

SPORT WRITER TAKES EXCEPTION WALTER JOHNSON'S SAYING THAT SIDE ARM FLING MOST NATURAL

By JOHN B. SHERIDAN
(Sporting News)

I read the other day, in some paper, that Walter Johnson had said that side-arm was the natural style of throwing. Probably Johnson did not say it. If he did, he is wrong, woefully, fearfully, terribly wrong. Furthermore, by saying so, Johnson would do a lot of injury to young players, confirm them in a sinful habit. There is no such theory as a natural throwing motion for human beings. All propulsive motions, away from the human body, are unnatural and acquired. The arm and hand are prehensile, designed to draw to the body, not to cast away from it. Originally the arm and hand, no doubt, were used only to convey food to the mouth as the trunk of an elephant is used. The elephant does not use his trunk to cast away from his body. No doubt he can be trained to do so, but that does not mean that there is natural throwing motion for the trunk of an elephant. There is not.

Taking things as they are, all throwing of missiles away from the body is unnatural. There is no such thing as a natural style or method of throwing. If there is, it is not side-arm or underhand, but overhand. And I will so prove in two shakes of a nursing lamb's tail.

There are nine men on a baseball team. Of these, eight make all throws over 40 yards overhand. Now, if the side-arm or underhand was the natural or most useful or easiest motion why do not outfielders, infielders and catchers use the side-arm throw. No, sir, Mr. Johnson, if the side arm is the natural throwing motion why do not outfielders, and catchers throw side-arm? Why do not infielders use the side-arm throw for long distance efforts which must be accurate?

All baseball players must, at times, throw from any position. As a sheer matter of fact, the real throws, the long, hard throws, which must be accurate, must be

overhand throws. I have known but one catcher who throws side-arm—Wally Schang. The fact that he throws side-arm has greatly detracted from Schang the merit as a catcher. His throwing never has been accurate. The ball he throws has always been heavy and hard for a fielder to handle.

We find that the only player on a diamond who can be exclusively a side-arm or under-hand thrower is the pitcher. Pitchers are not "meant" to be pitchers from birth. They develop as they get along in boyhood and young manhood. If Johnson were right in his alleged assumption that side-arm is the natural throwing motion, all baseball throwing would be side-arm. Which, we have shown, would make baseball a very poor game.

It is all very well for a pitcher to be a side-armed when he can get away with it. Withal, the pitchers of greatest longevity, Cy Young, Kid Nichols, Griffith, Mordcan Brown, etc., were overhanders. Walter Johnson must be accounted one of the four great pitchers. If not the very greatest, of all time. Opinions of Johnson's delivery vary. Johnson himself says that he is a side-armed. Griffith says that Johnson is an under-hander. Classing all motions which bring the hand above the line of the shoulder as over-hand, below the shoulder, and above the hip, as side-arm, and below the hip as under-hand, I'd say that Johnson varies between side-arm and over-hand.

OREGON U. DEFEATED
SEATTLE, May 15.—The University of Washington defeated Oregon at track here this afternoon 85 to 46, taking eleven first places of the meet. Oregon managed to get four firsts, in both hurdles, the broad jump and the javelin.

Jim Charters sent a half mile mark for Washington in the fast time of 1:57.02. Captain Percy Eggevd made another Washington record, jumping six feet, two and one-tenth inches in the high jump.

A circulation covering the city of Klamath Falls and the county of Klamath—that's the Klamath News.

Pitchers Try Slow Ball on Sisler To Get the Boy's Goat

American league pitchers tell us that the low ball is the present weakness of George Sisler at the bat, comments Billy Evans, writing for Newspaper Enterprise association. They emphasize the fact that the curve, broken inside and at the knee, is the pitcher's greatest weapon to curtail Sisler's batting prowess.

In a recent game I remarked: "The pitchers seem to think you don't like the low ball, George." "However, if the pitchers continue to pitch low to me all year I am positive I will hit well over .300. You know it is much easier to hit when you know just what to expect."

World's 440 Record Broken By Uni. Of Southern California

LOS ANGELES, May 16.—The University of Southern California four-man relay team this afternoon broke the world record for the 440-yard relay, when they ran the distance in 41.9 seconds. The team, composed of Taylor, Lee, House and Lloyd, lowered the mark of 41 seconds, which was set by the University of Kansas team at the start of the present season.

Besides winning the relay, the U. S. C. team won the A. A. U. championships for southern California, with 70 points. The Los Angeles Athletic club was second with 41, and the University of Southern California freshmen third, with 18.1-2.

YALE CREW WINS

DERBY, Conn., May 16.—Yale's powerful varsity eight swept to an easy victory in the annual triangular race with Princeton and Cornell on the Housatonic here this afternoon.

The EH shell was four lengths ahead of Cornell, with Princeton a length and a half back in third place.

DRUNK INDIAN FIGHTS

P. White, Klamath Indian, drunk and disturbing the peace at the carnival grounds, was arrested by County Traffic Officer, R. E. Knowles last night and lodged in the county jail. White put up a stiff fight before being downed by Knowles.



Jim "Furpo" Gorman, who challenges the winner of the Rocky Strambo-Sam Olson affair Tuesday night.

Seven State Records In Washington High School Track Meet

PULLMAN, Wash., May 16.—Seven state records were smashed today in the most sensational interscholastic track meet ever held here. Wenatchee high school won the meet and Yakima was second.

Wesley Foster, Wenatchee, took a trio of new marks in the sprints. His time in fifty yard dash established a new world's interscholastic record at 5.3 seconds. He equalled the interscholastic record of 9.8 seconds in the 100 yard dash, and ran the 220 yard dash in 21.7 seconds.

Keeser, another Wenatchee youth, set a new high school record in four minutes and 36 seconds for the mile. Ambrose, Ilwaco, shattered all state records in the javelin, hurling the spear 168 feet, 3 inches.

Gough of Bremerton jumped five feet 9 1-2 inches in the high jump. Wenatchee made a new time for the mile relay in 3 minutes 22.8 seconds.

FISHERMAN DROWNED

BEND, May 16.—A. L. McCutcheon, Portland traffic policeman, was drowned near Gateway, on the Deschutes river, while on a fishing trip. It was learned here tonight.

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