THE ALAMANCE GLEANER. GRAHAM, N. C.



IT ALWAYS has been our belief that the time to compare ath-letes is at the end of their careers. For example, why try to compare Ted Williams, after

100 Ty Cobb

won 37. And don't forget that Jones ran 1-2 in the U. S. Open eight out of nine years. Ted Williams and Byron Nelson have many years left in which they may rise to even greater heights, or for one reason or another sud-

of the war when more than a few were placing Joe DiMaggio above Tris Speaker as an all-around out-field star. DiMaggio was and still is a great ball player. But even Joe's most vehement supporters today wouldn't place him above the flight of the Gray Eagle, the class of all outfielders in the air or along the ground, who could also hit from .350 to .386 in his better seasons through a long stretch of time.

Take Ty Cobb and Ted Williams. Few pitchers could. Ted Williams Few pitchers could. Ted Williams is the longer, harder hitter. But how many remember that Ty Cobb led the American league nine years in a row — that he led the American league in 12 out of 13 consecutive seasons. Think that

tically no one except Shoeless Joe Jackson, Napoleon Lajoie, Tris Speaker, Babe Ruth, Wahoo Sam Crawford, Bobby Beach and a few of that ash-tinted ilk.

of that ash-linted ik. I see they are now comparing Bob Feller and Walter Johnson, certainly two of the greatest. No one can tell me that Bob Feller or anyone else had Johnson's speed. Feller has a greater vari-ety. But Johnson's speed was enough. They usually beat him 1 to 0 or 2 to 1 and even working with a weak-hitting outfit, he still could win more than 30 games a with a weak-nitting outh, he still could win more than 30 games a year pitching against some of the great hitters of all time. But none of these great hitters was on Old Barney's side. The idea is that Johnson has already turned in his 20 was: researd Ecular still has 20-year record. Feller still has

certain extent in Johnson's spot. Johnson, pitching for the Athletics in those days, could have won 40 games more than once. Feller, working with the Red Sox, could be another 40-game winner. There will be time enough later on to rank Johnson and Feller.

If you talk to hitters who faced him and who have been around, they won't nominate Walter Johnson or Bob Feller as the top mas-ter of the pitching tribe. They won't give you Cy Young who won 510 or Christy Mathewson. Their

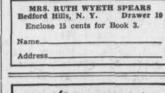
1917, a total of 94 games in three consecutive years with a ball club that never belonged - outside of In 1916 he pitched 16 shutout games, most of them in the Phillies' bandbox park. Through six years, he had an earned run average under two runs per game. As a rookie in 1911 he won 28 games with the lowly Phillies. Alexander was a stretcher bearer with the army in 1918, one of the tough jobs of any war. He then had been pitching seven years. On his return to the Cubs in 1919 and 1920, he allowed 1.72 and 1.91 earned runs per game, an incredi-ble performance. Through his career Old Pete had no interest in any form of training. He happened to be an eccentric genius, a great artist, which so few are. He knew exactly where the ball should go to certain hitters, and he could put it there too. Johnny Evers, who had batted against the best, once told me that Alexander was the only pitcher he ever faced who made him feel like throwing his bat away. "I knew how useless it was," Evers Overlooking the boisterous and heartfelt boos from Brooklyn, the Cardinals have been the class of the league from the start. They have had no better ball players than Dixie Walker and Pete Reiser But no sane baseball follower can tell you that the hustling Dodgers have the class to match Stan Musial, Marty Marion, Country Slaughter, Red Schoendienst, Ter-ry Moore and Whitey Kurowski.

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