BASE BALL MEN WAKING UP

Days for the Fans Are Coming Nearer and Players Get Busy.

WESTERN LEAGUE OUTLOOK ENCOURAGING

Managers Talk About Their Teams and Enthusiasts Begin to Burn Incense Before Their Favorite Players.

Get a good lead.

Watch his arm. Be ready, and go down on the first ball. It's hit and run from now on. All over the country base ball players are getting into condition and base ball enthusiasts are on the top tension of expectancy, waiting for what will undoubtedly prove the greatest year in the history of the national game. Right here at Omaha the interest never was keener; none the less so because we have a little local mystery of our own, one that is bothering Papa Bill as much as any of us. Bill knows who's going to catch, but neither he nor any of the other wise boys can tell who's going to pitch. It's a cinch that Omaha will have some good pitchers if money can buy them, and that is about as far as any one can go in the matter just now. Other managers in the Western league are giving out their teams, and up to date none of them look very fierce. Denver shows up with about the same gang as last summer, barring Parke, the Umpire Eater. Tommy Delehanty is to be boss of the bear pit this season, and if he sticks to his showing of last year, Omaha will have just about the same sort of record with Denver. No trouble to beat the Grizzlies in Omaha, but impossible to touch them at Denver. Here's offering a big red apple against a doughnut that Pop Eyler doesn't win every game he pitches against Omaha this year. St. Joe is to be handled by young Mr. Rohe, the false alarm who cavorted around third base for the Josies last year. That is going to be a bad place for umpires, too, for, if memory serves correctly, Mr. Rohe's chief claim to distinction arises from his capacity as a "kicker." At Des Moines they are working overtime, burning incense before young Mr. Leary, the shortstop. They admit that Joe Dolan has some claim to the premier honors, but still hope to see Charley land first. Frank Shugart, who will start under the banner of Big Bill Wilson, over at Pee-o-ree, is allowed third place by these prohibition fanatics, and the rest are nowhere. Hugh Duffy, Bill Everitt and Charley Nichols are following very much the lead of Bill Rourke, and are simply sawing wood and waiting for the season to open before winning the pennant. With these veteran managers at the head, at least four of the Western league teams will be equipped to put up first-class ball. Just what Bill Wilson will do as a manager can't even be guessed at. If he succeeds in keeping his collection of booze fighters sober enough to play he will have done a great work, and one that will entitle him to high standing in the list of base ball impressarios.

One of the cheering announcements of the week was that Joe Cantillon had decided to talk no more. Ever since Joe went through Omaha last fall at the head of his barnstorming aggregation he has been as busy as a cranberry merchant, telling what he intended to do. He began by signing all the stars of the California league, and not one of them has reported at Milwaukee. Then he signed a lot of eastern stars and none of them have showed up to draw pay checks with the Havenor name at the bottom. So it looks as if Joe would have to start the race in the Hickey league with a rather ordinary bunch of ball players, and none too strong in the support of the Milwaukee public. It really looks as if Duffy is to have the better of the argument in the Cream City next season, just as he did last. One big point in his favor is that A. W. Freese has been removed from the position of base ball editor of the Sentinel and this will insure the Western league at least an even break in the news columns of the leading Milwaukee paper. This will help a great deal, for last season the Western had to stand for a lot of unreasonable battering in the columns of the Sentinel.

In big league circles the gossip has been mainly over the probability of Barney Dreyfuss and his syndicate buying out the Freedman-Brush combination in New York. Something like this may be necessary, for Brush doesn't seem to be at all inclined to live up to the letter of the Cincinnati peace agreement, not to speak of its spirit. Ban Johnson has secured his grounds in New York City and has a big force of men at work getting the field ready to play ball. When done he will have the finest base ball plant in the world. The Freedmanites have thrown every possible obstacle into his way, and these are not a few, for Freedman is a power in New York, but Johnson says he isn't worried now that he has the lease signed up and is willing to take his chances on having streets opened through his park next summer.

Another little ripple is shown by the behavior of George Davis and Ed Delehanty. Davis insists that he is going to play with Muggsy McGraw's outfit and Delehanty says he will play with Griffith's team or not at all. And both of them insist that they will collect the big salaries they were offered, play or no play. Harry Pulliam and Ban Johnson have told this pair that they will play where they were assigned by the peace conference—that is, Davis with Comiskey and Delehanty with Tom Loftus—or they'll do no playing and will draw no pay. This situation is going to lead to another decision on base ball players' contracts and the probabilities are that it will be in favor of the magnates and against the rubber legs.

President Hickey gave out his staff of umpires for the season last week. The chief point in favor of them seems to be that no one knows them. Denver gives them enthusiastic endorsement, but just wait till the Denver team loses a game on the home grounds.

The failure of the Hickey-Sexton errand to the Pacific coast has been discounted and no one seem sto care to talk about it. It is admitted out there that one side or the other will go broke on railroad fares early in the season, and everybody appears willing to wait and see.

Another one, and a humdinger, according to all of the talk of those who think they know, is this new slab contortionist Papa Bill has picked for a trial slip with the boys. As a real vender of curves with all varieties of speed he is one of the best ever, they all declare. When he is at home, up in Humphrey, the folks all call him Joe Galaski, but the name is pretty hard to say. It was only last Thursday that he was added to the list of trial trips that team is using in making its number. Transportation was sent right out to him and he will join the team on April 1.

"People are beginning to realize that the team is a permanent fixture," Papa Bill said the other day, "and they give proof of their belief by taking season tickets without a great deal of persuasion. Last year tickets for the season weren't going like hot cakes at this time of the year. That isn't saying that they are doing so now, but still the bleachers and grandstands won't be empty many games unless the people don't want to use their tickets.

"The games that I had hoped to have with Comiskey's Chicago American league team on April 18 and 19 have fallen through, as the team will play in Chicago those dates, but we will play against St. Joseph instead and they will be good and interesting games. And then I have added a game with Belevue college for April 16. All of these three games will be played on the home grounds."

AMONG THE BUSY AMATEURS

Omaha is to See Unwonted Activity on Part of the Ball Players This Season.

The gentle breezes of a few springlike days have started the base ball fever a-going in the hearts of the students and collegians in Omaha. Preparations made earlier for the season bore fruit with the first of the spring days and the High school lads, the Creighton college boys and those of the Omaha Medics and the School for the Deaf were out trying their mettle. With the exception of the boys at Creighton this outdoor work was the first that has been done for the season. The Creighton boys have had the use of their cage and have profited by it immensely and are way ahead of the others in preparation.

At the High school they are working on dope mostly as yet, as there are a good many new men who are trying for the team and no one knows what their coming may mean to the team. Things look bright, far brighter than they ever were last season, for that team didn't make good, although it did get more than half of the games it played. The team has been placed under the management of Miles Greenleaf, who will incidentally do a few of the twirling stunts. The outlook for the management is very good, as the team will have no expenses which cannot be met at the beginning, with the exception of the suits, and these will be furnished by the athletic association. Claude Robertson of last year's team is captain and will play on the initial bag without a doubt. Besides Greenleaf for the twirling there will be Lowell. At the backstop both Fairbrother and Burnett are making a try for the work and it will probably be divided between them during the season. At third "Spike" Kennard, one of the fastest kid players in the city, will put up his sign, while a large number are out after second and shortstop. Among the most promising of the candidates for these places are Yoder, Devalon and Kroh, with a place almost certain for Yoder. He is only a freshman, but plays good, heady ball and is pretty good with the stick. Where the real trouble lies in getting a team is in the gardens, where there are no good men showing up. It is hoped that with a few days' outdoor practice there will be a showing of some men for these positions. The season for the teams opens with a game with the Field club second team on April 11. While the schedule will not be completed for some days, it is certain that it will include games with Lincoln, Sioux City, Des Moines, Bellevue, Creighton, Lemars, Tabor and the second University of Nebraska teams. Cotner may be played on April 23 at Omaha.

The School for the Deaf closed its basket ball season three weeks ago and elected P. E. Seely manager of the base ball team for this year. Suits have just been received by the team and they have started in practicing. Prospects for a better team than last year are very good. A few games have been scheduled, but the manager is trying to fill dates still for April 4, May 2, 9, 16 and June 6.

A few weeks ago the base ball magnates of the Field club held their ante-season meeting and elected officers for the teams. Will Tippery was made manager for both teams, Harry Knox captain of the first team and Gail Martin captain of the second. The season will commence on April 11, the Omaha Field club playing Creighton college. The grounds this year, under the superb care of Groundkeeper Gibson, will be, as before, the best and fastest in the state. Besides this a large and capacious grandstand is being erected for the convenience of the spectators, and it is safe to say that there is not a more complete base ball grounds in Nebraska than belongs to the Field club. The first team this year will be composed chiefly of the pick of the young bloods of last year's team, strengthened by the addition of many local stars who have joined the club. There is no doubt that the Omaha Field club base ball team this year will be one of the fastest amateur teams in this neck of the woods. To prove this fact there will probably be a match with the University of Nebraska in the middle of April. The second team, under the leadership of Gail Martin, will probably give the first team a good rub for honors. It is composed of the younger members of the club and will play an interesting schedule with teams of about the High school caliber. Their first game will be with the Omaha High school on April 11. Manager Tippery hereby issues a wide-open challenge to the world for base ball games and wishes all communications addressed to him, care of the Aetna Insurance company, New York Life building, Omaha.

Omaha will have between twenty and thirty other amateur and semi-amateur teams on the diamond this summer and many of them promise to put up an excellent article of ball. The Field club is planning to put one of the best teams it has ever had on the field and the Originals are planning to play with all of their old players that they have had for the last five years and then some. Besides this there are the Red Colts, C. N. Dietz team, the wholesale grocers, the retail clerks and many other organizations that are buying uniforms and getting ready for the fray, so that Omaha will always have a game going on somewhere.

Questions and Answers.

Sporting Editor of The Bee: Kindly answer the following to decide a bet: On a bill of $4.60 A is to pay $1 more than B is to pay. How much does each pay? A bets his share is $2.80 and B's $1.80. B bets A pays $3.30 and B $1.30. Who wins?

Answer—A pays $2.80 and B $1.80. Of course, A wins. It is as simple a proposition as could be found anywhere.

ATLANTIC, Ia., March 21.—To the Editor of The Bee: A friend of mine bets that young Corbett won the bantamweight championship from McGovern and I bet Corbett won the featherweight championship from McGovern. Would you kindly answer this through the columns of your paper and oblige. ROY HEDGES.

Answer—Corbett won the featherweight championship from Terry McGovern.

ATHLETICS AT THE UNIVERSITY

Base Ball and Track Events Occupy the Attention o the Muscular Student.

Devotees of the national game were given an opportunity to see the first large practice last Tuesday at the University of Nebraska. Eddie Gordon had the gang at work on the field then, about forty strong. The weather made things a little slow last week and some unpleasant things were said in the locker room Thursday about the Weather bureau. The date which was open, May 7, has been taken by Lombard university of Galesburg, Ill. This will make two games at that city, the other being with Knox college on May 6. Last year the men were out two weeks earlier than this. Nevertheless inside practice has been more effective than formerly and this will in a measure offset the tardiness of beginning outdoor work this year. Last Tuesday, from 2 to 5 o'clock, the old gridiron presented a busy scene. The battery candidates were given a chance to show what they could do and the fielders were kept on the jump for flies. Batting was practiced and Coach Gordon expressed himself as very much encouraged by the skill with which some of the new men wielded the club. Wednesday afternoon the men were out in force again. In point of the number of old university men, the team will not be strong. There were but three men who had made the team before on the field at first practice. The strength of the team is not to be judged by this alone. The new material is not so green as it might be. Most of the candidates have played before on the second team or high school teams, or some other. The new men showed up very well last Wednesday and showed the effects of the cage work they have been doing under the direction of a competent coach. Captain Townsend says that by the middle of next week a squad of twenty-five will be picked and from these positions on the first and second teams will be filled. Infield practice will begin next week and things will be put in shape for team work.

A new man came out last week to put in his bid for first base. It is Moore, who played first on the Grinnell team last year. Wilson also has a desire to loaf on first. For second base no one has shown up to declares his intentions as yet and perhaps Captain Townsend will occupy this place if he is not used in the pitcher's box. For the position of shortstop Johnson, formerly of the Fremont team, and Steen are putting in some pretty good licks. Ramsey is also showing good form at picking up "grinders." On third, or rather around third base, Hood covers a great amount of space for so small a man, but when the ball comes his way he is "Johnny on the spot." There is a good crowd of outfielders. Jim Bell, Shimer or Gore would do well in any of the field positions, and Johnson, Huffman and Moore have showed up well also. The results of Coach Gordon's work are quite apparent. He has brightened prospects for a winning team considerably. He feels confident of a successful season and imparts confidence in the men under him.

Manager Bell now has the final schedule made out. Nebraska will this year meet twenty-six teams in regular games, besides the practice game which will be played. On the home grounds twelve regular games will be played, the first of which will be the games with the Omaha league team on April 13-14. The trip which has been planned will go through five states, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Kansas. The trip will consume fifteen days. Twelve men will be taken, viz., the team, two subs and the manager. Practice games on the home grounds will be played with the farmers' and merchants' team of Lincoln, Doane college, Young Men's Christian association, Wesleyan university and the Lincoln High school. The field is being put in shape, as the bleachers which were erected for foot ball would be in the way. The fence about the field has been removed and the ground will be put in its best shape possible.

The boys who wish to enter for places on the track team have registered and forty names have been handed in. The few days of fair weather were utilized for outdoor practice, and the prospect for a winning track team is gratifying. Most of last year's men are back in their places, and there are a number of valuable acquisitions from the crack team of the Lincoln High school of last year. Benedict, though a freshman in school, is a phenom on the athletic field. He will do the pole vault stunt. Johnson, the colored boy, and Lehman are also out. Captain Tobin of the track team will work with the shot and hammer, as will also Borge, Graves, Hinkle and Martin. With so competent a trainer as Dr. Clapp, there seems to be no reason why Nebraska should not carry off its share of the honors. If the team does not meet with success it will certainly not be the fault of the coacher or captain, as they are doing everything they can to bring track athletics up to as high a standard as foot ball. The schedule for the track team has not been completed yet. Manager Walters stated Friday that meets with South Dakota at Sioux City, with Kansas university at Lawrence and the state meet at Crete have been cinched. Several other deals are in the air, but in any event, the trip will be well worth while for the men to try for. The Sioux City meet will be held on Decoration day. Fifteen men, including the coach and manager, will be taken on the trip.

The athletic board held its regular meeting last Monday. Members of the basket ball team were given jerseys bearing the "N" in recognition of the good work they did in the past season. The second base ball team was given the privilige to use the field on three school days to make Friday games possible. The new supplies for the base ball team have arrived and a good supply of balls and bats are on hand. The team is now well equipped and is confident of doing good work when it is turned loose.

HIGH SCHOOL STARS CONTEST

Classes Prepare for Annual Competition and for Closing Basket Ball Games.

The classes of the high school are busy preparing themselves for the contest that they are to have next Friday evening at Germania hall. In connection with the class contests which are multifold in form there will be a basket ball contest between the first team of the high school and that of Sioux City High school.

More interest centers around this game than the other contests, as it is the last one of the year and Sioux City already has a closely played one to its credit. The lineup of the two teams will be identical with that of the previous game and the home team feels that it has the best of chances to win with it. They have at least the advantage of their own court and the presence of the home rooters, which they did not have in the other game.

The basket ball team was unfortunate this year in being composed of new men entirely with the exception of Captain Cherrington, and so they have gone down to defeat in their three principal games, two with Lincoln and one with Sioux City. Despite this hard luck, the boys have stayed together and held the confidence of the school, and, with all of them back next year, will be heard from quite frequently.

There are six class contests, of which three are individual and three team events. The individual events are the high dive, the hand walk and wrestling contests. For each of these contests first place counts five points, second place, three points, and third place, one point. In the team contests the senior and junior classes will meet and the sophomore and freshman, the winners to contest for first place, which counts five points. In the preliminary contests first place will count three points.

The candidates for the individual contests are about selected and the different classes will be represented as follows, with perhaps a few slight changes:

Seniors—Hugh Wallace, captain; Ernest Kelly, hand walk; Albert Fairbrother, high dive; Roy Cathers, wrestling match.

Juniors—R. C. Hunter, captain; Harry Coachman, hand walk; H. G. Counsman, high dive; Rolland Shields, wrestling match.

Sophomores—Clarence Walsh, captain; Dick Patterson, hand walk; Robert Switzler, high dive; C. G. Grossman, wrestling match.

Freshman—Frank Tomsett, captain; Cyrus Bowman, hand walk and wrestling match; Frank Tomsett, high dive.

HUNTERS AFTER WATER FOWL

High Water Prevents Big Bags, but the Birds Are Here in Huge Flocks.

All week long the hunters have been slipping away from their homes and wives on the excuse that they needed a few days' vacation and have been lying out along the banks of the rivers and on the sand bars of the Platte waiting for the ducks they never shot. But they have all come back with fabulous tales of the ducks they killed and ate and of those that fell out of the reach of their dogs, but those they brought home for the family and friends have been very, very few. The trouble has not been that the ducks were few or that they were such poor shots that they couldn't hit them when they had the opportunity, but the rivers are too high and only a few of the lakes have opened up. The waters on the rivers, which are all opened up, are too extensive to give the hunters an opportunity to reach the ducks. Within a week or ten days, when the high water has subsided somewhat, the bags that the sportsmen will bring back will be marvelous, for all of the early reports of ducks and geese a-plenty on Nebraska streams were not overrated, according to all of the Omaha men who have been out after them. With the lakes open and the rivers low, they will not be difficult to get at, and several hundred local hunters are preparing for outings of a week or ten days out on the western ranches of the Platte, the Loup and the Elkhorn and up in the sand hills.

Omaha sportsmen are not the only ones that are expecting to do some hunting this spring, either. One local wholesale house that sells most of its goods to state people has sold two carloads of shells for spring and would like to have more to sell. They don't have a decoy duck in the house and declare that a folding decoy can't be bought in Omaha from a single dealer. "I think," one of the firm said, "that there must be more decoys than ducks on Nebraska streams and lakes. But I know that isn't true, for I was out three days last week and saw lots of ducks, but only got close enough to five to shoot them."

The Geneva Gun club will give an open tournament and trap shoot at Geneva on March 25 and 26 and a party of Omaha men, among whom are W. B. Townsend, Charles A. Lewis and Henry McDonald, are preparing to be in attendance for the purpose of carrying away a few of the honors.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

The proportion of policemen to population is 1 to 207 in Paris, 1 to 408 in London and 1 to 458 in New York.

The fines and forfeitures imposed upon and collected from the enlisted men of the army were vastly increased during the year subsequent to the abolishment of the canteen.

The highest point to which a man has ever climbed is 23,080 feet to the summit of the Andean peak Aconcagua. The feat was accomplished by two men sent out by the Royal Geographical society.

There are 2,000 varieties of postage stamps in circulation today, all of which have to be identified by the postmasters. There have upward of 40,000 different varieties issued since stamps came into use.

The work on ancient and modern coins which the king of Italy is about to have published at his own expense will, it is said, cost the king $140,000. The coins in the valuable collection owned by the king number 80,000 pieces.

The deaths from pneumonia per 10,000 of population in 1890 were 4.49; in 1870, 10.24; in 1880, 12.58; in 1890, 18.84; in 1900, 18.78—an aggregate increase of 349.6 per cent of pneumonia, as compared with an aggregate decrease of 39.5 per cent of consumption.

As evidence of the superstitious folly which still prevails in the twentieth century, a landlord in Cassel, Germany, has appealed to the municipal council to permit him to change the number of his home from 13 to 11½, as under the unlucky number houses are not so easily rented.

Nearly 500 divorces—to be exact, 492, with one county estimated—were granted in Connecticut last year. The most common cause or excuse set forth was desertion. Next came cruelty, then intemperance and lastly infidelity. Many of the divorces were regarded as the result of collusion, but just how many cannot be stated.

George J. Gould's marble and bronze court and electric fountain at Georgian court in Lakewood have excited the emulation of royalty. The king of Siam has requested the firm which furnished them to give an estimate on similar work five times as large for the court yard of his palace. The probable figures will be about $200,000.

The bolometer, an electric device for the measurement of heat of exceedingly feeble intensity, is so delicate in construction that it can detect the one-millionth part of a degree, measure the heat radiated by a man's face at the distance of a mile or more and register almost imperceptible amounts of heat sent to our earth by the sun.

Tortillas, the Mexican substitute for wheat bread, are made from selected corn. The kernels are boiled soft in lime-water and after being thoroughly washed are rubbed between the hands to remove the outer husk. They are then ground, while wet, to a soft mass with stones or a peanut-butter mill, patted into thin cakes, baked on a dry griddle and eaten while still hot.

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PHYSICAL HOUSE-CLEANING

A Thorough Cleansing of the System Now is the Surest Protection Against Spring and Summer Sickness.

No good house keeper ever neglects Spring cleaning. With plenty of soap and water, hard scrubbing and scouring, sunlight and air, she soon gets rid of all rubbish, musty odors, germs and microbes, and the dust and dirt that have accumulated during the long winter months, and everything about the place is freshened up and given an air of newness and neatness that suggests health and comfort. But when the house has been put in order, and the premises cleared of all old plunder and trash, the great majority of house keepers feel that Spring cleaning is over, and forget that their systems may be in a worse condition than the house, and that the bad feelings, debility, loss of appetite, nervousness and sleeplessness from which they are suffering are due to neglect of the more important and necessary work of Physical house cleaning. A clean house does not insure against disease, but a clean system does. The poisons and humors engendered within the body, the waste matter that is clogging the system and contaminating and vitiating the blood, are far more dangerous to health than the dirt and dust of our homes. In the winter time we give free rein to our appetites, and eat more and oftener than is for our good. We inhale the polluted air of badly ventilated offices and rooms, take little or no exercise, and our bodies become a veritable hot-bed of disease-bearing germs, and our blood is loaded with impurities and poisons of every conceivable kind; and no wonder that Spring time is so often Sick time and finds us in such poor physical condition, with vitality slowly wasting away, our digestion impaired, the liver torpid, and all the bodily organs over-worked and out of repair. Unless our systems are given a thorough cleaning, and the blood purged and purified, the simplest malady may develop into some serious disorder or end in chronic invalidism, and often the pent-up impurities, poisons and humors break out through the skin, and all through the Spring and Summer you are tormented with boils, itchy rashes, sores, bumps and pimples, and all manner of ugly pustular and scaly eruptions.

Physical house cleaning should begin with the blood. It must be purified and strengthened and when a stream of pure, rich blood is turned into all the nooks and corners of the system, the rubbish and disease-producing poisons are washed out, and the congested channels and avenues of the body are opened, and Physical house cleaning is made thorough and complete. S. S. S. cleanses the blood of taints and poisons and expels the waste and rubbish from the system. It is to the system what soap and water are to the house. Nothing else so quickly removes the stubborn, deeply-rooted poisons and humors that are destroying the purity of the blood and blocking the avenues of health and life.

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Do not put it off; do not experiment. Satisfy yourself that what the professor says is true by sending name and address today to Prof. F. C. Fowler, Dev. 091, New London, Conn., and he will send a trial package sealed and free from all marks, a trial treatment of his discovery absolutely free, together with a valuable treatise "All About Blood Poison and its Cure." He asks for no money, simply the privilege of convincing you that what he has discovered will cure you, so lose no time in sending your address. Do so today and you will soon be cured.

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