

TRACK ATHLETES IN TRAINING

Season for Field Sports Opens Two Months Earlier Than Usual.

EXCELLENT PRACTICE IS SECURED INDOORS

Athletic Meets Show Superiority of Men Who Have Undergone Conscientious Training with Apparatus During Winter.

Track athletes are again in season, two months earlier than one year ago. Sprinters, vaulters, jumpers and weight-throwers are already in excellent trim and the mild weather is now permitting outdoor applications of their acquired skill.

The first contest brought out some exceptionally strong timber, Finney, McElroy and Painter fracturing records in a commendable fashion. The creditable showing, it is pointed out, is the result of months of faithful and laborious practice in the gymnasium classes.

Another contest under the same auspices will be given in the gymnasium on March 10, and an increased number of entries is expected. The other numbers of the different events as before, and ten athletes have designs on still further records. This event will be identical with those on January 27, together with such additions as the space at hand will allow.

In addition to the frequent Athletic league contests in the Young Men's Christian association's gymnasium, the High school will be given an opportunity every month to measure its skill and strength in a meet open only to students. These High school contests will be participated in by members of the Athletic association who feel the need of gymnasium practice for which no facilities exist in the school building.

A meeting of the association was called on Thursday afternoon to consider plans for spring athletic and twenty-two names were entered for the meet on Friday. Captain Earl Painter of the track team made a plea for faithfulness in training, pointing out that efforts being put forth by Lincoln and other schools in the state, which Omaha will be forced to meet at the interscholastic contest in May or June. About fifty young men promised to appear regularly at practice.

For the high jump and pole vault, Omaha will depend largely on the efforts of Earl Painter; for the broad jump the favored candidate is Harry Welsh; for the shot-put, Harold Cathrow; for the sprints, Arthur Ainsworth and Earl Painter; for the long distance runs, H. Lehmer; for the hurdles, Gay Hardy; and for the hammer, throws, Englishart. There are a number of other candidates for the team who have not been assigned, and altogether the Omaha athletes may be expected to do credit to themselves and their school.

The high school indoor meet on Friday was intended principally as a showing of the progress of what material could be relied upon and the promoters had no reason to be ashamed of the showing. The results were as follows: Putting, twenty-pound shot—Harold Cathrow first, 28 feet 6 1/2 inches; Welsh, second; Englishart, third. Running high jump—Harry Welsh, first, 5 feet; Moore, second; Hardy, third. Pole vault—Hall, first, 8 feet; Bryant, second. One mile relay potato race—Won by the "Beers."

The potato race is a feature recently introduced and is rapidly finding favor, combining as it does skill, speed and endurance. An important feature in it is rounding the turns, a ringer who is apparently making indifferent progress often, defeating his adversary by agility in turning the corners. As described in the league rules the equipment of the event consists of two boxes for each runner, located thirty-one feet apart. The boxes are set on legs and one of each pair contains seventeen potatoes or other light objects. The runner starts from the left box with one potato in his hand, depositing his burden in the empty box and returning for another potato. Grasping the box or stand in any way, failure to run around both boxes, or a failure to transfer all the potatoes singly to the other box disqualifies the runner.

Another resource which the High school athletes rely upon to develop their lung and leg power is through the medium of the Cross Country club, composed of about thirty undergraduates pledged to go on semi-weekly runs whenever the weather will permit. The jaunts are made on Wednesday afternoon and Saturday evening and so far have been along the Nineteenth street boulevard from two to four miles. An active interest is taken in the run by a number of instructors and Prof. Bernstein and DeKotte have accompanied the squad on several excursions. The club will eventually be divided into teams in accordance with the merit of the members and these will be engaged in relay work in preparation for the mile relay run in the interscholastic tourney.

PALAUER OF THE PUGILISTS

Terry McGovern's Victory Over Santry Expected—Fitzsimmons' Possible Plea that He Was "Doped."

The principal event of the pugilistic world last week ended just as well-informed sporting men predicted that it would—

"Terrible" Terry McGovern, the Brooklyn wonder, maintained his title to the featherweight championship of the world, and effectually convinced Eddie Santry of Chicago that he was indulging in life day dreams when he set up the claim that he, and not McGovern, was the featherweight champion. It took five rounds for McGovern to settle the western lad, and he said to the credit of the latter that he put up a remarkably game fight—one which entitles him to consideration in the ranks of the little men. However, he was pitted against the most marvelous little fighter of modern times, and for this reason was outclassed.

The McGovern-Santry bout witnessed the popularity of pugilism in the west. Fully 15,000 people gathered about the ring in Chicago Thursday to witness the fray. It was a foregone conclusion that the Brooklynite would settle his western opponent, and the only betting indulged in was on the number of rounds that Santry would last. The exhibition was scheduled to last six rounds and heavy odds were offered by McGovern backers that Santry would not hold out to the limit. The latter, however, showed up remarkably well. He was making the fight of his life. Had he been successful in defeating Terry he would have established an enviable record. In his determination to win he fought hard and furiously. He was sufficiently on the aggressive to make the "go" intensely interesting while it lasted, and his magnificent defensive and blocking tactics gave the Brooklynite a hard nut to crack. Santry's long snit was at long range, but this was in direct opposition to McGovern's favorite mode of procedure, and the latter forced the mill on in-fighting. At times, however, Santry blocked his tactics and kept Terry from using the short-arm jolts which have made him a sure winner.

In the fourth round Santry began to show signs of weakening. He went to the floor twice, and each time took the count. In the fifth the Dutch came after a fierce mix-up, and even in this Santry did excellent work, but when Terry landed a stiff jolt on the stomach and followed in quick succession right and left to the jaw, Santry went to the floor. He staggered to a half standing posture, but Referee Siler called the bout over in order to prevent further punishment and gave the decision to McGovern.

A number of interesting bouts were pulled off preliminary to the premier event and the exhibition was one of the most successful ever given in the west.

Robert Fitzsimmons has aroused speculation on the part of the sporting fraternity by declaring at this late date that he was drugged at the end of the second round in his battle with James Jeffries June 9, 1899, when the latter arrested the heavy-weight championship from "Lanky Bob" after eleven rounds of fighting.

This plea of the eccentric Antipodean is considered ridiculous by devotees of the prize ring. Expert followers of the ring-side scout the idea. They admit that Fitzsimmons was not entirely himself after the fight, but they are sure that the idea is attributed to the fact that Jeffries dealt him a punch in the phiz which sent him to the floor so abruptly as to cause injury to his spine. But as for Fitzsimmons having been given any "dope" the idea is preposterous. Even Martin Jullian, his brother-in-law and manager, laughs at "Lanky Bob's" childish plea, although he confesses his belief that Fitz could annihilate Jeffries if given another opportunity. Fitzsimmons has retained the friendship of many of his old-time admirers and backers. They are sorry for his meretricious assertion that he was "doped" in his madness. But it was received with scoffing and jeering by all the devotees of Antiania, and Fitzsimmons has only succeeded in making himself a laughing stock.

Interest begins to center now in the big championship heavyweight mill to be fought between Jeffries and Corbett March 15. For almost three years since the memorable battle between Corbett and Fitzsimmons at Carson City March 17, 1897, the former has been in retirement so far as pugilism is concerned. It is admitted that there is some loss of the championship has rankled in his breast and he now believes that he is in form to win back the lost laurels. This belief is shared by few others than Mr. Corbett, himself, and it is questionable whether he seriously feels for the title. It is probable now that the fight will take place at San Francisco. Bids were opened by Al Smith, stakeholder of the match; George Condon, representing Corbett, and William A. Brady, representing

Jeffries. Thursday. There were seven applicants, the New York athletic club making an offer of \$60 per cent of the gate receipts. The most attractive offer came from San Francisco, with a proposition to put up \$20,000 for the fight and give the fighters 50 per cent in the pictures taken of the fight, or \$33,000 without the interest in the pictures. As soon as San Francisco puts up \$5,000 as an evidence of its good faith in the matter the contest will be formally declared for presentation in that city. There is no reason to doubt the ability of the San Francisco promoters to deposit the money, and it is reasonably certain that the big mill will be pulled off in the Golden Gate city.

Appropos to this event George Siler's opinion of the fight is of considerable interest. He says: "Rumors, and not surprising ones at that, are afloat that the coming Jeffries-Corbett fight scheduled for March 15 next is a cut and dried affair for Jeffries to get the money and Corbett the honors. I am aware that ever since the match was ratified the public has viewed the match with a suspicious eye, and for various reasons. Corbett, pugilistically speaking, is supposed to be a dead one. His fiasco with Sharkey did him a world of harm, and although considered the most scientific boxer in the world, it is a difficult matter to convince followers of the game that he is or can ever be made as good as he was a few years back. It is known that he lost his speed after the seventh round in his fight with Fitzsimmons at Carson City three years ago next St. Patrick's day, and the sports, and others for that matter, cannot figure him to be anywhere near as good today as he was upon that occasion.

"I, of course, do not pretend to know anything about his physical condition, but I know he is not too old to come again, as it were. He is going up against a stiff proposition in Jeffries, a big, strong, heavy, and hard-hitting fellow, and I really cannot figure his chances, that is if the fight is on the level. I consider every fight on the level until it is proven otherwise, and it remains to be seen whether there is any need of crying 'cheat' or 'dope' here. Jeffries, I am sure, cannot afford to get mixed up in any crooked affairs, and should this fight be fixed it will be the pugilistic death of Jeffries."

Locally interest of admirers of Antiania is apparently in the pictures of the Jeffries-Sharkey prize fight which will be exhibited at a local theater the latter part of the week. George Siler, who officiated at the fight as referee, will be present and explain the various points of the fight, and will have many a local sportsman of mind have been talking of the coming attraction and it promises to be decidedly popular.

CRACK SHOTS AT HOT SPRINGS

Number of Local Marksmen Will Attend National Shooting Tourney in Arkansas.

It is probable that a number of Nebraska marksmen will attend the national shooting tournament to be held at Hot Springs, Ark., during the week beginning February 12, under the auspices of the Arkansas Gun club. It will consist of target and live bird events and will be open to the world. The preliminaries will be held on Monday, February 12, to be followed by three days of crack shooting, ten events each day, with \$25 of added money for each event.

The live bird handicap will begin February 10 and will be concluded on the day following, with \$200 added money. Jacob Parker of Detroit will have the management of the tournament, and from indications it will be a great success, as scores of shooters have already expressed an intention to be present from all parts of the country. The feature of the tournament will be 2-cent targets and 25-cent live birds, according to a great number of reports. The railroads have made a rate of one and one-third fare for the occasion in territory between the Atlantic ocean and the Rocky mountains.

Among the Omaha sportsmen who contemplate attending this shoot are Frank Parmelee, George W. Loomis, Plumber Reed, Dick Kimball, W. D. Townsend and others.

Frank S. Parmelee and Dick Kimball went to North Bend last week to attend a shooting tournament given by the enthusiastic sportsmen of that town. They pronounce it a very enjoyable affair and report some remarkably good shooting.

On his return from North Bend Dick Kimball stopped off at his farm at Mercer to look after affairs and incidentally to investigate the game situation. He found the latter thoroughly satisfactory and succeeded in bagging four big, choice Canada geese. Upon his arrival home Thursday Kimball reported his good luck and was persuaded by Jim Smead to chopper to the place where these Canada geese could be found. Kimball and Smead left Thursday night, intending to spend two or three days in and about Mercer.

A hunter residing at Millard dropped into one of the local gun stores a few days ago and purchased a large quantity of ammunition. He stated that geese were flying in fast and that the vicinity of Millard is veritably alive with them. Acting upon this information a number of Omaha sportsmen are making arrangements to pay an early visit to Millard.

Clyde Lloyd of Gothenburg was in Omaha last week visiting his father and calling on numerous friends among the local sportsmen. Locally the past week has opened no new developments. Managers Peters and Runcie respectively of the Sioux City and St. Joseph teams called on Manager Keith while in the city and conveyed the information that they were progressing satisfactorily in organizing their clubs. The outlook for the outlook of the league as bright as could possibly be desired.

Manager Keith has signed all the men he desires and will leave the selection of the balance of his team to "Bill" Traffey, who has been secured as the playing manager. Traffey will be the captain of the team, and he will be accompanied to Omaha by several top-notchers in the profession, who have won fame for themselves in eastern base ball circles. Mr. Keith lacks nothing in the way of encouragement from Omaha people. He plans to give Omaha the season high class professional ball meets with hearty approval from the sporting population of the city, and he has promises of financial backing to assist him in the enterprise.

FIRST BASKET BALL CONTEST

Championship Match Between Omaha Team and State University Occurs at Lincoln.

On Monday night the first championship basket ball match of the winter will occur in the gymnasium of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. The contest will be between those of the university and the Young Men's Christian association of Omaha. The Omaha side will be made up of Monahan and McCarthy, guards; Lindquist and Stillman, forwards; Moore, center, and Stemma, substitute. A portion of the Lincoln team will be lined up as follows: Anderson brothers, guards; Corleyson, (of Omaha) and Waterson, forwards.

men. He had been out in the sand hills visiting on the ranch of William Black near Theford. Clyde said that one morning when the mercury was down at 12 below he saw a large number of shrike thrushes. He reports the numerous crows in the sand hills to be swarming with ducks at this time.

CENTRAL WHIST ASSOCIATION

Sixth Annual Meeting to Be Held in Lincoln on Friday and Saturday, This Week.

The sixth annual meeting and tournament of the Central Whist association will be held in Lincoln at the rooms of the Lincoln Whist club Friday and Saturday, February 3 and 4. The Central Whist association was organized at Sioux City in December, 1894, on the call of Benjamin L. Richards, who is now the president of the American Whist league. Seven clubs were represented at the first meeting and became charter members of the association—Sioux Falls, Sioux City, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, Council Bluffs, Omaha and Lincoln. At this tournament the Sioux Falls club was the winner, and when some time later President Richards presented the association with a beautiful loving cup, which in his honor was named the "Richards Trophy," it was given to the victors of the Sioux City meeting.

BASE BALL PUZZLE UNSOLVED

Stability of Newly Organized American Association is Questioned—Western League a Sure Winner.

The Chinese puzzle, otherwise known as the national base ball situation, has not been solved during the past week, despite the meeting of the proposed new American association in the Quaker city. One thing has developed as a result of this meeting—the new association does not present an array of financial backing sufficient to warrant the belief that it will materialize. Statements were made by those in attendance as representatives of the various cities applying for admission that they represented ample financial backing, but of this there exists considerable doubt. The titles reported to have been admitted to the American association are Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore in the east, and Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee and St. Louis in the west. The eighth place, it is asserted, will be given either to Providence or New York.

Base ball men who admit that there is room for another league in the east organized along lines identical to the National league, with the elimination of all the large metropolitan cities, are prone to doubt the stability of the proposed new association now that its promoters have come from under cover and exposed their "hands."

An additional obstacle has arisen in a manifesto from the National league setting forth that it will use the name "American association" for a league to be organized in conjunction with the national organization. This proposed association will include Chicago and St. Louis in the west and Boston and Philadelphia in the east, and four other cities that will be determined in the future. The National league magnates is to organize clubs for their own "American association" and furnish continuous base ball in all of the big cities. This would be accomplished by exhibition games by the association clubs on days when the National league clubs are absent from their cities. This proposition adds another link to the situation and leaves the settlement farther off than ever.

Base ball lovers, however, take comfort in the thought that something tangible will come out of the peculiar condition of affairs before a great while now. The knotty problem will soon or necessarily have to be settled, as the base ball season is coming on apace.

In the west, and especially in Omaha, there is no need for mental or nervous prostration over the base ball situation. The prospects of the Western league were never bright. The almost established uncertainty that Minneapolis and St. Paul will belong to the circuit and it is within the range of possibilities that Kansas City will be a member of the circuit, although it must be admitted that this is hardly probable. The Western league will be organized, even if Kansas City does not apply for membership. It looks now as though it will be composed of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Des Moines, Sioux City, Omaha, St. Joseph, Denver and Pueblo. President Hickey is bidding his time before calling the magnates to order. It is probable that the Western league will be held as soon as practicable after the base ball situation is somewhat clarified and then affairs of the new Western league will begin to flourish.

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has been again postponed and will probably occur in March.

A scrub team consisting of Jones, Stenberg, Corliss, Rush and Krelle met the first team of the association last week consisting of McCarthy, Moore, Stamma, and the Stillsen. The scrubs were defeated by the score of 23 to 3.

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way to be able to compare the golfing ability of the old and new world players.

This will be the first opportunity, although we had a representative in the amateur championships of Great Britain in 1898 and 1899. In the former year Otto Hooker of New York was one of the competitors, while last year H. J. Whigham, the amateur champion of 1896 and 1897, was among the entrants, but was nowhere near his best form. Neither of the Americans made a very good showing and the deduction was naturally arrived at that there was a vast difference in the game as played in the courses of St. Andrews, North Berwick and others and that played on the American links.

For years there has been a discussion going on a somewhat futile one at best—the relative merits of British and American golfers. Conclusions drawn from the results of the amateur and open competitions held in this country during the last few years would be manifestly unfair for numerous reasons.

The question of courses would naturally form a considerable part of such an argument, and none of the links, with the exception of Wheaton, over which our championships have been played, can in any way be compared with Hoylake and Muirfield, which are certainly two strokes easier than the course of the Chicago Golf club.

Lloyd, who won the open championship at Wheaton, with a score of 163, on comparison with the amateur's play on either of the above mentioned English courses, would be about ten strokes to the good. Comparisons and arguments could prove little, and there is hardly any doubt that the English golfer of the first class is considerably the better player over his American cousin at his best. In fact, the first-class golfers in this country are very few, while in Great Britain their name is legion.

The Americans will have one advantage that will stand them in good stead, namely, in playing over their own links, which are so totally different from those found in Great Britain that the visitors will not be able to show their true form until they become accustomed to the turf and lay of the ground. With the added attraction of the international match, the golfing season of 1900 promises to be the most brilliant of any in the history of the game in the United States.

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