

# THREE PITCHERS FORGE TO FRONT

## Battle for Supremacy in National League Probably Go to Alexander, Vance or Sheehan.

By JOHN B. FOSTER  
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New York, June 9.—The pitching supremacy of the National League for 1924, according to present indications, lies between three men—Alexander of the Cubs, Vance of Brooklyn and Sheehan of Cincinnati. In the American League, it still seems to be anybody's race.

Of the National League contenders, Alexander is the veteran. He has plenty of reputation behind him, and a side arm delivery that has carried him through 14 years. One of the big managers said five years ago that Alexander was due to break down. The broad shouldered Cub has been busy since proving him wrong. Whenever he meets that manager, he casually remarks that his pitching arm is still hanging to the same old shoulder.

Vance has speed and a generally blonde complexion that is as cold as ice. Time when Alexander would be said to have more speed than Vance. But whether he possesses it now is a question. This Iowa boy, Vance, certainly has lots of it.

Sheehan was kicked around quite a lot before Cincinnati took him in. The Yanks had him once and let him go. But that's the same thing that has happened to a lot of good pitchers. Sheehan has a good curve and great height from which to let it go.

Usually the Giants have had a pitcher who was commanding figure in the percentage column, but they are not likely to be able to boast one this year, unless Zeke Barnes, brother of the well known Jess, of Boston, who once was a winning pitcher for New York, decides to fill the bill for the Giants. The American League has blocks of pitchers who have won six games, five games and four games. But none of them has an outstanding lead in the race for pitching honors, and none is doing more artistic work than the veteran Walter Johnson of Washington. Johnson is standing by the showing he made in the spring, when he seemed to be about as good as he ever had been.

The real knockdowns in the American League are those being administered to pitchers who once were good but, unlike Johnson, have been unable to stay that way despite the hand of time. Hardest hit of all is Coveleske of Cleveland. Shaute had a hard time getting started, but he seems at last to have got under way.

Dick Hoblitzell, once first baseman for Cincinnati, has been giving the batters of the International League a merry race to keep up with him. He has been hitting the ball as freely for the Reading club as he ever did for Cincinnati. Two former first basemen of the National League—Hoblitzell for Reading and Markle for Rochester, are two of the leading batters of the International, and it isn't certain that either of them might not hit well enough in the majors to keep up with the best.

Merkle predicted in the spring that Bush would lead the American League pitchers in 1924. "They can talk all they like about his sore arm," he said. "But its the ball that gets sore, the way he throws it up. He should top them all at the end of the year."

### Major League Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE			
Sunday's Scores.			
Philadelphia	5	Chicago	8
New York	7	Pittsburgh	0
Saturday's Scores.			
Boston	13	Cincinnati	10
Boston	13	St. Louis	7
New York	1	Chicago	3
Brooklyn	4	Pittsburgh	1

Standing of Teams.			
W.	L.	Pct.	
New York	29	17	.631
Chicago	28	18	.609
Brooklyn	23	19	.548
Cincinnati	24	21	.533
Pittsburgh	20	23	.465
Boston	19	22	.463
St. Louis	19	27	.413
Philadelphia	14	27	.341

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
Sunday's Scores.			
Chicago	10	Boston	3
Cleveland	11	Washington	3
St. Louis	5	New York	0
Detroit	5	Philadelphia	6
Saturday's Scores.			
Detroit	11	Philadelphia	10
Chicago	0	Boston	3
St. Louis	6	New York	3
Cleveland	3	Washington	0

Standing of Teams.			
W.	L.	Pct.	
Boston	24	17	.585
New York	24	17	.585
Detroit	26	21	.554
Washington	21	22	.489
St. Louis	22	22	.500
Chicago	19	22	.463
Cleveland	17	24	.413
Philadelphia	17	25	.405

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### 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—Runners are on first and second bases. No one is out. The batter hit a slow grounder to the pitcher who threw to third to start a double play. The third baseman then threw to second to get the runner from first. The throw was wild and the runner on first kept on to third. The runner who was on second did not know it was a force play and after seeing the throw go wild to second ran all the way home. The center fielder threw home and the catcher put him out again. The umpires ruled that two were out. They said the runner who was on second interfered with the play. What was the decision?

Answer—The runner who was on second was out when the throw was made to third. Once out he was out for good. The throw to the plate was wasted effort. The man on third was entitled to the base. He ran there legitimately and as he did not interfere he could not be put out. The umpires were making decisions on a "dead man." One out was all.

Question—A runner hits safely and goes to first. The ball is put in play to the pitcher and the catcher fumbles the next pitch. The runner goes to second base. Some of the players on the bench of the opposing team yell to the player to go back to first base. The player does and the pitcher throws the ball to first base and the runner is tagged out. Would he have been out if he had got back before he was tagged? Could he choose first base or second?

Answer—The runner was out. He shouldn't permit himself to be fooled. Of course it was unsportsmanlike and that kind of base ball doesn't make much of a hit with a good American. The runner cannot retrace his steps if he has touched a base except that it is for some legal reason. He should have stuck to second until the umpire told him to the contrary.

Question—Which is the correct and best position for a batsman so as to be successful at bat?

Answer—If an absolutely correct position were known perhaps everybody would become a good batter but positions vary with players. Personally, a position that faces the pitcher is favored by the writer and not one by which the batter must look over his shoulder to see the ball coming up to him.

Question—Will you please tell me which is the more valuable player, Babe Ruth or Frank Frisch?

Answer—Personal opinion is all that makes one player more valuable than another in most cases to the fan. If you have an opinion of your own, stick to it.

Question—I have noticed that most of the pitchers in our Saturday afternoon League stand with their right foot on the rubber and the left foot back of it when winding up to deliver the ball. Is that not illegal? Answer—The ball must not be delivered to the batsman with either foot back of the pitcher's plate and winding up to deliver the ball is part of the pitcher's delivery.

# MADDEN'S KEEN FOR WILLS FIGHT

## And Sore at All This Talk About Wills' Hands Wants Know If He's Not Expected to Use His Own.

By FAIR PLAY  
Copyright, 1924, by The Advance  
New York, June 9.—A bunch of fight critics took a motor ride to Pompton Lakes today to see how Bartley Madden's morale was holding up. The report is favorable. Bartley's fighting spirit, instead of diminishing under the series of delays in his projected Harry Wills encounter, has been turned to sharper edge.

He is ready for the big brown men, in fact, eager. Bartley seems to be peeved because chief speculation in connection with this bout seems to relate to Wills' hands—how they will fare when they come in contact with Madden's Harveyized steel dome.

"Anyone would think" moaned Madden "that I have not got any hands of my own. There will be more to this bout than Wills going around me like a barrel maker around a keg. I expect to do some hammering on my own account—and I'm not worrying about my hands either."

Fight fans are an optimistic class. Despite the prospect that the Queensboro stadium would be put out of business, only about thirty per cent of those who had paid forty thousand dollars for tickets to this show tried to turn their pasteboards in. Now they have their reward, for the customers are flocking to the ticket office in large numbers today.

"I am not worrying about this fight" said Tex Richard. "I regard Wills as one of the greatest fighters in the world and always have. I certainly expect to see him come through this bout without any trouble."

"But since you never can tell what will happen when two men meet in the ring I am holding up on the Wills-Firpo bout until after Monday night. There is nothing to my attitude except a businesslike regard for my own interests."

Firpo, who has a pretty keen busi-

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ness mind of his own, will hardly let his injured pride carry him to any great extreme despite reports from Buenos Aires. Where does pride stand in the face of two hundred and fifty thousand Simoleons.

### HIGH POINT BOASTS ANOTHER RAILROAD

High Point, June 9.—The High Point, Thomasville, and Denton Railroad resumed operation Tuesday for the first time since February 1, 1923 when the old Carolina and Yadkin Valley Railroad Station was

burned and the line sold to the present company. The first shipment from this city will be to Tampa, Fla. Only carload shipments will be accepted at present, it was announced, but it is expected that within a short time small shipments can be handled. With the opening of the new railroad means connection with several other lines and an outlet to the entire United States, it was said. Heretofore the Southern Railroad has had almost a monopoly on High Point shipments, it was explained, but on connections are made with the Atlantic Coastline, Norfolk and Western, other lines.

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**Hampton, Va.**—Old Soldiers' Home, Hampton Institute.

**Old Point, Fort Monroe**—Oldest fortified site in Western Hemisphere.

**Baltimore**—Steel plant, largest east of Pittsburgh. Auto sight-seeing tour: Fort McHenry, Sugar Refinery, Edgar Allen Poe's Grave and many others.

**Annapolis**—Naval Academy—Historic Old Buildings. Court House where Washington resigned his commission.

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**J. F. DALTON,**  
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