

# Just Before the Final Struggle

## A Few Comments on the Close of the Pennant Season and the Coming World's Series

By JAKE STAHL

Jake Stahl, the justly popular manager of the Red Sox club, is a happy man these days. There is no reason why he should not be so, for a manager who takes the helm fresh from another business and pilots the club in his charge to a pennant on his very first attempt has done something which deserves universal recognition and justifies him in feeling pleased with the success of his efforts. But Stahl is too fair and generous to take credit for himself. Rather, he freely gives it to the members of his great club.

ON the eve of an important event like the World's Series, a manager of a contesting club rarely likes to commit himself. Upon his shoulders rests too heavy a responsibility. His mind is too much occupied with plotting for the advancement of his team and for the overthrow of his rival to find either time or energy for the discussion of minor details.

But Jake Stahl, the successful general of the victorious Red Sox club, is feeling too much pleased with the success of his great team to refrain from talking about them on any occasion which presents itself.

"Of course," says Stahl, "I am very glad that we have won the pennant. I had a great team without a single weak point in it. I believe it is universally conceded that the Red Sox have the greatest outfield in either league, and at present I think they have the best-balanced pitching staff as well. Wood, of course, has been our mainstay, and is a remarkable pitcher.

"I would not like to compare him with Walter Johnson, for I used to be associated with the Washington club myself. Johnson is a wonderful pitcher. He has no superiors, and it may be that he has no equals, but Wood is all that a manager could ask, and he is still very young and growing better all the time. Of course Wood is the star of our working staff, but our other pitchers are also in fine form.

"Speaker has had a great year in the

outfield. I believe he should win the automobile prize as the greatest all-around player in the American League. Admitting all that is claimed for Cobb, I think that Speaker has fairly surpassed him.

"Our infield, too, has been good. Of course, that does not apply to first base, which position I try to hold down myself, but I have at least played up to the limit of my ability, whatever that is worth. Gardner at third has played a game second to none, while Wagner at shortstop has been easily the star of the American League in that position. At second base, which some people considered our weakest point, we have three good men all remarkably strong. Either Krug, Yerkes or Ball will fill the bill at second base very nicely.

"Our catching department with Carrigan at the head has been strengthened a good deal by the form displayed by Cady. Altogether, the Red Sox are a fine team and one well fitted to uphold the honor of the American League on the coming battlefield.

"It has been a great race and, of course, I am proud to be able to pass the Athletics, who were the logical winners. Connie Mack has had a hard season, for which he is not to blame. There is only a step from success to failure, and it takes very little sometimes to put a club out of its stride. The difficulties which befell Connie were enough to do this, and, of course, we took advantage of his misfortunes to better our own standing.



THE COMMANDER OF THE RED SOX

"I am particularly pleased with the showing of Washington. I used to manage that club myself and know something of the difficulties with which Clark Griffith has had to contend. His record has been little short of phenomenal. I am particularly glad that such good fortune has come to Griffith to repay him in part for a lifetime spent in the national game and also to vindicate his record before the public. A manager who is counted a failure in one club needs the help of a winning spurt when he takes charge of another and Griffith certainly deserves success. I am glad that Washington has succeeded so well for another reason. It helps baseball to have a losing club become a winner. And this upheaval in the dope columns which has raised the capitol city to a high place in the favor of the baseball public has stimulated interest in the national game.

"I am also anxious to see George Stovall succeed with St. Louis. He has a hard task to accomplish, but his great work with Cleveland and the fine showing he has already made at St. Louis give the best of indications that he will eventually succeed. Stovall has the makings of a team of great promise. Its players, now that he has worked them over, are practically all young and ambitious, and with the good management he can give them, they should make a fine club next year.

"As for our part in the World's Series, I can make no predictions.

"However, I am confident that the Red Sox will acquit themselves well, and that they will give the Giants a hard battle and on form they ought to win. It will be my first participation in a big league series, and I am anxious to do my best. It is hard to say what is the chief factor in winning a series of this kind, but, in my opinion, it is good pitching. I think good pitching is the all-important thing in winning a short series, for every game is important and certainly the Red Sox should be able to put up a gilt-edged brand of pitching in the coming struggle. Whichever club wins, however, it will be a grand struggle for the flag. For the chief honor in baseball with the financial prize which goes with it is a goal worth striving for."