

Johnson Leads

It is a little bit early to print stories about what will happen in baseball next year, but one of the things that is pretty sure to happen is that Walter Johnson will then pass the 1,500 mark in strike-outs—unless he breaks his priceless arm or decides to abandon the national game. The man who won the Chalmers car for being the most valuable player in the American League last season has, since he entered fast company, claimed 1,458 strike-out victims. No other major league hurler has, in the seven consecutive seasons from 1907 to 1913, amassed this total of whiff exploits—in fact, only three other men have fanned over 1,000 ball players in this length of time. These three are Ed Walsh, Nap Rucker and Christy Mathewson.

Big Ed Walsh, the spitball star of the White Sox, has been Johnson's closest rival for the title of the Strikeout King of the Majors. The Chicagoan has compelled 1,405 of his to take the whiff route to the bench since he has been a contemporary of the illustrious Washingtonian. Walsh twirled only in sixteen games last season, but from 1907 to 1913, inclusive, he has been in forty-

eight more battles than has the renowned Kansan.

Christy Mathewson has fanned 1,137 men in the last seven campaigns and Nap Rucker 1,128. Eddie Plank, Connie Mack's peerless portsider, almost reached the thousand mark in that time, 997 of his adversaries taking the strike-out count. Chief Bender claimed 864 victims, Howard Camnitz 804, Jack Coombs 784, Mordecai Peter Centennial Brown 747, Leon Ames 748, George Mullin 704, Harry White 628, Ed Reulbach 603, and George Wiltse 580.

Johnson's average of strike-outs per game from 1907 to 1913, inclusive, has been 5.41, Ed Walsh's figures being 4.38 and Chief Bender's 4.02. Only two of the men mentioned in this article have averaged more than 200 strike-outs per campaign, the pair being Johnson and Walsh. The Easterner's average is 208, the Westerner's 201. Ranking third on this basis is Christy Mathewson, with 162. Walsh has been the busiest toiler from 1907 to 1913, inclusive, with "Big Six" next in line.

Here are the totals of strike-outs piled up by the fourteen major league hurlers from 1907 to 1913, inclusive:

<i>Pitchers—</i>	<i>Games.</i>	<i>Strikeouts.</i>	<i>Average, Per Game.</i>	<i>Average, Per Season.</i>
Johnson, Senators	273	1,458	5.41	208
Walsh, White Sox	321	1,405	4.38	201
Mathewson, Giants	300	1,137	3.79	162
Rucker, Superbas	292	1,128	3.86	161
Plank, White Elephants	269	997	3.71	142
Bender, White Elephants	215	864	4.02	123
Camnitz, Pirates-Phillies	274	804	2.93	115
Coombs, White Elephants	204	784	3.84	112
Ames, Giants-Reds	230	748	3.25	107
Brown, Cubs-Reds	281	747	2.66	107
Mullin, Tigers-Senators	236	704	3.00	100
White, White Sox	219	628	2.87	90
Reulbach, Cubs-Superbas	228	603	2.64	86
Wiltse, Giants	225	580	2.58	83