SPORTING GOSSIP OF THE WEEK

Omaha Makes a Little Improvement in Personnel of Its Team.

OUTLOOK FOR BETTER WORK IS GOOD

Outfield that Can Bat Will Back Up Some Excellent Pitchers—What the Others in the League Are Doing.

Another week has gone by and it records again nothing but defeats for the local base ball organization. From Friday to Friday the Babes played six games and every one of them were dropped. Four went to Milwaukee and the other two to Detroit. It looks like a cinch, though, that we will take at least one from the Wolverines through the additions to the team and it may be that the gods of war will smile upon us and permit us to gather in one dear one from the Senatorial aggregation. The series with Columbus will complete the trip abroad and on next Friday the Babes will be at home again on their own heap and daily with visitors for pretty near a straight month.

But while the seven days have been disastrous it is possible to pick more consolation out of them than at any time since the opening of the season. This is to be found in the fact that at last after much waiting the work of strengthening the team has been begun. The out garden, which has been more the cause of defeats than any thing else, has been boosted up tenfold. With Pickering, Preston and Burnett a pretty fair outfield ought to result and many a hit which in the past has counted for two and three-baggers will certainly be nipped in the bud. As far as fielding goes, the infield can be complained of only on occasions, for as a rule it has been doing nice work. Certain it is that all the papers on the eastern circuit have been praising the work of Eustace and Holly and of Roat to a somewhat less degree.

More than that, the additional men promise to add considerably to the batting strength of the team. Certainly they have started off well. Preston in his first two games commenced at a wondrous gait. Pickering landed on the ball in his first game on Friday and Underwood, the new twirler, lammed out two. With this increase in batting and the better fielding that can be reasonably expected from now on, the pitchers will be thrown into better relief and the local fans can turn their attention to them. All of them have apparently been doing nice work, but have been greatly handicapped by the poor support behind them.

There will unquestionably be some sort of a howl raised by some of the home knockers over the dropping of Griffin, but from the information at hand his release was one of the best things that could have happened to the team. He was dissatisfied with his berth and this dissatisfaction reached such a point here at home that one who was on the inside had suspicions that he was deliberately attempting to throw games. Certain it is that when he drew his salary just before leaving on the trip, he made the remark that he hoped it was the last money he would draw from the home management. No matter how good a batter or fielder such a player may be, he is worse than worthless to a team so long as he is imbued with such a feeling.

There is, of course, still chance for improvement, and Manager Fisher has not given up his efforts to secure new players. If Germany Smith ever emerges from his seclusion he will be gobbled up, as he can play nowhere else but with Omaha. He might advantageously be placed in the infield, perhaps. The search for outfielders also has not yet been given up entirely.

Nothing has been so noticeable during the last week as the lack of batting ability. The fielding has been better than those of the opposing teams. Out of the six games the Babes played, in three they made fewer errors than the teams against them. In two they made an equal number. In only one did they make more and that was the first one with Milwaukee. The fielding average of the team was higher than that of the week before, being 93.1, against 88.6. But with the exception of the new men not a player went above the 25 mark in the batting. Including the new men, however, the team batting average jumped from 14.4 of the week before to 21.1. The individual work of the men, in comparison with the preceding week, is shown in the following tables:

BATTING.

	G.	AB.	R.	H.	TB.	Av.	Inc.	Dec.
Preston	2	6	0	5	5	83.3	....	....
Underwood	1	4	2	2	2	50.0	....	....
Pickering	1	3	1	1	1	33.3	....	....
Hagerman	4	16	1	4	5	25.0	6.8	....
Daub	3	8	2	2	2	25.0	25.0	....
Fisher	5	17	0	4	4	23.5	23.5	....
Eustace	6	23	0	5	5	21.7	9.9	....
Burnett	6	20	3	4	6	20.0	....	5.0
Lyons	6	18	2	3	4	16.7	....	8.3
Griffin	3	12	0	2	4	16.7	....	22.2
McCauley	6	19	4	3	4	15.8	15.8	....
Hollingsw'h	6	23	0	3	3	13.0	....	5.8
Roat	6	25	1	3	3	12.0	5.7	....

FIELDING.

	PO.	A.	E.	Av.	Inc.	Dec.
Lyons	61	5	0	100.0	17.6	....
McCauley	20	7	0	100.0	5.8	....
Fisher	2	6	0	100.0	....	....
Hollingsworth	5	15	0	100.0	....	....
Preston	4	0	0	100.0	....	....
Pickering	1	0	0	100.0	....	....
Underwood	0	2	0	100.0	....	....
Eustace	16	13	1	96.7	7.8	....
Burnett	11	0	1	91.7	.8	....
Hagerman	3	3	1	85.7	*....	14.3
Daub	1	9	2	83.3	....	2.4
Roat	11	24	7	83.3	20.4	....
Griffin	7	3	3	76.2	....	18.2

The unofficial averages of the team for the season show an increase in the fielding and a decrease in the batting. One week ago the general team fielding average was 88.8; up to last Friday it was 90.5. The batting average a week ago was 21.9; last Friday it was 20.8. The individual averages are as follows:

BATTING.

	G.	AB.	R.	H.	TB.	Av.
Preston	2	6	0	5	5	83.3
Underwood	1	4	2	2	2	50.0
Pickering	1	3	1	1	1	33.3
Griffin	27	105	16	31	40	29.5
Lyons	29	105	15	28	35	28.6
Burnett	30	109	17	29	46	26.6
Hollingsworth	27	102	6	24	27	23.7
Hagerman	17	69	5	16	20	23.2
Roat	29	106	13	24	28	22.6
Fisher	25	82	5	16	18	19.5
McCauley	30	107	13	19	23	17.8
Eustace	29	113	14	17	20	15.0
Daub	10	26	2	3	3	11.5

FIELDING.

	PO.	A.	E.	Av.
Preston	4	0	0	100.0
Pickering	1	0	0	100.0
Underwood	0	2	0	100.0
Lyons	304	13	10	96.9
Hollingsworth	59	45	6	94.5
Hagerman	12	16	2	93.3
Daub	2	37	3	92.9
McCauley	83	38	16	89.3
Eustace	48	67	14	89.0
Burnett	71	5	10	88.4
Griffin	41	40	10	89.0
Fisher	18	31	7	87.5
Roat	53	101	37	80.6

The week has developed some rather startling changes in the column to the minds of the western fans, as it appeared more than ever to demonstrate the superiority of the eastern teams. Indianapolis has put quite a space between herself and the rest of the bunch. Columbus has struck a fast gait and is encroaching on the heels of the Saints at second place. Kansas City has pretty nearly dropped down to the level of the Brewers and Detroit has shoved herself way ahead of the Millers. From Friday to Friday twenty-three games were played and of this number the eastern teams won seventeen and the western only six. Undoubtedly the fact that the former were playing on their home grounds had something to do with this result and the relative standing of the two divisions will not be settled until the eastern teams come west. They start on the circuit next Friday.

The surprise of the week was the fashion in which the Blues polished off the leaders. It took a mighty effort to do it, as one ten-inning and one eleven-inning game were required, but the Cowboys took three straight from the Hoosiers. Then the Blues went to Milwaukee and dropped two in succession. The Brewers have doubtless struck the gait they promised in the earlier part of the season, but on the other hand the Indians have been greatly weakened by the loss of Motz at first base. With him back in the game the Blues will not be able to do it over again. The Saints, too, have been given a little taste of high life. Detroit took a couple away from them, and Columbus has started out by doing the very same thing.

There has been hardly a change in the column of the big league as a result of the week's work. Cincinnati is still comfortably ahead and Washington is as firmly installed in the tail end. Cleveland is a good second and Louisville and St. Louis are still see-sawing for the second hole from the bottom. New York, Boston and Baltimore are playing fast and loose for three of the places in the first division; Chicago and Pittsburg are fighting for the last place in that division, and Philadelphia and Brooklyn are having as nice a scrap twixt themselves.

Fans have about reached the conclusion that the winning streak of the Reds and the Spiders is no fluke. Nearly all the games won by these teams have been copped out on their merits. The secret lies in the excellent form that their pitchers are in. Hawley, Breitenstein and Hill of the Cincinnatis are a strong array of twirlers, and with the possible exception of Rusie, Meekin and Nichols come near being better than any other pitchers in the league. Cleveland, too, has a strong staff of slab artists. New York's sprint upward has been the result of much the same since Rusie and Meekin rounded around into shape. These twirling forces are more consistent than even Boston's and far more so than Baltimore's, and the rest of the aggregations can hardly be considered in the same class.

Gossip of the Game.

This is Pat Tebeau's tenth year with the Cleveland club.

Rusie and Nichols are said to be winning games on the strength of their reputations this year.

Frank Selee says that Seymour has got more speed than any other pitcher in the country, and has every conceivable curve that was ever used.

Bobby Woods, the catcher, is warming the Cincinnati bench, and it's an even money bet that he will be shifted back to Hoooslerville before the season is far advanced.

Pitcher Cunningham of the Louisvilles has been twirling for twelve years. He is a small, smooth-shaven man, who would not be selected for a ball player.

The Grand Rapids public is not taking to its interstate club any kindlier than to Leadley's western team last season, and Manager Torreyson is threatening to go elsewhere unless the attendance improves at once. He says he has invested $2,000 and only $100 of it has yet come back to his pockets.

Frank Dwyer of the Cincinnati Reds is only 30 years old, and yet in point of service he is said to be the oldest pitcher in the league. He was a professional pitcher before he was 17 years old, and was signed by the Chicago club a year later. He has been in fast company ever since. This is his thirteenth season.

WITH HORSES AND HORSEMEN

Omaha Fair and Speed Association Secures More Advantages for Its June Meeting.

The Omaha Fair and Speed association directors have secured what they believe is the only thing necessary to make the coming light harness meet a big success—adequate car service. During the last week the arrangements were made by which the street car company agrees to put in a two-minute service from the loop at Fourteenth and Howard streets to the race track. In addition to that the company has agreed to inaugurate a twelve-minute service to the track from the Leavenworth street entension on next Thursday. This service has been put in for the convenience of the horsemen on the track and will be continued until after the races are over.

The inauguration of this service at once will bring some fifty head of horses from the St. Joseph track. They will be here some time during the coming week and will swell the sum total of speeders now on the grounds to 125. C. S. Rannells and F. L. Sharpe of Jacksonville, Ill., were here looking over the tracks and stables last week and were so well satisfied with the looks of things that they at once shipped eight head out here. All these horses are being actively trained in preparation for the meeting and some for the eastern circuit.

The track is in the finest kind of shape. So good is it that the rains of the last week has so little effect upon it that a few hours were sufficient to put it back in the best of form. The drainage is too good to allow any damage from water. The roof of the grand stand was pretty well shattered by the wind and nearly blown off, but the directors at the last meeting made a contract for repairs. The roof will be back in shape several days before the meeting opens.

The storms had a more serious effect upon Clint Briggs' track to the west. They ripped up things to such an extent that a couple of hundred dollars will have to be expended to put things back into shipshape condition once more.

While the rains of the past week did not injure the track, they interfere with the training. Some of the horses were out on Tuesday, but after that the circuit was but little used. The trainers have not been trying to send the flyers over fast miles as yet, as it is a bit early in the season, which has been set back anyway by the bad weather.

There will be but few arrangements made for the running meet to be held in August until after the light harness affair is closed, but nevertheless during the past week the four books which will be allowed on the grounds have been sold. One of them is in the hands of Bookmaker Riley of Chicago, who is known all over the country.

James A. Murphy, the owner of Star Pointer, who has matched his fast pacer Guinette against John R. Gentry for three matches, is out with more blood in his eye. He is ready to make three more matches for his pacers, Star Pointer, Guinette and Emily, 2:11. He says: "I want match races for my stables this summer, and I would like very much to arrange for a big race for the trio of horses out at my farm. There are a great many people in the horse business who think I made an error in matching Guinette against John R. Gentry, but just the same I am ready to make a little more money the same way. My offer to back Star Pointer, Guinette and Emily against any three horses in the United States is open now, and nothing would please me better than to have some one accept it."

Game Ben Brush is believed to be off the track for good and rarely has a horse quit the turf with such a record as he has. As a 2-year-old, as a 3-year-old and as a 4-year-old he captured many a good purse on the eastern circuit and in every one of the races he showed that he was grit and sand to the bone. He has come in ahead of many a good horse.

Stable and Track Gossip.

The old white stallion Mercurius, 2:14¼, is owned at Lincoln, Neb.

Reddy, 2:18¾, is the fastest Kansas bred trotter exported to Europe.

It is said that a hobbled horse has never been sold to any one for export to Europe.

The Iowa pacer Hail Cloud, 2:07¾, is said to be going better without hopples than he did with them.

Pat L, 2:09¼, the Nebraska horse, has been entered in the large list of 2:10 trotters for $2,000 at Glen Falls.

Charles Thompson is working quite a string of Iowa horses at the old Guttenberg track near New York City.

The Nebraska gelding Sam B, by Alamito, 2:10¼, is in the stable of Charles B. Myers, a successful Philadelphia trainer.

O. H. Kingsley, Strawberry Point, Ia., has a 4-year-old pacer by Manager, 2:06¾, in John Hussey's stable at Independence.

The 2-year-old colt, J. H. Medium, by Rich Medium, owned by J. H. Owens, Blair, Neb., will be given an opportunity to try his speed the present season.

M. G. Shackleton, Indianola, Neb., will campaign the chestnut pacing stallion Councilitte, 2:26½, the coming season. This 7-year-old son of Counselor was not raced in 1897.

J. W. Lash, the Nebraska horseman, will campaign a green mare this season called Miss Ladd. She is by Republican, and may be as fast as her half brother, Pat L—2:09¼.

Agents of the government are scouring all parts of Kentucky in seach of horses suitable for the cavalry. They are scarce and the late purchases were not made under as strict conditions as heretofore.

The gray horse Bonnie F, 2:19¾, by Willie McMahon, 6,317, will be raced over English tracks this year. He was bred by T. J. Frazier, Pawnee City, Neb., and secured his record at Holton, Kan., during the season of 1896.

S. J. Edwards of Table Rock, Neb., who campaigned Comma, 2:23¼, over western Kansas tracks last season, is shaping up the gray daughter of Commoner, 4,105, for the 1898 campaign. In addition to Comma, Mr. Edwards will again race Diadem, 2:22¼; J. W. See, 2:24¼, and Sam Hudson, by Appanoose, son of Egbert.

FOR LOVERS OF GUN AND ROD

State Sportsmen's Tourney a High Class Event, but Very Hard for the Amateurs.

The tournament held last week by the Nebraska Sportsmen's association was a decided success. Cracks from all over the country were in attendance and the scores were very high. Every race was close and such was the pace set that it required mighty good shooting to get in on the money. And pretty nearly everybody did do good shooting, for so many were in on the purses that there were very few who carried off fortunes from the tourney. In only one respect could any fault be found with the affair. This consists in the fact that only three local shooters went through the program. The cause of it was that the boys hereabouts came to the conclusion that they would stand small show with such an array of talent that entered. It looked to them like a clear case of throwing away money. A man prominent in local shooting circles spoke as follows regarding this: "I am as enthusiastic a shooter as you are likely to find, but I would be a big sucker to go up against such a crowd as that. I am not in their class at all. I know it and consequently do not propose to throw away my money to do it. Of course, it would be more patriotic for me to go in and make the tourney a bigger success by dropping my plunks, but that is a little too good a thing."

The question came up at the meeting of the association at the Millard hotel and was talked over by the goodly lot of members who attended. After a canvassing of the situation a motion was made that in the future the events be confined to amateurs except such as be especially arranged for the professionals. An amendment, however, was made that the Lincoln clubs, which will have charge of the tournament next year, be allowed to solve the problem and in this way the matter was dropped.

Unquestionably if some such action as suggested in the motion mentioned above were taken a great deal of additional interest would be injected into future tournaments, although possibly the races would not be so pretty. The professionals would be provided with a part in the tourney and they would be sure to attend, even if they were not the whole thing, because they must advertise. Anyway, a state tournament is not meant to give the field clear to professionals from all over the country, but its primary object is to demonstrate the relative merits of shooters within the state limits. Be that as it may, Managers Loomis, Read and Parmalee provided as pretty contests at the traps ever seen in this section of the country, from the opening day to the close, and they cannot be given too much credit for it. Lincoln will have to do a good bit of hustling to surpass their results.

The two state championships were interesting and close. This was particularly the case in the live bird shoot. Only one man came out in the ten hole and only two in the eleven, making only three of the nineteen entries not in on the money. Read was in the running up to his very last bird. In the shootoff Jim Den had hard luck, as the bird he lost dropped dead not more than a yard out of bounds. It was on the sixth bird that Loomis dropped out and left the championship to Smead. Latshaw and Beard had hard luck. Two out of the three loses of the former fell dead out of bounds, while both of the latter's were in the same category. The "Whistler" lost one of his three the same way and Sievers one of his two. Parmalee missed his second bird. Goodley Brucker killed some hard ones and missed on three of the easiest let loose for him. Boehner got ten of his fourteen with his first barrel. The shoot at targets was not so close, but Latshaw, Lindeman, Duer and Parmalee made it a close race. The two latter tied for first with twenty-four apiece and the other two had twenty-two. Parmalee won the emblem by the narrow margin of one to the good on the shootoff.

Ed Smith and Angy McDonald left Friday evening for Lake Washington for four days of fishing. They will be back on Tuesday evening.

The way people hereabouts are pulling bass out of the depths of Cut-off lake ought to stimulate everybody to lend every support possible to the efforts of the Fish Protective association to protect the finny inhabitants of that sheet of water. One afternoon last week Billy Pfifer and Ed Lindley went out and brought back with them a string of twenty-nine bass, weighing about sixty pounds. They caught a couple of three-pounders and a lot of smaller size, but of good weight. John McDonald and George Shand went out for a couple of hours and also got a good string. A considerable number of other fishermen succeeded in dragging up nice batches.

During the early part of the week Dr. Owen returned from Lake Washington with a big load of bass and pickerel and was highly enthusiastic over the sport the body of water furnishes. He was out two days and averaged 125 pounds a day. Bass as heavy as four pounds and seven-pound pickerel were among the specimens with which he returned. He was accompanied by George A. Hoagland, who did as well. The latter found the fishing so to his liking that he decided to remain the rest of the week, and he was joined by his son, Paul. Dr. Owen received word from the latter that he caught thirty-five pounds in two hours.

Federal Judge Munger, United States Marshal Thummel, United States District Attorney Sawyer and Clerk Hillis of the circuit court took a day off last week and went to Onawa for a day's fishing. The party was piloted by Deputy United States Marshal Homan. The fishermen caught about 100 pounds of bass and a few croppy. The fishing was excellent, but gives every promise of being even better as soon as the season advances a bit.

Last night Tom Brennan, Frank Chittenden, Pat McGraw and Mike Murphy made up a party for Onawa for a couple of days' dallying with the hook and line.

The Dupont Gun club at its regular weekly club shoot this afternoon will have as visitors a number of the cracks who were in attendance at the annual tournament of the Nebraska Sportsmen's association during the last week.

Lew May of the Nebraska Fish commission has been so tickled at the results that have followed the efforts of the Fish Protective association to drive away the illegal fishers at Cutoff lake that he is trying to secure an appropriation out of the commission treasury to help along the work.

Fred Goodrich has gone to Lake Quinnebaug for an outing and expects to be gone a week or two.

"Small caliber rifles are coming more and more into fashion," declared one of the cracks attending last week's shooting tournament and who is also something of a field sport. "It was only a few years ago that nothing would do but a 45-90 or a 32-caliber if a man wanted something for small game. Nowadays the 30-30 is sought after by those who go out after big game and much lower bores are the thing for small game. In 22-calibers especially great things have been done by the manufacturers in the last few years. Prettier little weapons could hardly be found than some now on the market. For squirrels, woodchuck and the like they cannot be beaten, while for the man who likes to 'shoot the head of a grouse' the 22 is indeed the gun for him."

During his quarter year's trip to southern climes Will Townsend had a chance to get a crack now and then at the feathered fowl of the air. The Texas plains were pretty well filled with snipe—in fact, so plentiful that he was able to gather in nice bags with a 22-caliber from a buggy seat.

SPORT AMONG THE COLLEGES

Base Ball at the University of Nebraska is Looking Up—Other Games Prospering.

Base ball interests at the University of Nebraska are looking up. The team is playing good ball and there is a prospect of a number of good games in the near future. Manager Ryon is arranging a trip through the state for the week after examinations. The schedule will include these towns: Wahoo, Fremont, Schuyler, David City, Columbus, Aurora, York and Crete.

Preparations are being made on a grand scale for the great game with Kansas, which is to take place on the campus at Lincoln May 30. The thirteen inning game at Lawrence shows how well the teams are matched and a battle royal is confidently looked for. As the day is a holiday an immense crowd is certain and of course all university fans will turn out to the great game of the year and cheer the boys on to victory. Captain Kindler and his Nebraska boys are bound to take this game. It is probable a number of Omahans will go down to see the game.

The University of Nebraska will be well represented at the western intercollegiate meet at Chicago June 11. If the boys do as well as they have been doing this spring Nebraska should rank right up with the other western colleges in track and field events. The Nebraskans who will go to Chicago on this occasion are Andresen, Pillsbury and Benedict, and judging from their work at the state meet they will not return empty handed. Benedict will be entered for the pole vault, running broad jump and 440 yard dash. Andresen will compete in the 100 yard and 220 yard dash and Pillsbury in the running high jump and the discus throwing.

The men in charge of the football affairs at the University of Nebraska are not waiting until the autumnal breezes blow across the Lincoln campus before making a start toward the season's work. A coach has been agreed upon and a good part of the schedule already arranged.

F. H. Yost, of Amos, W. Va., will probably be the head coach, Edgar N. Robinson having been forced to decline to come west another year. Yost has been offered the place and due acceptance is expected. He played with West Virginia university in 1894-'95, and with the strong Lafayette team of Easton, Pa., in 1896. Last fall he coached the Ohio Wesleyan team, and made a good record.

While the schedule has not been made out as yet, Manager Bischoff is able to announce the following games: October 8, Nebraska vs. Iowa state college, (Ames) at Lincoln. October 24, Nebraska vs. Missouri, at Columbia. October 29, Nebraska vs. Grinnell, at Lincoln. November 5, Nebraska vs. Kansas at Lawrence. November 7, Nebraska vs. Kansas City Medics, at Kansas City. November 24, Thanksgiving day, Nebraska vs. Iowa. This game will probably be played at Omaha or Lincoln.

Besides these games negotiations are in progress with Wisconsin and Minnesota, and at least one of these teams will be seen on a Nebraska foot ball field next fall. Knox college, Illinois, wants to play us, but no arrangements have been made as yet.

WHIST NOTES.

The victory on Saturday of the Chicago Whist club from Cincinnati made the third successive victory, and fourth this season, for the American Whist league challenge trophy. The good results noted seem to keep the interest in whist in Chicago up to mid-winter fervor, for at the last meeting there is a recorded score of eighty-eight players in the game. Some of the individual averages are noticeably high.

The play at the Omaha Whist club last Wednesday night resulted in an easy victory for the north and south siders, their average leading by 22½ points. The score was as follows:

North and South.	
Thomas and Bushman	170
Burrill and Sunney	169
Rogers and Burness	168
Heth and Gamer	166
Comstock and Crummer	166
Redick and Morsman	166
Average	167½
East and West.	
Shea and Meikle	153
Peters and Lawrence	149
Hawks and Stebbins	144
Barstow and Shea	142
Strauss and Jordan	141
Scannell and Hahn	140
Average	145

The 10,000 deals, proposed by the New York Sun to its correspondents for the purpose of testing certain theories, have at last been completed. The deals were recorded by seventy-four players, and a number of interesting conclusions have been drawn by them regarding the results of the hands. The chief point observed seems to have been the very large proportion of weak suits held by the original leader, and several have arrived at the conclusion that the most common holding is a suit of two or three cards only, containing a single honor, reckoning the ten as one. The most reliable of these deals from the standpoint of the analyst, will of course be those which form a continuous series all dealt and recorded by the same person. One player sent in 1,100 deals and another 1,000, and these are considered extremely valuable and interesting as standards of comparison, with the results obtained from an average of many smaller lots of fifty each, because they show just how closely the statistics in a long series of consecutive deals agrees with those taken from a number of disconnected events.