

Base Ball Prospects Were Never Brighter and the West Shares in Good Outlook for the Game

MANY MEN GO TO PLAY BALL

Nebraska Never Had Such Large Number of Candidates.

LAST SEASON DISASTROUS ONE

Team Will Profit by Experience and Get in Trim Early— Good Material for Battery.

LINCOLN, Feb. 22.—(Special).—The base ball squad at the University of Nebraska numbers more than sixty candidates, and is the largest that has ever been organized in the history of Cornhusker athletics. At the time the call for candidates for the varsity was issued, it was expected that many men would try out for the team, but nobody dreamed the number would be as large as it is. The squad is composed of so many men now, that in order to get the best work out of the candidates, Manager Eger, who is acting as coach until Billy Fox arrives next month, has divided it into four sections for practice. All the divisions practice daily in the cage at the gymnasium at different hours.

The experience of last season's nine accounts for the extraordinary number of men who are trying out this year. The Cornhusker team of 1907 had the most disastrous season that any Nebraska nine has gone through in recent years. Practically the only games the team won were those played at home. The team's unsuccessful season was due entirely to a scarcity of candidates for the various positions on the nine. Just before the team went on its eastern trip the captain and manager had to go among the students, seeking men to fill some of the places, and were over a week getting a suitable player to hold down first base. There was much good material in the university, but only a few of the students would get out and work for places on the nine. The students had athletic management were aroused by the failure of the team, and during the summer and winter stirred up interest in university base ball so that, when the call for candidates for the varsity was issued last week many answered it.

Some Good Tossers.
The indoor practice has brought a promising bunch of new men. In the line of pitchers there are several good men. F. W. Johnson, the foot ball player, is doing some encouraging twirling and will make a strong bid for a place on the pitching staff. Hazel, a youngster from Grand Island, is attracting much attention with some of his curves. Last year Hazel established a reputation as a punting twirler in the fraternity base ball league. G. Petrasch of Humboldt, and Prouty of Riceville, Ill., give promise of developing into valuable material and they will be given a thorough trial. Halligan, who pitched for the freshmen last spring, is showing up well. These new men in addition to the twirlers of last year's team—Ward, Elake and Hrubecy—will furnish the Cornhuskers with a strong pitching staff.

The arrival of Ward, the best pitcher on the nine last spring, will probably be the last of the early part of the season. He is now confined in the postoffice with a bad case of smallpox, and will not be able to report for practice for several weeks. As soon as he is released from the postoffice Ward will have to get his work up to date, and it is expected he will not be ready to practice before April. He probably will be in shape to make the eastern trip with the varsity.

Two Good Men at First.
Several new men, including J. Halderman, Lloyd Denlow and Sam Buck, are trying out for the first base position. Halderman's work in the cage has been of a high order, and in all probability the fight for the initial catch position will center between him and the veteran, Billy Fox, who held down the position last year and in the 1906 varsity, had been figured on to catch for this year's team, but a few days ago he was announced that he had received a flattering offer from an Iowa league team, which, he said, he would quit school to accept.

Among the other new men who are doing much good work in practice are G. Mattison, E. S. Kimmel, Lee Greenall, L. E. Johnson, W. Turlock and W. H. Johnson. Captain Bellamy, center fielder; Dudgeon, second base; Beltzer, shortstop; Sleuter, left field; Freeland, right field; Watson, first base; Blake and Hrubecy, pitchers. Are the players of last season's team who have returned to practice are Billy Beltzer, Sleuter, Blake and Hrubecy. They are the only men who are considered as having places on this season's nine clinched. The rest of the veterans are being hard pressed by the new men and will have to show improvement over last year in order to make the nine. The old men, with one exception, are trying out for their old positions. Beltzer, who held down shortstop last spring, is making a bid for the third base position and will probably get it.

The large number of men on the squad will add much strength to the team this spring, and the supporters of the Cornhuskers are looking for a successful season. When Billy Fox arrives next month he will at once take the candidates outdoors, if the weather permits, and drill them in batting and base running, in order that they will be in good shape for the opening of the season. The Cornhuskers hope to start the season with a strong nine and be able to win a large majority of their games.

Basket Ball with Gophers.
The Nebraska basket ball team closed its home schedule when it met the University of Kansas five in two games on Friday and Saturday. Next week the Cornhuskers will begin an eastern trip that will take them into Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. The first game of the trip will be played at Minneapolis with the University of Minnesota, next Friday and Saturday evenings. The Cornhuskers have not defeated the Gophers since 1904, but hope to do so this week and are entering all their efforts.

Western Base Ball League Magnates in Annual Session at Omaha



Cantillon, Holmes, Rourke, Green, Burke, Smith, O'Neil, Tebeau. MEN WHO HAVE MADE BASE BALL HISTORY.

OLYMPIC GOLF CUP AWARDED

Rock Island Arsenal Club Gets the Trophy and Also the Next Match.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—According to an official of the Western Golf association, those in control of the sport here in the east recently turned down an opportunity to have the Olympic golf competition held over one of its courses in its vicinity during the coming season. As the matter now stands, the Western Golf association has awarded the Olympic cup competition to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf club. It will be played on Saturday, July 11. This immediately precedes the annual championship tournament of the Western Golf association, which is to begin the following Monday over the same links. There had been some talk of presenting the Olympic cup to the foreign committee having in charge the Olympic contests to be held in England next summer, but this idea was abandoned because the western directors were not assured of an American team going abroad.

The alternative proposition was to have the Olympic cup an adjunct to the national amateur championship tournament, but as neither the United States Golf association nor the Metropolitan Golf association endorsed a desire to have the trophy placed at Garden City, thus giving the metropolitan team a chance to defend the cup at home, there was nothing left for the western directors to do but send it to Rock Island to be played for in connection with the western amateur.

It is quite evident, therefore, that if the metropolitan team wants to try to hold the cup for another year, it will have to travel to Rock Island in July. The prevailing impression is that the metropolitan team will let the cup go by default. There has been a general impression that whatever the United States Golf association or the Olympic golf competition abroad next June will be left entirely to the United States Golf association. Some time ago it was stated that the Amateur Athletic union had turned the golf invitation from the United States Golf association to the United States Golf association, but W. E. Morgan, secretary of the latter body, said the other day that no communication whatsoever had been received either from the Amateur Athletic union or the foreign committee.

There may be some excuse for the lack of interest in golfing circles here for the Olympic tournament at Deal, as for some reason hard to explain many of the leading golfers abroad resent the action of the English committee in instituting a championship of such pretensions, while a leading authority is quoted as saying: "It does not appeal to us as attractive or desirable from any point of view, and, if it is advertised as a world's championship, or if it is, in the least degree subsidized or engineered by trading interests, our leading amateurs will have nothing to do with it."

COFFROTH TO HANDLE WELSH

English Lightweight Looks for Match with the Coast.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 22.—Freddie Welsh, England's lightweight champion, has authorized Jimmy Coffroth to arrange some matches for him on the Pacific coast. Welsh is coming to the coast from Milwaukee. He writes to the local promoter that he will meet any lightweight in the business, but would prefer a battle with George Mennis, so the sports can get a line on him. Welsh has only been before the public as a professional for two years, but in that time has engaged in forty-seven fights and has won twenty-seven. He is a very hard hitter and is seriously thinking of trying to bring the Englishman and Paddy McFarland together.

NEW RULE FOR THE AMATEURS

National Trotting Association Favors the Class.

STRICTER FOOT BALL RULES

Missouri Valley Conference Exists to Raise Tone of Sport.

ALL BIG EIGHT RULES ADOPTED

Nebraska Has Not Yet Signified Whether She Will Join, but Acts Indicate Intention.

IOWA CITY, Ia., Feb. 22.—(Special).—The inside story of the formation of the Missouri Valley conference was given out for the first time today. The authorities of the State university of Iowa have been in constant communication with the other institutions of the new organization and have had a controlling influence in all the preliminaries on account of the fact that by its geographical location and membership in the Big Eight Iowa is peculiarly well situated to act as a connecting link between the two conferences.

The Missouri Valley conference is the direct result of faculty control of athletics in the schools west of the Mississippi; it is in fact, an athletic trust for the enforcement of proper direction of athletics. It is now up to the institutions of first rank in the territory under dominion of the conference to get in line with its provisions or become trailers in the second class. Prof. L. M. Byers of Iowa, the Hawkeye representative in the negotiations for the permanent organization, said today in his opinion the conference form of organization, of which the Big Eight is the pioneer, is to become the accepted method of athletic control all through the states of the west, each body being organized according to the logical limitations of distances and locations.

First Meeting of Conference.
The first meeting of the new conference was due to the efforts of Kansas and Missouri. It was held at Kansas City on February 15, 1907. Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Washington university of St. Louis were represented at this meeting, and took the first action on the adoption of rules of eligibility, which was the first matter considered. The rules of the Big Eight as to eligibility were adopted almost verbatim by all of the schools present except Nebraska. Invitations were extended to other institutions to join in the movement at this time and arrangements were made for a permanent organization. The management of the movement at this time and later was the opposition of Nebraska to the proposed rules of eligibility. The Cornhuskers' position on this point has never as yet been definitely settled and their membership is still only prospective.

Move for Stricter Rules.
It was to clean up athletics in the schools of the middle west that the conference was formed. And by reason of the impossibility of getting games of any caliber unless these rules are observed, it looks as if the desired effect was not far distant.

There is no agreement or understanding between the two big western conferences, the new conference simply undertaking the work performed by the old in its respective territory. Iowa is the only school which is a member of both conferences, and in case of a conflict of rules has agreed to enforce the strictest.

GUNNER MOIR IS COMING OVER

England's Champion Lemon Will Visit America Soon.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—"Gunner" Moir, the English heavyweight fighter who was disposed of in ten rounds by Tommy Burns, the American champion, at the National Sporting club of London in a boxing match some of the good men on this side of the water if he is offered suitable inducements and his passage paid here and back.

CORNELL OARSMEN AT WORK

Courtesy to Get His Boys Under Headway for the Coming Summer's Race.

ITHACA, N. Y., Feb. 22.—The preliminary crew work at Cornell, in preparation for the annual intercollegiate regatta at Poughkeepsie on June 27, has been recommenced under the eyes of Coach Courtney. The veteran sweepstake is devoting his attention to varsity and freshmen crew squads which are practicing daily on the machines in the armory. One hundred and eight candidates comprise the squad, which consists of six regular varsity and five regular freshmen combinations. Despite the severe shakedown in Cornell athletics, due to the recent examinations, which eliminated several foot ball and track team veterans, the oarsmen have so far escaped. But two members of the big squad have been lost during the recent recess in athletic training and this defection was due to the candidates in question having left college.

This, together with the veteran material available, gives the Cornell prospects a bright hue for the coming season. But three of last year's varsity eight have been represented in every branch of sport on the Olympic program and that so far as possible the general fund will be used to make this condition possible. Just how this fund will be divided to insure the best results has not been definitely decided, as much depends on the attitude that those interested in the various branches of sport take looking to a proper representation for their particular line. The lawn tennis players, the golfers, the oarsmen, the rifleman and such others for whom competitions will be held must do their part toward creating interest and providing the money to send their teams abroad. Up to this time those who are interested in track and field athletics have done about all the work and the money subscribed to date, some \$2,500, can be traced to the efforts being made to send as strong an athletic team to London as went to Athens in 1906, when the Olympic championship was won by the United States. The amount required for the general fund is \$50,000.

AL KAUFMAN'S NOSE IS FIXED

Hum Probosis of the Heavyweight Is on the Job Now.

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 22.—Al Kaufman, the heavyweight fighter of California, is coming east in two weeks, and his first battle will be with Jack "Twin" Sullivan for twelve rounds at one of the shows to be brought off by the Armory Athletic association of this city next month. Billy Delaney, manager of the Kaufman, wired Miah Murray, manager of the club, that he was perfectly willing to let Kaufman meet Sullivan, and that as soon as he arrives in Boston he will sign the articles of agreement for the contest.

KENTUCKY DERBY RUNS IN MAY

Churchill Downs Classic is set for an Early Date.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 22.—The Kentucky Derby will be run at Churchill Downs this year on May 2, and Louisville will have at least an eighteen-day meeting. Colonel Matt J. Winn, vice president and general manager of the local track, said the other day: "The new Louisville Jockey club opened certain stake events, among them the Kentucky Derby and the Kentucky Oaks, over a year ago. They have a large number of subscribers to the biggest breeders in the land, and the race will be run at Churchill Downs. The new Louisville club intends to comply with the law in every respect. No statement has as yet been made about betting at that track, but if it is against the law there will be no betting."

As the first authoritative announcement from the track interests in the state with respect to what course would be pursued in the event of the prohibition of betting, this is considered quite important. The Paris municipal system may be adopted, but as it would take a long time to secure machines it is considered probable that there will be a modified manner of booking, similar to that employed in the east.

YOUNG STILL AFTER TITLE

Persists in Seeking Award of National Clay Court Championship.

BOOSTS FOR THE FIELD CLUB

Easterners Show by Their Correspondence They Do Not or Will Not Understand the Situation.

Conrad Young is still in the east promoting the interest of the Omaha Field club in its efforts to secure the title of national clay court championship for the winner in the big tennis tournament which is held annually at the Omaha Field club. The national association met before Mr. Young went east, or while he was en route, and turned down the request from Omaha. This action was expected by Mr. Young before he left, but he hopes by personal persuasion to have the question reopened when the matter will be looked at in a clearer light. All correspondence shows that the members of the national committee either do not understand the matter or do not care to. This letter is self-explanatory.

BOSTON, Feb. 18.—F. M. Blish, Chairman of the National Tennis Association, said in a letter to Mr. Young referring to correspondence with Mr. Ward was duly received and should have had earlier answer, but as I am no longer secretary and as our new secretary, Mr. A. L. Haskin, is not set in touch with the correspondence, I have been delayed, which I trust you will pardon.

Your letter with enclosures was received just before I left Boston to attend the annual meeting in New York, and the matter was taken up by the executive committee at its meeting preceding the annual meeting. Eleven members of the committee were present, and they all were of the opinion that it was not desirable to establish more than one national championship out of doors or more than one sectional or state championship for any one section or state. The matter was taken up at the national meeting later in the evening and the opinion was unanimous (no proxies being voted) that such a duplication of titles would be undesirable. I appreciate the fact that it would be difficult to write a reasonable space to discuss this matter on paper, and I hope very much that Mr. Young will continue his trip to Boston, so we may talk this matter up in the best way. If Mr. Young does not come on I presume we will have to be satisfied with the correspondence and if he does not appear within a few days I shall take pleasure in writing you further.

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PAPA NEIL HAS HIS ANGER UP

Still Thinks His Boy is Capable of Beating Attell.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 22.—Jim Neil is angry at Spider Kelly for stopping the Neil-Attell fight and does not mince his words in speaking of the matter. He says that he never authorized Kelly to stop the fight and never mentioned the subject to him. Jim claims that he was in Frank's corner for that particular purpose, that he was the only person who had any right to throw up the sponge and that Kelly overstepped his authority when he climbed through the ropes in the thirteenth round. Jim felt that as long as Frank's was strong on his feet he had a chance to win and respect to what course would be pursued in the event of the prohibition of betting, this is considered quite important. The Paris municipal system may be adopted, but as it would take a long time to secure machines it is considered probable that there will be a modified manner of booking, similar to that employed in the east.

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REFEREES OF THE PRIZE RING

Men of Courage, Fairness and Honesty Best Officials.

POINTS ABOUT SOME OF JUDGES

Strenuous Times for Al Smith, Jere Dunn, Hiram Cook and Other Veterans—Task of Deciding Glove Contests Not Easy.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—It isn't always an easy task to referee a glove fight. Unless an official knows the rules, possesses courage and fairness and is honest he cannot hope to succeed. The old-time referees of the prize ring were generally selected for their pluck and squareness. Their decisions were as a rule respected and they seldom received pay for their services, although they often took their lives in their hands. Many of them had to face the worst mobs in the country, composed of lawless thugs, crooks and desperadoes, who attended the fights pulled off in the back woods or in secluded bars. It was often the case that they saw murder done at the ringside during the progress of the mill, but this was a mere incident in old-time fighting days. Many a square referee was nearly beaten to death, too, because he had rendered a manifestly just decision. Today it is another story, for referees are usually protected by club officials and the police at the ringside.

Hiram Cook was the official referee of the old California Athletic club of San Francisco, which flourished fifteen years ago. He always appeared in the ring in evening dress and handled the fighters with kid gloves. Cook refereed the memorable sixty-one-round battle between Jim Corbett and Peter Jackson in 1891 and came out of the ring without having the paring of his hair disarranged. Cook, by the way, decided this battle "no contest," the fighters receiving only \$2,500 each, although the articles of agreement called for a purse of \$10,000-\$8,000 to the winner and \$1,500 to the loser. This ruling quered both the club and the referee, both of whom soon passed out of the boxing game because of this unfairness.

One of Al Smith's Affairs.

Al Smith, the veteran sporting man, who still enjoys rugged health, is one of the best living types of the old-time referee. He has always been on the level and never rendered a questionable decision. There were times, however, when he had a good bet on the result of a battle which at the last moment he was forced to referee, yet he decided his own money away rather than have anyone say that he was not fair and aboveboard. In 1890 Smith was selected to referee the rough London road fight between Mike Tracy and John Flood, which took place on a barge anchored off Yonkers. There was a tough crowd aboard and all of these rowdies were for Flood, because he was a New Yorker and had gained many admirers because of his rough-and-tumble scrapping about the horse market on the East Side. This New York gang declared before the mill that Flood would win either by fair or foul means.

Sullivan at that time was unknown to New Yorkers and had, as a result, very few friends in this city. Among the latter were Mike Tracy and John Flood, who were several tough young men, who were on hand to see that the Boston fighter got a square deal in spite of the fact that they were greatly outnumbered. John L. was a real gladiator that night. He was in superb condition and ready to battle for his life. When the mill began, Sullivan, who went at Flood like a cyclone and proceeded to pound him all over the ring.

"Cut the ropes and throw the Besenator overboard!" cried one of the Flood mob as Sullivan knocked his antagonist into a corner.

It was a critical moment and everybody had his hand on a gun or knife.

"Fair play, boys! Fair play!" came the warning cry from Al Smith just then. "If you do anything wrong to that Boston fellow I'll decide against you!"

Before the crowd realized what was going on Sullivan had knocked Flood out as clear as a whistle. Tracey's Smith held up his hand to command silence.

Sullivan's Ingratitude.
"Sullivan wins!" he cried, and the mob, respecting his decision, subdued. If it had not been for Smith's coolness and fairness, however, Sullivan would not have won, for he might have been subjected to a cold bath in the Hudson river. But Sullivan in his prosperity forgot this and many other kind acts of Al Smith. He forgot to return to Billy Tracey's saloon that night, where the latter had a crowd of leading sporting men waiting to welcome the coming champion. Tracey was to the day of his death, about a year ago, continually vowed vengeance for this slight, but Sullivan always took good care to give him a wide berth.

Al Smith's last appearance as a referee was at the old Coney Island Athletic club in 1892, when he decided the fight between Joe Lannon and George Godfrey and Billy Plimmer and Tommy Kelly. He has refused all kinds of inducements to officiate since then, declaring that he is through with active participation in the pugilistic game forever. As a referee Smith never accepted a cent for his services.

Jere Dunn's Fairness.

Jere Dunn, who died two years ago, was a fearless referee whom the sporting element always held in high esteem. When Jack McLaughlin fought the late Austin Gibbons at the Granite Athletic club, Hoboken, in 1891, Dunn, who officiated as referee, made this speech before the fighters shook hands: "Gentlemen, I understand that the police may stop this contest after the boys go a certain number of rounds. If that is so I will give the decision to the one having the best of the contest when the interference takes place. This goes!"

As the fight was held on Jersey soil and as Gibbons was a "native son" it was said that the Jersey coppers had agreed that should not receive the worst of the fight. McLaughlin soon proved that he was not of the situation, for in the sixth round he was on the point of putting Gibb as to sleep when the bluecoats suddenly jumped into the ring and ended further hostilities. But Dunn was on the alert, and stepping to the side of the ring he exclaimed: "McLaughlin wins!"

The Gibbons people pleaded with Dunn to call the fight a draw, but he was a man with an iron will and the ruling went. Dunn, by the way, was also a resident of New Jersey at the time, as he had lived for a number of years at Elizabeth.

Jack Cusack's Adventure.

Jack Cusack is one of the old time ring followers of this city who has refereed