

ANTICIPATE SPRING GAMES

College Athletes Look Forward to the Next Sporting Season.

M-D-WINTER PREPARATIONS IN PROGRESS

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA GYMNASTUM FILLED WITH CANDIDATES FOR TRACK, FIELD AND BASE BALL TEAMS—AT OTHER UNIVERSITIES.

With the return of the collegians to their respective institutions during the past week the ever interesting subject of intercollegiate athletics has again been taken up. The close of the football season does not bear the south knell of intercollegiate athletics tollled; for there are winter sports to be begun and preparation for the spring sports to be commenced. That the sports of the collegians of the end of the nineteenth century receive more publicity than do their studies does not signify that the latter are being slighted. The gradual elevation of the bars guarding the entrances to the leading colleges is proof against such an erroneous belief, which is too often found prevalent. The American youth today probably devotes more time to systematic exercise and vigorous athletics than ever before, but the result of investigation by a number of leading educators establishes the fact that the boys who indulge in these sports are better prepared to take up their studies thereafter.

At the University of Nebraska there is much activity in several branches of sport. At present most interest centers in track and field athletics. Director Hastings of the gymnasium is doing splendid work in the development of indoor athletics. Much time is being spent in forming and perfecting indoor athletic contests which will be held at the University of Nebraska in March. Every Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock a big class of ambitious athletes assembles at the gymnasium, and mimic contests are indulged in. In the high jump, broad jump, pole vault, discus, and the like, the students are being driven on by three months steady work among a lot of persevering, hard-working students. Director Hastings promises to turn out a set of as fine athletes for track and field events as ever represented the scarlet and the cream.

In base ball circles at the University of Nebraska there is some apprehension felt that the nine of 1898 may not be so strong as that of 1897. But then last year's nine was an exceptionally strong one, and the graduation of many of the best players of that team must necessarily weaken the remaining members of the team.

But the candidates for the nine are not entirely discarded. They have just resolved to work all the harder to fill the places made vacant by the departure of several stars, and to win all the games in sight, notwithstanding the adverse odds under which they will start. The captain of the nine is George Murphy, now in charge of the varsity nine for 1898, and promises to be a doughty leader of the knights of the diamond. He will soon issue his call for candidates to start the winter training.

As yet no coach has been selected for the base ball nine, but the chances are in Murphy's favor, who gave the championship foot ball game with Iowa, will coach the team. He will be unable to resume his place on the diamond this year on account of the pressure of work. He is teaching in the Lincoln High school in addition to carrying on a series of lectures on electricity, which he has partly completed to "understand" the coaching of the nine. He is an excellent player and the men all regard him highly. To be sure, Eddie Robinson will be missed as coach, but there is no chance of getting him back to teach the base ball team, this year. In the meantime, Bradley covered his intentions of returning to Lincoln next fall to coach the foot ball eleven. Another man who will be missed this year is Tommie Creigh of Omaha, who was the tower of strength in the field of the University of Nebraska team last spring. Little Packard, the coach of the football team, has also left Lincoln and is now studying medicine in Chicago. His place will be hard to fill.

Among the old players who will be on hand to start in with the nine for 1898 the most prominent is Captain Gordon. Cowgill, Wells and Riddle, Captain Gordon last year, did some of the pitching, but most of the time played rightfield. This year it is likely that he will alternate with Wells in the box. Last year Wells did some pitching and played third base. He is scheduled to take his turn in the box with Captain Gordon, and to play either first or second base. The other two members of the infield are to be Eddie Covill and the shortstop. The solution of the let side of the diamond will probably be the playing of Covill at third base and Wells at shortstop, as these appear to be the positions for which they are best adapted. Director Hill in all probability will be found occupying his place in leftfield again. Among the freshmen there is said to be some good material from which Captain Gordon can select the best for his nine. With a nucleus of strong players to start with and with some good material undevolved the chances for a fairly strong team do not appear to be so very remote.

One advantage the candidates for the 1898 nine will have over those that have tried for any previous year is the University of Nebraska is in the lead with its new and the bettered facilities for that work. The management of the nine has had the interior of the gymnasium rigged with an immense net, made of heavy twine. It has four sides and a top and within this cage of twine the ceiling ball players are enabled to get an education in the art of hitting. The opportunity for getting a start in their work the only danger that has to be guarded against is that the pitchers do not overwork their arms. The greatest advantage of the cage however, lies from the practice in hitting, in which some of the players are too strong. By hitting against the pins who serve up a moderately fast ball, the players not only learn how to stand up to the plate, but are able to size up the curves and get their eye on the ball to some extent. The time for which the new nine will be contemplated is definitely carried out on the part of Grand Rapids. The players of the league is going to give us a franchise on a silver platter when other cities are offering every possible inducement to get the plum. At Grand Rapids the question of securing the franchise has been taken up by the Board of Trade, backed by the leading business men of the city. It seems to be the opinion that that sort of enterprise may win out in spite of the fact that nearly all the members of the league were long ago convinced that Grand Rapids could not properly support a club. It would have required very little effort on the part of the Committee to sell the idea to the organization of Omaha business men to bring about the change to Omaha before the Chicago meeting adjourned. But the Commercial club is not in the base ball business, and with the exception of one or two individuals, the claims of Omaha have been allowed to rest merely on its desirability as the exposition city and its geographical ability to break a long jump in the circuit.

Interest in basket ball as a winter sport is growing at a very rapid rate throughout the country, especially in the west, for in the east it has been longer in vogue. The game on New Year's night between the teams representing the Young Men's Christian associations of Omaha and Chicago, this city was as fine a contest as one would expect to see. The victory of the boys from the World's Fair city was honorably earned, but there was glory in the defeat for the local lads, for they put up a mighty stiff fight. Playing had presented a reputation for hard fast playing had presented a new contention for the title of champion. The basket ball team of the University of Nebraska made an unsuccessful effort to get the Chicagoans to visit the capital city of this fair state to play a match game. If the game could only have been arranged it would have proved to be a day of possible fun we may have the pleasure of seeing these two teams come together at a later date this season. The two games scheduled for the latter part of this month between the teams of the local Young Men's Christian association and the University of Nebraska, are to be played at Lincoln. The game in this city will be to drawing cards, and those who have discovered a real lively sport in the growing game of basket ball.

Touring away from home one finds everywhere the eastern intercollegiate circuits. The most notable of these, last summer, ended with the announcement by Captain F. H. Higgins of the Harvard track and field team that Harvard would not meet Penn. Higgins is to make his debut on the diamond next season. Tom Corbett, of Boston, will have fewer changes than any club in the league. The only prospective addition will be to the pitching department.

Charley Nichols, who is interested in a Kansas City laundry, has been sued for \$10,000 damages for injuries sustained by an employee.

Another Corbett is to make his debut on the diamond next season. Tom Corbett, of Boston, will be given a trial by Ballinger, and Yale and for the intercollegiate meet.

The Pittsburg club now has twenty-five men

will involve enough hard work on the part of the track and field athletes without the strain of meeting Pennsylvania. Of course, this reason will be eminently satisfactory to the students of Yale and Harvard, but it is apt to be received with some derision among the rest of the colleges. And why shouldn't it? Well, everyone concedes Harvard right now has more men with whom what college the Harvard athletic advisers think best, but if Harvard wanted to break with Pennsylvania why did they not do it before. Pennsylvania won the championship at the intercollegiate games. It is a singular coincidence that all these colleges that go to the same games, including in their athletic relations never come to that conclusion until they are thoroughly beaten. Yale stopped its base ball and foot ball games with Pennsylvania after it was hopelessly beaten, and saw further defeat looking into the fronts of the blue banner.

The Rockford people are planning to give the local club a financial impetus by giving the money raised by the Rockforders to furnish five fire nights' entertainment.

Candy Mack is said to have thirty men on the Milwaukee reserve list and base ball writers are wondering whether he is preparing for an expedition to free Cuba or another Fenian raid.

José Cantillon is the latest offered addition to the Western league staff of umpires. It is to be the men of the Cornhill, Lynch, Bob Emile and Tim Hurst will surely be among the National league umpires.

Andrew Freedman, president of the New York Base Ball club, has just announced that in case the Giants win the pennant next year he will give them a present of \$5,000. He decided to make this offer in view of the statement by the League of the Temple Cup series.

The Western League has suffered not a little by reason of the regulations of the National league managers. Indianapolis and St. Paul have each lost six of their best players, while the rest of the clubs have lost less than ten. This is one of the unfortunate results of the present arrangement between the leagues, but a man is certainly entitled to get into the big leagues if he can there seem to be no way to avoid the annual trials.

KNIGHTS OF THE ROD AND GUN.

Prospect of a Shoot Between Kansas City and Omaha.

There is a fair prospect that local devotees of the gun will be treated to the spectacle of a big man shoot between the champion Kansas City aggregation and ten of the local shots, if not this winter, some time in the spring. The matter has been quietly discussed among the local sportsmen and some days ago Frank Marshall sent a formal challenge to the Kansas City team. The Omaha men wanted the Kansas City team to come here for a shoot early this month and then shoot a return match at Kansas City later on. The Kansas City people are not inclined to come to Omaha at this time but they are very anxious to see for themselves what the teams of the two naval cadets at Annapolis are in connection with the annual meeting of the Missouri State association at Kansas City May 16 to 21. It is not unlikely that an arrangement may yet be effected.

It goes without saying that the Omaha people would give a good account of themselves if they had a chance to shoot a gun. Jerry Bradley was captain of the Princeton nine and the Tigers were playing Harvard at Cambridge. Kelly reached first base at a critical point when runs were needed. Bradley ordered him to steer clear, but Kelly remained on his bag until the next blow sent him home with a three-bagger. When Kelly came to the bench Captain Bradley asked:

"Why didn't you steal second?"

"Because I didn't think it was the play to make," replied Kelly.

"I can't, eh?" Well, you sit on the bench. In the ensuing games Kelly was not permitted to play. Bradley covered first base in "King's" place. Many influential Princeton men tried to induce Bradley to relent, but he was firm and Kelly did not play until the fog end of the season. The opportunity came when in the game with Yale, Manhattan field Bradley with two damage errors. Turning to Kelly, the captain said:

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