

WALT JOHNSON'S PROWESS TOLD

WEISER SIGNAL RUNS RARE INTERVIEW.

Marvelous Rise of Johnson Recited—Famous Player Lands Him.

The Weiser Signal this week contains some interesting sidelights on Walter Johnson, the Idaho sage-brusher, who is now the greatest pitcher in existence. The article was written by a man who got an interview out of Walter recently, and an interview it was. It is an intensely interesting tale, depicted in the detail the marvelous jumps from the hayfields of Idaho to fame and wealth in a few short years. Several local subscribers to the Signal have framed the writeup, which was copied from a Kansas City paper.

LAJOIE PRAISES JOHNSON.

Says Washington's Pitcher is the Greatest Game Has Ever Known.

Larry Lajoie, Cleveland's great, was asked the other day what he thought about Joe Wood and Walter Johnson as pitchers, and the heavy hitter of the Cleveland club lost no time in telling the following:

"Walter Johnson is far and away a better pitcher than Joe Wood," said Larry Lajoie, "than when coming waverly is a better judge of pitching."

"Wood has been pitching way beyond his ability this season simply because he has had a great team working with him. There never was and I doubt if there ever will be as great a pitcher as Johnson. He simply has so much stuff and speed that if he turned loose his hardest throw with his stuff on it no catcher could get down in time to receive the ball."

"Every ball he throws has stuff on it. Some of the tops his fast ones take are bigger curves than the biggest the average pitcher has. I've seen him throw balls up to the plate that didn't look larger than a pinhead. Wood is a good pitcher, all right, but he is simply not in Johnson's class, nor is anybody else."

"Wood broke into the league from Kansas City against us in 1908 in Boston. There was a little house out in center field, and we had about seven men who were hitting around 300."

"Wow! What a grand reception he got! First we'd knock a brick out of the chimney, then a few shingles off the roof, then we'd shatter a window pane. We had the little house ready for the wrecking crew to cart away when we got through."

"Nobody ever did anything like that to Johnson and never will. When a fellow is coaching off first when he's pitching it's next to impossible to see his fast one. If he didn't have good control he would kill so many batters he would be barred from the league. He'd wreck every club he pitched against. There's next to no chance to duck or back away from his ball."

"He hit this kid Martin of the Highlanders on the head last spring with one of his curves or slow balls, and Martin was out for weeks."

"Almost any time you get a hit off Johnson don't figure that you're smart. Just figure it that you're lucky—lucky that you happen to make that blind swing in the spot where the ball came."

"If all the pitchers in the league were like Johnson the pitcher's box would have to be placed at second base, so one club could get a run without the game going into extra innings."

CLASSES GIVE GOOD RESULTS

Y. M. C. A. CLASSES ARE GREATLY ENJOYED.

Men's Classes Show In Growing but Boys Are Forging Ahead.

The Y. M. C. A. gymnasium classes are growing daily. Thirty boys are now enjoying two evenings each week in good physical training and development. It is interesting to note how rapidly the boys adjust themselves to the discipline of the floor and how readily they take up the regular forms of exercise.

The men are steadily falling into line and are joining the evening classes. It is surprising that they have held off so long. Secretary Rudd had hoped that definite plans for the organization of a city basket ball league might be affected by December 1st, but he now states that "unless considerable more interest is shown on the part of the men in definite membership during the coming week that no league may be formed until later in December." Those who are regular in their attendance at these evening classes are thoroughly enjoying their work. The Y. M. C. A. schedule for men is for Monday, Wednesday and Friday night at 7:45.

TURKEY DAY GAME HUMMER

KEEN INTEREST TAKEN IN THE CONTEST.

Football Notes and Gossip of Interest to Local Readers.

"Presenting for your approval" such old time stars as have helped La Grande climb to more or less dizzy heights in football history, these starlets being such warriors as the big V. Bean who was all-eastern center in his time, Fritz Lottes, Childers with his punting toe, Hamilton, the fleet-footed Carpy, Earls, "Dad" Irwin, A. Bean, Woods, Rice, Young, Groul, Garrity, Couch, Pearl Bolton and others, will be the slogan next Thursday afternoon that the Alumni association of the high school will announce, when the referee's whistle blows for the alumni-high school game. The contest winds up high school football this year and will give the people who are enjoying a business holiday on that occasion the opportunity of seeing something really clever. The game will not be a ram-smashing proposition likely, for the old stars and the present youngsters are versatile at new football, and samples of up to the minute plays will be paraded before an admiring throng.

Queer freaks come and go in football but West Chicago had a new one last Sunday. A crowd of girls who call themselves "Vassar" though none of them probably ever peered in to a dormitory, went out to West Chicago to play real men at football. Their coming had been well heralded and all the ministers in the suburb banded to oppose the game, calling it immoral. The ministers warned their flocks not to go near the naughty game, but practically all in the congregations had already purchased seats—which the ministers didn't know. Finally the time for the game came, and owners of vacant lots happened to be opposed and kept the girls and their moving hitler and there to get a flat place to start the game on. After being chased from place to place the crowd tired and dwindled and the captain of the girls noticed the gatekeeper had "wandered astray" with the simmons. From chesty football players to sobbing lassies was a hurried step, and the suburb's city council had to send the discouraged girls back to Chicago on public purse expense. This is probably the nearest thing to a girls football team that ever happened.

Graduate coaching at Oregon may or may not be responsible for the mediocre showing of the lemon-yellow this year but alumni and outsiders are interested in the prospect of re-commercializing football at the university. It is sweet to win games but it is sweeter still to play the best. The school can come near winning the championship but fail, than it is to produce a machine like Dobies at just so much per. It is on the line of Alexandrian armies that were partially made up of men fighting for wages pure and simple, and they fought as such. Maybe, Moores, Main et al are not the proper graduates to do the coaching at Oregon but somewhere in the alumni are graduates who can coach and they ought to be found. The fewer hired coaches Oregon employs the higher will be her standard of athletics from the proper viewpoint, that of physical development, intercollegiate sport in its true meaning. Paid coaches sooner or later muss things, disrupt the student body and create chaotic discouragement in the alumni.

"Doble" Taylor has eased up on his training of the high school squad, doing only enough work to keep the muscles limber. The youngsters will be at their best next Thursday.

Pendleton scored two touchdowns in the game with The Dalles high yesterday at Pendleton, in two downs for each touchdown. A forward pass and a line plunge was needed in each instance.

Wallowa high, champions of Wallowa, will play the Joseph team on Thanksgiving day.

Over in Union the other day the fair maidens of the high school gave a most pleasing reception to the football team which has done but little for itself, losing every game of importance that it played. No such plums for the La Grande players yet.

The Alumni team holds its last strenuous practice tomorrow at 2:30. All candidates must be in attendance.

Harvard has an advantage over Yale today in that its team has been practically intact for six or seven weeks, while Yale has been making more than the usual number of shifts.

Captain Pendleton and "Baker" of the Princeton team are having a close contest as to which can kick the more goals after touchdowns.

THREE GLADIATORS OF THE 1911 GRIDIRON



Photos by American Press Association. CAPTAINS OF THE THREE STRONG EASTERN ELEVENTS, DEVORE OF WEST POINT, PENDLETON OF PRINCETON AND BODES OF ANNAPOLIS.

SPORTS AND KINDRED SUBJECTS.

About two dozen Chinas were sent out to the Peach brothers farm in the Pierce reservy, yesterday from the state game department. Deputy Game Warden Orat had the birds in charge. If these Chinas stay where they be-

long they will be safe for many a moon but they may venture out and get shot in 1913.

Rabbit shooting is one of the big pastimes of local nimrods. Last Sunday a party of seven knocked over 49 of the big fellows, Contractor Kohl getting the biggest pile. Others in the party were Messrs. Wenzel, Annis, Rube and Nate Zweifel, Arlie and Frank Bay.

The Carlisle Indians have rolled up the highest total of points this season of any of the eastern college teams.

Pal Moore and Young Shughrue have been matched to box in Waterbury, Conn., Thanksgiving day.

Bob Fitzsimmons the former heavyweight champion, and his son Bob, Jr., are giving boxing exhibitions on the vaudeville stage.

Dartmouth coaches think that in Scovil, the large freshman back, they have one of the coming line breakers of the country.



A NEW PICTURE OF THE CHAMPION LIGHTWEIGHT AND HIS SPARRING PARTNER.

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