

## OMAHA'S NEW BALL GROUNDS

Manager O'Brien's Selection Endorsed by Those Who Have Visited It.

## WILL HAVE FINEST PARK IN THE LEAGUE

Amply Room for Accommodation of the Public Without Interfering with the Players in the slightest.

In just a month from tomorrow the Omaha fans will see the first game of championship ball that has been played in Nebraska in nearly three years and they are looking forward to the event with the anxious anticipation of appetites long unsatisfied. In a couple of weeks the Omaha team will be hard at work on the new grounds, getting in shape for the season, and we will have a chance to see how Manager O'Brien's aggregation will show up beside the other Western League teams. As the team now stands there are two or three places that need strengthening, but the management is industriously looking after that very matter and it is expected that by the time the players arrive in town the team will be out with a couple of good ones that will make it rank well up with the best of them.

There has been little doing during the week aside from the selection of the Ames avenue grounds, with which everyone is now familiar. But it is worth noticing that many of the cranks who were exclaiming against this location on the ground that it was too far out have changed their tune since they have seen what a handsome and commodious park the new grounds will make. The new grounds are to be built on the street railway company by which the three biggest lines in the city will land passengers at the gates and the increased street car facilities will more than offset the short additional ride. After all it may be considered fortunate that the University grounds were not selected for the more central location, as the better it seems to be adapted to the purpose. When the improvements now in progress are completed Omaha will have the finest ball park in the west and the facilities for reaching it will be practically unlimited.

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While the improvements on the grounds have scarcely been begun, the plans have been fully decided on and they give a very accurate idea of the advantages that the park will offer. The park is one of the prettiest pieces of ground in the city, covering four full blocks without a break and as level as a floor. The grand stand will be kept at work during the entire period of this week and will leave the park as smooth and hard as could possibly be desired.

The main entrance will be on Ames avenue, at about the center of the park, and the grand stand will front directly north. The diamond will face in the same direction and the bleachers will run out on each side, completing nearly a semi-circle around the plate. Seats for the grand stand will be the best that are procurable by any means in the league. They will enter at a special gate near the southeast corner of the park and drive around the outside of the field, going out at another gate at the southwest corner. This will avoid all confusion and the grounds will be large enough to allow ample fielding space inside of the rail that will shut off the carriages. The lack of sufficient space for these conveniences has always been a serious hindrance to the park, but when the arrangements are complete the most critical patron will scarcely be able to suggest a feature that could be improved upon.

The base ball writers agree in declaring that Omaha has been very seriously treated by the National and the Tucker deed. The local club was fairly well served by the benefit of its good judgment in securing Tucker when none of the National League clubs were willing to put up a salary \$300 for him and it was manifestly unfair that the managers who turned up their noses at him when he was offered should be allowed to come in now and take him away. The manager that had sense enough to know a good thing when he saw it. But this is far from being the first outrage that has been perpetrated by the big league on the weaker organizations and there is nothing to do but grin and bear it.

Arrangements have been made between the Douglas and Cheyenne Gun clubs for the annual race at Douglas, Wyo., on April 12. Each man will shoot at fifty live birds, the stakes being \$150 a side. The Cheyenne club will be represented by John Kenneell and Ed John Schueneman, and the Douglas club by Dr. Jeauran, Al Rice and Dr. H. C. Miller.

The National Gun club of Milwaukee, Wis., will be pretty wary company judging from the way it rates its members when classifying them for the season. Its Class A men embrace all members whose average is 90 per cent or better; Class B all who average 80 per cent or less. In most clubs 90 per cent are pretty scarce, and 80 per centers are none too plentiful.

J. F. Burgess and Charley Saunders of the city treasurer's office went out on the Plateau last day to have a rifle match with Douglas, Wyo., for \$50 a side. Other matches will probably be arranged for the same day, as there seems to be considerable rivalry between the two clubs.

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The Sporting Life, which is entitled to be considered an authority in base ball matters, flies into a ridiculous rage over account of the action of John T. Brush and other western managers in regarding the action relative to rowdy ball at the St. Louis meeting. It devotes several full pages to the point, that they propose to serve, they mark a distinct advancement in the direction of gentlemanly conduct on the ball field and will undoubtedly eliminate an element that has come to be a serious menace to the future of the game. The decent and respectable element that constitutes the principal patronage of the game is in thorough sympathy with the new legislation and no publication is likely to increase its prestige by acrid opposition to a movement that promises to

prevent the disgraceful scenes that have disgraced more than one audience during the last two years.

## Diamond Dust.

Harry Sage, the former manager of the Rock Island club, has signed with Peoria. The Milwaukee team will travel 9,000 miles this year in its journey around the circuit.

Bid McFerrin thinks Cincinnati will have the red leather team this year that ever doffed the red cap.

Jimmy Carruthers has at last secured his release from Syracuse and will wear a Providence uniform.

Catcher Dick Buckley has signed a Columbus contract, and will again be Loftus' mainstay behind the bat.

Sheridan has at last accepted Ban Johnson's terms and the Western league staff of umpires is now complete.

The Burlington Western association team has signed Peter Coons for Third Baseman. Dehaven of the Parks, N. Y., and Indianapolis will have Phillips, Forman, Damman, Monroe and Davis to sit on its pitching this year. It is one of the strongest twirling staffs in the Western league.

The league's 154-game schedule increases each club's mileage by several thousand of miles. The Giants, for instance, travel 11,000 miles instead of 7,500 miles last season.

McFerrin has ten men signed, of whom only three were on the Park's team last year.

Catcher Connaughton has acquired a well-trained crew and refuses to sign at the Western league limit.

The Ottumwa club has secured a manager in W. A. Smith, formerly of Norfolk. The five remaining Quincy players have formally been awarded to Ottumwa and the local street railway company is preparing to increase its facilities to accommodate the fans.

It begins to look as though Des Moines could not support a Western association team, let alone get into the league. Manager Frick now declares that he cannot secure the necessary financial support in Iowa City and will take the franchise to Quincy.

The St. Paul club will carry only twelve players this year. By using twelve men Comiskey's salaries will average \$166.665 to the man, with \$125 a month extra for a manager. Some of the players will cost more than that, by several dollars, and others will have to suffer.

Most of the Western League clubs have completed arrangements for their spring practice. Minneapolis will go to St. Joe, Milwaukee at Louisville, Detroit to Nashville and St. Paul to West Baden, Omaha, Columbus and Kansas City will train at home and Indianapolis has not announced its intentions.

Comiskey's is another manager who is having a series of trouble with his players who refuse to sign on at the salaries offered. Nearly all the managers are having more or less of the same experience, but a little decision at this time may save future trouble of the same sort. There will be ball players to burn in another month or two and there is no reason why a club should be bluffed into going over the limit.

**SHOOTING TOURNAMENT AT NEELIGH.**

**Under Auspices of North Nebraska Game Protective Association.**

The North Nebraska Game Protective association will hold its second annual tournament at Neeligh on Thursday and Friday, April 7 and 8. The association has made ample arrangements for the accommodation of all visiting sportsmen, assures their fair treatment and extends a cordial welcome to all visitors.

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