

BIG NEWS FOR OMAHA FANS DUE TO BREAK AT LOUISVILLE MEETING OF MINOR MAGNATES

Plans to Merge International League and American Association Include Award of Class AA Franchise And Berth in New American Association for the Omaha Club.

On that date the annual meeting of the National Association of Professional Base Ball Leagues opens at Louisville and also on that date will be the eight club owners of the Western league gather in the Kentucky metropolis for an executive session.

Circuit changes are scheduled to come before the national association delegates and no matter what circuit changes Omaha is bound to be affected.

Merger Is Plan.
According to all the dope a merger of the International and American associations is to occur. Reverses in both of these Class AA leagues made club owners desperate a year ago and for the last 365 days they have devoted their entire time to discovering ways and means of recouping their losses.

The Class AA heads have concluded it is impossible for their leagues to pay dividends as they are now situated and that the only hope is to merge.

Lately the lid has been clamped down on the merger plans. All dispatches have been censored and so much secrecy has been attached to talk of the proposed alliance that base ball men are confident it is to be consummated at last.

To Block Objectors.
The secrecy, it is believed, is observed to remove obstacles which confront the task of remapping the territory. Some cities must be slighted in the arrangements and these cities, of course, will make every possible effort to block them.

By moving on the quiet opposition from these cities can be checked until the last minute when it would be impossible to throw any tools into the machinery.

The merger plan, it is believed, will link four American association cities with four International cities. The International is carrying dead wood in two cities at least. They are Montreal and Richmond. These cities will, of course, be two of those dropped. Rochester and Newark are the other two which probably will go by the boards.

These four cities to be retained in Class AA companies in the eastern territory are Buffalo, Toronto, Providence and Baltimore, all cracking good ball towns.

These four eastern cities would be linked with Columbus, Indianapolis, Toledo and Louisville, thus making an eight-club Class AA circuit that should weather all storms.

Aid New York State.
The discarded International territory then could be used to bolster the New York State league, which suffered such a disastrous season last year its gates will remain closed unless new territory is added.

Rochester, Jersey City and Newark could be given franchises in this loop. These three cities, with Scranton, Syracuse, Utica, Harrisburg and Wilkesbarre should make a strong Class A circuit out of the New York State league in place of the present weak Class B loop.

In the west a new American association could be formed of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Omaha, Des Moines, St. Joseph and possibly Peoria, Wichita, Hutchinson and Topeka, discarded Western league territory, could be given to the Western association, which also is wobbling.

Thus the reclassification would strengthen the International, American association, Western, New York State and Western association, and this is just what probably will be done at the Louisville meeting, although a detail or two may be changed.

Cleveland Cancels - Draft of Marty Krug

Marty Krug will not go to the majors this year. The Cleveland American league club, which drafted Marty, has cancelled the said draft and refuses to have the ex-manager of the Rourkes.

The cancellation of this draft, with several others, is likely to make trouble this year, it is reported. Minor league club owners, it is said, are getting peevish over draft cancellations and intend to make a roar at the National association meeting.

CRITICAL GAMES AHEAD THIS WEEK

Nebraska Invades "Big Ten" to Play Michigan, Creighton Battles Dubuque and Central High Beatrice.

Nebraska, Creighton and Central High, all three face critical games this week.

Most interest probably hinges on Nebraska's game with Michigan next Saturday. The clash marks Nebraska's first game with a "Big Ten" opponent, except Iowa, since the Nebraska-Minnesota game of 1913 when Nebraska won and Doc Williams decided the Gophers didn't want any more of the Cornhuskers.

The last game Nebraska played with Michigan was in 1910 when the result was a 6 to 6 tie and Nebraska fans were all wrought up because a 60-yard run for a touchdown by Owen Frank, which would have won the game for the Huskers, was disallowed.

Yost came out to Lincoln that year with a "world-beater" and it was protested, the poor little Cornhuskers would be smothered. Yost was so disappointed he beat it back to Ann Arbor and refused to come out of his shell until this year.

Unusual Interest.
Nebraska fans will watch the result of this game with more than usual interest because it has always been considered Nebraska is the equal of the Western Conference eleven and the Cornhuskers are expected to prove it at Michigan's expense next Saturday.

With Nebraska invading foreign fields, Creighton battles Dubuque in Omaha. The local eleven has a score to settle with Dubuque and is extremely anxious to carry off the long end of the score. Dubuque is reported to have a powerful eleven this year.

The Central-Beatrice clash is one of the "crucial" games in the race for the state interscholastic championship. Central, Lincoln and Beatrice are the leading contenders and Mulligan's men must remove the Gate county lads Friday.

Even Lost Tickets Are Restored by Comiskey

A couple of incidents recounted by a Chicago base ball writer show how perfect were the arrangements made under President Comiskey's plan for identifying legitimate ticket holders to the world's series games, with the idea of circumventing the scalpers. Generally speaking the system worked out admirably. Here is one of the incidents:

A woman and child arrived at the Saturday game and found she had no tickets with her. She sent an appeal to Commy, with her name and address. They were looked up in the record and found to tally and she saw the game. When she went home she found the tickets and forwarded the evidence to Sox park as a further earnest of her honesty.

Another woman instance—this one was from San Francisco and she dropped her tickets on Wentworth avenue. A passerby with one ticket thought of two busted friends who had none and staked them.

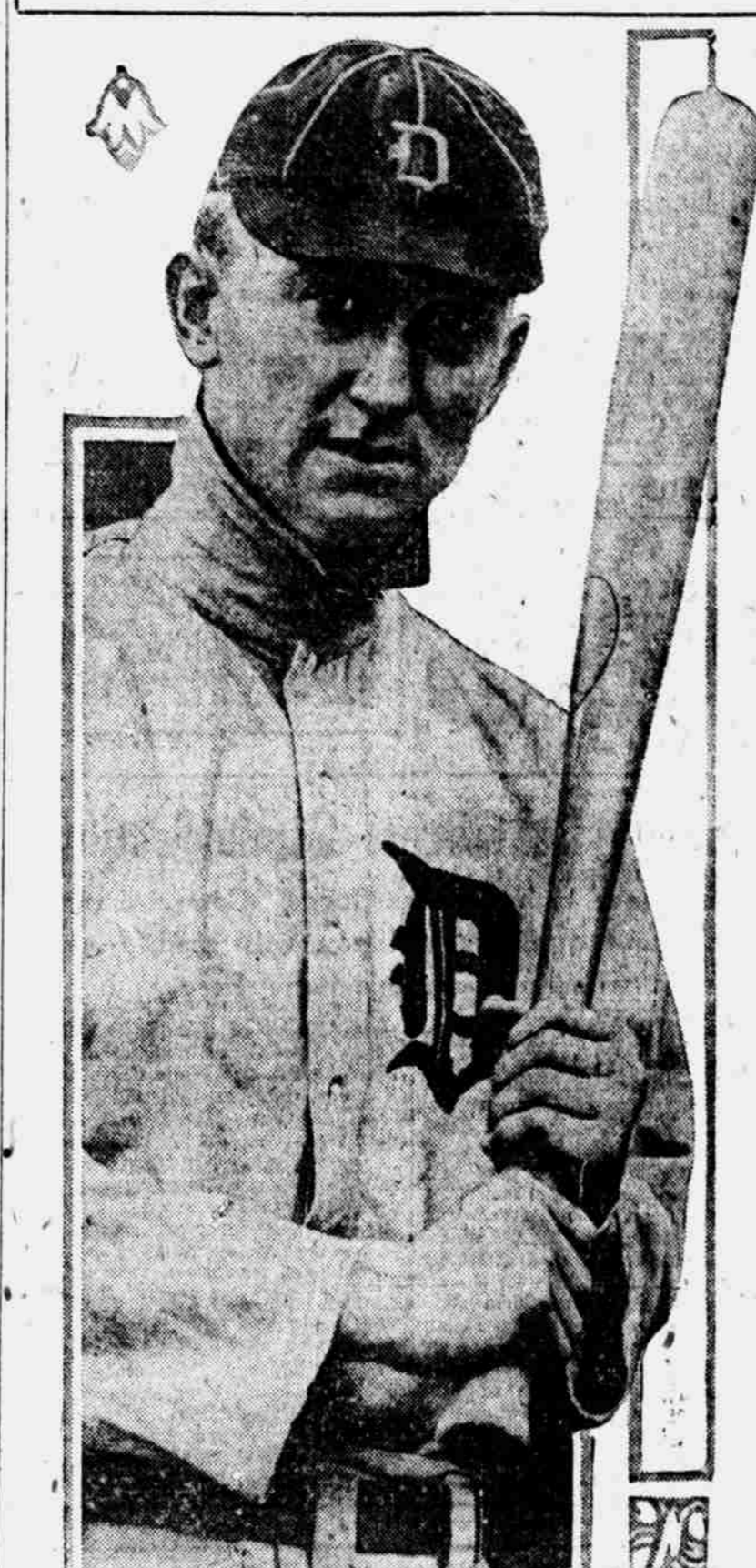
Again the records were appealed to, the occupants of the seats were ousted and the San Francisco tourist given her assigned locations.

These things are matters of great pride to Comiskey, and he was tickled pink, especially when the women were seated.

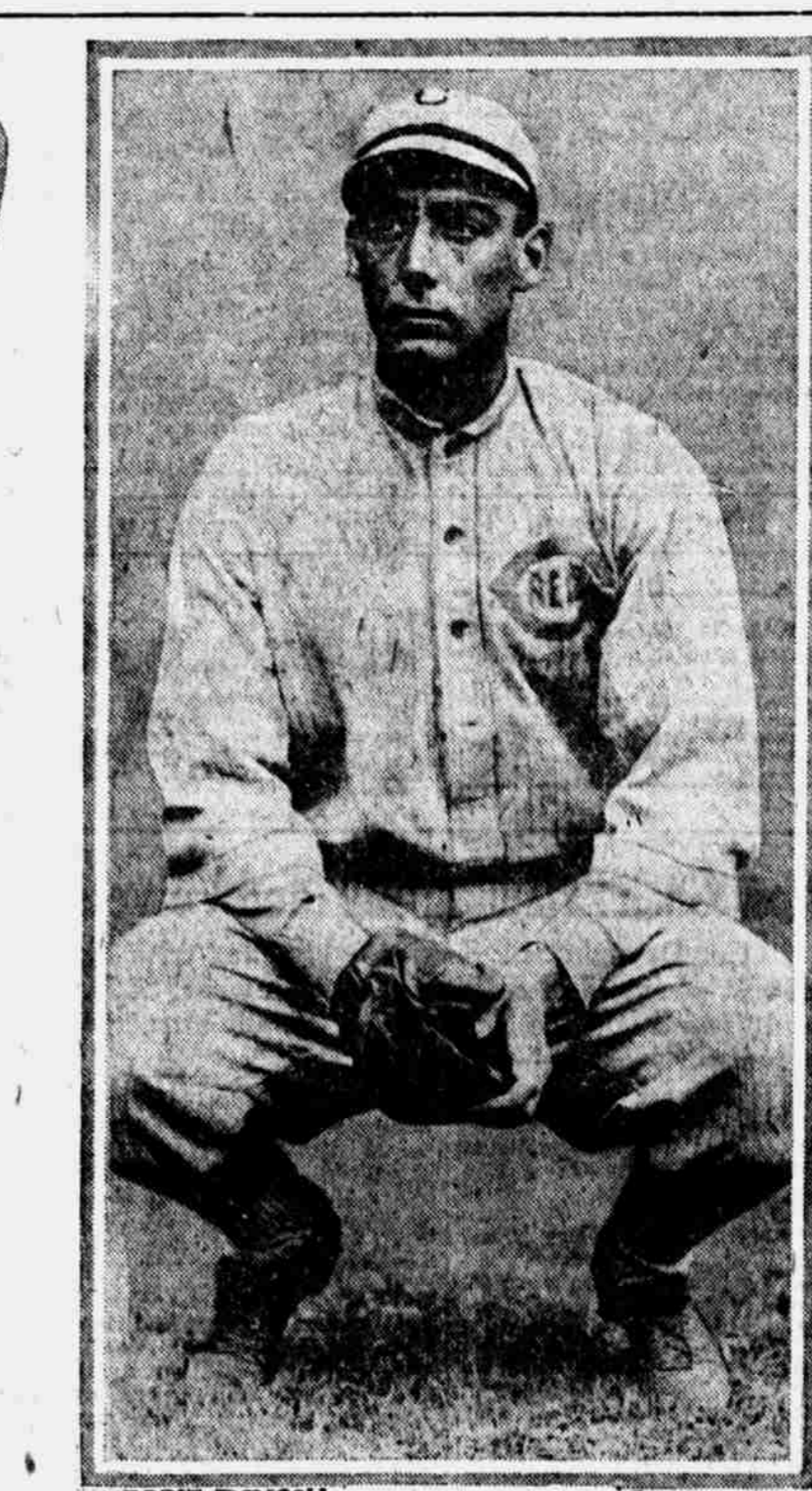
Kid Watching Scoreboard Knows How to Win Games

All was dark and quiet; fans in a theater not a thousand miles from New York were straining attention at the base ball player boards, which was showing by electric lights the progress of the first world's series game in Chicago.

Kings of Swat in the American and National Leagues



TY. COBB.



EDDIE ROUSCH.

FOUR-ROUND BOUTS THRIVE ON THE COAST

Any Scrapper Who Can Give Fair Account of Himself Can Gather Shekels in California Now.

BY RINGSIDE.
Chicago, Oct. 20.—Although the bouts held on the Pacific coast are all of the four-round variety, the boxing game in San Francisco and other western towns is thriving just now, according to reports received here, and boxers who have invaded the west are declared to be making good money. With the death of the ten-round game in New York a question of weeks only, it is not improbable that some of the high-class talent that has been performing in Gotham will trek westward before the winter is over.

Joe Wilson, a former Chicago boy, who is now in San Francisco, has come to Chicago in search of talent. Joe represents several San Francisco promoters and says he is after almost any scrapper who can give a good account of himself in a four-round go.

One of the men Wilson would like to take back to the coast is Jack Dillon, the Hoosier bearcat. Wilson believes there are several men in the vicinity of the Seal Rocks who could give Dillon a robust tussle in four rounds.

There are some dandy boxers on the coast just now and every one of them is making good. Wilson declared. "It may surprise eastern scappers to know that we have had a house with gate receipts as big as \$8,000. Willie Ritchie drew that in one of his bouts.

"At San Francisco there are four clubs in operation—Emeryville, the Association club, Dreamland and Recreation Park. There are bouts almost every night, and most of the battles are as good as those seen at the average smelter in the east. Eddie Granev, Tobey Irwin, Billy Smallham and Harry Foley are doing most of the refereeing."

Ritchie Card. "Ritchie," Wilson continued, "is still a wonderful card, although he weighs about 150 pounds and is fighting as a welterweight. His boxing is as high-class as ever, although his old 'one-two' is not as deadly as it used to be. Ritchie has taken down from \$1,000 to \$1,700 for his end of the money, and that is real coin for four rounds."

Among the men who Wilson says are making good, around San Francisco are Mick King, the Australian heavyweight; Len Kowlands, of Milwaukee, and Gunboat Smith, who has been a favorite out west ever since he outpointed Jess Willard in the days before Willard was champion or owned a circus.

Frank Barriac, the Canadian middleweight, also has been stepping a fast pace on the coast, and now claims the middleweight championship of the territory west of the Rockies. Dick O'Brien, the new heavyweight, that Biddy Bink's chaperoning, is expected to appear on the coast shortly in search of battles.

Although coast boxing centers in San Francisco, there are other coast towns where the game is thriving. Los Angeles is giving the four-round game good patronage, although the class of bouts offered there is not as good as in some other cities.

Shortened the Rounds.
Portland has tried a variation of the four-round game by substituting six two-minute rounds for the ordinary four rounds of three minutes each. The plan has proved successful, and Portland fans have seen some first-class boxing shows in the past few months. Joe Flannigan, a genial Irishman, handles most of the Portland shows, besides boxing a stable of scrappers that are able to give a good account of themselves.

In Seattle the boxing game was on a thriving basis until an overzealous sheriff decided things were running a little too strong and clamped down the lid. The state law in Washington provides that only duly organized clubs may hold bouts between members for exercising only in their own gymnasiums.

Seattle promoters were running bouts of considerable class, however, and the city authorities were not interfering, but the sheriff stepped in and crabbled the works. Under the present ruling the Elks' club, which boasts a small gymnasium, is about the only organization that can stage a boxing show in Seattle.

Since the establishment of an army cantonment at Tacoma indications are that boxing will thrive there this winter, and some of the scrappers who had to go to work when the game shut down in Seattle may pick up a few dollars in Tacoma.

Moran Instructor in Army.
Vic Moran, the young Italian battler from New Orleans, who has a match with Benny Leonard coming up, is listed among the men who have volunteered to teach boxing to the soldiers in training at Fort Sheridan. Solly Friedman and several other Chicago scrappers also have volunteered to help teach the soldiers the fine art of wielding the padded gloves.

Soldiers at Fort Sheridan are getting a pretty thorough course in boxing under the supervision of Martin A. Delaney, a Chicago physical director. Classes are held every day, and every one of the 4,000 men in camp puts in a session with the mittens. This means that about 2,000 bouts are pulled off at Fort Sheridan every day.

Camp officials assert boxing teaches the men the alertness and aggressiveness needed for success in bayonet fighting.

Long Tom Hughes Decides Base Ball Days Are Over

Long Tom Hughes, veteran pitcher, has been given his release by the Salt Lake club and has definitely and finally retired from base ball. He announced such a retirement after the 1916 season, but was induced to try a comeback. He failed and is now positive that his days as a pitcher are done.

DRAFT NO BOON TO MINOR LOOPS, DICKERSON SAYS

Player Worth Money to Team From Which He Is Drafted, Western League President Declares.

Emerson W. Dickerson, president of the Western league, is one minor league baseball man who has no fear of the wrath of the powers that be in major league circles.

The Western league head proves he has the courage of his convictions by telling the big league magnates just what he believes of them, and he mimes no words in so doing.

"That the light draft this year will hurt the minor leagues is all both as applied to the staple minors," said Dickerson. "The only time that the baseball drafting of a player is a real benefit to a minor league is when the majors pick a lemon. Any really good player is worth the draft price to the team from which he is taken.

Loss Must Be Replaced.
"The fans of the minors want to see classy performers as well as those who live in major league cities, and a star player on a team will draw quite a number to the games each day that otherwise would not attend. On top of this, such a player when lost must be replaced and usually costs the club that loses him about as much as is received for his release by draft to replace him.

"The idea that the minors cannot exist without the money received from the releases of players drafted is all wrong promise. The annual statements issued by Secretary Farrell of the National association, the governing body of the minor leagues, show that the minors pay more each year for the releases of players from the major leagues than they themselves receive from sales and drafts. That may sound strange, yet cold figures show it to be true.

"The majors are going out into the bushes and putting strings on all of the young players the scouts see who show any promise. Then they send such players to the minors to be educated, and force the minors to pay for the privilege. Whenever a minor league begins to look shaky the majors seldom show any disposition to bolster them up as they might be expected to for the general good of the game. Instead they send their scouts out with hurry up orders to pick up all the good players they can just as soon as the time comes when they can do so without paying anything for their release.

Some Good Sports.
"There are some good sportsmen in the major leagues, such as Comiskey of the White Sox, who do not show that disposition. If there were more Comiskies in the game, there would not have been such a wholesale demise of our minor leagues as there has been during the last three or four years. There was a time when the majors figured it was for the good of the game to encourage the minor leagues. Some of the Shylock practices that major league team owners have indulged in to my knowledge would seem beneath men of such big business investments.

"No player who has not had previous league experience should ever be accepted by a minor league club with any kind of a string attached. When they are, the majors make a school of

FLOOR OUTLOOK IN OMAHA IS GLOOMY

Meeting of Basket Ball Enthusiasts Called for November 8, But Prospects Are Far From Bright.

Basket ball enthusiasts will meet November 8 at the Omaha Young Men's Christian association to make plans for the 1917-18 basket ball season.

The basket ball outlook this winter is not rosy. Interest languished last year and with so many of the local players summoned to the colors the floors leagues this year do not promise to be overly strong.

The Brandeis team, for the last three years Omaha's leading quintet, probably will not be in the field this year. An effort will be made to reorganize the Tri-City, Commercial and Church leagues, but cage enthusiasts are far from sanguine of success and will be satisfied if two leagues can be formed. The Church league is expected to survive, but it is probable only one league can be organized from the combined fields of the Tri-City and Commercial.

Present plans call for the opening of the Church and Commercial leagues December 11. The Tri-City will start about the same time if it is organized. The South Side Church league expects to be in the field again and will start its schedule January 4.

Al Jolson Adds New Skit; Moral of Series Betting.
Al Jolson, comedian and stockholder in the St. Louis Cardinals, plans to put on a new comedy skit which will be called "I'm Cured." The "moral" of the piece will be the folly of betting on the Giants. Jolson plunged heavily on the first two games in Chicago and on the Giants to take the series. Besides that he called off a week's engagement to see the big games, at a loss to himself of about a thousand dollars a day. Some fan.

Refuse to Sell Player For Large Sum—Drafted.
There is some snickering in the International league over the loss of Jack Bentley by the Baltimore club to the Boston Red Sox in the draft. During the sale period Jack Dunn was sounded on what he would take for Bentley. He wanted \$7,500 and two or three players to boot. No deal was made, but the Red Sox put in a draft and got the man.

Chief Meyers Given Gate By Boston National Team.
Catcher John (Chief) Meyers, who was taken on by the Boston Braves last August when it appeared the club would be without a catcher, has been unconditionally released. He was a free agent when he came to the Braves, having been given his release a few days previously by the Brooklyn club. He may decide to accept an engagement with a Pacific Coast league club for next season, perhaps as manager.

Pirates Pass Up Flynn, Recruits From the South.
The Pittsburgh club has notified the Shreveport club that outfielder Don Flynn will not be retained. His work in the few games he played late in the season failed to impress the Pittsburgh management. Shreveport probably will not be able to use him next year, either, for it is understood he was caught in the army draft.

Receipts of Ohio Series Shatter No World Records.
Receipts of the first four games of the Cleveland-Cincinnati series, in which the players shared, were \$9,227.75 and the players' share \$2,989.78 to the winning team and \$1,993.19 to the losing team.

OMAHA PIN MEN PLAN TO INVADE IOWA IN FORCE

Eph Terrell, Carl Cain and Dad Huntington to Lead Gate City Bowlers to Middle West Tournament.

Nebraska pin tumbler are planning a record-breaking invasion of Des Moines for the annual Middle West Bowling Tournament which opens in the Iowa capital November 16.

Eph Terrell, Carl Cain and Dad Huntington will lead the Omaha delegation and these three pin enthusiasts hope to take fully a dozen teams from the gate city.

O. F. Remke will pilot the Lincoln representatives, while L. R. Hammond expects to take two or three teams from Fremont.

The Nebraskans will invade Des Moines for two purposes. One is to capture a large share of the prize money and the other is to bring the 1918 tournament to Omaha.

As practically all of the crack Cornhusker pin sharks will enter the tournament, it is believed the representatives of the golden rod state have an excellent opportunity to bring home the bacon.

Entries for the championship event close in two weeks and Terrell, Cain and Huntington intend to redouble their efforts during this time to round up more entries for Omaha.

Omaha will have stiff competition for the 1918 tourney, as Kansas City announces it wants it and will send fifteen to twenty teams to Des Moines to press the claims of the Missouri city. Terrell, Cain and Huntington are trying to land just as many Omaha teams so the grade won't be so steep.

Ebbets Puts Enlisted Athletes on Half Pay.
President Ebbets of the Brooklyn club, who gave \$500 to the fund raised by Brooklyn players for members of the team who should be drafted into the army, has announced in addition that Brooklyn players who are in the army next year will receive half pay from the club during the playing season and that if any player is incapacitated by injuries while in the army so that he can not return to base ball he will be pensioned by the club.

Sunday Ball Given Chance in Rhode Island State.
A bill permitting Sunday ball games is to be introduced in the Rhode Island legislature and Providence hopes that if it passes it can promise a better attendance showing and thus save the threat of being dropped from Class AA ball. Public sentiment in Rhode Island is said to be strongly in favor of Sunday ball, but legislators are not always responsive to public sentiment.

Annual Cross-Country Run To Be Staged Thanksgiving.
The annual Omaha cross-country run will be staged under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian association Thanksgiving day. This will be the sixth annual endurance race held by the Omaha "Y."