

TIGERS AND REDS SWAP POSITIONS

Clubs in Vastly Different Classes Than This Time Last Year Which Makes One Happy and Other Sad.

By JOHN B. FOSTER
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New York, July 7.—The Detroit Americans and Cincinnati National almost surely will be the first to cross the tape marking completion of half the big league baseball race. Detroit should have played half of its 1924 games by Sunday and Cincinnati by the following Tuesday. They may say kind of words.

The end of the first half of the season finds both the clubs in vastly different classes than they were at last season's half way point. For Cincinnati it is a sad change and for Detroit a pleasant one. When Cincinnati reached the middle of the season last year, the Reds were standing rocky with a percentage of 415. They were second in the race and a lot of people were pulling confidently for them to overtake the Giants. But they had shot their bolt and after midseason faded fast.

This year's half way mark finds them with a percentage of less than 500. To be consistent in their inconsistency, they ought to cut loose now and go strong in the last half, but there are no evidences that they will. It begins to look as if the Reds were handicapped more by the toll of time than by any lack of baseball knowledge. The task that confronts manager Hendricks is less that of cultivating what plants he has than of getting some new ones to get out in 1925. The team he has now probably will never do any better than it is doing.

Should the Detroit Tigers win all of their games up to the half way point, their percentage would be 584. It took at 542 today. Last year when they put up at Half Way Inn their percentage was only 487. They have a chance to be nearly 100 points better than they were last season at the half way mark and even if they lost all their games between now and Sunday they could not stand as poorly.

Of course reaching the 584 mark by the time the half season is finished does not mean that Detroit is going to win the pennant. The figure is not one suggesting a drive for the championship in fact, but as no team in the league has been reaching 600 lately it is at least first division baseball. And as long as a team can remain in the first division, within hitting reach of the leaders, it has a chance to win the pennant by concentrating good hitting and pitching in the last fortnight of the race. It has happened many times that a team which had led buoyantly for most of the race has found itself left sprawling on the last day of the season. Half Way house for Cincinnati in 1924 shows a dim red light on the portico, while Half Way house for Detroit is flash-

Major League Scores

NATIONAL LEAGUE			
Saturday's Scores			
New York, 6; Philadelphia, 5.	St. Louis, 2; Chicago, 6.	Brooklyn, 8; Boston, 4.	Pittsburgh, 11; Cincinnati, 4.
Sunday's Scores			
New York, 5-0; Philadelphia, 1-2.	Cincinnati, 2; Pittsburgh, 9.	Brooklyn, 1-5; Boston, 4-0.	St. Louis, 13; Chicago, 4.

Standing of Teams.			
Team	W.	L.	Pct.
New York	48	25	.657
Chicago	42	28	.600
Brooklyn	39	31	.557
Pittsburgh	36	34	.514
Cincinnati	36	34	.514
Boston	30	42	.417
Philadelphia	29	43	.401
St. Louis	27	45	.375

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
Saturday's Scores			
Detroit, 3; St. Louis, 0.	Philadelphia, 3-2; Boston, 6-7.	Washington, 7-0; New York, 2-2.	Chicago, 8; Cleveland, 7.
Sunday's Scores			
Detroit, 1; St. Louis, 5.	Washington, 4; New York, 7.	Chicago, 9; Cleveland, 6.	

Standing of Teams.			
Team	W.	L.	Pct.
Washington	42	22	.657
New York	40	22	.646
Detroit	40	26	.606
Chicago	36	35	.507
St. Louis	36	34	.514
Boston	34	37	.479
Cleveland	34	38	.472
Philadelphia	27	45	.375

FULTON MAY BE NEXT FOR WILLS

Paddy Mullins Thinks His Big Negro Needs Another Good Workout Before He Meets Luis Firpo.

By FAIR PLAY
(By The Associated Press)

New York, July 7.—Efforts are now making to provide Harry Wills with another battle before the time for him to step in the ring against Luis Firpo. Paddy Mullins, who manages the big negro, says that Harry got off a lot of rust in his battle with Madden, but there is more to come off and he thinks it is up to Rickard to provide his man with a battle, especially inasmuch as Wills signed with Tex to fight two battles for him this summer.

Fred Fulton is anxious to take on Wills, just why no one knows. But Fred, while he is said to have improved, is not impressing anyone. Fred of all Mullins, with his ability to give the colored man a good workout. George Godfrey is ready and willing to accommodate Harry but

George does not appear to be just the sort of game that will fill the bill for the firm of Mullins, Wills and Company.

Mullins would really like to get a shot at Spalla, since the Italian made a good showing against Tunney and moreover went 14 rounds against Firpo before he was stowed away. If Wills could put Spalla away in less than 14 rounds it would make the feat look good alongside of Firpo's showing. Yet at the same time Wills would have to turn the trick inside of seven rounds to make the victory look as good as Tunney's victory over the Italian.

All around, it is a hard problem to work out and only one fact is clear, this being that some time before he is called upon to meet Firpo, Harry will step into an outdoor arena against some man of some sort of a reputation.

For a man who was pretty thoroughly pecked to pieces by slugging blows Spalla has retained a lot of respect from managers, promoters and fans.

What they like most about the big Italian is the way he absorbed all that Tunney sent into him and wanted more. It was merely the shutting off his vision that finally led the referee to call it a day.

The writer predicted after the fight that Spalla would get plenty of work from now on. And he will. Who do you think they are going to bring out as his next opponent? Fred Fulton, no less.

Fred has been working quietly in the minor league and feels the time has come when he can startle the metropolitan district.

Promoters are always ready to take one more chance on Fred and so the fans may look forward with some interest in this battle.

Bartley Madden and Joe Renault in the semi-final of the Wills-Firpo battle the latter part of August shows what a showman Rickard is.

Here is a fight that ought to be as good, if not better, than the main affair of the evening.

Renault will surely paste Madden good and plenty, but Madden will play his role of shock absorber and since Renault is not too hard to hit will probably do some socking on his own account.

Several years ago an international congress for standardizing the railway time tables of continental Europe was held at Basle in Switzerland. At this congress it was unanimously decided to introduce the 24 hour system as soon as possible. The German railway administration holds that the expense of installing the new system is too great for the German state.

BASEBALL QUESTION BOX

If you have some question to ask about baseball—

Write to John B. Foster, the man who helped make the rules under which the game is played today. If you want a personal reply enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise your question will be answered in this column.

Address: John B. Foster, special baseball correspondent of The Daily Advance, 811 World Building, New York.

Question—One is out and there are runners on second and third bases. The ball is batted to center field. Fielder caught the ball and threw home. The throw went between third and home. Pitcher got the ball and in relaying it to the catcher hit the runner going home from third. Ball rolled into the crowd. A boy picked it up and handed it to the catcher who threw it to the pitcher and the latter touched out the runner coming home from second. Was he out?

Answer—No. The ball was blocked and must be returned to the pitcher in his position before it can be put in play. The run should have been counted.

Question—Runner is on second base. Batter hits an infield fly. Pitcher gets the ball and throws to first before the runner gets back. Is the runner out? Who does Bill Whitaker pitch for?

Answer—The runner is out. Whitaker pitches for New Orleans.

Question—Two are out and a runner is on third base. The batter up hits the ball and in trying to make it a two bagger he gets put out. Meanwhile the player on third scores. Does the run count?

Answer—The run counts.

Question—Can a good Public School pitcher ever become a pitcher?

Answer—The run counts.

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in the National League? Name some one.

Answer—There is no reason in the world why he cannot. Waite Hoyt of the New York Americans once pitched for Erasmus Hall in Brooklyn, a public school, and that is where he attracted the attention of McGraw.

Question—Which pitcher has the most strikeouts to his credit in the major league this year?

Answer—Too early for these statistics. They have not been made up by the major league offices and all other figures are non official.

Question—If a player is caught between bases and run down does each fielder get an assist for every time he handles the ball or does each man taking part in the play get an assist. If the runner reaches a base in safety because one of the players in the run down makes an error do the other men get assists just as if the runner were retired?

Answer—When a player is run down each fielder who handles the ball in play gets an assist but not for the time that he throws the ball. Some fielders would have three or four assists on one play if the latter rule prevailed. Fielders all get assists if one of their number makes an error.

Question—Runner is on first base. Batter hits an infield fly. Pitcher gets the ball and throws to first before the runner gets back. Is the runner out? Who does Bill Whitaker pitch for?

Answer—The runner is out. Whitaker pitches for New Orleans.

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