



Joe Williams Says— Chandler Seeks Umpire Control

Joe Questions Wisdom
Of 'Unification' Idea

NEW YORK, Nov. 2—For the first time in the history of the game, one man is reaching out for absolute control of the big league umpires. Commissioner Chandler wants to merge the two staffs and assign the umpires to games in both leagues on a basis of rotation.

It is a moot question whether this is a wise move, and for that reason its possible effects should be studied closely. I want to believe that Chandler is motivated by a sincere desire to improve the operation of baseball. But it is quite possible to be sincere and cockeyed at the same time.

When the two league presidents, Will Harridge of the American, and Ford Frick of the National, who have made baseball their profession, take the view that to pool the services of the umpires would not be in the best interests of the game I must go along with them. At least, until the commissioner can prove that they are wrong.

WHAT benefits would accrue from a combined staff? Chandler contends it would, for one thing, protect the umpires against charges of favoritism in rival league play, meaning the World Series and the All-Star game.

Since Chandler's plan first came to my attention, I have been looking back over the years and trying to recall one incident—just one—where it was considered probable that an umpire allowed his league loyalty, if that's the word, to influence his judgment. I'm still searching for that incident.

On the other hand, I have no difficulty in recalling many situations where an umpire called a vital play against his own league. Waite Hoyt, for example, still insists that Ollie Chilli, an American League umpire, cost the Yanks the '21 series with the Giants.

THE SERIES that year was best five out of nine. Going into the eighth game the Giants led four to three. In the first inning, Hoyt, with the count three and two, broke a curve over the heart of the plate for a third strike on Ross Youngs which would have retired the side.

It was a late breaking curve and Chilli was fooled by the pitch. He called it a ball. George Kelly, next up, hit an infield grounder which produced the only run of the game, sufficient to give the Giants the championship.

There was no question that Chilli had missed the pitch. Even the Giants admitted as much after the game.

THERE NEVER was more Stewart National League than Hank O'Day. In the '23 series between the Yanks and the Giants O'Day had four three-and-two calls to make on Yankee batters in a big inning that, as it turned out, was to decide the game and the series. He called every one against the Giants' pitcher, Artie Nehf. Billy Evans was still unperturbed. He worked the game on the bases directly back of the pitcher.

And when it was over he said Nehf was missing the plate by the narrowest margins . . . "They were balls all right but not one of them was a really bad pitch." The keenness of O'Day's vision amazed Evans. Nobody had to tell him about the veteran's vast courage and honesty.

These incidents—and I can name a dozen others—lend no support to Chandler's fears of bias. Does he think for a second that men like O'Day and Chilli, could possibly have been influenced by their league labels?

I find Chandler's parental, or mother hen concern about the umpires puzzling and disturbing. This is why I continue to harp on the subject. And I do hope the club owners are not taking it lightly.

Low Offense-Defense Rating Fails to Slow Hawkeyes

CHICAGO, Nov. 2 (UP)—Big Ten statistics proved today that it isn't how you rank on offense and defense in football; it's how many points you score.

The Iowa Hawkeyes of Dr. Eddie Anderson were ranked as the fifth best team in the league in offense and the seventh in defense. Yet the Hawks were tied with Ohio State for the conference lead and have the best scoring mark in the conference, an average of 24.5 points per game.

Ohio State still rated as the best offensive team with an average gain per game of 343 yards. The Buckeyes also had the best passing completion percentage, 49.4.

Illinois was the top club in ground gains with 279 yards per contest while the Illini also held the best pass defense record, holding its opponents to 318 per cent completions.

Michigan was the top defensive team with Illinois second.

The standings:

	W	L	TF	GD	OR	DR
Ohio State	5	2	41	32	3	3
Michigan	5	2	41	32	3	3
Minnesota	4	3	34	23	2	2
Northwestern	3	4	26	29	6	6
Illinois	0	5	11	11	0	0
Offensive ranking	1	1	1	1	1	1
Defensive ranking	1	1	1	1	1	1

Dick McCreary Loses

MEXICO CITY, Nov. 2—Dick McCreary, formerly of Indianapolis, and now a resident of Houston, Tex., yesterday was defeated in the quarterfinals of the Mexican amateur golf tourney. Bob Riegel, also of Houston, was the 1-up victor.

The standings:

	W	L	TF	GD	OR	DR
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