

Christy Mathewson, Idol Of Baseball World, Dead As Result of War Service

"Big Six" One of Greatest Pitchers of All Time Dies From Effects of Being Gassed in France

Saranac Lake, N. Y., Oct. 8.—(A. P.)—Christy Mathewson, one of the greatest pitchers of all time, is dead in his mountain camp.

A hero of the World war as well as of the diamond, on which he was the first big college star, he died late last night of tuberculosis and pneumonia, the result of being gassed while a captain in the chemical warfare service in France. The end came while his buddies in the American Legion were holding their annual convention in Omaha, and while Walter Johnson, his greatest contemporary, was being hailed as the hero in a world's series, such as Mathewson had been in the past.

"Big Six," as he was known because of his stature, battled intermittently with tuberculosis for six years. He went to France in 1918 after three years as manager of the Cincinnati Reds. Returning as coach of the New York Giants, with whom he had played for 17 seasons, he was taken seriously ill in 1920 and retired to Saranac Lake.

The battle for health apparently won in 1923, he became president and part owner of the Boston Braves. He caught cold on the spring training trip of the Braves last spring and was forced to return to his camp. Less than a month ago his physician reported that he was holding his own. The end came rapidly and unexpectedly.

His wife, who had nursed him



Christy Mathewson

during the years of his illness, was at his bedside. The only child, Christy Mathewson Jr., is at college. Funeral services will be held at Lewistown, Pa., Saturday. His body will be taken from Saranac Lake tonight.

How Mat's zeal for his country's aid led to the illness that ends his career prematurely at 45 is explained by Mrs. Mathewson.

"He had influenza in France," she said. "Besides, as assistant gas officer to the Twenty-eighth division, he demonstrated lethal gas shells and inhaled much of the gas. When he came back, the first severe cold he developed settled into a cough he could not shake off."

Fandom, Gathered At Pittsburgh Pays Tribute To Dead Pitcher, Acclaim Johnson Successor

Pittsburgh, Pa., Oct. 8.—(By Associated Press)—Baseball's hoards, gathered here today for the second game of the world's series, paid tribute to the memory of one of the greatest pitchers of all time—Christy Mathewson, who died last night at Saranac Lake, N. Y., while also singing the praises of another pitching titan Walter Johnson, hero of yesterday's opening victory for Washington over Pittsburgh.

It was a tragic, yet dramatic coincidence to baseball men that Mat's should have passed on at a time when Johnson reached one of the most brilliant peaks of his career, for these two have stood out above all others in the past quarter century of mound achievement.

Mathewson reached some of his greatest heights before Johnson's advent to the major leagues nineteen years ago, for it was in 1905, just twenty years ago, that "Big Six" established a world's series record that has never been equaled by shutting out the Athletics in the three games he pitched. But in later years the consistent march of these two aces was closely parallel. Year after year, until Mat's reached the end of the active trail, about 1914, they were recognized as the most consummate pitching artists

of their respective leagues. It was one of the regrets of baseball men that they never matched their skill and cunning in championship conflict.

Mat's was the bulwark of a pennant winning outfit of giants four times but Johnson labored as the start of a club that spent most of its time in the second division before he finally reached the big goal last year.

Johnson himself, to whom Mathewson was a hero before the Washington ace became a big leaguer, joined in the tribute that overnight became universal among the big gathering of baseball luminaries here—high officials such as Commissioner Landis, Presidents Heydler and Ben Johnson of the National and American leagues as well as John McGraw, Giant manager, who developed Mathewson's genius; Art Fletcher, an old team mate, now manager of Philadelphia; Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Tris Speaker, Bill Killefer, Hughie Jennings, Hans Wagner, Fred Clarke and Babe Adams, an old foe of Big Six in the National league.

Most of them had known Mathewson in his prime, counted him among their best friends and recognized in him high qualities as a sportsman as well as his twirling genius, combined with a knowledge of the game which carried him from playing ranks through the post of manager to the high office of club president of the Boston Nationals at the age of 45.

The tributes paid to Mat's by his old associates came from the heart but they were no less sincere than those of the multitude of fandom, here as well as throughout the country, to whom Mathewson's dramatic career and remarkable personality always have had a strong appeal.

10,753 PERSONS VISITED CHAMPOEG IN 6 MONTHS

A total of 10,753 persons visited Champeog memorial park during the six months outing season, according to a report made by Albert Tezler, caretaker of the grounds. The report shows 136 visitors in April, 4044 in May, 475 in June, 2225 in July, 2451 in August and 1015 in September. The largest number of automobiles on any one day, aside from Pioneer day on May 4, was 128 cars on August 6. On Pioneer day 653 cars and about 3000 persons were at the grounds. The report was made to the state board of control.

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WANT CATTLE REMOVED FROM CITY LIMITS

Monmouth, Or., Oct. 8.—(Special.)—Tuesday night at the city council meeting, a petition signed by property owners along the West Side highway on the north side of town, was presented asking action to be taken in removing hogs and dairy cattle from the city limits. It is stated that within a block of the Oregon Normal school, hogs and cattle are housed causing financial loss and unfavorable comment by the proprietors of rooming houses where normal school students are housed. Complaint has also been made by the proprietor of the Monmouth auto camp and by a dance orchestra which plays in a hall near the alleged nuisance, stating that business has suffered materially.

The petition was turned over to the city attorney who was asked to pass upon the legality of the proposed step.

At the city council meeting last night the report of Stevens & Koon, city sewer engineers, was adopted and the new system accepted. Excluding the private laterals the system has cost the city about \$65,000. The assessed approximate is about 56 cents per front foot which is also based on area. About fifteen men are kept busy making private connections. The engineers report stated that the system was one of the best if

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not the best in the northwest. Coach Menden reports that the fall football practice is progressing fast. Over thirty men are out including five lettermen, Rowe, Ray, Ferguson, McGowan and Nelson. The coach is hopeful of a good showing. The schedule is as follows: Oct. 10, O. N. S. at Willamette; Oct. 17, Columbia university at Monmouth; Oct. 21, O. N. S. at Mt. Angel; Oct. 31, O. A. C. freshmen at Monmouth; Nov. 7, Pacific college at Monmouth; Nov. 14, Albany college at Monmouth; Nov. 21, O. N. S. at Linfield college; Nov. 24, O. N. S. at Chemawa, and a game with Cheyenne normal that has not been fully scheduled.

The total registration of the Monmouth high school is 74. The high school only consists of the three higher grades as the freshman year has been added to the new junior high school, which is under the supervision of the normal school. Benjamin Sweo, who has charge of athletics and manual training, is a new member of the high school faculty.



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