

The Spit Ball

“Ed” Walsh Has a Word to Say in Its Defence

BIG Ed Walsh of the Chicago White Sox has been generally recognized as the leading spit-ball pitcher since the passing of “Happy Jack” Chesbro. Walsh recently took a hand in the annual spring discussion over the merits of the moist delivery. He claims the spit-ball is here to stay and that about all the pitchers will eventually use it.

“With the beginning of the spring training,” said Walsh, “comes that six-year-old discussion about how long the spit-ball will last. I have noticed of late that some of the critics have discovered that that particular delivery is on the decline, and that in a short time, if there is no baseball legislation against it, the moist shoots will be thrown into the discard. Now, I might just as well take the bull by the horns at the start and say that the successful pitcher of the future, unless he has

some other equally as effective delivery, will have to come to the spit-ball or fall behind.

“Does the spit-ball put the pitcher’s arm out of commission sooner than any other kind of delivery? It does not, and, in fact, I might explain that it is the easiest of all the styles I have. Clark Griffith, now manager of the Cincinnati team, told me five years ago that I was done for as a pitcher on account of that particular delivery. Well, I have used it this spring and it works just as good as ever.

“Few outside of the players on the team know how much I use the ball in actual games. Well, sometimes nine out of ten balls I throw are of that style of delivery.

“I have had sore arms, but the only time I ever hurt my arm in pitching was on a fast straight one.”

