

# PITCHERS WHAT AILS CLEVELAND

**Club Next St. Louis Batting and Second Only to Giants Fielding but Can't Win Its Games.**

By JOHN B. FOSTER  
Copyright, 1924, by The Advance  
New York, May 29.—With its first Eastern trip ended no major league club of the West presents a more striking contrast than Cleveland. It has been batting better than any club in the circuit except St. Louis, and seemingly is fielding fully as well as any except New York, and yet it cannot win better than half its games.

When the Indians started on their Eastern trip, they looked as if they had found their bearings. They won five games in succession and fans who fancied this team of slingers began to grin broadly. But the Indians then promptly proceeded to lose six in a row—three of them to Boston, which has developed a kick laden with dynamite.

Three victories out of those six lost games would have put Cleveland in a mighty good position to fight their way to the top. But Speaker's men did not get them.

What ails Cleveland? Pitchers. The team seemed strong enough in pitching talent when it was in Florida. Speaker had confidence in Shaute, felt Coveloskie was on the way back to the corn crib and figured that Edwards would have something to show. Guy Morton looked as if he might round to the standard which he has threatened for three years, and there was Sherry Smith, the old Brooklyn south-paw, and Levison, a kid of promise.

Uhle, of course, looked like a safe deposit vault full of gold pieces. Yet Speaker has only two pitchers who have won more games than they have lost—and their margin is painfully close. Smith and Edwards, both left handers, have a little credit balance. The others have been kicked around like an old football.

Part of Speaker's distress in the pitching department may be due to the unseasonable weather. Old pitchers, of which he has more than his share, will not warm up to a good game in cold, raw weather. Apparently the time has come when Speaker must decide whether to continue waiting on the old boys, or pull in some of the youngsters he has planted and take a chance on getting results from them.

The Indians' greatest success has been against the weaker teams of the league. But you can't win a championship on second division victories. Speaker has got to start beating the first division clubs or give up his pennant dreams.

Two major clubs have been handicapped by injuries to players. McManus of the St. Louis Browns, is laid up with a broken finger. With a team intact the Browns might have fought their way into the lead by the middle of June. Can't tell what they will do without his aid.

Cincinnati loses a powerful batter and a generally efficient infield by the temporary retirement of Fonseca with a broken arm. The Portuguese is a solid thumper. The Reds have not any more utility players than they need. In fact they have not enough.

The Reds do not look as good today as Pittsburgh, though the Pirates are not so well up in the race. Cincinnati might well have taken on an extra infielder and an outfielder before the season started. The gamble for the championship was worth it.

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## Major League Baseball

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**  
Wednesday's Scores

Chicago	9	Pittsburgh	6
St. Louis	6	Cincinnati	0
St. Louis	3	Cincinnati	5
Boston	1	Philadelphia	4
Boston	1	Philadelphia	4
New York	6	Brooklyn	5
New York	4	Brooklyn	2

Standing of Teams.

W.	L.	Pct.	
New York	22	11	.611
Chicago	22	16	.575
Cincinnati	19	18	.514
Brooklyn	16	17	.484
Pittsburgh	16	19	.457
Boston	15	19	.441
St. Louis	17	19	.472
Philadelphia	12	19	.374

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
Wednesday's Scores

Cleveland	5	Chicago	0
Cleveland	6	Chicago	13
Detroit	4	St. Louis	3
Detroit	0	St. Louis	7
Philadelphia	2	Boston	1
Philadelphia	0	Boston	1
Washington	4	New York	7
Washington	6	New York	13

Standing of Teams.

W.	L.	Pct.	
New York	21	11	.656
Boston	20	12	.622
St. Louis	18	15	.545
Detroit	18	18	.500
Chicago	15	17	.469
Washington	15	18	.455
Cleveland	14	18	.438
Philadelphia	12	20	.375

## SPALLA SEEKS BE HUSKY GUY

**Showed His Stuff to Scribes in Brooklyn the Other Day and Verdict Was He's Quite Clever.**

By FAIR PLAY  
Copyright, 1924, by The Advance  
New York, May 29.—This Ermino Spalla is a pretty husky looking guy. While he isn't due to start active training until late in the week, he did show his stuff to the scribes over in Brooklyn on Tuesday and there is no doubt that he has a lot of clever stuff.

How he can hit is best evidenced by the fact that he put Firpo down for a count of three, according to the newspaper reports. Spalla himself says a man could have counted 16 while this count of three was being waved up and down.

Undoubtedly Spalla is a good prospect and it looks as though Niek Kline is going to be the boss. Al-

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ready Niek has stuck out his chest and suggested to Tex Rickard that he raise the ante on the proposed Spalla-Tunney battle, or else get out of the way and let a real promoter talk terms.

Benny Leonard, according to the decision of the New York Boxing Commission, must meet certain opponents in his class who are to be selected by a jury of promoters. This jury will select candidates for Leonard's title on the basis of an elimination tourney, according to the boxing commission's suggestion.

**Summer Time's Sandal Time**

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