

# Fourteenth Annual Nebraska State High School Cage Tournament Starts Today

## Largest Entry List Ready to Open Tourney

Thirty-Two Teams Fighting for Honors in 16 Classes Will End Meet Saturday.

Lincoln, March 5.—The 14th annual Nebraska State High School Basketball tournament—the red letter classic of prep school basketball in the central—will make its 1924 bow before more than 250 players and thousands of fans on nine cage courts here at 1 this afternoon.

An entry list of 250 teams, the largest ever in the history of the tournament, has brought the 1924 tournament up to where it is the largest in the world.

Members of the University of Nebraska "N" club will act as assistants to the university in handling the tourney. Exper referees have been selected to "work" the contests.

Lincoln is all "hot" up over the cage meet. Hotels are crowded and all conversation hinges on the coming games.

According to H. D. Gish, manager of the tournament, fewer protests over pairing and classifications have appeared this year than last.

Omaha Tech, champions for the last two seasons, will open the class A group against Grand Island. The Bookkeepers have not made a very impressive record this year, but are favored to win over the Islanders.

Ernie Hubka's York tossers will have a battle on their hands if the Geneva crew displays the stuff it did against Lincoln High last month.

Plattsmouth, a class B team in the 1923 feet, was advanced to the more select group this season and will tackle "Dick" Newman's Hastings quint in the first round.

The young Bluejays have an impressive record, having defeated Lincoln, Plattsmouth, Omaha Central, Tech and South. The Drennan five holds the Omaha city championship and, with Coffey and Moylan running through true to form, should make the westerners stop to rest.

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## Will Play 233 Basket Ball Games to Decide Next State High Champs

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When the first shrill whistle sounds as the sphere goes up between two Nebraska high school centers tomorrow, nine floors will be in use. There will be 233 basket ball games before the champions in the 16 classes are discovered.

Each of the class contains 16 quintets, placed in their respective divisions by a committee that looks into the teams' playing ability, previous tournament experience and the size of the high school from which the teams come.

Seventy-five referees and an army of scorers, timers and other officials have now been chosen to hold the benches at the sides of the playing courts.

Twenty-one hundred athletes, representing high schools from every section of Nebraska, are enrolled in the 1924 classic. This is an increase of 100 over last year's enrollment.

The tourney was started in 1911 when 21 cage teams gathered for the competition. Growth since that year has been steady, except during the war period, when the list showed no gains.

Record of teams competing by years follows:

Nineteen eleven, 21 teams; 1912, 26 teams; 1913, 44 teams; 1914, 64 teams; 1915, 70 teams; 1916, 89 teams; 1917, 120 teams; 1918, 118 teams; 1919, 120 teams; 1920, 173 teams; 1921, 202 teams; 1922, 226 teams; 1923, 237 teams; 1924, 249 teams.

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## WHAT THE BOYS SAY

FRANK MIRASKY cotton-topped outfielder who will play with the Knights of Columbus team this season, doesn't like to play semi-pro ball, that is, he doesn't like to play with local teams that journey out into the sticks on Sundays to play the home games.

Frank's big reason is that the small towns don't give the city fellow a square deal and this little tale that Frank relates substantiates his argument. Not many years ago he journeyed by auto to the small town about 70 miles on the other side of the big Muddy. After a trip, which was delayed by many minor accidents, he arrived at his destination.

The town where he was to play had won 14 straight games and they had guaranteed Frank's team \$75 with the privilege of 60 and 40 per cent of the gate receipts. The hour of the game found several thousand people at the game, half of the crowd being in the grandstand, for which they were charged "an extra admission fee."

After a nine-inning session in the hot sun Mirasky's team came out on the long end of a 12 to 6 score. When checking up time came the manager of the home team gave up \$75, says Frank, which they had guaranteed. The visiting manager let out an awful howl, then receiving this