

# If It Wasn't for the Feas C. B. B. Might Have a Merry Christmas

## WESTERN LEAGUE TO BE MORE EVEN

Making of Salary Limit and Also Limiting Number of Players Should Balance Teams.

**DENVER THE BIGGEST WINNER**  
Mountaineers Have the Highest Percentage of Games Won for the Last Five Years.

**EVADES THE SALARY LIMIT**  
McGill Also Spends Large Sum for Many New Players.

**ALL TEAMS NOW HAVE CHANCE**

More Evenly Balanced Teams Should Make the Pennant Race More Interesting and Thus Increase Attendance.

Since the Western league has consisted of the present eight cities, namely, Omaha, Denver, Wichita, Topeka, Lincoln, Des Moines, St. Joseph and Sioux City, Denver has registered a better average as a winning ball club than any other city. A computation of the averages of all clubs shows that Denver stands far in the lead in the matter of games won.

Denver has won three pennants in the last five years. The mountain city has won sixty-two more games than the next high club and has lost fifty-five less.

The success of Denver can be attributed to but one thing, if the explanations of nearly every other manager in the circuit can be accepted as the truth, and that is, the payment of higher salaries and the expenditure of more money in purchasing players. It has been constantly asserted that Jimmy McGill always exceeded the Western league salary limit. Whether he really did or not cannot be sworn, but his success makes it plausible. Also he has paid large sums for athletes. That much is known to be absolutely true.

**Denver Largest City.**

Denver is the biggest city in the league. Its total attendance for a year always has been larger than any other city. Thus the net proceeds are greater and McGill could always manage to cling to the right side of the ledger even though his expenses were heavy.

Other cities couldn't stick to the standard set by Denver and the result has been that the Grizzlies could keep up near the top.

But now things will be far different. A new salary limit has been declared. It is not expected for Denver, but for such cities as Topeka, Wichita and Lincoln. In the future Mr. McGill and any other manager in the Western must keep his salary list as low as \$2,500. It has been declared that McGill's 1914 salary list ran over \$4,000. The Sioux City list is also declared to have been nearly that figure.

Next year no one may exceed \$2,500. It is thought that every city can afford to pay \$2,500 and still declare dividends. As a result all clubs will carry ball players of practically the same value and ball players of the same value should be of practically the same skill and knowledge, thus the 1915 race should be an even one.

With Wichita and Topeka up and fighting and not lagging lengths in the rear, the other clubs, interested in the Western league race should be quickly revived next year.

**Should Be Better This Year.**

Last summer was disastrous in this circuit. All clubs are said to have lost money, the interest was slack and the brand of ball was not up to standard. The year it should be different.

It is said by some pessimists who find it a pleasure to knock, that the lower salary limit will make the brand of ball poorer in this league, because the athlete who has been drawing high money will refuse to stand for a cut. The athlete will stand for a cut or starve to death and even the temperamental athlete who belongs to the "Players' fraternity" will prefer the latter course.

And another thing, the cuts will not be so large. The player limit is several players shorter than last year, so the managers will not pay salaries to so many men. Thus the salaries will be almost equalized.

But it will be easier to obtain players this year. The Federals are not so hot after talent. The Federals want stars, but they have enough of the fairly good ball players and a Western leaguer would find it hard to break into the outlaw organization.

**All Cut Player Limit.**

Every class of leaguer has its player limit. The result will be that dozens of good ball players will be released from the majors and from class AA clubs. They will be eligible to class A clubs and the Western towns will get their share.

So, if anything the class of ball will be better than last year, and, above all, the race should be closer, the teams more evenly balanced, the pennant race more interesting and the Western league should get back on its feet again and once more become one of the most substantial and successful leagues in the country.

**Five-Year Averages.**

The average of Western league teams for the last five years is:

City	Won	Lost	Pct.
Denver	305	214	.585
Sioux City	243	209	.535
St. Joseph	241	207	.535
Lincoln	232	207	.525
Omaha	217	207	.510
Wichita	202	207	.490
Des Moines	197	207	.485
Topeka	194	207	.480

## WISCONSIN DRAWS COLOR LINE ON BOXING MATCHES

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 15.—The Wisconsin boxing commission today ruled against the granting of a permit to a local boxing club for a proposed bout between Sam Langford and Sam McVey, negro heavyweights, early in January. Permits for boxing contests in Wisconsin, it is announced, will be confined to white boxers.

**Where They Play This Week.**

Church League—At the Young Men's Christian association on Tuesday, First Methodist Episcopal against Kountze Memorial at 7:30 p. m. Hanson Park Methodist Episcopal against Church of the Covenant at 8:30 p. m. At the University of Omaha gymnasium Tuesday, South Omaha Baptists against First Christians at 7:30 p. m. Tri-City League—At the University of Omaha gymnasium, Pirates against Swift & Company at 7:30 p. m.

## COACH OMAHA UNIVERSITY BASKET BALL TEAM



Obie Myer

## WAR IS TAKING MANY HORSES

It is Estimated that There Are Three Millions in Struggle.

## BUY SIXTY MILLIONS WORTH

English and French Buyers in the United States and Canada Spend Huge Sum for Mounts and Artillery Animals.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Has any one tried to figure up the amount of money the present war is costing the belligerents for horses alone? It would be an impossible task at this writing, but some day it will probably be known—when the returns are all in from the warring factions. Figuring that the combined armies have to go to the front, it is certain that from 25 to 30 per cent of them are mounted, which means that about 3,000,000 horses are utilized. These figures are given to indicate the extensiveness of the horse market of the world.

The subject of purchasing horses during war time was brought up among dealers a few days ago. It was shown that the vast amounts already paid for mounts to owners in this country and Canada had reached such enormous proportions that it was mystifying. An idea of the value of horses is gathered from the number that have been shipped from this country and Canada within the last four months. From all points it is estimated that about 300,000 mounts have been sent to England and France. The buyers of these horses average them at about \$200 a head, including shipping expenses, making a grand total of \$60,000,000 having been expended by England and France for American and Canadian mounts.

For sake of argument would it not have been cheaper for England and France, these buyers for army purposes? Had such been the case the British army would have first class material at hand when needed. Horses are as essential as men, and when so many are needed, the life of a horse being very short while in action, should it not be part of the preparation for a war to have horses in the background ready for service?

**Horses Hard to Get.**

An English writer of prominence who has evidently studied the question, writes: "Only a few days ago a prominent English breeder who was commissioned to buy horses for the war office, and he alluded to the great difficulty in procuring the proper material. Only the dire need for horses for military purposes can justify the enormous capital outlay connected with this item of the mobilization."

"It has certainly cost more than the maintenance of fiscal studs would have required, yet this sort of remounting can never serve its purpose, since uniformity in type of the army horse as a whole, and not supreme merits on the part of a few among them, is its chief asset. A squadron of lance mounted on 12 hand hunters and 15 hand hacks cannot possibly attack in straight and close lines, and instead of overriding a column of infantry, they would soon be all over the ground, and, seriously handicapped in the proper use of the rifle, would be made prisoners or shot without difficulty."

"We have to wait some time as it is stopped for any length of time, particularly during the most important part of the year, breeding will suffer so severely as to be unable to cope with the enormous demand for bloodstock which is certain to spring up after the termination of the war."

This country today is in a parallel condition to England. It has been virtually stripped of its remount material. Is there any excuse for delay in replenishment with a better article than has heretofore been produced? It can easily be done if the broad minded legislator will only go deeply into the question and act.

**Will Cut Salaries.**

President McCredie of the Portland Coast League club says a number of his players will have an opportunity to jump to the Feds. He is going to tender contracts with healthy cuts in salary and if the players refuse to work for the money McCredie will be glad to see them go. It is nothing new for his nephew and manager, Walter McCredie, to build up a champion out of new material, and he thinks it can be done again if worse comes to worst.

## BASKET BALL MEET FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

University of Nebraska Announces Annual Tournament at Lincoln for Middle of March.

**FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Big Loving Cup to Be Presented to Winning Five and Banners for Consolation Teams.

**PREDICT RECORD TOURNEY**  
Manager Reed Expects Seventy-Five Entries This Year.

**HUSKERS AND IOWA FIGHT**

Nebraska Asks Larger Guarantee from Hawkeyes When in Iowa City—Offers Lower One for Games at Lincoln.

By JAMES E. LAWRENCE.

LINCOLN, Dec. 15.—(Special)—Manager Guy R. Reed has announced March 10, 11, 12 and 13 as the dates for the fifth annual Nebraska state high school basketball tournament, which is held under the auspices of the state university. The largest interscholastic event of its kind west of the Mississippi river and a rival of eastern tournaments, if the plans of the Nebraska management don't go amiss this year, there will be more teams than ever entered. In anticipation of the increased entries, for the tournament is yearly becoming more popular, Manager Reed has added another day to the dates for the playing of the championship series.

To meet the objection that teams from smaller towns had no chance against the representatives of Omaha, Lincoln and Beatrice in the earlier rounds of the tournament, Manager Reed has devised a new system of arranging the preliminary games. In past tournaments drawings determined the early games. Reed will attempt a classification of the scores made by the teams during the season. Each school which enters the tournament must file with Reed a complete record of the scores made during the basketball season. Before the registration blanks are issued, Reed will tabulate these scores for the classification of teams.

**Two Divisions Formed.**

Two and possibly three divisions, providing enough schools enter, will be formed—the weaker schools pitted against the weaker, and the stronger against the stronger. The system calls for a games' committee, composed of university athletes, whose duty it will be to classify the teams, according to the records and size of the towns which they represent. Manager Reed will announce the members of this committee later.

Another change has been provided for Reed to eliminate some of the complaint which arose last year. Championship games have been played in the gymnasium of the State university, with preliminary games in the gymnasium, chapel and Young Men's Christian association gymnasium. Now Reed proposes that the championship final and semi-final games be played in the city auditorium, upon a "strange" floor, so that all contestants be placed on an equal base.

**Hope to Clear Expense.**

The Lincoln Commercial club is behind the tournament this year and will grant the use of the Auditorium free of charge. Reed believes that with the increased seating accommodations he will be able to clear enough money from the tournament to pay the railroad expenses of all of the competing teams.

The usual medals and pennants for winning teams and individual medals for the members of the championship five will be awarded. The big loving cup for the championship five has been arranged for. Banners go to the runners-up and a consolation tournament will probably be arranged.

Nebraska's high school tournament is attracting more students to the university every year. Last season sixty-four high schools competed, while a year before but forty-eight took part. The first tournament and the twenty-seven contestants. Reed expects another fifty to eighty entries in the tournament this year, bringing close to 600 athletes to the state university.

**Nebraska and Iowa Play.**

Nebraska will probably meet Iowa on the gridiron next fall. If the two schools meet, it will be on the Nebraska school next fall. The Iowa game has the advantage of giving Nebraska a western conference opponent, but it has the disadvantage of falling to draw like it should. The only question hanging fire between the managements of the two schools is the question of guarantees. If another contract is signed for a series of games, Reed is insistent that Iowa give Nebraska a bigger guarantee at the Omaha City, while the Huskers will probably cut down Iowa's share at Lincoln. The Lincoln crowds are nearly double those secured at Iowa City.

## Uni of Omaha Is Rounding Out Its Basket Ball Team

Basket ball practice began in earnest last week at the University of Omaha. Under Coach Meyers the prospective candidates were kept busy all last week and are rapidly rounding in condition for the season. The team this season will be made up of nearly all new players as only two of last year's letter men are in the squad. It is around Selby and Jorgensen that Meyers is building the five. Selby is captain. Center is the one place that is causing the coach the most trouble and Mathison and Paisley are being tried out for this important position.

Of the new men Ernst and Adams are the most promising. However, there are other good men competing for a berth. They are Bruce, Goodrich, Durkee, Hughes, Stimpson, Weinberg, Jenks, Reese, Richards, Woessly and Kruse.

Manager Morey has been delayed in completing a schedule. So far he has secured but four games, two here and two away from Omaha. Coach Meyers will see the team throughout the Christmas holidays though he will be handicapped by a number of the players being away. Dates arranged: January 25—Omaha at Cooper, Nebraska; February 1—Omaha at Lincoln, Nebraska; February 5—Omaha at Omaha, Nebraska; February 12—Omaha at Omaha, Nebraska.

# SPORTS SECTION of THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1914.

## Danish Tug-of-War Team Certainly Looks Husky



The Danish Brotherhood, lodge No. 155, of Omaha, champions of the state tug-of-war team, has been challenged by the Sioux City team to a pull at Washington Hall, Sunday evening, December 27, starting at 9 o'clock. The local team has accepted the challenge. Before the event there will be dancing and immediately afterwards the program will be continued. Reading from left to right,

starting at the top, the team members are Hans Metz, Nels Sorenson, Carl Hansen, Sam Metz, Morris Christensen, Emil Tolbood, captain, and Rasmus Rasmussen.

## NATIONAL VICTORIES CLEAN Omaha Lads Making Names in Athletics At Ithaca School

In Defeating the American Leaguers They Do So More Decisively. ATHLETICS PLAY GOOD GAME They Either Lament Their Competitors or Else Get the Everlasting Stuffings Kicked Out of Themselves.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Though the American league has a slight lead over the National league in winning world's series, six to five being the exact edge, it has won two more games in world's series warfare than its Johnsonian opponents.

The reason for this lies in the fact that when the National league trims the American in a world's series it always does it in such a clean-cut manner that there is no rebuttal. In the five world's series in which the American league has been licked the Ban Johnsonites scored just exactly five victories.

**SOCCER GAMES POSTPONED**

Two Meetings Scheduled for Today Are Called Off by Snow. OMAHA CITY TEAM IN LEAD Eleven is the Winner of the Cup Being Offered by T. L. Omaha Jewelry Company—Calculation of Soccer Teams.

The following figures show how the National league fared:

Team	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Omaha City	9	8	1	16
Calendons	3	4	2	8
1914	2	5	1	5
Townsend	2	6	1	5

The soccer football games scheduled to be played at Miller and Elmwood parks Sunday afternoon are called off on account of the condition of the ground, the snow being so deep as to interfere with the movement of the ball.

A general meeting will be held Monday night at 8 o'clock in the city hall to try and arrange a match to be played either Christmas or New Year's day between the stars of the four league teams, that is, a return match of the one played at Miller park on Thanksgiving day. If arrangements can be made this match will be played at Bourke park for the benefit of the league.

After the Christmas holidays soccer football will come to a close in the Omaha City league. Besides the postponed game of last week only two more scheduled contests remain to be played. The approach of the cold weather has greatly interfered with the play in the league. Last Sunday the Omaha City-Calendons game had to be postponed because of this.

The cup offered by the T. L. Omaha Jewelry store is practically clinched by the Omaha City eleven. However, there is still a great deal of interest between the other teams for second place. The three trailing teams are separated but by a few points and each has a chance at the place.

## WALTER JOHNSON JUMPS BACK AGAIN

Twirler Signs Up with Washington for Three Years at \$12,500 a Year.

**CONVINCED OPTION IS BINDING**  
Action Follows All-Day Conference with Clark Griffith at Kansas City.

**WILL RETURN THE BONUS MONEY**  
Pitcher Says He Thought Was Free When He Leaped First.

**NO TEN-DAY CLAUSE IN PACT**

Boxman and Wife Come to Meet "the Fox" When Latter Says He Can Make Clear He Has Hold on Player.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 19.—Clark Griffith, manager of the Washington league baseball club, announced here today that he had signed Walter Johnson, the star pitcher of the Washington Americans, to a three-year contract and that Johnson would play with Washington next season.

The manager and pitcher reached an agreement after an all-day conference. After the meeting Johnson issued the following signed statement: "After a conference with Manager Griffith and legal authorities, I am convinced the option in my last year's contract with the Washington ball club was binding, and I am going to return to the Washington ball club and fulfill my agreement and at the terms offered me by that club. (Signed) 'WALTER JOHNSON.'"

**Wises Miner.**

Manager Griffith wired Benjamin S. Miner, president of the Washington baseball club, after the meeting, as follows: "Johnson is convinced our option is legal and signed with us at your figures."

The manager said Johnson's new contract called for a salary of \$12,500 a year for three years—an increase of \$500 over his last season's contract.

Griffith said Johnson would return to the Federal league the \$6,000 bonus which Manager Tinker of the Chicago Federals paid him to sign a Federal league contract in Coffeyville, Kan., December 2. The Federal league contract calls for a salary of \$16,000 a year.

**Come to Meet Griffith.**

Johnson and his wife came to Kansas City following the receipt of a telegram from Manager Griffith, asking the twirler to meet him to talk over the option attached to Johnson's last season's contract.

"I wrote to Johnson and told him the option was binding," said Manager Griffith tonight.

"Under it the Washington club paid Johnson \$1,000 for the right to contract for his services after last season. Johnson wrote to me saying, if I could convince him that the option was legal he would return to the Washington club. I immediately arranged for today's conference. We went over the option clause with legal authorities and at the end of the day Johnson became convinced that he was legally under option to my club. He is a square young fellow. He wanted to do the right thing and so he signed up."

**Didn't Think It Binding.**

Griffith said Johnson explained that when he signed with the Federal league he believed his option agreement was not binding.

"Of course," said Griffith, "as Johnson was under option to play with us, he could not legally sign a Federal league contract."

"The new Johnson contract contains no 'ten-day clause,' manager Griffith said. "As soon as Johnson concluded his meeting with Griffith, he left the hotel, accompanied by his wife. Manager Griffith said the pitcher had returned to his home at Coffeyville, Kan."

**Gilmore, Doesn't Believe It.**

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—"I don't believe it," asserted President James A. Gilmore of the Federal league, when told that Walter Johnson, star of the pitching staff of the Washington Americans last year, had signed a contract to play three years with that club.

"Johnson signed a contract a couple of weeks ago to play two years with the Chicago Federal league club and accepted \$6,000 advance money," declared Mr. Gilmore.

"I believe Johnson is too honorable a man to renege the contract he made with us."

"His alleged statement that he is convinced the option in his last year's contract is binding may be true, but we are convinced that the option is not binding and that it is worthless. We are certain on this point."

## OMAHA RIFLE CLUB IS CHARTERED BY NATIONAL

The Greater Omaha Rifle and Revolver club has received a charter in the National Rifle association. The Omaha organization was just recently organized, but already sixty members are enrolled. When the membership reaches 100 rifles will be ordered and a lease will be signed on a plot of ground for a target range, an option on which has already been obtained. It is planned to erect a large club house on the site when the club starts to hold practice shoots.

## HUDSON SIX WINS IN THE HARRISBURG ECONOMY RUN

The Hudson six-54 won the Harrisburg Motor club economy contest, which was just held at Harrisburg, Pa., checking in at the end of the run with a record of twenty-one miles per gallon of gasoline. This Hudson car held seven passengers, extra tires, etc., an approximate weight of 5,700 pounds.