THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

SPORT NEWS
AUTOMOBILES

PART FOUR

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21, 1924.

Jack Smith Finishes Eighth Year in Majors With Good Batting Average

Last Year Was First Time He Hit Below .300

Just an Average Fielder and a Pretty Good Hitter, but His Is a Most Interesting Story.

JACK SMITH, St. Louis outfielder and left-hand hitter, has finished his eighth year in the majors and his eleventh in organized ball. His grand average as a batsman for the entire period is over .300, and yet little or nothing has ever been written about him. Just one of those average major leaguers whose bat keeps him in fast company. Last season for the first time since he joined the majors, he dropped below the magic .300 mark. In fact, it might be said that Jack had his worst year last season, and yet in spite of this fact, he is projected at this time as a type that it is well to know more about. In the first place, Smith, as a member of Branch Rickey's multitudinous and trick outfield, only played part of the time up to last season. He is a left-hand hitter and is only used when right-hand pitchers are in the box for opposition. In fact, Smith, .300 slugger of the timely type, had not been, up to last season, batted against a left-hader for so long that the memory of the oldest fan runneth not back to that time. He had always been regarded as a mark for a portsider.

But last season Rickey, always in the past plentifully supplied with hard-hitting outfielders, suddenly experienced a drought of this prize variety and was compelled to use Smith against left-handers, and, lo and behold, Smith, instead of being easy prey for the southpaws, slugged in pretty timely fashion against them straight through the year. He batted .284, making 18 two-baggers and six triples. He fielded .967, with 278 total chances. Smith is faster than the average player and he stole 24 bases.

They say that Smith is not much of a talker; hard to get a story from and no story there, anyway. But, properly approached, Smith talks freely enough and his story is of compelling interest, and one that is constructive, too, and that will give a thoughtful fan a higher opinion of the game. When asked about his alleged notorius weakness against left-handers and if were hereditary, phantom or acquired, Smith denied all allegations. "How did they know I was so weak against left-handers?" he asked. "They never used me against them for years. Naturally I would be weak, for I never got a chance to sample their stuff."

And then Smith went on to answer that momentous and mysterious question as to why a lefthanded hitter is so nearly helpless against southpaws. "He draws away naturally as he swings at the ball," asserted Smith, "and as a lefthander's natural curve is away from the batsman, the odds are against him. Of course, he tries to correct the fault, and some batsmen do this, but the natural trend of the struggle is against him. Seems as though the ball is coming from first base sometimes, instead of the box, when a lefthanded sidewheeler gets a big curve started towards you. On the other hand, a lefthanded hitter naturally steps right into a right-hander's curve."

Smith is a stocky, close-knit fellow, quiet, slow of speech and slow to warm up to folks, but fast enough on the paths. He stole 32 bases last season and was thrown out only 11 times. He pilfered 14 sacks in succession without a fluke. Smith started his career as a pitcher—but let him tell the story:

"I was a Chicago boy and played on the lots. I had played only a few games as a semi-pro, when the manager of the Regina (Canada) team came to town after players. He knew the captain of our team and applied to him. The captain recommended me and then asked me if I'd like to go. Sure thing, I'd go. I did not even ask where Regina was. I never thought about asking about the pay. Here was a chance to play ball every day! I was just 17 years old then, and I had just 80 cents in my pocket. We traveled from Friday to Monday night and I thought we were going to the end of the world. Fat chance for me to get back home on that 80 cents. But what did I care? I was going to play ball every day!"

That was back in 1913. Smith was drafted from Regina by Spokane and then released within three days after he reported. Quite a joke on Spokane. Smith then went to Aberdeen in the Canada league and played the 1914 season there with Kenneth Williams alongside him in the outer garden. Detroit got an option on both Smith and Williams. Smith hurt his ankle. Detroit let both of them go. Joke on Detroit. Then Smith went to Seattle in 1915 and the Cards drafted him late in that same year.

Jack Smith—he had 80 cents in his pocket and he started on a three-day trip westward on his first league engagement without even asking about the pay. He was going to play ball every day, and that was enough for him. Quite a contrast to the semi-pro and busher of today, who want to know a lot about the price and care but little for the glory of playing in the big league every day. Where, oh, where is the old-fashioned boy who would rather play in the big league than eat? Where is the boy who would rather play in the big league than to be president? He seems to have vanished along with the old-fashioned girl who washed dishes for her mother and learned to cook and sew, and who did not paint her pretty face, and who wore gingham dresses and a ribbon in her wonderful brown hair.

Gopher Basketeers Who Will Help Bluejays Open Season Tomorrow

Golf In Last Ten Years Has Become Established On Firm Foundation

New York, Dec. 20.—The general belief among golfers is that the game is not being overdone, although the number of links has greatly increased during the last 10 years. Golf is no longer a passing fancy in this country but is established on a firm foundation. Ground may be prohibitive in price but golfers always manage to secure enough for new links in almost any section of the country.

All forms of sport have increased in popularity during the past 10 years, but none so much as golf, due primarily to the fact that man in all his seven ages can play the game and enjoy it.

Reports of new golf and country clubs are heard from almost everywhere and the query, "Where is it going to stop?" may be answered by saying that it is not going to stop until every village and hamlet has its golf course.

Cyril Walker, the national open champion, will be at Kenilworth lodge, Sebring, Fla., this winter. He and James Maiden, the Long Island title holder, from the Nassau, C. C., will represent Kenilworth in the league. With Walker signing for Florida it means that practically all of the high lights will be located in the southern peninsula. Unquestionably he and Maiden will form a strong combination in the league of team matches being arranged, and judging by the offers already received the open title holder will be kept busy filling engagements.

Denies Report Club Owners Deserted Ban

Jacob Rupert, President of Yanks, Says League Was Loyal to Johnson.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Denial was entered today by Jacob Rupert, president of the New York Yankees, of a report that the American league club owners had deserted Ban Johnson to support Judge Landis because they feared box office receipts would suffer if Johnson were sustained in his attacks on the integrity of baseball.

"The American league was loyal to Johnson as long as he remained in his place," Rupert declared. "But he didn't. Judge Landis had been agreed upon as our supreme arbiter and it was up to all baseball to support him in his decisions. Motives of commercialism didn't enter into the matter."

BANTAM CAGERS TO HAVE LEAGUE

Entries are now being accepted in the Y. M. C. A. Sunday school bantamweight basket ball league. Monday morning is the dead line for the entries, according to Physical Director Keester.

Any team entering must carry with them a list of players certified to play by its Sunday school teacher. Players must be between the ages of 12 and 17 and must weigh under 115 younds stripped. The entry fee of 50 cents a team goes to purchasing medals.

Duluth, Eveleth Tie.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 19.—The Duluth and Eveleth hockey clubs battled four extra five-minute periods to a 2 to 2 tie here tonight. At the end of the regulation play period the score stood at a 1 to 1 tie.

Notre Dame Squad Leaves for Coast

South Bend, Ind., Dec. 20.—Hundreds of students and towns people braved the zero weather today to see Coach Knute Rockne and his Notre Dame football squad start their journey to Pasadena, Cal., for the New Year's day game with Leland Stanford university.

The team was to spend the afternoon in Chicago, leaving there tonight for New Orleans. Only one stop will be made enroute and that will be at Memphis Sunday morning where the team will attend church. "Doc" Connell, star halfback of the second string men ,was injured during gymnasium work yesterday and was unable to leave.

BAN JOHNSON REFUSES TO TALK

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Ban Johnson, president of the American league has returned from the seclusion into which he retired while his club owners stripped him of part of his power and rebuked him for his controversy with Commissioner Landis.

"Any chance of resigning as American league head?" he was asked.

"I won't answer that one way or another," he replied. "In fact I won't even admit I'm Ban Johnson."

LEROY DEFEATS FRANK SCHAEFER

Sioux City, Ia., Dec. 19.—Russey Leroy, Sioux City lightweight, won a newspaper decision over Frankie E. Schaefer of Chicago in the final 10 rounds bout of the American Legion's triple windup boxing card here tonight.

In the other bouts both of which went 10 rounds, Billy Petrolle, Sioux City junior lightweight, shaded Charley Raymond of France and "Tiger" Cline of Chicago easily won from Jack Josephs of Minneapolis.

New York.—Eddie "Cannonball" Martin, Brooklyn, won world's bantamweight title from Abe Goldstein on points, 15 rounds.

Tad Jones Would Forbid Player Returning to the Game After Once Out

New York, Dec. 20.—Tad Jones, Yale's football coach, favors important changes in the rules of the game He proposes that the rules shall forbid the return of any player who has left the game. This would result in the development of more players and would prevent the coach from running the game from the sidelines. At the meeting of the coaches' association here two years ago Jones declared he was in favor of relegating all the coaches to the stands during play.

Jones has a fine idea, but he is striving for a football millennium, says an expert. The elimination of a player once he has left the game would force the coaches to develop more men, but it would give the big college a tremendous advantage over the smaller one. It also might develop certain abuses, such as using a player long after he reaches the physical point at which he no longer should be allowed on the field. There is altogether too much of that even now.

The barring of a player once he has gone off the field would lead to quite vigorous measures against outstanding stars. The opposition might be tempted to "persuade" him to go hence at an early stage of the combat. Granted there is an over-sufficiency of such tactics now, but the injured player may come back, if he isn't badly hurt, and attend to those who persuaded him to pass out of the picture temporarily.

The idea of limiting each player to only one appearance in a game has a strong appeal for Jones because he has been favored with so much high grade material at Yale.

Jones declared that he was opposed to changing the kickoff rule so that the leather would be booted from the kicking side's 40-yard line, as it used to be before the 1924 season. The Yale coach declared that the present system preserves an even balance between the kicking and receiving side. Probably Jones will be overruled by the committee when it meets here in March, as there is tremendous opposition all over the country to the midfield kickoff.

Omaha Five Again Loses to Denver

Denver, Colo., Dec. 19.—Omaha Athletic club dropped its third straight game of the basket ball series to Denver Friday night at the City Auditorium by a 29 to 26 score. The game was the closest fought of the three and kept the fans in an uproar all the way.

Smith and Mellor, Omaha forwards, were "on" and Christensen had a great night with his dribbling, and these two factors kept the visitors in the game. Poor foul shooting lost Omaha the game, as they only made two out of eight chances.

Supernois of Omaha and Ryan of Denver went out on four personal fouls. Bruce, Denver star forward, was put out of the game for arguing with Referee Dana. Benz got a bad cut over his eye near the end of the game and gave way to Maxwell.

DENVER—29.

	F.G.	F.T.	P.F.
Sougey, forward	1	0	0
Bruce, forward	1	1	2
Johns, forward	1	1	0
Corfman, center	5	4	0
Binkley, guard	0	0	1
Ryan, guard	0	0	4
Vidal, guard	3	3	0
Totals	10	9	7

OMAHA—26.

	F.G.	F.T.	P.F.
Mellor, forward	5	0	2
Smith forward	3	1	3
Supernois, center	1	0	4
Maxwell, center	0	0	0
Christensen, guard	3	1	0
Benz, guard	0	0	2
Clement, guard	0	0	1
Totals	12	2	12

Officials: Dana, Nebraska, referee; Hakanson, Denver Y. M. C. A., umpire.

Columbus Cagers Organize.

Columbus, Neb., Dec. 19.—A basket ball team of boys whose weight averages 100 pounds was formed at the Y. M. C. A. this afternoon and it will play its first game with a group of boys from the Norfolk Junior High school selected on the same basis.

Roger Conti Breaks Records

Paris, Dec. 20.—Roger Conti, French billiardist, broke two world's records for 18.2 balk line championship play last night with a high run of 472, clicking off 500 points in three innings for an average of 166 2-3. The former high run record of 384 was made by Welker Cochran in 1921 at Chicago, while Sutton's high average of 100 made against Willie Hoppe, stood for nearly 20 years.

In the two matches he has played thus far for the run championship, Conti has scored 1,000 points in the nine innings for an unprecedented average of 111, with two unfinished runs.

Oklahoma University Starts Preparing for Annual Valley Track Meet

Norman, Okla., Dec. 20.—University of Oklahoma athletic officials are busily preparing for the 18th Missouri Valley track and field meet which is to be held in Norman May 30. The semi-annual meeting of the Valley directors will also be held in Norman on the same date, as will the conference meets in golf and tennis.

John C. Jacobs, Sooner track mentor, has already issued a call for all available track men to report for work at once in order that the university might make a creditable showing against other Valley schools in the meet. Jacobs pointed out that Oklahoma has never been strong in track, and urged that the Sooners make a good showing in order that the Valley mentors will again see fit to give the Sooners a similar honor next year.

While no attempt has ever been made before here to organize a golf team, plans now underway indicate that a formidable team will soon be formed.

The university is well equipped to care for the conference tournaments. Oklahoma boasts one of the best cinder tracks in the southwest, which was completed two years ago. It has a base of crushed rock and a surface of clay and cinders. The track has a 220-yard straightaway beside the required quarter-mile oval, and is 28 feet wide, permitting eight lanes for the runners.

Two indoor concrete courts and 12 outdoor clay courts completes the tennis equipment, while the golf tourney will be held on the Norman Golf and club links, east of Norman.

Jacobs indicated that officials of national repute will be brought to Norman for the meets.

Trojans Drill on Defense for Missouri Tiger

Los Angeles, Dec. 20.—Receipt of word yesterday that the Missouri Tiger had left his lair and had headed westward found Elmer Henderson, coach of the University of Southern California Trojans redoubling efforts to give his charges a thorough course in the Henderson method of stalking Tiger and preparing the Trojan appetite for a feast of Tiger meat when they face the striped feline on the gridiron here Christmas day.

Henderson does not underestimate the Tiger prowess and twice daily the Trojans are busied with the task of fabricating an armor which is expected to prove invulnerable to the most savage attacks of Tiger claws. "Nullify the Missouri offense and the battle is ours," might well be the war cry of the Trojans, for they are spending much time on defense tactics which are expected to offset the Tiger onrush.

Signal drill, scrimmage and dummy practice also are on the preparedness program and are expected to be continued until the zero hour.

BLUFFS ATHLETES HERE FOR HOLIDAYS

Carl (Buster) Owen and Clifford Walsh, former Abraham Lincoln High school star athletes, who entered Northwestern university last September, will arrive home today to spend the holidays with their parents.

Both Owen and Walsh won freshmen football numerals at the university. Harry Richardson, Abraham Lincoln High graduate, also is expected to arrive home today from the Evanston school.

COAST GAME TO DRAW BIG CROWD

Pasadena, Dec. 19.—All of the 52,000 Rose bowl seats for the Stanford-Notre Dame intersectional football game here New Year's day have been sold, officials in charge of the ticket sale announced tonight.

We are a patriotic people, always filled with a zeal to save the country from one another.—Woodstock (Ont.) Sentinel-Review.

RACE-RESULTS

JEFFERSON PARK.

First race: Mile and 70 yards.
Doctor Glenn (Gerrity)...12-5 even 1-2
Quaver (Swanson) 6-1 2½-1
Rork (Simon) 3½-1
Time: 1:46. Trust Official, Colonel Wagner, Rock Bottom, Alluring, Black Olla, Sophia Marie, Stump, Jr., Ernest B and Miss Anne Pine also ran.

Second race: Six furlongs.
King of the Sea (Majestic). 8-1 3-1 8-5
Sunny Girl (C. Lang)..... 2-1 even
Theo (Montgomery) 7-10
Time: 1:12 1-5. Pollymara, Rubien, Lady Breuer, Medina and Sunny Light also ran.

Third race: Mile and 70 yards.
Goldfield (McCoy)..... 4-1 2-1 even
Loveliness (Mergler) 3-5 7-10
Despair (Harvey) ..... even
Time: 1:45. Korbly, Sleevebloom, Sea Court, Mayor Carrell, Previeux and Briarcliffe also ran.

Minnesota Game to Start Early Monday Evening

ANNOUNCEMENT was made this morning by A. A. Schabinger, athletic director of Creighton university that the Creighton-Minnesota basket ball game at the Creighton gymnasium Monday night will start at 7:30 o'clock. The early starting time for the contest has been arranged so the Gophers will be able to make train connections for Minneapolis.

One of the largest crowds that has ever attended an opening basket ball game at Creighton gymnasium is predicted Monday night. Tickets for the contest have been selling like the proverbial hot cakes. The victory of Minnesota over North Dakota and Notre Dame already this winter has stamped the Gophers real competition for the Bluejays.

Coach Schabinger's hoopsters will take the court Monday all "dolled up" in new uniforms.

With the exception of Joe Speicher, guard, the Creighton squad is in good condition. Koudel will take Speicher's place at guard.

Golf

By HERBERT REED,
("Right Wing.")

ONE speaks for the moment about the average golfer, leaving the stars for future discussion. "Why is it," one of them asked the other day, "that the amateur never gets the same results with the irons that the professionals do, and why is it that as a rule the professionals are not so expert with the wood?" The observation is true in the main, and the discussion is one that is all but endless. Several reasons have been advanced, some of them old, others comparatively recent. The best of the lot, I think, deals with origins.

Origins? Yes, the origin of the player's golf. The amateur sets out with a full assortment of clubs, and he starts business at once with the wooden clubs. He wants distance from the tee as quickly as possible, and the wood will give it to him quicker than the iron.

PLEASURES OF THE DRIVE.

The beginner may get under way fast, but the inevitable slump comes early, and he begins his struggle to learn the iron shots. If he is to keep up the game at all he must have at least one stroke a hole that is "sweet" with reasonable frequency. He can get a lot of cheer out of a good drive. It is the stroke that probably will stand by him most faithfully. It is the easiest of the lot, but probably both the most faithful and the most spectacular.

He will come nearest to matching the professional on distance with this stroke, and it will keep his courage up. It does not require unusual strength. He has no turf to take, no "stop" shots to steady down to the power in his wrists. There is no great call upon the forearm or shoulders. If he will learn the old St. Andrews swing, keep his head down and follow through, he'll get well out there along the course. He may well repeat with his brassie. That will also serve to keep him happy. While, even after years of effort, he may despair of ever learning the irons thoroughly, why shouldn't he be "sweet on the wood?"

THE DEADLY IRON.

Most of the "pros" began as caddies, and with clubs they borrowed for practice swings from the bag they were carrying. Their whole start in the game began with the irons, gradually moving back from the hole. Do you think it possible to get an amateur to start that way? Hardly.

In course of time the caddie developed his wrists mightily, and that gave him both power and control with the irons. When he became a full-fledged "pro" he had the deadliest equipment in the game. Many of the "pros" are even today not at all remarkable from the tee. Well do I remember Isaac Mackie attacking "hell's kitchen" at Staten Island, with confidence, a great pair of wrists, hardly more than a half swing, and an iron, while the amateur went at it with a brassie and a prayer.

From the earliest days the "pros" played their best golf with their irons and spent the rest of their time making wooden clubs of all sorts of designs in the hope of curing the beginner's faults to some extent with improved equipment. The first improvements were in the woods, for there lay the demand.

WARNIE SMITH KAYOES DUDLEY

Des Moines, Dec. 19.—Warnie Smith, Oklahoma middleweight, knocked out Roy Dudley, Pacific coast boxer, in the first round of a scheduled 10-round bout here tonight.

In the preliminary Jack Nales of Chicago knocked out Floyd Bowers of Des Moines in the second round of a scheduled eight-round bout. Nales was substituted for Johnny Kline of Chicago.

Packer Fives to Roll.

The Swift Packing company bowling team will play the Sioux City (Ia.) Swift Packers at the Recreation parlors at 8 tonight.

"Ace" Hudkins Defeats Hoppe at Hollywood

Omaha Lightweight Wins First Bout of Coast Tour; Shows Up Californian at Infighting.

INTERESTING fight news came in over the telegraph wires this morning. It had to deal with the victory of "Ace" Hudkins, Omaha lightweight, over Dick Hoppe, one of California's best lightweights in a four-round bout staged at the Hollywood stadium last night. While many fight fans will read with interest this little yarn about Hudkins, one Pat Boyle, Omaha fight promoter and manager, will immediately get busy and set in motion the machinery with which he expects to have Hudkins suspended.

Boyle says Hudkins belongs to his stable and has no right to go out to California and fight unless he (Boyle) is at the box office to collect the shekels. Therefore, Pat expects to have Mr. Hudkins suspended by the Nebraska state boxing commission for "jumping" his contract.

Several days ago Hudkins came to Boyle and asked Pat if he could go out to the western part of the state to visit with relatives. Boyle told him to go. Hudkins left for the western part of the state, but didn't get off the train until the "choo-choo" stopped in California.

Before leaving Omaha, Hudkins informed Boyle that if he got any fights out in the "western part of the state," he would send Pat the latter's "end" of the purse." Boyle has an idea Hudkins had something up his sleeve, but decided to wait and see.

Hudkins, a regular two-fisted fighter, should make a name for himself on the coast where the fans like to see scrappers of "Ace's" type strut their stuff within the hempen strands.

Boyle didn't have aything to say this morning when informed that Hudkins had fought and won his first bout on the coast. Pat's face got red and then he mumbled sweet nothings to himself.

Hudkins Wins

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 20.—"Ace" Hudkins of Nebraska was being sought by Los Angeles promoters today following his decisive victory here last night at the Hollywood stadium over Dick Hoppe, one of California's best lightweights. The Nebraskan showed up Hoppe in in-fighting and in the fourth round had the Californian staggering around hopelessly.

Class B Church Cagers in Action

St. Luke basket ball team defeated the First Baptist five, 21 to 11, in the regular Y. M. C. A. Class B Church league tournament game Friday night. At no time during the contest were the St. Luke boys in danger.

The Diamonds had an easy time with the South Side Christians, winning handily, 32 to 9. Urbin was the heavy scorer for the winners.

Christian T. N. T.s defeated the First Reformed five, 17 to 1. Jones did the feature flipping for the T. N. T. crew.

The Pilgrim Congregationalists won, 14 to 9, from the Congregational "Peps." At no time during the affair were the winners headed.

Box Score Western League Longest Game

Here's the box score on the Western league's longest game, played at Lincoln, August 12, 1917. It went 21 innings.

JOPLIN.

	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Carlisle, lf	7	1	1	6	1	0
Burg, ss	8	0	3	3	3	2
Cochran, 3b	9	0	1	1	2	1
Metz, 1b	8	0	2	17	1	0
Lamb, 2b	7	0	1	5	5	0
Collins, cf	1	0	0	0	0	0
Davis, rf	7	0	1	2	0	0
Brokaw, cf, 2b	7	0	0	3	2	0
Monroe, c	8	0	1	12	4	1
Maple, p	3	0	0	1	3	0
Graham, p	3	0	0	0	4	0
Hall, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	70	1	12	x60	25	4

LINCOLN.

	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Smith, 2b	5	0	1	7	7	0
Thomason, lf	9	0	2	5	0	0
Bayless, cf	8	0	0	2	0	0
Schmandt, 1b	8	0	1	25	1	0
Leber, rf	5	0	0	2	0	0
Bergheimer, ss	8	1	1	5	10	0
Selk, 3b	9	1	3	0	2	0
Rohrer, c	7	0	2	10	2	0
Gregory, p	8	0	0	2	8	0
Totals	67	2	12	63	30	0

xNone out in 21st inning when winning run scored.

Score by innings:

Joplin	100 000 000 000 000 000 000—1
Lincoln	000 010 000 000 000 000 001—2

Summary: Earned runs: Joplin, 1; Lincoln, 1. Three-base hit, Selk. Two-base hits: Burg, Davis, Selk. Double plays: Cochran to Metz; Maple to Lamb; Carlisle to Monroe; Gregory to Schmandt; Smith to Schmandt. Sacrifice hits: Burg, Brokaw, Leber, Rohrer. Stolen bases: Schmandt, Bergheimer. Left on base: Joplin, 10; Lincoln, 12. Hits and earned runs: Off Maple, 3 hits and 0 runs in 8 1-3 innings; off Graham, 8 hits and 1 run in 11 2-3 innings; off Hall, 1 hit and 0 runs in 1 inning; off Gregory, 12 hits and 1 run in 21 innings. Struck out: By Maple 3; by Graham, 3; by Gregory, 8. Bases on balls: Off Maple, 4; off Graham, 6; off Gregory, 7. Hit batsmen, Carlisle by Gregory. Balk: Graham. Time: 3:58. Umpire: Shannon.