

Base Ball Looms Big Ahead but Automobile Racing and Wrestling Still Have Their Little Day

NEBRASKA MEN IN LEAGUE

Cornhuskers Join Missouri Valley Conference.

STRICTER ELIGIBILITY RULES

Decision Reached at Lincoln to Cast Fortune with Western Colleges Instead of Big Eight.

LINCOLN, March 7.—(Special).—The University of Nebraska will become a member of the Missouri valley conference. This action has been agreed upon by the members of the Cornhusker Athletic board and the official step toward joining the new association will be taken at the next meeting of the board on March 18. At that meeting the foot ball committee, in whose hands the matter of joining the conference was left for investigation, will recommend that Nebraska become a member. This committee is composed of three men, two of whom—Dr. Lees and Captain John G. Workman—are the most influential members of the governing body of Cornhusker athletics, and its recommendation will determine the action of the board.

The significance of Nebraska's joining the Missouri valley conference is very great. It means that the new organization, which was formed a year ago and which has struggled along with prospects for a short existence, will now be sure to live and become the controlling body of athletics in the Missouri valley. It means that the eligibility rules in the west will become much stricter and that athletics there will be purified. It means that Nebraska will not join the Big Eight.

Another Eight in West.

The Missouri valley conference is composed of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Ames, Drake, Washington and Washburn. With Nebraska added it will become another Big Eight. The new organization was formed on February 16, 1907, at a meeting of the representatives of the University of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Washington in Kansas City. Nebraska had been asked to send a representative, but did not do so. For the Cornhusker athletic board at that time was opposed to the formation of the new conference. Eligibility rules and a constitution were adopted at the Kansas City meeting. Nebraska, Ames, Drake and Washburn were asked to become members. All of these schools but Nebraska accepted the invitation. The Cornhuskers gave the members of the conference no encouragement for several months and the work of the organization came to a standstill. It was no effort to carry out the plans formulated at the Kansas City meeting and seemed destined to break up as a result of the opposition of Nebraska. The members of the new organization repeatedly urged the Cornhuskers to join the conference. Nebraska, the strongest school in the valley, a member, the conference would be a success. Recently the Cornhuskers gave some of the leading members a little encouragement and the hopes of the new organization were revived. The decision of the Cornhusker athletic board to join the conference will insure the success of the organization and will put it in a place to control the athletics of the Missouri valley.

Cleaner Sport in West.

The new conference, by the addition of Nebraska, will force the other schools in the Missouri valley to observe the strict eligibility rules, and in that way will help cleanse the athletics of the west. At the present time many of the schools in the valley—even some of the new conference schools—are not living up to the generally accepted rules of eligibility and there is a tendency to reach for a compromise for the good of football. With Nebraska in the conference, however, the conference will be able to make strict rules and enforce them, both among its own members and among the other schools in the valley. The non-conference schools, in order to make their athletics pay, will have to continue scheduling contests with the conference schools. And they will only be able to do this by observing all the rules of the new organization. Such schools as the University of St. Louis, whose men play under very questionable rules, will reform, and every school will be placed on an equal footing.

Good-Bye to Big Eight.

Nebraska's entrance into the Missouri valley conference will settle the talk about her joining the Big Eight. Since the withdrawal of Michigan from the old conference, there have been several rumors circulating from Chicago to the effect that Nebraska would be asked to fill the place left vacant by the Wolverine and that she would accept, thus restoring the Big Nine. There has been a good deal of truth in these reports, too, for several of the Big Eight schools are in favor of inviting the Cornhuskers to take a place among them and the proposition has met with great favor at Nebraska. But in taking steps toward joining the new conference, the Cornhusker athletic board has decided not to accept an invitation to become a member of the Big Eight, even if it is extended. The Cornhuskers had the proposition of joining the Missouri valley conference under consideration for over a year and the thing they did not want to do was to get into the Big Eight. They wanted to be with the big schools, but when those institutions began to adopt such measures as the five-game rule and go to the extreme of retaliation, they did not want to be in the Big Eight. The decision to enter the Missouri valley conference is the result, Nebraska will not take Michigan's place in the old conference.

Eager Gets Advance in Salary.

Herb O. Eager, manager of Cornhusker athletics, will be re-elected for another year at the next meeting of the athletic board. Mr. Eager has asked for an increase in salary of \$300, and this will be given him. At the present time he is drawing \$200. Mr. Eager has been manager of athletics for two years. A year ago he

Some Nebraska Girls Who Are Athletic and Pretty as Well as Studious



Prof. Cheney, Coach Winnie White Julia Draper Beasie McCann Jessie McCann Etha French Merie Draper EDISON HIGH SCHOOL BASKET BALL TEAM.

CHANGE IN THE STAKE RULE

National Trotting Association Makes Move that Will Affect Conditions of Many Races.

NEW YORK, March 7.—Two important changes in the rules of the National Trotting association made in the late congress have attracted little attention from horsemen, particularly from race track managers, compared with the great significance they have on the future of the turf. The first important change alluded to was that in the rule which gives a correct definition of what a "stake" is. In section 2, under old rule 3, a stake was defined as follows: "Stake is a race opened to all complying with its published conditions, for which the prize is the total amount of money contributed to the nominators, all of which belongs to the winner or winners, unless otherwise provided in the published conditions."

In the newly adopted rule the comma after the word "winners" was changed to a period, and the remaining clause of the rule stricken out, namely the words, "unless otherwise provided in the published conditions." This plainly means that whatever the conditions governing the stake, all the money contributed by the nominators should constitute the prize for competition, and every dollar of it must be distributed among the winner or winners, and that the giver of the "stake" can make no extra conditions which should govern the final distribution of the total money subscribed by the entrants to the stake.

The intention of the new rule is plainly directed against the practice of collecting large sums of money from subscribers or nominators and returning only a portion of the same to the winner or winners. The second important change was made in the rule pertaining to guaranteed stakes, which for years have been in the habit of collecting large sums of money from subscribers or nominators and returning only a portion of the same to the winner or winners. The second important change was made in the rule pertaining to guaranteed stakes, which for years have been in the habit of collecting large sums of money from subscribers or nominators and returning only a portion of the same to the winner or winners.

As the rule now stands a track association can guarantee a stake to a certain amount and if the entrance fees do not come up to the stipulated sum then it must be made good; but on the other hand, if the subscriptions foot up a sum over the guaranteed amount, the giver cannot make any conditions with which he can entitle himself to this excess. For an example, take the M. & M. classic stake at Detroit, which is guaranteed for \$10,000. The giver of this stake can make conditions as to percentage of entrance fees, amounts of subscriptions to be paid at stipulated periods, but cannot hold back from the winners any excess over the guaranteed amount.

If nominators paid in, say \$5,000, the association must make good the balance of \$5,000; but on the other hand, if subscriptions amounting to \$2,000 over the guaranteed sum, the total of \$12,000 must be hung up as the prize for the race, for which the stakes was announced and the subscriptions made.

There can be no other interpretation of the two new rules quoted above, as their meaning is just as plain as the language in which they are definitely set down. In fact, according to authentic information, this is the meaning and intention of the new changes. Both rules are immensely in favor of the horseman.

DATE FOR HARVARD-YALE RACE

BOSTON, Mass., March 7.—Manager Howe of the Harvard crew announces the date for the annual boat race against Yale at New London as fixed for June 25. According to the agreement the variety four-oared race will start at 10 o'clock in the morning at the navy yard and be rowed down stream, finishing at the railroad bridge. As soon after the four-oared race as practical the freshmen eights will row over the same two-mile course, starting at the navy yard and finishing at the railroad bridge. The variety race will not come until the afternoon and will be rowed up stream. The crews will be started at 5:30 o'clock at the railroad bridge, and will finish at the end of the four-mile course opposite the Harvard quarters at Boston.

PA NOW HAS TEN PITCHERS

President Rourke Lands Noah, Giant Seven Feet Tall.

GETS HIM RIGHT HERE IN OMAHA

Aggregation of Slab Artists Assures Champions of Effective Material and Other Teams of Some Hard Work.

Noah will pitch for Omaha this year. This does not mean that Pa has gone back to the ark to try to bring to life some antiquity to puzzle the other Western league teams, but a new Noah, a giant in stature, nearly seven feet tall and correspondingly large. As Pa and Dick Grotte were scouting around Omaha boasting the game for this spring they stepped into the Omaha Bicycle company store on North Sixteenth street and in the course of a conversation one of the proprietors remarked that they had a base ball player working there. He was brought forth and introduced and Pa soon discovered that in Omaha, unannounced, was a noted pitcher, Charles M. Noah of Sharon, Pa., fame, a pitcher who was drafted by a big league team and who is now a free agent through an oversight.

Noah was drafted on the spot and is now one of the ten slab artists whom Pa will have at the opening of the season next month. The pitching staff now includes, War Sanders, Gus Williams, Hollenbeck, Ritman and the south-pawed end of the firing staff, and Noah, Billie, Hans, Leasac, Clark, Metz and McNeely as the right-handers. That should be enough for Pa to find a good one or two to replace Ragan, who left Friday to join the Cincinnati team.

Belviden has written that he will be on his way as soon as his transportation reaches him and Chick Autrey has written Pa that he will soon start on his long journey and hopes to reach Omaha on time and not be late this time, as he was when he walked from Mexico last year. He is playing first at San Diego and will start immediately on his long walk to Omaha.

He received his signed contract in the letter. The pennant of 1908 will be raised at Vinson street park April 23, which is the opening day for Omaha of the Western league schedule. The big pole is still in the same place when it carried the pennant two years ago and although it had to be content to hold the American flag last year, this year it will have to support the pennant of the Western league. March 23 is the time set by Pa for the players to report, and although some are still holding out for a raise in the salary it is expected that all will be on hand at the appointed time. Pa has raised the salary of three of his players and cut the pay of none. He has notified all the players to expect their transportation in time to report for duty March 23.

NAVY TO HAVE BEEF IN ITS BOAT

Heaviest Crew Academy Ever Turned Out in Training.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., March 7.—Naval academy cadets, who have been practicing on the machines for several weeks, are now on the water under the direction of Coach Richard Glendon. The crew is very heavy, probably the heaviest that the academy has ever turned out. In the waist of the boat are Captain Douglas, of the football team, who is the strongest man in the academy, and Northcroft, also one of the leading foot ball players and strong men. Foot ball players predominate, in fact, as Leighton, Magruder and Reinicke, who had places in the first boat, are all members of the squad. Captain Rockwell, McKee and Davis, who fill the other seats, are all members of last season's crew.

BROWNS HAVE THE STAR TEAM

McAleer Has a Fine Lot of World's. If there's anything in great records, why shouldn't the Browns win the American league pennant this year? They will have two world-beating pitchers in Bill Dineen and Rube Waddell. Dineen, had a large share in winning two American league pennants for Boston in 1903 and 1904 and one world's series for that city. Waddell pitched the Athletics to the pennant in 1902 and 1903. Should they show their old-time form the Browns, with such men as Bobby Wallace and Ferris on the infield and Stone, Jones and Hoffman in the outfield, should certainly be contenders. But-

THE OLD GRANDMOTHER GAG.

The Office Boy Again. Say, that boss of mine is funny; He's the joker man in town. Comes around my desk late evening Just as I was gettin' through; Little Willie boy gets bou-

You can bet the boss is foxy, Put that down for true and plain, I say your Willie boy is mussy; And there's cowboys on his brain; Did I think that he was kiddin'; Not this little mother's son. I say, but Willie, which one? "Yes, sir, Mr. Smith, which one?"

Not a single sign he gave me, Not a murmur or a grin. Only raised his eyes a little And began to rub his chin; "What," he says, "you mean to tell me That you still have two grandmas?" Why, I thought they died last summer, And the office bunch ha-ha's.

Wasn't that an awful package To hand out on any guy? Like a bum-a-rabbit pie. Did I tumble? Did you kiddin' place You'd a-train that little Willie Was a-a-train for a race.

But the boss is on the level, Meets me on the street late night; Puts his hand upon my shoulder. An' says: "Bill you're fixed all right, And Noah, Billie, Hans, Leasac, Clark, Metz and McNeely as the right-handers. That should be enough for Pa to find a good one or two to replace Ragan, who left Friday to join the Cincinnati team.

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DATES FOR OLYMPIC GAMES

Announcement from London of the Times Fixed for the Various Sports.

LONDON, March 7.—Dates and conditions of the games that will make up the international Olympiad to be held in London this year are announced. The shooting competitions will take place at Risley; tennis will be played on the grass courts of the All England club at Wimbledon; the covered courts at Queen's club, West Kensington, also will be used, and the racquet contests will be decided there, too.

The rowing regatta will be over the famous Henley course. The swimming races will be decided in the stadium, and there also will be settled the archery and cycling schedule. Fencing bouts will be held in the lists adjoining the stadium, and the golf contestants will meet over the links at Sandwich and at Deal. All the gymnastic events will be decided in the stadium.

Dates for the various events follow: Sports. When Held. Entries Close. Shooting (small arms).....July 8, 9, 10.....June 29 Tennis (covered).....Begin July 6.....April 29 Racquets.....Begin July 7.....April 29 Rowing.....Begin July 28.....June 1-29 Swimming.....Begin July 13.....June 12 Wrestling.....Begin July 13.....June 12 Archery.....Begin July 13.....June 12 Fencing.....Begin July 13.....June 15 Golf.....Begin July 1, 2, 3.....May 23 Gymnastics.....Begin July 13.....June 15

The day games will be held July 5, 9, 10 and 11 at the grounds of the Uxendon Shooting School club and entries will close June 1. In the closing of the rowing events Belgium, Canada, Germany, Holland and the United Kingdom are allowed until June 20, while all other countries, which includes the United States, must have their entries in a month earlier.

Gold, silver and bronze medals are awarded in each event for first, second and third, and each such award carries with it an Olympic diploma. The club or association to which the winner belongs also gets a certificate. Special merit certificates under the rules may be awarded in any competition where the performance is especially meritorious.

Archery is the only sport in which women will compete, though there is a special exhibition class in gymnastics, one competitive, where they will appear.

Iowa's Invitation Meets.

IOWA CITY, Ia., March 7.—(Special).—The invitation meet to be held by the University of Iowa may become a rival to Stagg's annual invitation meet in Chicago, according to the latest plans given out on the matter. There is considerable antagonism to the annual meet held under the auspices of that body, and to avoid any controversy on that point and incidentally to keep the prospective college athletes of Iowa in the schools of their own state, it is proposed to hold the meet at the commencement season, and throw it open to the high schools of surrounding states, as well as those of Iowa. The present prosperous condition of the Iowa treasury makes this feasible, and it is quite probable that the place will be carried out.

GOTCH HUG DRAWS WOMEN

Celebrated Hold Makes American Champion Fair One's Idol.

HE WILL USE IT TUESDAY NIGHT

Harry Bransfield, Champion Wrestler of Australia, is Cousin of Kitty Bransfield, First Baseman of Philadelphia.

"We have the largest demand for seats for women that we have had for any match yet," said Manager Gillan of the Auditorium in referring to the Gotch-Bransfield wrestling Tuesday night. The celebrated "Gotch hug" is said to be the one special drawing card. That is one thing that has contributed so vastly to the popularity of this great wrestler and it has proven the downfall of many a fine mat artist. Gotch is going to use it on his friend from the south for further orders, so his manager, Herman, writes.

Harry Bransfield, the champion wrestler of Australia, is a cousin of Kitty Bransfield, the veteran first baseman of the Philadelphia National league team, and will visit with that distinguished man before he leaves American shores. There was some talk that Kitty might be at the wrestle Tuesday, but it is understood he declined to come for the reason that he is an American and an ardent admirer and personal friend and booster of Gotch, and he would feel uncomfortable to cheer for or against either his cousin or his idol.

Both Men Come Sunday. Gotch and Harry Bransfield are expected in Sunday and Monday, respectively. Gotch wrestled in New York Friday night and could not get to Omaha sooner. Whenever they arrive they will find a fever of excitement over their big match at the Auditorium Tuesday night. Probably no match yet has so stirred sentiment as this one. There are fans who are convinced Bransfield will get a fall, if not the match, from America's champion and that Gotch may find it embarrassing to proceed with his plans for the Hackenschmidt wrestle. But this sentiment is not dominant. That Gotch will throw the big man from Australia there is no serious doubt in the popular mind.

Farmer Burns will be a close spectator of the match, studying every move and maneuver of Bransfield, who is said to employ much the same tactics as Hackenschmidt, whom he is to train against Gotch, the Farmer being Gotch's master in that match.

If Gotch defeats Hackenschmidt and incidental plans materialize Farmer Burns and Fred Beel, and possibly one or two other American stars of less magnitude than Gotch, will wrestle, and Omaha will endeavor to land at least one of these matches. If Hack, by any hook or crook should win over Gotch, he probably would have a difficult time getting another match in America, as there is not another man on the mat better than Gotch. But the belief is constantly growing that Gotch will beat the Russian Lion. Those who have seen Gotch wrestle and studied his wonderful methods of working on the feet and legs, and who have either seen or learned of the large dependence Hack places in his method of tugging at the head and body, are gradually coming to the conclusion that the American will make fatal trouble for his big adversary from over the way. Farmer Burns and Emil Klank will witness themselves as positive Gotch will win.

PRINCETON CREWS GETTING OUT

Tigers Will Soon Be on Lake Carnegie in New Shell.

PRINCETON, N. J., March 7.—The Princeton university rowing enthusiasts are preparing to get busy on Lake Carnegie. During the winter the graduates have been actively engaged in raising money all over the country and especially in New York and Philadelphia, where over \$2,000 has been contributed. The results of their work are shown by four new eight-oared shells, two of which are now built, the others being well under way. In addition to this, plans are being perfected for a large eighty-foot float, for the boats and a temporary boat house and dressing room to be built on the north side of the lake.

Coach Titus, on being asked about the prospects of Princeton sending out a crew this spring, said: "We shall start up rowing here about April 1, but the policy of the rowing association is to go slow for the present, and we will only engage in interclass races this spring. Next year we will begin active work and will probably see what we can do against some of the other college crews."

CUB STRICKLETT STAYS OUT WEST

Brooklyn's Spit Ball Wizard to Play at San Jose.

NEW YORK, March 7.—Blmer Stricklett, the great pitcher of the Brooklyn National league club, will not be with that team this year. He has signed a contract to twirl for one year with the San Jose (Cal.) club of the California league. Stricklett is to receive a larger salary than he did with the Brooklyn club.

WHERE JOHNSON GETS OFF

His Effort to Dictate Terms to Burns Reaches the Point of Ridiculous.

HE WILL USE IT TUESDAY NIGHT

NEW YORK, March 7.—Jack Johnson, the big colored fighter, has no right to tell Tommy Burns how and where he shall fight. If Burns feels inclined to defend the title in England, and Johnson is earnest in his desire to fight him and believes in his ability to beat the Canadian, he ought to be glad of the chance to fight anywhere. There may be a difference in the size of the purse he would get in this country and the one in England, but Johnson, if he would win, would easily make up for it after he got through with his man.

Burns is the world's champion. Johnson may go about saying he "can knock the block off Burns in twenty rounds in a fourteen-foot ring." That will get him nothing. Action is more substantial than words. Pretty soon the public will tire of the Johnson talk and pass him along as a advertising agent. Johnson has been lucky. His fourth meeting was a three-reckonable in the ring. While his record has but two marks of defeat on it, it cannot be said that he fought men who had any pretensions to the championship. Marvin Hart he lost to, and the latter was nearer to the topnotchers at that time than any man. Of course old Bob Fitzsimmons was beaten by the colored fellow, but it was not the Fitzsimmons who fought Jack O'Brien that went against Johnson.

The man who probably gave Johnson the hardest fight was Joe Jeannette, and the latter was but a novice when he met the champion. His fourth meeting was a three-reckonable in the ring. While his record has but two marks of defeat on it, it cannot be said that he fought men who had any pretensions to the championship. Marvin Hart he lost to, and the latter was nearer to the topnotchers at that time than any man. Of course old Bob Fitzsimmons was beaten by the colored fellow, but it was not the Fitzsimmons who fought Jack O'Brien that went against Johnson.

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Reporters received here say that the sports of Ireland have prepared to back their champion, Jim Roche, to the limit when he gets into the ring with Burns on March 17. Several bets have already been laid, one of \$1,000 to \$20, but those are the highest odds noted to date, the next offer being \$75 to \$250.

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BALL PLAYERS AS STICKERS

Not with the Bat, but in Sticking to One Town.

MEN WHO'VE BEEN TRUE TO ONE CLUB

Exceptions to the General Rule Who Have Given All Their Major League Service to One Club.

Frank Chance, captain and manager of the Chicago National league base ball club, world's champion, is about to begin his tenth consecutive year of service with that organization. He has been with one club longer than any other professional player now in the diamond arena.

Chance has served with only one team since coming into major league ranks, but in that time he has been employed by two owners. The first was Jim Hart and the second Charlie Murphy. Chance joined the Chicago in 1898 as a catcher. He also has played the outfield for them, and from a new recruit has worked his way up to leader of the strongest base ball team in existence. His is the reward of merit, and not being a rolling stone he has gathered a share of moss. Yet to be a rolling stone in base ball does not imply imprudence, nor is it a reflection on the ability of the player. There are players who have changed about who are performers of the highest class and who have laid aside nest eggs of comfortable msa. They have stuck to their work none the less faithfully for having roamed around various banners.

Johnny Kling is another warrior under the Cub standard who has not played big league ball elsewhere. He came to the Chicago in 1901 and has been there ever since, catching many games each year, taking the pounding of many pitchers season after season and with no falling off in the fine quality of his work. He is one of those day in and day out catchers who does all the better work for doing a great deal of it. The backstop is the recipient of more actual battering than any other man on a team, and in view of this fact it is somewhat surprising that some of them, such as Kling, Clarke and Sullivan—can do so much work and do it so well.

Pitchers Who Have Stayed.

Eddie Plank, the crack pitcher of the Athletics, has been with that team for seven consecutive years and with no other. He has come to be as much of a fixture in the outfield steadily for the Philadelphia National league club as he has in his entire professional career, his playing before that having been as an amateur with the University of Pennsylvania, and later with the Orange Athletic club. Roy Patterson has played only with the Chicago Americans since becoming a major leaguer, joining forces with the Cornhuskers in 1902. Fred Clarke, Tommy Leahy and Hans Wagner are conspicuous examples of men who have been true to one boss, although they have not been with one club all the time they have been in the National league. They have, however, been with one employer, they have played steadily for the Philadelphia National league club, and they have been with Dreyfus, Tinker and the Louisville club and came with him to Pittsburgh. In due time they will pass out, possibly playing in some other city before retiring, though that is not likely; but when they do step down and out Pittsburghers will feel that they have sustained a personal loss as firmly as the Cornhuskers.

Fred Tenney was a faithful toiler for the Boston Nationals for even longer than Chance has been with the Chicago, but Tenney was never identified with the fortunes of the Hub. He arrayed himself with the Boston forces in 1897, probably is as good a ball player as he ever was and yet he now is seeking his livelihood in another field. That's the way in base ball. The New York club wanted him and offered him inducements that the Boston club could not meet. He was a ball player, but he was business. The show has got to go on. Tenney will not suffer materially or artistically by the change, and what has sentiment to do with the ever present demand of the rosters that a team keep strengthening?

Two other notable stick-to-it-boys are the two pitchers, Sam Leever and Doc Bush- lippe. They are as thoroughly ingrained in the Pirate base ball fabric as cotton in calico. Both have been with the Pittsburgh club steadily since 1900, and have known no other master. Charlie Doot, like his teammate, Thompson, is identified with the big league club, becoming a member of the Phillies in 1902. Johnny Evers and Poe Tinker have done all their big league performing with the Chicago Nationals, Evers since 1902 and Tinker since 1903.

Only the owner of the Philadelphia American has signed the checks that have rewarded Chick Bender's diamond services since he has been a member of the national game's elite. The Indian pitcher joined Connie Mack's team in 1902. Carl Lundgren of the Chicago Nationals and Bob Ewing of the Cincinnati have done all their big league pitching with one team, both since 1902. Adrian Jones, the tall moundman of the Cleveland, is another who has been faithful to one club. He joined the Cleveland in 1902. George Mullin of the Detroit never pitched for any other big league club. He made his how the same year as Jones and the fullness of years of service finds each of these big boxmen as proficient as ever.

Veterans Who Jumped.

There are in the American league several players who as American leaguers have stuck to one city, but who originally came from the National league. Frank Ibbell did all his big league playing in one town, Chicago. He was with the Chicago Nationals when they were in the White Sox in 1902. Harry Davis, Popper Hardest, Ralph Seybold and Doc Powers are charter members of

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