

A Pitch in Time Will Shorten Nine . . . Innings, That Is

As the baseball season goes into its third month the old, old discussion on the length of games is being revived on a larger scale than ever before.

Strange as it may seem, the spectators aren't leading the fight to find ways and means of shortening their stay in the stands. It's coming largely from sports writers, players, managers, clubs and league officials.

There is no use trying to kid anyone on this subject. The games are running too long. Most of them are averaging three hours and we sit on one this season that went over four.

The paid spectator doesn't mind the time spent at an afternoon contest. With play starting at 1:30, he figures he has to give up most of the rest of the day to enjoy it. The fans stay in the stands when the result is one-sided either way.

It's different with the fans who turn out at night. When games run past 11 p.m. many of them don't get home until after midnight. They are told when they hit the deck the next morning for their daily grind. They think twice before gambling on their next visit to the park. Many cut down the number of trips.

What is responsible for these long, drawn-out affairs?

The answer is simple. In most cases, it's the fault of the pitchers.

Don't jump on them too quickly until we point out some reasons why they do so much stalling.

Baseball authorities have given all the advantage to the offense in the last couple of decades by putting more liveliness in the ball.

The game now stresses the buster. Players with batting averages of .250 or more are driving balls out of almost every park quite consistently. All of them are swinging for the fences.

In the meantime, they have taken everything away from the pitchers—the spitball, the three ball, the powder ball, monkey and what have you.

Pitchers now must work carefully on every batter, not just the accepted sluggers who always have been good hitters.

Keep track of any game if you want to check on what's happening.

You'll find pitchers have men on P, B and 3/2 counts on almost every hitter they face through time enough that ever before.

It's just one item after another. So the batters stall around on the hit side with their infielders and catchers, pick up the rest but frequently and go through many other maneuvers that take up time.

Can you blame them? They are fighting for themselves, their records and their pay checks.

Many owners have shortened fences for no other reason than to get more home runs—the average fan's delight.

In many ways, rules have been made which eliminate delays such as protests over balls and strikes, too many visits to the mound by managers and other stalling tactics. But in the final analysis the pitcher is the goal.

Chances for Help
MAYBE the only question to these "evils" that could hasten their end is to help the pitcher.

The easy chance is through the return of some of the illegal stuff that once was perfectly legitimate.

Joe Cronin, American League prey and a good student of the game, recently came out for the return of the spitball.

There is plenty of cheating going on with the operator right now. The smarter managers and players know who the culprits are, but they are so clever that most umpires can't detect the violations. Some of our own Twins aren't above suspicion.

We do not advocate throwing the gates wide open to the pitchers with wholesale approval of all the so-called illegal stuff.

However, legalizing the gutter could be a step in the right direction.

Too many pitchers wouldn't be able to match wits with it, but there'll be enough of them who can handle it to lift some of the handings now placed on the man on the hill every day.

LOWDOWN ON SPORTS

By Charles Johnson

Senators Clip Chisox 4-3 on Homer in 15th

WASHINGTON — In . . .
Marty Keough, a 252 batter with only one previous home run this year, capped his second Senators' game Washington a 15-inning, 4-3 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

The Sox led 3-2 going into the last of the ninth, but Willie Taylor gave a runner off Warren Hacker to send the game into overtime.

It was the third straight squeaker for the Senators over the Sox. They took a one-night doubleheader Friday 4-0 in 10 innings and 10-1 with a four-run rally in the ninth.

Juan Pizarro, starting his first American League game, held the Senators to two unearned runs and four hits in the seven innings he worked.

The Senators scored two runs in the first. Keough singled, Chas Himes walked and Dale Long tripled. The runs were unearned because catcher Camilo Carreras dropped a foul pop that would have hit Long out.

The Sox scored in the fifth successive innings by Floyd Robinson, Nellie Fox and Jim Landis and twice more in its sixth on singles by Smith and J. C. Martin and a double by Carreras.

Official Game Report

Senators 4 Chisox 3
Senators: 111 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0
Chisox: 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

	P	IP	R	ER	B	O	K	BB	SO	SA	SH	CS	PO	A	DP	E	U	
Senators	Pizarro	7 1/2	3	2	3	15	12	1	10	3	1	0	12	0	1	1	0	1
Senators	Keough	8 2/3	1	1	2	14	12	1	8	4	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	1
Senators	Hacker	1 1/3	0	0	0	5	4	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Chisox	Robinson	1 1/3	0	0	0	5	4	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Chisox	Fox	3	0	0	0	12	10	0	6	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Chisox	Landis	1 2/3	0	0	0	7	6	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Chisox	Smith	2	0	0	0	9	8	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Chisox	Carroll	3	0	0	0	12	11	0	7	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Chisox	Martin	2	0	0	0	9	8	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Chisox	Carreras	5 2/3	1	1	1	18	17	1	10	0	0	0	13	0	1	1	0	0
Chisox	Conner	2	0	0	0	9	8	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Chisox	McDonald	1	0	0	0	5	4	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Chisox	Wright	1	0	0	0	5	4	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Chisox	Johnson	1	0	0	0	5	4	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0

A-Fuel Dragster To Give Exhibition

An A-fuel dragster from Bristol, N.H., will make four exhibition runs today as part of the program of Motorsports Exhibitions. Exhibitions will be at 11:30 a.m., 1, 2 and 3 p.m., with speeds up to 175 mph.

Local competitors will be warming up for the division match races coming up in the next few weeks.

EX-MILLER PIT TO FACE TWO

In an effort to . . .
BOSTON, Mass.—A past pitcher will face the Minnie leader at Fenway park.

They are right handers G. Schwall, the current top American League, has won 10 out a loss none being called a Coast league.

Clois will be making his first start for the Boston club for Seattle.

Southpaw Jack Kuzick, Raining (#7) will be the Twin.