

POST-MORTEM ON THE FLUKE

Ritchie-Welsh Flaseo Draws Down a Good Bit of Gossip.

MUCH THAT IS MUSTY FOUND

Many Angles to a Deal that Didn't Look Good from the First to the Wise Sharps of the Ring.

By W. W. NAUGHTON.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Sept. 27.—The collapse of the Ritchie-Welsh fight at Vancouver for the championship of the world caused by a mild sensation in San Francisco, as the event was not taken seriously from the first. To begin with, the sports generally could not understand how a promoter in a small community like Vancouver could promise Ritchie more money than San Francisco or New York could give him. The answer furnished was that the money the promoters—who were also interested in the race—would "whistle out of the air" if it was not forthcoming.

At that, of course, it was not expected that the pugilistic venture would be all loss and no profit. It was thought that the men behind the scheme would be enabled to break even or perhaps better, provided, always, that the bout was not the only attraction they could offer the public. But later when it was announced that the authorities had ordered a curtailment of the racing season and that the grand moving picture championship would be required to stand on its own bottom, trouble was looked for, and it came.

Ritchie's Reasons Hidden

Ritchie broke a few records going out of Vancouver and gave as his principal reason that the promoters had refused to allow him to participate in the profits arising from advertising. Welsh's manager subsequently pointed out that the amount Ritchie wished included in his emoluments would not reach \$50 a month and argued that it was ridiculous to propose that Ritchie would turn his back on \$10,000 of moving picture returns for a little thing like that.

To be reasonable about it, it doesn't look as though the small sized wrangle over advertising profits would cause Ritchie to break with the promoters, and, since it is up that way, the question arises, was Ritchie really to receive the \$10,000 spoken of?

It is worthy of note that the copies of articles of agreement sent broadcast to the sporting editors mentioned every phase of the agreement between the men except the one which hinged upon emoluments. We were told about the weight and the referee and the soft bandages and all that, but were informed that the monetary arrangements were made the subject of separate articles of agreement.

Now, it is the truth that Ritchie was to receive \$10,000 and that Welsh was to work on a percentage, what necessity was there for having a separate set of articles setting forth these terms?

True Story Not Yet Told.

The whole thing is a muddle and the writer still holds to the belief that the true story of the making and breaking of the Ritchie-Welsh match has not been told.

The ghosts of sportmen seem to be drawing upon their imaginations for revisions of the Vancouver puzzle, but the stories told differ so widely that there is small chance of any particular version of the matter being accepted as reliable.

It is generally agreed that it was the lure of the moving picture money that drew Ritchie into the scheme. It was pointed out to him that the movies, on account of their international character, would prove a much better "bread and butter" than the "provinces." Possibly the separate articles of agreement, if a stipulation of them could be had, would show that both fighters planned their faith to the pictures as a means of reward, rather than to the prospective gate money.

Ritchie, after he went to Vancouver, discovered that he was not creating any particular degree of enthusiasm. It was had enough in this respect before Welsh "sprained his ankle," and after the postponement, according to the best information obtainable, the thing fell flat. Just about this time, too, Ritchie saw that the bottom was falling out of the racing game, and he noticed a disposition on the part of the principal promoter to dispute some of the points in the agreement made in his behalf, by one Chet McIntyre.

Ritchie saw many things. He noticed other things. He saw that Welsh's manager was playing fast and loose with him. Pollock, the young man referred to, had Ritchie dancing a dance as late as 10 o'clock at night, while Welsh was midway in his first step. Pollock, for that matter, took credit to himself for outwitting Ritchie, saying that he had kept Ritchie guessing as to when the final article of agreement would be completed, and all this time Welsh was training quietly and getting plenty of sleep.

According to Harry Foley, who went north with Ritchie, this young Pollock over-reached himself. By displaying all the managerial tricks he had picked up while handling Jack Monroe and other stars of the arena, he succeeded in impressing Ritchie with the idea that there was a plot afoot to give him the worst of the deal, and this in such a way that Ritchie caused Pollock to drop all negotiations and make a bolt for home.

Pollock's Ambition Large.

There is reason for supposing that Pollock did not pin his faith entirely to the moving pictures. He figured that if he could by hindering the settlement of questions connected with the match, delay the time when Ritchie would start training, he would improve Welsh's chances of winning. He knew, as any sensible manager would know, that if Welsh could secure the title of lightweight champion of the world, it would be worth more than all the interest in the moving pictures the "articles of agreement" had reference to.

Ritchie no doubt finally saw through Pollock's game. While doing the time growing short and feeling that he was not in condition and that he would probably have difficulty in making weight, he was anxious to get away. Even at that if the guarantee of \$15,000 had been "on the level," it might have been "enough to stay there, and taken a chance."

Given Another Trial.

Outfielder Singleton, who led the Kansas State team in the Washington series and there are a lot of people who think that a team that could not win a pennant with one Walter Johnson must be a pretty lousy set of ball players.

ANNUAL FIGHT ON TOM LYNCH

National League Clubs Line Up to Battle Over President.

STANDS FOUR TO FOUR JUST NOW

Teams Equally Divided, but Magnates with Grievances Are Beat on Getting Scrap of National League Executive.

By W. J. M'BETH.

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.—Mutterings of discontent in certain quarters of the National league indicate some violent battles at the next annual meeting of the league at Philadelphia, as the most important body in this city sport world. A well established hunch prevails in the inner circles of the national pastime that a strenuous war will be waged against the reelection of President Tom Lynch by certain magnates who has antagonized.

According to the best informed authorities, Lynch might not be unseated were the yearly conference to be held at this time. It is alleged that the present incumbent has the support of four club owners to match the four that clamor for his scalp. According to the National league constitution an executive, in case of deadlock, must continue in office.

The four clubs unfavorable to Lynch are said to be New York, Boston, Chicago and Brooklyn. The Giants have never forgiven Tom for three decisions he pulled on them. It began when a game was lost to the Phillies through the failure of Klem to allow a base hit by "Moose" McCormick, because the arbiter had his back turned at the time, as he said, announcing the change in the batting order. Fuel was added to the flame when McGraw was punished as severely as Pitcher Brennan, after the Quaker had assailed the Giant manager at Philadelphia. The straw that broke the camel's back, however, was Lynch's unusual ruling in the celebrated "forfeited" game in Philadelphia on August 23.

Why Others Are Sure.

President James Gaffney, of the Boston Nationals has shown his hand openly. In a telegram some few weeks ago he censured the National league president openly and accused him of laxity in his duties. Ebbers has failed to raise any satisfaction in any one of dozen protest and contentions. As Charles Hercules fights in the open, he, too, has declared himself. President Hempstead, of the Giants, has said nothing so far, but everyone knows that he is prepared to call the president to task when the big conference arrives. Charles W. Murphy of the Cubs had tried to raise a mutiny against Lynch the last two seasons. He may be counted upon to join forces with the disgruntled three.

According to the present frame-up, then, four clubs oppose Lynch. August Herrmann of Cincinnati, Barney Dreyfus of Pittsburgh and Acting President Baker of the Phillies are said to be strong for the "king of umpires." Britton of St. Louis is supposed to be on the fence. If he can be won over by the reason element there is little doubt that Lynch's days will be numbered. Herrmann stood by Lynch last year, though it is said that he came around to this support as a result of the Horace Fogel scandal. He wished to exonerate the fair name of baseball.

Herrmann Not Disgruntled. Herrmann has no grievances against Lynch of which anyone knows. He has not declared himself on the coming issue. But he is a life-long friend of Barney Dreyfus and a National commission confederate of Tom Lynch. Garry is, moreover, of Tom Lynch's last year. However, it is said that he came around to this support as a result of the Horace Fogel scandal. He wished to exonerate the fair name of baseball.

St. Louis at the present time holds the balance of power. So long as Britton strings with Dreyfus, so long does Lynch appear secure. Every effort will be made by the anti-Lynch faction to win over the boss of the Cardinals. In such a case it would not be surprising to see Herrmann surrender. He is a broad-minded magnate, who believes firmly in the rule of the majority. Last year he saved Lynch because he thought a great principle was involved. He had a cudgel over Murphy's head that forced the reform element around to his particular way of thinking.

One Faraway Possibility.

There is just one far-fetched possibility of the anti-Lynch faction losing out should it be able to interest the St. Louis vote. That would be inability to agree on a candidate satisfactory to all. Three well-known men of base ball are being wooed for Tom Lynch's job. One is Joe O'Brien, former secretary of the Giants and chief of the American association. Another is Mr. Brown, a newspaper man of Louisville, Ky., who was advocated by Garry Herrmann when the Fogel scandal developed last year. Last, and perhaps most formidable, is Ed Barrow, president of the International league.

Barrow has not sought the office. He has an unexpired term of several years as president of the International. But it is believed he might be induced to accept the more exalted position if he has done wonders in his present sphere, is popular and able. If there is any chance of coaxing him into the fight he is likely to become the most popular candidate.

Ball Players Are to Tour the World

CHICAGO, Sept. 27.—Seventy-five persons will go on the "round-the-world" tour to be made next winter by the New York Nationals and the Chicago Americans.

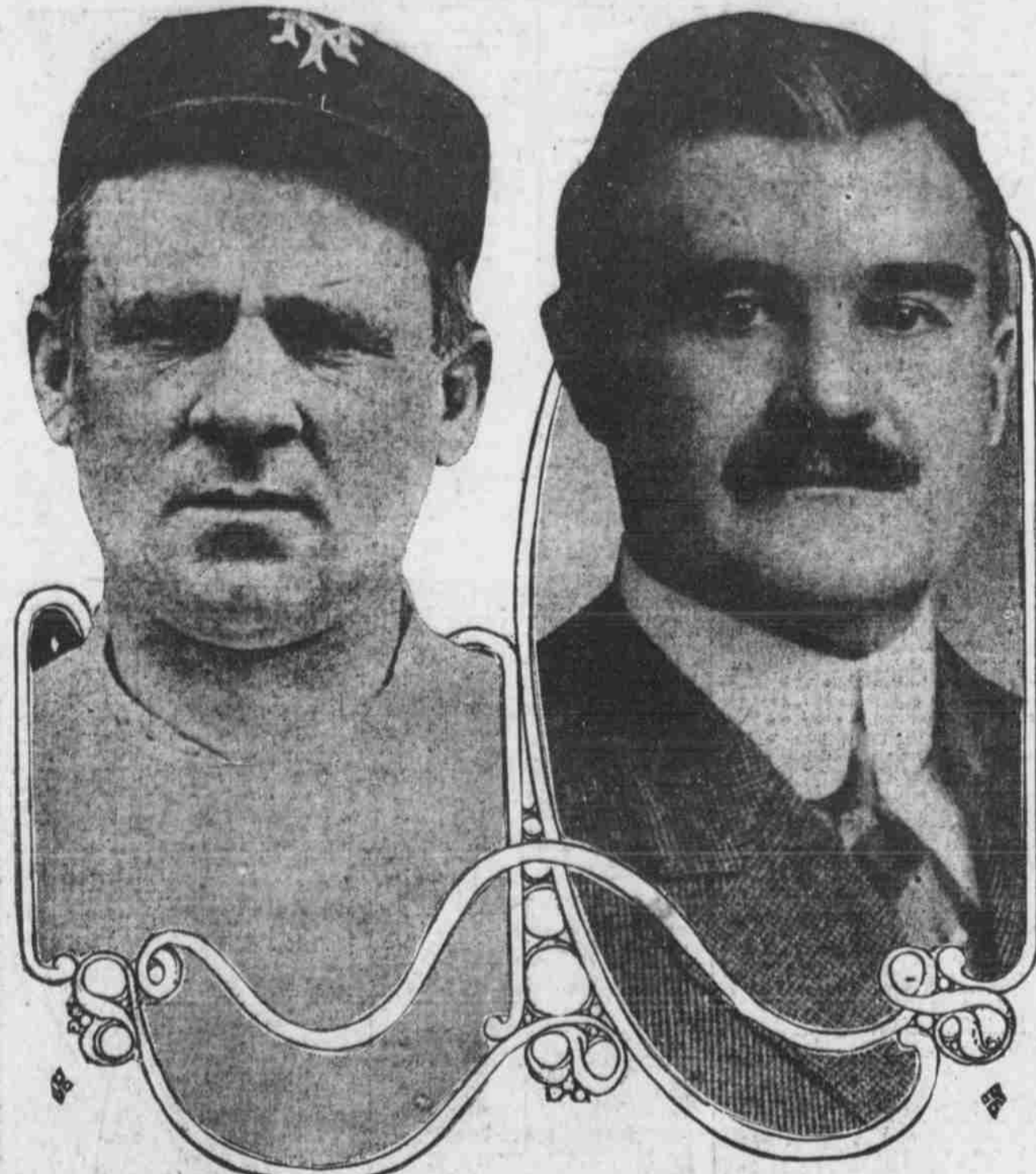
President Comiskey of the local club stated that they will be fifty in his party when the steamer sails from Vancouver, November 13, and the Gotham delegation will number twenty-five. Each tourist's fare will amount to at least \$1,000 but there will be countless minor expenses. In addition, each player will be required to post \$300 to guarantee his appearance on the ship, but the money will be refunded when the boat sails.

The Cubs and Pirates will not be represented on this jaunt, though several members of both clubs would like to make the trip. Owners Dreyfus and Brown are both opposed to any of their athletes accompanying the party, and only such players as receive the consent of their managers may go.

Another Like Johnson.

Clark Griffith says that another winter in the Washington series meant the pennant for Washington, sure, and there are a lot of people who think that a team that could not win a pennant with one Walter Johnson must be a pretty lousy set of ball players.

Central Figures in National League Fight



JOHN J. McRAW. PRESIDENT THOMAS LYNCH.

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.—It is pretty generally understood in base ball circles that President Tom Lynch of the National league is in for a tough fight to hold down his job. Last winter Lynch escaped by the skin of his teeth and during the present season he has made a number of sour rulings which have put him in worse than ever with some of the magnates.

BUSHES ARE CLOSELY COMBED

Big Leagues Draw on the Minors for Ball Playing Material.

PRICE OF GOOD TALENT SOARS

Scouts Looking Up Men Who May Be Built Into Pennant Winners for the Teams Next Season.

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.—One crop failure not included in the latest report of the government is the crop of ball players harvested in the minor leagues and distributed among the big leagues clubs at various times through the season. Although most people don't know it, this crop has registered a greater deficit than the corn crop so much lamented, due, however, to an overproduction of bone rather than a lack of rain.

This has been a rather remarkable year for the number of players recruited from the minors and particularly for the amount of money expended in the search for talent. Several of the clubs in the two big leagues found themselves in great need of new material shortly after this season began and as a consequence scouts combed the bushes and picked up everything that looked like a possible ball player. Along with the increased demand the price of talent went up and the result was that more high priced players came under the big tent in a few months than had come into the league in several years before. But the high prices do not seem to have increased the quality, for from statistics not furnished by the government, experts it appears that from 150 recruits only eighteen have made good, or 12 per cent. There are of course more than this number still remaining in the big leagues, but they have not made good yet. The Yankees, for instance, have in Maisei, the boy scouted from Baltimore, a player who will likely stay with the club next season, and one or two others may help swell the number of successful bidders; but at that the crop is a failure as far as figures are concerned.

Depth of the Position. Schalk, Schang and possibly McKee are the only recruit catchers who have made good. Five pitchers—Russell, Demaree, Daus, Boehling and possibly Shawkey can be considered as big league hurlers. Myers, Maranville, Chapman and Viox have been the only real finds among the infielders, unless Maisei comes through with the promise made for him, and Eddie Murphy, Stengel, Veach and Connelly are probably the pick of the recruit outfielders.

It is one of the peculiar facts in connection with the recruits that clubs most in need of good players get fewest of them. The Yankees and Cardinals, two clubs that were in bad need of material to bolster up a succession of weak places, got very little from the minor leagues. Frank Chance has two or three players now who show promise, but none that can be classed as a star or who can be said to have shown real class. He, however, may develop good players from these recruits and at least he lost nothing in those he let go to make room for the new men.

Factors in the Series.

Demaree of the Giants and Boehling of the Senators have been the best pitching finds of the year. Demaree has been a consistent winner and has a fine chance to lead all of the pitchers in the league this year. It should also be a prominent factor in the next world's series. He came from the Southern league without any big price on his head and began winning games from the first. Boehling supplanted Clark Griffith with the southpaw he so much wanted. He became quite a sensation when he rang up a string of straight wins during the mid-

The National league has come in for a good deal of sharp newspaper criticism this summer and there is a pretty wide spread belief that Lynch is more or less responsible for it. His handing out equal punishment to McGraw and Burns when the Philadelphia fighter made his attack on the Giants' manager caused many people to think there is a hole in Lynch's

ideas of justice. And his repudiating Umpire Brennan in the forfeited Philadelphia game has added greatly to the unpopularity against Lynch.

Those who are close to the president of the National league say that he, himself, sees that he has come to be an embarrassment to the National league and will retire on his own motion at the close of the season.

Most of those who failed to show up were considered the best of athletes in the respective parts of the state in which they resided. Aside from this several stars of last year's organization have been induced to try out for foot ball teams at large schools. The coach was unable to get a full team out to practice before September 25, the result being that the local college team will be a week or more behind the other teams in preparation.

RITCHIE TO HEAD EAST IN SEARCH OF A BOXING MATCH

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.—According to reports from the Pacific coast Champion Willie Ritchie will soon be headed this way for bouts with Peckey McFarland, Litch Cross and a few others.

Ritchie declares he is ready to tackle McFarland, if the inducements are to his liking. The champion has not gone into the matter deep enough as yet to name the amount he would deem commensurate with his services for such a match. Neither has McFarland made known what he would demand. But if they follow precedent the sum total of their demands will aggregate an amount that will astonish the flat world and bankrupt any promoter rash enough to meet it.

GRAND ISLAND COLLEGE FOOT BALL PROSPECT POOR

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Sept. 27.—(Special.)—Coach Morrow and Captain Menick of the Grand Island college foot ball team are discouraged over the outlook for this year's team. In spite of all the hard work that has been put in since the closing of last year's foot ball season, in persuading and including old and new stars of the game to strengthen the lineup of last year's tip-top eleven, setbacks and unfortunate circumstances have dampened the foot ball ardor of this college.

Several new men who have been expected to come have at the last moment decided to attend school at other places.

Wants Better Pitchers.

Next year Lincoln wants better pitchers. Hugh Jones has spent more money for players than any other Lincoln manager of recent years and has satisfied the fans that he is striving to build up a winning team. But the fact remains that Lincoln's pitchers are not classy enough. The club is now batting well and the fielding is second in the league. With the infield and outfield men working in that fashion Lincoln is entitled to second place. The pitchers have held them down.

Western League Averages

Club Batting.											
G.	W.	L.	T.	AB.	R.	H.	2B.	3B.	HR.	SB.	Pct.
Denver	157	87	77	7,276	898	1,926	231	21	31	717	41.7
St. Paul	155	84	71	6,990	850	1,856	210	21	29	666	41.4
Omaha	157	75	81	6,831	790	1,720	200	24	29	644	41.1
Lincoln	159	81	78	7,231	771	1,844	233	20	29	681	40.8
Des Moines	157	88	69	7,239	843	1,903	246	20	33	720	40.7
St. Joseph	156	78	78	6,872	827	1,833	215	25	32	671	40.5
Wichita	156	67	89	6,829	672	1,581	198	20	27	560	40.4
Topeka	155	71	84	6,197	731	1,571	212	26	28	532	40.4

Club Fielding.											
G.	DP.	FP.	TP.	PO.	A.	E.	Pct.				
Des Moines	157	69	20	1	4162	1538	235	963			
Lincoln	159	68	18	1	4147	1527	290	953			
Denver	157	77	14	1	4065	1531	207	953			
St. Joseph	156	70	15	1	4143	1689	269	953			
Topeka	155	63	21	1	4066	1586	307	953			
St. Paul	155	70	21	1	4103	1545	234	949			
Wichita	156	72	20	1	4072	2160	243	947			

Batting Averages.

G.	AB.	R.	H.	SB.	Pct.
G. Watson, St. J.	41	67	6	25	1.273
Stange, Sioux City	38	4	15	1	.400
Quinn, St. Joe	38	4	15	1	.400
Block, Denver	38	4	15	1	.400
McCollin, Wich.	38	4	15	1	.400
Clark, Sioux City	37	5	14	1	.378
Wolfgang, Denver	37	5	14	1	.378
Coleman, Denver	37	5	14	1	.378
Congalton Omaha	36	6	13	1	.375
Chancellor, Denver	31	6	13	1	.375
Chandler, Denver	31	6	13	1	.375
DeLoach, St. J.	29	5	11	1	.379
G. Smith, Topeka	21	3	8	1	.381
Gilmore, Topeka	15	4	5	1	.333
Forry, Topeka	14	3	5	1	.357
Thomas, Omaha	14	2	5	1	.357
Johnson, Omaha	11	2	4	1	.364
Nicholson, Wich.	7	2	3	1	.429
Woods, Sioux City	6	2	3	1	.500
McCormick, L'n.	5	1	3	1	.600
Davidson, Sioux C.	5	1	3	1	.600
Loyd, Lincoln	5	1	3	1	.600
Coe, Lincoln	5	1	3	1	.600
Vann, Sioux City	5	1	3	1	.600
Burns, Sioux City	5	1	3	1	.600
Orsinger, Sioux City	5	1	3	1	.600
Mullen, Lincoln	5	1	3	1	.600
McAllister, Topeka	5	1	3	1	.600
K. St. Joseph	4	1	2	1	.500
McLary, Topeka	4	1	2	1	.500
Westerly, St. Joe	4	1	2	1	.500
C. French, Denver	4	1	2	1	.500
Willing, St. Joe	4	1	2	1	.500
Cassidy, Denver	4	1	2	1	.500
Woods, Sioux City	4	1	2	1	.500
Hunter, Des M.	4	1	2	1	.500
Koerner, Topeka	4	1	2	1	.500
Gear, Topeka	4	1	2	1	.500
Coomer, St. Joe	4	1	2	1	.500
Kane, Omaha	4	1	2	1	.500
Rapp, Sioux City	4	1	2	1	.500
Ritchie, Sioux City	4	1	2	1	.500
Ocha, St. Joseph	4	1	2	1	.500
Jones, Des Moines	4	1	2	1	.500
Sheldon, Des M.	4	1	2	1	.500
Hahn, Des Moines	4	1	2	1	.500
Lee, Topeka	4	1	2	1	.500
Shaw, Des Moines	4	1	2	1	.500
Hughes, Wichita	4	1	2	1	.500
Sleight, Des M.	4	1	2	1	.500
Neff, Omaha	4	1	2	1	.500
Coffey, Denver	4	1	2	1	.500
R. Watson, St. Joe	4	1	2	1	.500
Harris, Denver	4	1	2	1	.500
Carney, Lincoln	4	1	2	1	.500
Leonard, Des M.	4	1	2	1	.500
Donovan, Lincoln	4	1	2	1	.500
Miller, St. Joe	4	1	2	1	.500
Burke, Wichita	4	1	2	1	.500
Bygill, St. Joseph	4	1	2	1	.500
Sheehan, Omaha	4	1	2	1	.500

Leading Western League Pitchers.

G.	IP.	W.	L.	Pct.
Hagerman, Denver	23	14	7	.688
Wolfgang, Denver	23	13	7	.652
Coehran, Topeka	44	27	10	.730
G. Smith, Topeka	40	25	13	.658
Harris, Denver	40	25	13	.658
Schultz, Omaha	38	22	10	.688
Toehler, St. Joseph	40	25	13	.658
White, Lincoln	40	25	13	.658
King, Denver	24	14	8	.636
Maddox, Wichita	22	17	7	.709
Baker, Lincoln	22	15	7	.682
Gilbert, Denver	22	15	7	.682
Lafferty, Des Moines	27	18	10	.643
Robinson, Omaha	27	18	10	.643
Appligante, Omaha	49	11	38	.222
Brenner, Omaha	31	8	23	.258
Robinson, Omaha	31	8	23	.258
Schreiber, Denver	33	15	18	.455
Faber, Des Moines	47	30		