

## BASE BALL GOSSIP OF WEEK

Omaha Still Wrestling With Hard Luck  
Against the Field.

## NEW PLAYERS MAY BRING A CHANGE

Thornton and Kelly Expected to Add  
Strength to the Team and Enable It to Escape from  
Last Place.

Plugging along. Joe Billings once remarked that when a man started to go down hill it seemed as if everything was greased for the occasion. And Papa Bill Bourke is willing to stand up and say "amen" to this. He has more than proved it since the present base ball season opened, and bids fair to go through to the end piling up evidence in favor of the affirmative. Bill's band of warriors has gone from one hard luck episode to another with a sickening regularity, and emerges from one way of disaster only to be engulfed by another. But right here's where the change comes. Not a man in the bunch has lost his courage, and every time the dip has been taken it has been against the protest of the entire band. Just at present the team is in as good playing condition as it has been this season, the acquisition of Thornton at first and Kelly at short doing much to bring it back to its old form, and we have been gratified to see Omaha's express desire to finally to have their fun cut off short. Everybody knows what Jack Thornton can do, and Kelly gives all exterior evidence of being a ball player, so there will very likely be something doing from the Omaha end of it from this time out. We may not win the pennant, but it's going to keep Des Moines and Denver both jumping to hold us in the bottom hole.

Messrs. Burns, Packard and Sexton all got together at Denver during the last week and proceeded to deny totally and in each item the sundry and divers reports, rumors, interviews and hot-air yarns with which their names had been connected during the fortnight previously, and especially did they deny any intention, expressed or implied, of the Western abandoning the fight in Milwaukee or Kansas City. Harry Duffy chimed in from Milwaukee, promising to "hold her name agin' the bank til the last galoot's ashore," or words to that effect. He is as heroic as Leonidas and James Fitz-James both put together, and almost as crazy in his expression as the late James J. Corbett. One of the few things in the deluge of denials that is of interest is the statement by Messrs. Burns and Packard that they do not own and control a majority of the clubs in the Western league. Nor has there been any further attempt to turn the Omaha franchise over to Bobby Lowe or any other man. All of which indicates that in a degree the Rocky Mountain magnates are returning to reason in a degree. But their assertions that the American league is on the point of dissolution, and is certain to abandon the disputed points, seems to be founded on mere hope. The stubborn fact is that the American is in better shape than it was last year, and the Western is not.

Whatever the reason, the batters of the Western league are not making the showing they did last year. When such pitchers as Owen, Brown, Welmer, Gibson and Adkins were officiating in the league the batting list was as full of .300 hitters as a dog is of fleas. With these acknowledged stars out of the game, the list of sluggers has dwindled until only ten of them have the .300 mark. Nine others are hitting close to .300, but outside the money. Here are the ten leaders:

Fleming, Colorado Springs, left field..... .345  
Duffy, Milwaukee, center field..... .347  
O'Leary, Des Moines, shortstop..... .339  
O'Neill, Milwaukee, right field..... .323  
Dunn, Denver, first base..... .321  
Thornton, Omaha, first base..... .321  
Congdon, Colorado Springs, right..... .318  
Delehanty, St. Louis, second base..... .318  
McConnell, St. Joseph, catcher..... .306  
Wright, Peoria, first base..... .305  
That isn't a very formidable list of sluggers, is it? Have the batters lost their eyes, or have we been getting the real thing in the way of pitching and not recognizing it? Even the great George Alonso Stone, who hit away over .300 last year, is batting thirty-third in the list, with a percentage of .276. It's pretty hard to say what.

One week from Tuesday Presidents Johnson, Pulliam and Powers will meet at Saratoga to complete the draft of the national agreement which is to cover all base ball operations. That this agreement will be ratified is a foregone conclusion. It is assumed that it will be in all essential regards a model document for the government of the game from the magnate's point of view, and as such will be of great service to the game. Even with the slack control of the present, the improvement over the condition of affairs which prevailed last season is so marked as to indicate what may be expected when the time comes that the player's will is not the absolute law of the diamond. When it gets to the pass that a player can hold his place only by doing his best the game will be the gainer and the honest players will be none the losers. For two seasons the rowdies have defied suspension and the black list because of the demand for players. An agreement between the leagues will put these fellows on a different basis and may induce them to behave. At any rate, they'll either play ball or get out of the game.

Denver is in a wonder just now over the actions of Gus Dundon. The busy little third baseman left the Grizzlies at Milwaukee, ostensibly to go to his home in Pennsylvania, where his wife was reported sick. He said he would return to Denver. Since then it has been reported that he will join the Chicago Americans at Boston. Packard doesn't say if he thinks Dundon has jumped, but he is playing Radcliffe on third and Schlebeck at short. To a man at this distance it looks as if Dundon's wife had served him the same sort of a turn that Buck Franks' wife served him. Mrs. Franks got "sick" at Oakland just about

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the time Buck had made up his mind that he had enough of the Millionaires, and while he was profuse in his promises to return, he next showed up in an Oakland uniform and has been pattering regularly on Pete Lehman's team ever since. Dundon's absence will weaken Denver materially, for neither Radcliffe nor Schlebeck can equal him as a player.

The statistics for the Omaha's team performance during the last week indicate a general improvement in fielding and an equal slump in hitting. The figures are:

## FIELDING AVERAGES

	LAST	A. B.	E.	T.C.	AV.	WK.
Kelly	1	2	0	1	1,000	.964
Sanders	3	23	0	1	97	.985
Golding	3	21	0	1	96	.964
Conrad	3	20	0	1	96	.960
Gentile	3	19	0	1	96	.967
Thomas	26	20	17	37	.955	.957
Mitter	26	19	15	40	.909	.967
Shuart	265	24	24	56	.934	.933
Henderson	21	22	8	42	.920	.920
Conrad	21	22	8	42	.920	.920
Schafstall	9	68	8	86	.906	.913
Welch	183	19	21	24	.900	.888
Hickey	107	133	27	275	.872	.858

## BATTING AVERAGES

	LAST	A. B.	R.	B.	AV.	WK.
Kelly	1	2	0	1	1,000	.964
Thornton	3	12	2	22	.900	.900
Miller	144	24	40	277	.894	.894
Golding	82	23	23	267	.870	.870
Conrad	80	23	23	267	.870	.870
Welch	26	27	56	347	.747	.747
Hickey	265	37	60	225	.926	.926
Thomas	21	21	7	21	.952	.952
Mitter	26	20	15	21	.923	.923
Shuart	223	22	49	219	.876	.876
Henderson	22	57	60	205	.818	.818
Conrad	22	57	60	205	.818	.818
Compton	83	14	18	188	.188	.188
McConnell	59	2	4	67	.054	.054

## RACE OF THE TRI-CITY LEAGUE

Ideals and Originals Are Fighting  
for First Place and Making  
It Interesting.

The pennant race in the Tri-City league has reached a point of much interest and has practically settled down between the Ideals and Originals, with the Ideals slightly in the lead. The two Bluffs teams are way in the rear and can not hope to catch up in their position at all, as the season is more than two-thirds over. The Ideals have gained and held the lead through their consistently heavy batting and through the work of their pitchers. The Originals have combined the same two traits in their teams and are second in the pennant race, with even chance of finishing at the head of the league. Those hitting over .300 in the various teams are as follows:

ORIGINALS.	B. JETTERS.
Howe	.545 Cahill
	.490 Bradford
	.480 Moore
	.380 Clark
	.333 Lynch
IDEALS.	
Dorcas	.500
Lynch	.490
Wright	.480
Modell	.470
Hoffman	.470
JOE SMITHS.	
CRESCENTS.	
Harton	.444
Lee	.428 Schutte
Petersen	.422 Utterback
Ryan	.370

## MID-WEST TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Play Begins Monday at Field Club  
with Promise of Good Crowd.

Tomorrow will begin a week of tennis and of the week which is above all others the acme of enthusiasm and real playing in Omaha. It is the opening day of the mid-west tournament, which will bring together the representative players of at least five states.

Everything is in the best of preparation for the tournament, which will live up to its promise of being the best and most successful of any ever held in Omaha or in the middle west. The number of entries is as great as ever with the courts all a little filled and the players just a little bettered than ever before. The names of the players who will play in the tournament show an unusually large number of strong men for any tournament outside of the east or Chicago. Most of them have long records of many victories to look back upon and all of them are still playing in their strongest form.

The prizes, too, are very fine. In value alone they are as good as are given for any tournaments except the largest of the eastern ones, where money has ceased to be an object. Following is a complete list of the prizes arranged for:

Challenge cup, singles (won three times, not in succession).....	.500
First prize, doubles, one cup glass punch	.250
Second prize, singles, silver-mounted cut glass punch	.250
Challenge cup, doubles, two loving cups, valued at \$50 each.....	.250
First prize, doubles, one cup glass punch	.250
Second prize, singles, silver-mounted cut glass punch	.250
Challenge cup, doubles, two loving cups, valued at \$50 each.....	.250
First prize, doubles, two silver bread trays and a silver mounted trophy	.250
Second prize, singles, consolation cut glass decanter	.250
Second prize, singles, consolation silver punch ladles, valued at \$15 each.....	.250
Second prize, doubles, consolation, two silver punch ladles, valued at \$15 each.....	.250
Total.....	.500

The tennis committee at the Omaha Field club have been giving particular attention the last week to the completion of the details for the entry of the mid-west tournament during the time of the tournament and they are assured one of the "tightest" contests possible. With the exception of Thursday night something is arranged for every night of the week and the committee declare that Thursday night will not be left open. On Monday the players will be initiated into the mysteries of the subtleties of the Knights of Ak-Bar-Ben; Tuesday a duck drive is scheduled and then there will be the regular dance on Wednesday evening; the banquet and smoker will be given Friday night and the second dance is on Saturday night.

The old Omaha Lawn Tennis club is due the credit of starting the interstate tennis event, which is now held annually at the Omaha Field club. In previous years the meet was termed the Omaha Interstate tournament, but now bears the more dignified name of The Middle West championship. All these events have been held under the auspices of the United States Lawn Tennis association and many players of nations' sports have taken part in the contests of the tournaments:

1898—St. Louis champion, De Roy Austin, Omaha, Neb.; runner-up, W. H. Whitman, Kansas City, Mo. Double champion, C. H. Young and E. J. Hart, Omaha, Neb. Doubles champion, H. H. Nichols, Lemars, Ia.

1899—Singles champion, L. H. Waldner and H. W. Scoum, Chicago; runners-up, C. H. Young and Frank Haskell, Wm. C. Carver, Chicago; runner-up, W. S. Bond, Chicago. Doubles champion, J. W. Carver and L. H. Waldner, Chicago; runner-up, W. S. Bond, Chicago.

1900—De Roy Austin, Omaha; runner-up, R. W. Condes, Chicago. Doubles champion, W. S. Bond and C. G. Cutshaw, Chicago.

1901—G. H. Young, Omaha.

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among American players, J. W. Carver in 1899 and 1900 held the western championship in doubles with J. A. Ryerson, while L. H. Waldner is now the holder of the same title with Kreigh Collins. It will also be remembered that this latter team gave the Doherty brothers such a close run in the championship round in the national double last year.

These interstate events have been a great success and Omaha players always look forward to witnessing the skill of the visitors when they appear on the Field club courts every August. The tournaments of 1894 and 1895 were managed by George E. Haeverstick, those of 1895 and 1897 by C. H. Young, while the tennis committee of the Omaha Field club insured the success of those held in 1891 and 1892.

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