

# Short Lengths

## ED WALSH TELLS A LITTLE STORY

A striking incident in the busy career of one of baseball's greatest stars is told by Ed Walsh. "It was during the series when the White Sox won the championship of the city of Chicago and it was just before the start of one of that series most important games, that I happened to remember I had promised a little news boy friend of mine, who had always been one of my most faithful pals in morning practice, that I would see that he was admitted to the game. This little chap had often accompanied me to the grounds and caught me when I was practicing, for I never went to the park without a crowd of youngsters who would turn out, regular as clock work, to see me work. He had been particularly energetic and as he had told me how much he wanted to see me pitch in the city series, I had promised him I would see that he had his wish.

"This day I was slated to pitch and was warming up. It was pretty near time to have the game called when I happened to remember my promise to the little rooter and made my way down to the entrance gate, where I had agreed to meet him. Sure enough, he was there all right, waiting for me, though he had about given up hope of seeing me. I had to fight to get there at that, as there was a tremendous crowd that completely filled the park and jammed it full from gate to gate. But I got a seat for my small friend and then went in to pitch. I thought no more about it until some few days ago I received a brief note from the newsboy. Among other things he said: 'I see Frank Chance is going to be in the American League now but you should worry. You licked him once and you can do it again.'"

## SAM CRAWFORD'S DRIVES

Sam Crawford was for years considered the heaviest slugger in baseball. His

great shoulders and muscular arms, and his sure eye made him about the hardest man in the game for a pitcher to face, especially when there were men on bases. And when Sam did put all his strength behind the bat and hit the ball straight on the nose, it was a daring infielder who was willing to face it. Last year Sam had not been hitting well, but when he did hit they went just as far and just as fast as ever. In a game in the middle of the season Sam as usual connected with a fast pitch and the ball shot like a bullet through the shortstop's outstretched hands without touching anything more substantial than air. Sam ambled on to second base without any opposition, but when he came to the bench he was in doubt whether or not the scorer would allow his effort to go as a hit or count it as an error against the shortstop. Owen Bush, however, sagely settled the argument by the following close logic:

Said Bush: "If you call an error on the shortstop you have got to call an error on the left fielder, too. I think if you are going to call an error on anybody, it ought to be on the left fielder, for the ball was going faster when it went by him than it was when it went by shortstop." This may be contrary to the laws of mathematics, but it certainly is the way that Crawford's drives look as viewed from the outfield.

## SCHULTE'S AUTO

On the last game of the season, Schulte was out riding in his automobile and it broke down, so that he was not able to get back in time for the game. This created some excitement in the Cub ranks, but Schulte met the situation with his usual calm. "Yes," he said, "I was taking a little spin in my machine, and it broke down on me. I was anchored up in the country and it was the last game of the season. You didn't think I was going to get me a new machine just to get to the last game, did you?"