

JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE

Western League Teams All Hurtle to Get Ready for Play.

O'BRIEN'S INDIANS ARE WORKING HARD

Belated Spring Holds Back Practices, but the Young Men Make the Most of Their Limited Opportunities.

In less than two weeks the Western League team will be under way and the managers of the various clubs are straining every nerve to get their men under contract and in condition in time to get a good start in the race. This is proving to be a difficult thing this year on account of the more rigid enforcement of the salary limit, and Omaha is not altogether free from the difficulties that are in the way of various clubs.

Manager O'Brien received a letter the other day from Barnett, who will report in a day or two. He has been putting in the winter driving an engine on a Kentucky track and is to stay at Louisville until he got his March pay.

The Omaha letter carriers are organizing a carryall party to attend the opening game. Some of them will have to stay away to attend to Uncle Sam's business, there will be enough in the party to make quite a respectable showing and enough noise for anybody.

Both the Reach and Spaulding base ball games for 1898 have been issued, and their contents as usual furnish a complete record of what has happened in the game during the season.

Especially well and Eddie Lawler is not a bit behind the best of the lot. Lawler shows the ball player in every movement, and everyone who has seen him play knows that he will play ball in the Western League right along and be in it with the best of them.

What a commotion it will raise among the Chicago fans if Anson succeeds in his plan to control the team. All the indications seem to be that this will be the case before another week has passed. It would really be an extraordinary transformation that would make the man who has been so consistently kicked out of a few weeks ago the undisputed owner and manager of the team.

Connie Mack turned a trick on recalcitrant player the other day that will be appreciated by managers who are having troubles of the same variety. The Milwaukee management has had more trouble with Third Baseman Meyers than with any other man on the team, and this year Meyers started off on the same tack. Mack had given him his ultimatum as to terms, but Meyers hatched up a very pretty scheme to force his hand.

A game through the season will get a bonus of \$100. He is safe.

Jake Gettman of Washington says the Omaha players are hungry for base ball and believe the Omaha club in the Western League is bound to make big money.

Detroit has secured infielder Charles Stewart from the Louisville club, and has also signed first baseman Ed Pate, catcher Fort Worth, catcher Tom, also signed. Minneapolis has signed Fred Smith, the crack second baseman of last year's Princeton varsity team. He is held to a year and was signed on the recommendation of Charlie Reilly, who coached the team.

Detroit leads the Western league in the number of players it has on its string. It is stated that Manager Vanderbeck has forty players in sight, including six catchers, a dozen pitchers, fifteen infielders and eight outfielders.

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acted at the annual meeting of the American Trotting Register association in Chicago last Wednesday. The grade of the Standard Trotting Register has been heightened and the qualifications for registry on the association books were made more rigid.

Never before in the history of the University of Nebraska has the prospects for field and track athletics been so promising. The organization of a state intercollegiate association has been perfected and the date set for the meet, which will be on the campus of the university on May 20 under the management of Tom O'Rourke and will be called for the championship of the world.

The eastern rowing situation is reported to be cleared of the clouds that so obscured it in the past. The colleges and universities who have been in the habit of sending their crews to Yale and Harvard that it would not agree to any change in the dates as originally proposed by Yale and Harvard, and agreed to come in with any change now being made in the dates Cornell would have also to change its dates with Pennsylvania and Columbia.

At the Cloverleaf stock farm dispersal sale at Colmar, Pa., last week sixty-eight head of horses were sold for \$20,000. The highest price was paid for the dam of Joe Patchen, Josephine York, which sold for \$2,000. A 4-year-old half-brother of Nancy Hanke was sold for \$1,225.

There will be no running races at Lexington this season. In six years the get of Baron Wilkes won over \$150,000. A half-mile race course is being built at Juntura, Alaska.

In all the interior towns in California the pool rooms have all been closed. It is reported that Robert J. has been permanently retired from the track. Venezuela has a new tariff schedule which has doubled the value of her exports.

Nearly 200 patents have been issued for horsehoes, but no one of the inventions has ever come into general use. The 2:05 pace at the Hartford meeting this season ought to be a hot one judging from the following entries: Planet, 2:06; Rudolph, 2:06; Loraine, 2:05; Dan Q. Ward, 2:06; Dan Q. 2:05; and Quadriga, 2:09 1/2.

The constitution of the Iowa-Nebraska Interscholastic Foot Ball League, which was recently formed in this city, has just been adopted. The following high schools are members of the league: Omaha, Lincoln, Council Bluffs, Red Oak, Tekamah and Nebraska City. An executive committee composed of one delegate from each school shall have power to appoint all sub-committees and to manage all business which may come before the league.

Local pugilistic sports will be given a taste of the article in the near future if something does not step in to interfere. On last Thursday afternoon a fight between two young men, James Adams and James Chalfon, took place in the city. The bout is to take place in South Omaha on the night of May 8. The men are to fight under the rules of the Philadelphia Athletic Club, with the exception of the use of the fists.

A good hot fight should be the result of the meeting between Sam Kelly and Dave McGee. Kelly is a student in the city in their class in this country. Articles for the go have been signed and Tom O'Rourke guarantees that the fight will be safely held in the city in the Pullman house at Long Island, where the McGee-Creedon match was fought.

University of Iowa, Iowa City; Coe college, Cedar Rapids; Drake university, Des Moines; Cornish college, Mount Vernon; Iowa Wesleyan university, Mt. Pleasant; Fairleigh, Upper Iowa university, Fayette; Iowa college, Grinnell; Simpson college, Indianola; Taylor college, Taylor.

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used thing by going into a theatrical troupe and says he will come over to this country. A dispatch from California announces two matches for Jim Jeffries, the 215-pound fighter, who put Peter Jackson out of the business. Jeffries has signed to fight both Peter Mober and Gus Rubin, and will leave for New York immediately after his bout with "Mexican Pete" Everett at the Olympic on April 18. This action on the part of the two thoroughly side-tracked Sharkey and leaves him no one to fight until July at least.

The annual meeting of the Dupont Gun club was held at Townsend's store last Tuesday night, and the program for the season was partially laid out. The officers were elected as follows: President, George Moore; vice president, C. W. Bishop; treasurer, Henry McDonald; secretary, B. W. Snyder.

There is a vigorous movement on foot among local sportsmen which promises to do away with the needless depredations of unscrupulous fishermen at Cut Off lake. The water has been plentifully stocked with bass and other fish, but the raids of these marauders threaten to depopulate it unless stringent measures are taken to put a stop to the abuse.

Henry Homan went to Noble's lake yesterday morning to try the fishing. President Bingham of the city council and County Commissioner Harte went out to Cut Off lake yesterday morning and killed a half dozen nice jacksnipe in a few hours shooting. Secretary Gillan of the Board of Education, Charles Hart, Pete Tuttle and one or two others spent a day at Kelly's lake during the week. They had lots of shooting but few ducks.

On Tuesday, the first day of the Reading tournament, one squad of five men made an extraordinary record in a 20-target event as follows: Banks 20, Glover 20, Brewster 19, Money 19, Fullford 19. Close up was answered, namely, Elliott, Helkes, Trimble, Young, and Young, with scores of 100, 100, Elliott broke nine-nine out of 100, Banks and Gilbert 98 each, and Helkes 97; truly top-notch work.

The Columbia University team won the fifth annual championship intercollegiate fencing tournament, which was held in New York last week. Three teams were entered, representing Cornell, Columbia and Harvard universities.

Dr. Oliver Albert Judson of Philadelphia, who has just died, was a famous army surgeon which he held in this city in July. July will commence just as soon as the weather will permit. The practice will be held in the past on the field in Koutze Park. Prof. Greenlee, vice president of the Pennsylvania Institution for the instruction of the Blind, a manager of the Children's hospital, a consulting physician at Hockley hospital and a physician at the Philadelphia dispensary and of the Howard hospital.

Chalfon has been in the city for some time and has been waiting for a match. He was up before Judge Harte on Monday night. He had a chance to show much of what he was made of, as the police stopped the bout after his opponent had been injured. Adams is a dark horse, and is said to be an Australian. The two men appear to mean business, for they have each put up \$75 more on May 1. In addition to this side bet the men will box for the gate receipts, 75 per cent going to the winner and the rest to the loser.

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