

BOSTON RED SOX NEW SENSATION

Batters Hitting With Men on Bases and If Fielding. Had been Air Tight Team Would be at Top.

By JOHN B. FOSTER
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New York, May 24.—If the Boston Red Sox prove as good on the road as they have been going against the Westerners at home, the owners of the St. Louis Americans will begin to wonder if they didn't make a mistake in letting the firm of Quinn, Fohl and Company get away. And if the St. Louis club wasn't going so well under the guidance of George Sisler the St. Louis administration would feel still worse.

The Red Sox, made over from baseball's hash ingredients have simply knocked the glass out of the Detroit skylight. They have treated the Chicago White Sox with as little respect. Only one game was played with St. Louis, and the Browns won that; while wonder still is being expressed at the kind of reception the Cleveland Indians got when they reached the home of the sacred codfish.

The Boston club is making headway because its batters are hitting with men on the bases. If they had been as tight in the field as they might have been leading the league today. Five games lost by the Red Sox can be traced to fielding blunders at critical moments. If they had those five on the won shelf and erased from their defeat column, they would be galloping far out in front.

Baseball experience teaches that they will be a less powerful team on the road than at home. But baseball experience every now and then gets a swift kick—and this may be one of those times. If the Red Sox can go through the West and stick up where they are, they will have to be reckoned with all summer, not so much as a championship team, perhaps as one that will boot some other teams out of the championship.

It was an odds-on wager at the start of the season that the Sox would not be finishing the third week of May with as many victories to their credit as the champions of their league, but they have done it. Incidentally the Browns and the St. Louis Browns are the real spring sensations of the American circuit, so that Lee Fohl is basking in a double bit of spotlight.

There is only one radically top-heavy race in the minor leagues—that in the Southern Association. Memphis has been streaking out like a scared rabbit, but the team may drop back before the season is over. The American Association race has come together until it fits into the percentage column as tight as a hat in a hatbox. With no team above .600 and none below .400, the Association has some fight on its hands. If that speed is to last from now until the end of September, the enthusiasts of the circuit will be raging maniacs before the championship is decided. There is only about five games difference between the top and the bottom of the league.

Indianapolis came back because it was crippled and its players were not as strong on the road as they had been at home. If they start going again they will have all the league in a turmoil to keep up with them, but that will make better baseball.

The case of the Denver Club is a fine instance of what reconstruction can do to help along a ball team. Last year Denver seemed as if it never could get anywhere. This year it is breezing along on top and pointing its finger joyfully at Tulsa. The reason is that the team is put together right.

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may16-17-25

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—Can you tell how far it is from home plate to where the fielders usually stand in the major leagues?

Answer—Varies from 150 to 300 feet. There is no set distance. May average about 200.

Question—Will you please tell me the age and how long the following players have been playing for the Detroit Tigers? Hellmann, Blue, Jones and Bassler.

Answer—Hellmann, thirty years old, nine years with Detroit, including 1924; Blue, 27 years old, four years with Detroit; Jones, 31 years old, nine years with Detroit; Bassler, 29 years old four years with Detroit.

Major League Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Friday's Scores

Cincinnati —3—New York —8
Pittsburgh —1—Brooklyn —3
Others postponed—rain.

Standing of Teams.

	W.	L.	Pct.
New York	19	13	.594
Chicago	20	14	.588
Cincinnati	16	14	.533
Brooklyn	16	14	.548
Pittsburgh	14	18	.438
Boston	13	17	.433
Philadelphia	11	15	.423
St. Louis	12	17	.414

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Friday's Scores

Boston —5—Cleveland —1
Philadelphia —5—St. Louis —0
New York —7—Detroit —6
Washington —4—Chicago —0

Standing of Teams.

	W.	L.	Pct.
New York	18	9	.667
Boston	17	11	.604
St. Louis	16	12	.571
Detroit	15	15	.500
Chicago	13	14	.481
Washington	14	15	.483
Cleveland	12	15	.444
Philadelphia	9	19	.322

STILL DOUBT AS TO HARRY WILLS

His Fight With Madden Scheduled for Monday Night Still Put in Doubtful Column by Some Experts.

By FAIR PLAY
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New York, May 24.—Tex Rickard, who has Wills' signature agreeing to fight two matches for him this year, with a third battle contingent upon what happens in the preceding two encounters, is chiefly engaged at present in lining up an opponent for the negro's first fight of the projected series.

It looks as though Rickard was not very well pleased with Wills' proposed setto with Madden. Or if not Rickard some important people were against it. At least that is the way the gossip runs among fighting men. Result, Simon Flaherty gets the razz after he spent a lot of money in fixing up his Queensboro stadium. Poor Flaherty! He must be wondering what happened to him. Maybe he can guess.

But no one in New York can stop the Jersey promoters if they are really interested in going through with the battle. They were foolish in the first place to let it be transferred to New York, where a wise man could see with his feet that powerful fight interests would not look with favor upon it.

Will Harry Wills, all things considered, be willing to go through with a Madden scrap in Jersey? Or will he decide it would be wiser to

train along with the New York crowd? The next few days will tell. There is no doubt that this bout in title. This may carry weight with Newark would draw a gate attractive to any contender for the heavyweight Wills who of course knows of the old adage about a bird in the hand being worth two in the bush.

Ermino Spalla is shortly to arrive in this country and they say Rickard and Nick Kilne, who is supposed to represent Spalla, are cooking up a meeting between Wills and the Italian. On the other hand, there is talk that Carpentier is due to make a good showing against Tommy Gibbons and then fight Spalla here. Again, you hear gossip that everything is going to work out so that Dempsey and Gibbons meet again. In fact, one hears so much conflicting talk about everything that it is dif-

ficult for any one trying to follow game must be in rotten shape when no one trusts any one else and every he is at. Only one point sticks out clearly and that is that the fight doubted and mistrusted.

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