

SPITTER IS RAPIDLY LOSING FAVOR Managers Grow Prejudiced Against Fad of Many of Big League Players.

CONTROL IS UNSTEADIED Pitcher's Arm Weakens, Catchers Often Make Wild Errors and Fielders Blame Mistakes on Use of Wet Ball.

BY CHRISTY MATHEWSON. The Giants' Star Pitcher.

NEW YORK, May 19.—(Special.)—Spittish pitchers are becoming scarcer each season. In baseball this form of delivery has been a sort of fad that lacked stability, such as the dancing craze, the bicycle hobby and so on. Many twirlers who used to depend on it have abandoned it altogether. Only the most expert with the spitter still continue to use it regularly.

Managers, in the past two or three years have become prejudiced against the use of the wet ball. There are many reasons for this. In the first place, a spittish pitcher tends to an unsteady arm because the wet ball leads to many errors, especially when a recruit pitcher, whom the manager generally thinks he must seek the ball to get any results, and the fielder or catcher, making a throw, is apt to toss the same away on one play. The official scorer gives the author of the wild throw an error, but the pitcher who wet the ball so profusely should receive credit for the misplay.

Most catchers hate to handle spittish pitchers. The delivery makes it difficult to throw to the bases and the control of the damp artist is usually uncertain to receive. The ball also takes many unexpected and unexpected breaks, so that catchers frequently have their fingers split and are forced out of the game for several weeks. They are used to the general array of spittish pitchers on the New York American League team with Fisher, for example, and the result was that Sweeney, the most valuable catcher to the club, was often out of the game with a bad hand from trying to receive the spitter.

Chief Meyers used to refuse to handle "Bugs" Raymond when he was with the Giants because he hated the spitter so. McGraw would work Wilson, the second catcher, with Raymond almost regularly, since Arthur did not object so strongly to receiving "Bugs" favorite dith. The rest of the team would hate to see Raymond, but because of the added difficulties in fielding the wet ball, to "Larry" Doyle it was particularly objectionable, although he would always try to receive the ball as he would have had an error. I have frequently heard Doyle early in a game shouting:

"Come on, Arthur, get in there, now, you're working." Then some one would hit one at "Larry," and the whole situation of his hand, or he would make a wild throw and his honeyed tones to Raymond would melt.

"Get in there, 'Bugs,' and do some pitching. Don't wet that ball so much. How do you expect us to field?" It was no longer "Arthur," but "Bugs." "I can't tell you, but 'Bugs' is going to break," Meyers complained to McGraw on the few occasions he caught Raymond. "He doesn't know himself."

Managers lose enthusiasm. On account of the spittish managers are not so keen any longer about their scouts turning up spittish performers for them. The control of a damp ball pitcher is not so good as that of a straightaway worker. Then most of them have their good days and bad. None is very steady. I have seen Ray and practice marvelous game and three days later hit the first batter to face him and pass the next, and not have any notion where the ball was going. You may find that the real stars of the game, with few exceptions, seldom use the spitter. Johnny Meyer, for example, pitched 25 since he has been in the American League. Coombs, Bender, Blank and the rest look on this form of delivery as a thing of the past.

I am against it, since I believe it hurts a pitcher's arm and shortens the period in which he is good for big league use. I have practiced it, but never used the spitter since it was invented, because I found it hurt my arm after working on it as I have done frequently in practice. Once in a great while I used to try to cross up Wagner by shooting one at him because the impression got somehow that he did not like the spitter. Perhaps this was due to the fact that he could never hit "Bugs" Raymond very consistently, but I believe in a different manner in the box did most to disturb him with his spitter. Wagner could not connect with the spitters that I was throwing him.

Many curve-ball pitchers will slip in a spitter once in a while when the count on the pitcher is in their favor in an effort to cross the hitter. This laster does not expect it and sometimes misses it a mile if it breaks good. That is the great trouble with any man who does not use it regularly. And men keying with this style of delivery. He is usually off his control.

Walt's Arm Is Weakened by Use. Ed Walters of course is the big expert with the spittish, and he wets the horsehide in only one small spot where his first two fingers touch the ball. Therefore, he does not make it so hard for his catchers and his fielders to handle the ball as do some of the others who water-log it. He also has excellent control of the ball—his exception in his case—but I believe its constant use by him was partly responsible for the weakening of his arm last season. The peculiar twist given the ball as it leaves the pitcher's hand is a severe strain on the arm.

FEDERAL LEAGUE. Baltimore 7, Chicago 4. BALTIMORE, May 23.—Baltimore won from Chicago today 7 to 4. In the sixth, with two on, Zinn, Baltimore, hit a homer into right field. Swacina, of Baltimore, got four hits out of five trips to the plate. Score: R. H. E. Chicago... 0 0 0 0 0 1 0-4 11 2 Baltimore... 3 0 0 0 3 0 1 x-7 12 1 Batteries—Fisk, McGuire and Wilson; Suggs and Russell.

Buffalo 6, Indianapolis 5. BUFFALO, May 23.—Buffalo batted out a ninth-inning victory today over Indianapolis 6 to 5. Score: R. H. E. Buffalo... 0 0 1 0 2 0 0 3-6 9 2 Indianapolis... 3 0 0 0 0 2 0 5-10 1 Batteries—Moore and Blair; Kaiserling, Falkenberg and Raden.

Pittsburg 3, St. Louis 0. PITTSBURG, May 23.—Excellent pitching by Dickson gave Pittsburg a 3-to-0 victory over St. Louis today. Score: R. H. E. Pittsburg... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3-4 2 St. Louis... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0-4 1 Batteries—Willett and Hartley; Dickson and Berry.

Brooklyn 8, Kansas City 3. BROOKLYN, May 23.—Seaton was effective in the pinches today while... CHART SHOWS MANY SHIFTS IN NORTHWEST LEAGUE IN FOURTEEN YEARS. No less than 15 cities have held membership for one or more years. Spokane alone continued.

Brooklyn bunched hits on Stone and took advantage of costly misplays by Kansas City, the locals winning 8 to 3. Kan. City... 1 0 0 3 0 0 0-3 8 2 Brooklyn... 4 0 0 3 0 1 0 x-9 9 2 Batteries—Seaton and Owens; Stone, Culp and Easterly.

BEARS LOSE IN TENTH NORTH YAKIMA WINS 3-TO-1 GAME OF MANY THRILLS. Chief Meyers used to refuse to handle "Bugs" Raymond when he was with the Giants because he hated the spitter so. McGraw would work Wilson, the second catcher, with Raymond almost regularly, since Arthur did not object so strongly to receiving "Bugs" favorite dith.

At Walla Walla Yakima deserved to win. Given, the first man up, got in three-bagger, but died on third. Walla Walla made the first score, it coming in the fourth off Sheely's and Fitzmaurice's two-bagger. Yakima came back in the fifth with one from Webb's single and Green's two-bagger. In the sixth, Walla Walla got a grand slam by Barry being hit by a pitched ball, scored on Stokke's two-bagger. Peterson relieved Kile in the fifth and struck out eight in the next six innings. The score: R. H. E. Walla Walla... 3 1 0 3 0 0 0-7 11 1 N. Yakima... 3 9 2 1 0 0 0-3 8 1 Batteries—Kile, Peterson and Webb; Leeper and Brown.

BAXTER VISITS PORTLAND Seattle Sporting Editor Says He Needs No Excuse for Coming. Portus Baxter, sporting editor of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, is a Portland visitor, with Mrs. Baxter. They will remain over Sunday, returning north tonight.

IN BOYVILLE—GOLF? YES, SOME FOLKS SAY SO—BY STALLINGS. "WHADD'YE MEAN, IS A GAME? LET SOMEBODY PITCH IT TO YEZ." "HIRE STUDDO." "GET A SNOVEL." "DEY CALL IT GOLF, HEY? LOOKS LIKE A GRAVE. STUDDO, YERSE FROM WHERE I SIT."

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TIGERS PLAY BEST BALL SEEN IN EAST Detroit Team Is Safely Rated Where Figures Place It Right at Top.

GIANTS LIKELY TO RALLY Phillies Appear Almost Ready for Big Drop and Fifth or Sixth Place Is About Best That Can Be Allotted to Them.

NEW YORK, May 23.—(Special.)—To those who have seen the Detroit Tigers on their first trip to the East, they are far from the flash in the pan that many regarded them before having the opportunity to look over the

down into a rut and fail to win much more than half their games for the next two or three weeks. Such a coincidence of events would mean that, by the end of July, McGraw's men may be eight or ten full games ahead of Fred Clarke's minions. But then, of course, this condition may be reversed.

The Phillies have stayed up near the leaders about long enough now and are due for a big drop. If you should hear a dull ticking sound within the next few weeks you will know that it is the echo of the impact as the shot-pieces Quakers touch bottom. They don't figure to be up there where they have been.

OREGON EASY WINNER AGGIES, IN FEARFUL SLUMP, MAKE 12 ERRORS AND LOSE, 11 TO 0. Moreland Is Nicked for Eleven Hits and Allows Homer With Bases Filled. Eugene to Play for Pennant.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, May 23.—(Special.)—Nicking Jude Moreland for 11 hits, the University of Oregon ball nine this afternoon whipped the locals, 13 to 0. The Aggies were decidedly in a slump, making 12 errors, five of them in the first inning.

Johns Hopkins Wins. CAMBRIDGE, Mass., May 23.—Johns Hopkins defeated Harvard, 5 to 4, at lacrosse today.

LARNEDS WIN AT TUXEDO Four Matches Decided in Special Tennis Doubles Tourney. TUXEDO, N. Y., May 23.—Four matches were decided today on the courts of the Tuxedo Racquet and Tennis Club in the special doubles tournament begun yesterday. W. A. Larned and his brother, E. P. Larned, scored against M. D. Whitman and C. F. Watson, Jr., 6-3, 4-6, 6-0.

Whether you spend Memorial Day in town or at the seashore you'll want to know that your clothes reflect correct style and faultless tailoring. That's why we suggest a blue serge suit—not just any blue serge, but a Kuppenheimer blue serge that is all wool and true blue through and through. You'll find them here in box back, Norfolk and conservative models, in fabrics that are the pick of the world's best looms. Priced at \$20, \$25, \$30.

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE AVERAGES. Table showing batting, fielding, and pitching records for various teams and players in the Pacific Coast League.

NORTHWESTERN LEAGUE AVERAGES. Table showing pitching records for various teams and players in the Northwestern League.

Record of Pitchers' Winning. Table showing the number of wins for various pitchers across different teams.