

THE NATIONAL GAME

News of the Week Among the Ball Players.

The following official figures show the difference between the team of last season and the one signed to play here next season. Last season the fielding average of the infield was .896; this season it will be .922 which is 26 points better. The batting average of the infield was .287; this season it will be .316—29 points better. The fielding average of the outfield last season was .912; this season it will be .923—11 points better. The batting average of the outfield was .231; this season it will be .334, a gain of 103 points.

Up to the present time Mr. Ebright has the following players signed: Catcher, Speer; pitchers, Meyers, Gragg, Barnes, Kimerer and Simon; first base, Sullivan; second base, Ebright; shortstop, Hollingsworth; third base, Hill; outfielders, Van Buren, Cole and Taylor.

Lincoln will open the season better fixed for pitchers than last season. When the club came from the coast last season McGreavy was the only pitcher we had. Later on we got Johnson, Baltz and Barnes. This year we will have seven pitchers when the exhibition season opens, and when the first pay day comes around there will be three of them left. THE COURIER predicts that the three will be Barnes, Kimerer and Gragg.

So far as arranged, the New York will train in New Orleans, the Baltimores at Macon, Ga.; the Chicagoans at Galveston, Tex.; the Philadelphias at Charlotte, Va.; the Brooklyns in South Carolina, and the St. Louis Browns at Hot Springs. Every league club except the Clevelanders have made some arrangements for a southern training trip.

Archhie Cole who captained the St. Joe team in the early part of last season has affixed his signature to a Lincoln contract and will play center field next season. Cole is not a large man but he is a good hitter having an average of .336 last season and it was an off year for him, that is, he was sick a large part of the season. In a game at St. Joe with Lincoln Ebright was on second base and a fly was hit to center. Cole ran for it and Ebright thought he had got too far under it and started for third base when Cole threw up one hand and pulled down the ball and threw Ebright out at second. This is only one of the many tricks he is capable of and the management is to be congratulated on securing so valuable a man.

With a very fast infield and also an outfield that can hit the ball Lincoln had ought to show some of the cities how to play the game next year.

Manager H. E. Ebright and Secretary T. J. Hickey left Tuesday to attend the annual meeting of the Western Association at Des Moines.

Lincoln is having an encounter with the national agreement the outcome of which will be watched with considerable interest by the local fans. The first time Lincoln got the "dinky dink" was when McClosky jumped this city after he had accepted terms. The next

case was that of Carney Flynn, the Cincinnati pitcher, and now the case of Jakey Strauss. About the middle of December Strauss wrote Manager Ebright a letter and said he would play in Lincoln for steen dollars per month and would wait five days for an answer before beginning negotiations with any other club. The letter reached the city the third day after it had been written and within an hour after its arrival Manager Ebright accepted his terms by wire. Nothing more was heard from Jakey until the 7th of January when the contract, like the cat, came back, but it did not have the signature of Jakey Strauss. Instead was a note saying he had accepted the terms of the Minneapolis club and would play there the coming season. Manager Ebright should and probably will try and find out how these players can trifle with this city. The Bee intimated a few weeks ago that we were liable to have trouble in getting Taylor, but as his contract has been received there is no reason to believe that he will not report here on the first day of April.

Manager McVittie of Omaha has signed seven men for next year. They are Grasshopper Ulrich, third baseman; Frank Donnelly, pitcher and right fielder; Eddie Miles, second baseman; James F. Slagle, middle fielder; Charlie Shaffer, left fielder; M. P. Dwyer, third baseman; and Con Whalen, catcher. Besides these, Manager McVittie is negotiating with eight or ten additional men and expects to have the contracts of no less than seventeen or eighteen men by March 1. From these the regular team will be drawn and the surplusage left out. The team will report April 1st. Ulrich, who is now in Philadelphia, was with Omaha last year. Donnelly was with Quincy in the latter part of last season. He is in Springfield, Ill. Eddie Miles was in the Pennsylvania league last season and made a fine record in the infield. His batting average last year reached the .364 notch. He resides at Deboise, Pa. James F. Slagle was with the Oil City team last season. He has a batting average of .384 and is a great runner and a great fielder. Slagle

comes from Harrisburg. Shaeffer, who was with Peoria last season is well known. Shaf. is wintering in Scranton. M. P. Dwyer is from Batte. He is a protege of Joe Wherrichs, who pronounces him a coming man on third. Con Whalen also comes from the Montana league. He is a big, strong, young fellow, a splendid backstop, hardy and accurate thrower and a good man in any position.

Archhie Cole has a batting average of .332 and a fielding average of .920.

The young man who is continually looking for a soft thing will find it under his hat,

But

The young man who is looking for the best place in the city to have his clothes made will find it at

L. H. MEYER

1144 O STREET.

Don't revenge yourself on your pocket book by paying more else where.



Jeweler—This cup costs two dollars extra on account of the chasing.
Farmer Waycross—Yer don't have ter chase me. I pay cash.