapse of the Central Powers, and with that collapse a lasting peace.



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**FIGHTING AMID THE CLOUDS OF DOLOMITE**

**Both Italians and Austrians Have Been Fighting Nature in 9,000-Foot High Positions—Many Bodies Frozen**

LONDON, Aug. 20.—Lord Northcliffe has cabled under date "On the Cadore front," August 15:

"This morning I am writing in brilliant sunshine and several degrees of frost on the Cadore front. It is not usually realized that the Italian front is nearly 500 miles long. In the parched, stony wilderness of the Carso the chief enemy of the fighting man is thirst. The chief enemy on the Cadore front is frost. In discussing the peculiarities of hill fighting, as contrasted with the fighting on the road to Trieste, His Majesty the King of Italy, who has a fine sense of words, and who has spoken English from childhood, said:

"Picture to yourself my men, 9,000 feet up in the clouds for seven months in deep snow, so close to the Austrians that at some points the men can see their enemy's eyes through observation holes. Imagine the difficulties of such a life, with continual sniping and bomb throwing."

"King Victor Emmanuel's grim picture of war was in such strong contrast to the tropical fighting around Gorizia that I asked General Cadorna for permission to come and see the fighting in the clouds. Illustrated newspapers have from time to time published photographs of great cannon carried up in these Dolomite Alps, but I confess to having never realized what it meant.

"Here food for men and food for guns go first, by giddy, zigzag roads, especially built by the Italians for this war. When these have reached their utmost possible height here comes a whole series of 'wire ways,' as the Italian soldiers call them. Steel cables, slung from hill to hill and from ridge to ridge, span yawning depths and reach almost vertically into the clouds. Up these cables go guns and food, as well as timber for the huts in which the men live and material for entrenchments. Down these come the wounded.

"Man is not only fighting man at these heights, but both Italians and Austrians have been fighting nature in some of her fiercest aspects. Gales and snowstorms are excited in horror by avalanches. Quite lately the melting snow revealed the frozen bodies, looking horribly lifelike, of a whole platoon swept away nearly a year ago.

"While there have been heavy casualties on both sides from sniping, bombing, mountain and machine guns and heavy artillery, there has been little sickness among the Italians. The men know that doctors' visits are practically impossible, therefore they follow the advice of their officers, King Victor Emmanuel, whose life has been passed almost entirely among the troops since the beginning of the war, told me, however, that despite the greatest care, occasional casualties from frost bite are impossible to avoid.

"Proof of Austrian expectation of swarming down on to the rich Venetian plain is afforded by documents recently captured, giving the names of officers appointed as governors of such important Italian cities as Civinova. They had been told in an order of the day that the good wine and 'air women of Italy awaited them.

"Women, indeed, arrived on the plain—as prisoners—and now are quarrelling among themselves as to who brought the disaster upon them. It is 'those verdammte Magyars,' says the Austrians. It is 'those Austrian swine,' says the Magyars. I do not know the total of these prisoners taken by the Italians, but I do know that almost daily 'cages' of them, all well fed and not altogether displeased at being at last in the promised land.

"Motoring in Austria in war time is most pleasing. Italy holds a 'good deal more of Austria than seems to be understood. No fewer than five hundred Austrian communes are already under Italian administration.

"Yesterday I was in Cortina d'Ampezzo. The Austrian bombardment seems to have ceased. Several reasons are given. One is that the Austrians thought it undesirable to go on killing relatives of the 800 Cortina soldiers in their ranks. Another is that the large hotels are chiefly owned by Austrians and are heavily mortgaged to Viennese banks. My own being that the cessation of the bombardment, which wholly or partially smashed many hotels and buildings, is due to the crumbling of the Austrian offensive power to which I have referred."

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