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DIAMOND DIDDINGS

Some of the Stuff That is Flying Around in the Western League.

THE LINCOLN TEAM LOOKS LIKE GOODS.

Much Stronger Than When the Season Closed Last Year in All Departments.

One of the Denver papers claim that President O'Neill intimated that Denver was the backbone of the Western League. We had always supposed that the backbone was near the center of the body and was really the main push, but in this case it seems that it is somewhat displaced. If the president had said that Denver was the "Big Toe", he would have come nearer the truth.

This kind of weather begins to smell like baseball, and it will be but a short time when the players

will begin to report and then the bugs will be happy. Manager Sullivan of the Antelopes is expected today. Manager Billy Fox of the Omaha team writes us that he expects to report now very shortly, and other teams in the Western are getting ready to get into the game. This locality of course is more interested in the Antelopes of Lincoln than any other team on account of the owners being former residents of this town and county, but being so close to Omaha are also very much interested in the Omaha team. It looks at this time as if the two Nebraska teams were going to be the pick of the league for the top positions, and certainly cannot be expected with the present outlook to get below the first division. The weak team at present looks like St. Joe, but it is to be hoped that Holland will get them lined up before the season opens, for it means a great deal to the game in that city and incidentally in other cities of the league to have a winner in the Missouri town. Holland understands players as well as anybody and there is little doubt but that he will gather some good ones before it is time for the ump's to call the roll.

As one looks closely over the line-up of the Lincoln team he cannot but be impressed with the idea that that team will be in the running for the flag from the start-off. It was an acknowledged fact that the Lincoln team at the close of the 1909 season was one of the strongest, and conceded by many as without doubt the strongest in the Western League.

Its last three weeks work opened the eyes of the base ball world when it tied the world's record with a winning of six shut-out games in succession and most of them from the strongest teams in the league. The opening of the 1910 season will find them with practically the same line-up, the sale and draft only taking one man from them—Davidson, who was sold to the Chicago Cubs. It is thought at this time that he may be returned, but should he not, the Lincoln management have already the option on a strong man from one of the clubs in the big leagues. In addition to this they have two young fielders who were the pick of their respective leagues and will open the season with the Lincoln team if they show the goods. The acquisition of James, considered by those in a position to know as the best all around second baseman in the New York state league, and which cost the Lincoln management \$950, ought to fill up the hole in the infield. The pitching department will be much stronger than last season and much stronger than at the close of the season, two or three pitchers of class having been signed. Johnnie Jones will be with the team again, and it is the intention of the management to not overwork him which has been the trouble in former years. With him taking his regular turn in the box every fifth game he will be among the best of the league. McCafferty tells me that his shoulder is as strong as it ever was, having given it treatment this winter which has put it in the best of shape. With McCafferty and a good arm, there is no pitcher who steps into the box in the Western League who can compare with him for he has the noodle to go with the rest, and that means games when there is good backing, and the following table will show that the Lincoln team will be able to give its pitchers the required backing: Following is a list of the players whose records we have been able to get; a* signifying the new men:

Catchers:	Batting:	Fielding:
Sullivan	223	974
Nunamacher	278	972
*Clarke	293	972

Infielders:	Batting:	Fielding:
Thomas, 1b	298	983
*James, 2b	273	951
Cockman, 3b	263	925
Gagnier, ss	264	938
*Owen,		
*Elliott,		

Outfielders:	Batting:	Fielding:
Waldron	300	991
Hogriever	265	1000
Davidson	295	967
Jude	251	952
*Cobb	208	971

*Washer, *Southwick, *Turpin, *Nadeau

Pitchers:	Batting:	Fielding:
Farthing	175	925
McGrath	214	981
Jones	183	932
McCafferty	169	950
*Fox	271	950
*Murray		
*Wolverton		
*Harrington		

In the list of fielders it will be seen that there is a player by the name of Cobb. This is Paul Cobb, brother of the great Ty Cobb, who is considered by many the greatest player of the present day. Paul has a record in batting of only .208, but his playing shows up much better than one would be led to think by his batting average. He was a member of the Fresno team in the California state league and participated in only 36 games, yet in these 36 games he made 16 runs from 27 hits, the hits being divided into nine home runs, one three bagger, five two baggers, four sacrifice hits and eight singles. At least that is what Spaulding's record book shows. If Paul can hit like that he may be a pretty good man some day. The other new men on the team come highly recommended and some of them ought to fill in somewhere.

Miss Mattie Tiller of Hamburg Iowa, departed this afternoon for Louisville after a brief visit in this city, the guest of Miss Ellen Windham.

Mrs. J. H. Teegarden of Brock, Nebraska departed his afternoon for her home after a visit in Plattsmouth with her parents Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Tritsch came in this morning from Louisville, where they have been visiting for the past few days.

Just why the glowworm, the firefly and other insects do glow is not determined. One theory is that the females are given this distinction in order that they may be readily found by their mates. Another, adhered to by Darwin, is that the light is for self protection merely. Light bearing insects are notoriously ill tasting, and the light may serve as a notification to birds and insectivorous animals of this fact, the life of the insect being thereby saved.—St. Louis Republic.

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