

BASE BALL GOSSIP OF WEEK

Omaha Breaks the Denver Charm and Local Fans Rejoice.

TEAM IS PLAYING VERY FAST GAME

Work of the Hourkettes of the Same Giltedged Order that Marked Their Course During All Last Season.

Well! We won a game in Denver. That's something. Last season we went to Denver time after time and came away licked. It doesn't matter why or how; the simple fact is that Omaha couldn't cut the mustard on the Denver diamond. It's different now, and having made a start, there is no telling where the windup will be. These two games have demonstrated another thing, and that is that the Hourke family is just as strong in the field as it ever was, and that means a lot in the Western League. It saved many a game for Omaha last season and will win many a game during the present summer. Hard batting is a fine feature of the game and a very important factor in the outcome, but nice, clean, snappy fielding is what the people like to see, and that's what they get when Omaha is playing. No Omaha pitcher has occasion to complain that he doesn't get support, for he has the most reliable team in the circuit back of him. And the boys are hitting a little, too. They couldn't break Pop Taylor's hoodoo, but they certainly gave the old gentleman the scare of his lifetime, and maybe on the next meeting the result will be different. Whitridge was touched up at a lively pace, and the boys were hitting a little. Another nice feature of the two games is that while Omaha stole three bases in each game Denver didn't steal any. Maybe you think Johnny Goding's good arm isn't working? When they get to stealing bases on that boy it will be time to put up the shutters.

One of the really gratifying experiences of the present season up to date is the treatment accorded Omaha by the Denver papers. The papers were full of good words for the team from Papa Bill down, and the whole bunch of fans seemed to lay themselves out to see how pleasant they could make it for the team. This is the sort of spirit that should prevail and Omaha will remember it when Captain Tom Delehanty and his bunch of Grizzlies come to Omaha.

Denver is considerably crippled already by the loss of Radcliffe from the club. In bed and mopey, he is unable to play this season. Hartzell, who takes his place, isn't in first-class condition, but will likely improve when he gets hardened and becomes familiar with his new duties. But over all that Radcliffe was a big find for the team. Dunning put up his usual fast game at third and still holds his high position in the estimation of the people. And, by the way, you didn't notice any spots on Eddie Hickey's work, did you? He's been playing harder than he ever did to hold the place of premier third baseman in the Western League.

The other teams opened about as the public had expected. It was a guess between Kansas City and Peoria for the first game, and Big Bill Wilson grabbed just to show that he could. But he let the others go for the same reason. Milwaukee and Colorado Springs show strength, and St. Joseph shows positive weakness. Des Moines is still a guess, but may yet make good on some of the Undertaker's claims. Now that Van Brunt has taken hold of the St. Joseph team again, it is likely that the players will put more life into the game, and make a better showing in the game.

A pair of local speculators, who apparently had an idea that a base ball team is simply a never-failing fountain of wealth, had the nerve to try to buy Van Brunt, putting up nothing but "shoo" on their talk, they were just about 50 cents worse off than a man with no money at all. Van Brunt is game, and, even though he will be in New York, he will still be owner of the team. Joseph team until reliable parties take it over. Not that a ball player needs money in St. Joseph, but then one of them might get over into Kansas, and that's different.

Big Ed Delehanty tells the Washington Post that he had no thought of going to Denver; that the only negotiations he knows of were a letter he had from his brother telling him that he might get on with Denver, and a telegram from Peoria received after he had gone back to Washburn, offering him \$4,000 per to play with the Grizzlies. Big Ed has the telegram and letter both to show his good faith, and if his talk is any good, he is said not only to get back to Washington, but to be alive.

The season opened very auspiciously so far as the umpires are concerned. Not a kick worthy of mention comes from any of the Western League towns. Out in Denver they think that McCarthy is a hot temper, this judgment being based on the fact that he talked back to the fans, but otherwise his work is praised. Last season much of the enjoyment of the sport was spoiled by incompetent umpiring, and the general hope was that Mr. Sexton has found a corps of men to give decisions who are capable of doing so without starting all the rows we had to put up with during the war days.

In the Hickey league the trouble is far from settled. The Columbus people are still warring, Clineham has returned to St. Paul, and the presumption is that Bryce is paying him his salary while he loafs. A special meeting of the league has been called to decide on this case. The mayor of Indianapolis has told 39,000 fans who signed a petition for Sunday games that the law prohibits base ball on Sunday and will be enforced. The mayor favors the game, but will not overlook the law. Some games have been played without regular umpires, but the howls that have gone up from the managers do not seem to have reached Hickey's ears as yet. And George Whiteheads Tebeau is still busy telling the world that the Western League cannot last, well, well.

Attendance so far at all the games indicates a revival for sure. Never in the history of the game have the people turned out in such numbers as they have this spring, and the real good days of the game

are still to come. It certainly looks like the right season for the magnates. This afternoon at Vinton Park a pair of the local crack amateur teams will play a benefit game for "Old Hoss" Bowman, once a well known amateur catcher, but who has been a sufferer from rheumatism for a long time and is now totally disabled. It is a worthy charity that leads these men to assist a former comrade, and the fans who go out will not only aid a good cause, but will see a corking good game of ball as well.

ATHLETICS AT THE UNIVERSITY

Nebraska Base Ball Team Starts on Its Long Eastern Trip Full of Confidence.

The curtain is up, the music has begun and the doings in the big tent are now the order. In other words, the Cornhuskers' base ball team is off on its tour into Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and Kansas. If steady, persistent training under competent coaches can avail a team anything, the Nebraska university fans need have no fear of the outcome. Captain Townsend has had his colts more than busy the last week, paving the way to a victorious trip. Every man who left on Saturday morning, May 2, had to work to get his place. Not a man had a place cinched until he showed up as the player of a real warm article of the American game. There was a good stock of material to draw from, and every man felt that if he was to be given a place on the squad he would have to get right out and do his best. The team was divided into two groups, one to be sent to the field to determine who the lucky men would be. The following is a complete list of the men who make up the Cornhusker aggregation for the tour: Townsend, field pitcher; Feit, shortstop; Hartzell, center fielder; McCann, first base; Steen, second base; Wilmer, center field; Gore, left field; and Morse, Longanecker and Beltzer will pitch and change off on playing in the field positions. Manager Bell will accompany the team on the trip.

The battery will be seen to be especially strong. With Bender behind the bat and any of the five pitchers in the box, it is probable that some of the swift aggregations which the Nebraskaans will meet will have to do some going to keep in the game. The real hard games Beltzer will pitch.

Captain Townsend says that the three games with Notre Dame university on May 3, Purdue university on the 5th and Illinois state on the 11th are the hardest games. The Cornhuskers lost to Notre Dame and Illinois State university last year, but defeated Purdue. In these games the men of Nebraska will put forth their best, and their efforts to defeat their opponents, and get it back on them for what they did last year. Bender had this to say about the prospects on Friday: "We are going in to win every game. In foot ball last fall at the first of the season nobody would have thought but that perhaps the Cornhuskers would lose a game or two. We didn't lose a game, and the base ball team will try to keep the good record clean."

In the games with the Nebraska Indians the "variety" team work showed up especially fine. Longanecker twirled in one game and was pretty badly hit at times, but every time the sphere came down into the gardens there was a man there to connect with it, and the Indians were not allowed to make any sensational plays. One thing encouraging is the way the "variety" is picking up the art of sticking. The batting was in the first games decidedly weak, but the last few games of the home schedule showed a big improvement in the Cornhuskers' way of hitting the ball. The last game before the trip was played on Friday with Washburn college.

In track athletics the teams have assumed tangible shape and the men who have made the various teams will begin training next week for the big events with other institutions. The following events were pulled off Saturday afternoon, and teams selected from a crowd of about forty-five athletes. Track events—100-yard run, half mile run, 150-yard hurdle, 440-yard run, mile run, 220-yard dash, 220-yard hurdle. Field Events—Pole vault, shot put, running high jump, hammer throw, running broad jump, discus.

There was also an inter-class relay race on Saturday. The men who succeeded in making the teams were selected from a large number and owing to this fact and the fact that they have had the advantage of training under Dr. Clapp would indicate that on the home grounds this month, the Nebraska crowd will show the men from Illinois some good track and field work.

OPENING DAY AT FIELD CLUB

Everything in Readiness for Beginning the Outdoor Season of this Organization.

Saturday the Omaha Field club will throw its doors open wide for the summer months. The braves of neighborhood and the graces of womanhood, the athletic and the unathletic, the frivolous and the thoughtful and the past and the future of the young men and young women will mingle together and dedicate another year of pleasure and gladness with the mirth of laughter, with companionship and friendly trials of strength in the links, the tennis courts, the diamond and the bowling alleys.

With the odor of fresh paint still clinging to the walls and the porches, the first clatter of dishes will be heard, the seltzer corner will commence its busy life and the younger set will make merry with a dance. To fitly begin the short year's life for the club every phase of that life will be started in full swing then and no time during the year will find the club so universally busy as this.

Taken room by room and line by line, the house is really working. It was when the doors closed last fall for the cold weather, with slight exceptions, but paint and the carpenter have made it seem all different. Everywhere the woodwork looks fresh and bright and gleams with the freshness of the paint. The old seltzer corner is now a reading room, and leading from it, stands a new, little room which is now the corner of experienced men and youths who still show their wild oats slowly. Otherwise there

is no change on the inside and none more on the outside of the clubhouse. But during the day as the strangers since last year follow the links over they will find them different. The greens have all been piped and look fresher and smoother than they were last summer. Here the golf enthusiasts of the club will battle during the day, for there will be handicaps played on the links.

The tennis courts, too, including the new ones with the brick underfilling, will be filled with the racket wielders. They will seem no different than they were a year ago despite the change in the two, and only a rain will make it evident how much better they have been made. To the north and the south the ball field has been changed so that the diamond is at the farthest corner from the house and the game can be watched from the porch or from the bleachers facing the house.

Contests will be arranged for the members of all the various branches, which the Field club has cultivated, and it will all the day well, so that the athletically inclined may forget their winter slothfulness in new-found exercise, and the others can watch and applaud with becoming zest.

YACHTING AT LAKE MANAWA

Several New Fast Boats and All the Old Ones on the Lake Again This Season.

The fresh water sailors at Manawa have been getting things into readiness for the spring breezes and the summer studs will sail the last ten days, and last Sunday found several of the boats skimming over the ruffled waters of the lake. Other boats are in the water and are being rigged preparatory to the summer's sailing. The rest of the old boats are having their hulls gone over and are being put in shape to go back into the water.

This is the summer of yacht racing at Manawa. If the outlook is any criterion of what things will be. With the three new boats of the lake and the seven old ones, including the Vitesse, which Charles Stewart has purchased from Mr. Van Brunt of St. Joseph, the Manawa Yacht club has ten boats of class "A" rating. While these boats are called class "A" here they are in reality class "B" in the inland lakes Yachting association.

Mr. Dixon's boat, which has been built in Oshkosh, has arrived and has been put on the water. It is to this boat that the club looks for the most of its glory at the regatta. The Oshkosh regatta—for the local club will enter at the regatta now that the Council Bluffs Rowing association is a member of the inland lakes association. The Dixon boat is the first class "B" boat which the Oshkosh builders have made. But as they have built the winner of the class "A" boats at the regatta each year for the last five, there is little doubt but that their first attempt in the new class will prove exceedingly fast.

Then there is the boat that Stevens and McAllister are building. They have built several boats and their last year's boat proved a remarkable success as a pleasure boat. In their new boat they have made a boat somewhat similar to the Andover, yet dissimilar in some particulars. It is the only boat on the lake which has a centerboard and has fast lines that promise to give it a touch with the fastest of the boats on the lake this year.

A third boat is being built by Leffert in the Bluffs, and this boat also gives promise of being very fast and a clean sailer. It is built along the same lines as the Swallow.

With the Andover, which is the fastest boat in the fleet now, there will be four boats that should make some exceedingly lively races during the summer. The Andover, unfortunately, was built according to the old specifications for class "B" boats and cannot be entered in the Oshkosh races.

The races last year were held every Saturday, while informal races were held on Sunday as well. It seemed to the members of the club that the weekly races were not as successful as they should be and this year it is probable that regular races will be held on Saturday. This year thus keeping the sport from being overdone, as was the case then.

The racing rules were not adhered to very strictly last summer, but an effort will be made this summer to call them as they should be and it is believed that this will also lend more zest to the sport.

The cups which the club has are also to be increased in number and with the added zest of the picking of the best crew the regatta at Oshkosh there is little doubt but that the increase in interest and enthusiasm will grow greatly. The first of the races will be held on Decoration day. Following that race the regular schedule of races will take place until the fall is well along.

MIDWEST AND TRACK EVENTS

Showing Made on Franklin Field Gratifying to the Supporters of Clean Athletics.

The track athletes of the middle west made a gratifying showing in the ninth annual relay meet held on Franklin field, Philadelphia, a week ago last Saturday. In the four-mile relay race, which was the event of the day, the universities of Michigan, Wisconsin and Chicago contested with Harvard, Yale, Pennsylvania and Columbia. It was the cream of the east against the cream of the west and it was a proud moment for the west when Kellogg of Michigan, by a superb finish, broke the tape five good yards in front of Franchot of Yale and gave the race to Michigan. To Wisconsin fell fourth place and Chicago fifth.

It was the first time that the west had really proved itself an equal of the east in track athletics. The west had sent men to the east before and taken an occasional first or second, but these men have been few and far between. The east said, and had reason for saying it, "The west is behind us in track athletics. They have had a few men who were able to meet us, but they were the exception and not the rule. They could not send track teams that could make us work." It was true years ago, but conditions in college track work have changed in the middle west as they did in base ball and foot ball.

The great middle west has come to its own and will be as great a factor in amateur athletics as the eastern colleges. The meets will be few, as the distance is too great for them to meet as readily as among themselves at home, but they will establish new records, even as their eastern college brothers. But the four-mile relay was not all that fell to the west. In the 100-yard dash Blair of Chicago and Hahn of Michigan came in second and third in a hearty, breaking finish and with only two feet between the two of them, and Schick of Harvard, who broke across the line first. In the high school championship relay race the Hyde Park High school of Chicago bore away the honors in a close finish.

It is unfortunate that the position that the middle west has but come out of in the last five years is just where Nebraska and the other states west of the Mississippi stand today. That the west has speed and wind is as great as it is to the eastward, but the training is lacking. True, foot ball has taken step toward the goal of eastern ability and base ball is even doing the same. But basket ball, tennis and the truly western sports are still the athletic strength of our western colleges is

ilily balanced and the high schools must be held accountable for it in part. The real preparation for college athletics should be done before entering college. The roughness and awkwardness should be eliminated in the high school. Work along these lines has been done by the high schools that could in base ball and in foot ball, but no thought has been given to the track, to tennis and basket ball by more than three or four.

On Saturday the Missouri Valley Athletic association will hold its annual track meet at Lincoln. Lincoln and Nebraska City High schools are the only Nebraska high schools that will compete. This is not as it should be. Beatrice, Kearney, Grand Island, Hastings, Fremont and Omaha should have had some representation at this meet. Omaha in particular should have taken some steps toward taking part in the meet.

A track team is different from most forms of sports, in that a few men may represent a school in certain portions of the meet and carry off enough of the individual honors to more than repay the school for the trouble and expense of preparing for the meet, even though they do not secure a place in the totals for the schools.

Track work requires preparation by the man participating more than it does costly grounds or fields. It is individual work and can be as readily practiced in the country by three men as in the city by 100. No school should be prevented from trying to do some work on the track for lack of money or of men. Out of a high school with a dozen men a team of three men might be taken that would carry off 20 points at a meet. This would not be enough to win the meet for them, but it would make an elegant showing for them.

Omaha had a track team for years, but in the fall of 1901 a few men were allowed to die out. The powers that be have not been favorable to it, but the lack of spirit has had more to do with it than anything else. The student body would have the spirit if the boys would get out and work, but they have shown no disposition to do so. Over 100 of the high school boys are members of the Young Men's Christian association, and if these would go into the track department of the association a strong nucleus for a track team for the high school could be selected. The ground about the high school could be fixed up so that practice for the weights and jumps could be carried on anywhere else. The running and hurdling events would be the only ones that would suffer greatly by cramped quarters on the ground.

But track work requires conscientious practice and training and this is something the athletic department of the Omaha High school has always lacked. The boys, as a whole, have shown a decided disposition to ignore training. The foot ball team has given evidence of this year after year and yet the boys have not taken the matter seriously. The teams that have represented the Omaha High school have gone down to defeat time and time again for these reasons and often their opponents have been from smaller towns and have not shown the team work or the grit that the Omaha team did, but they had the staying qualities that can only come with training, and so won out. If track work is to be taken up the team must decide to train absolutely. Training rules are not conducive to pleasure, but they are the thing that makes winning possible, and the sooner the high school learns this the sooner it will take its place at the head of athletics among Nebraska and Iowa high schools.

FISHERMEN HAVE AN INNING

Nearby Lakes Full of Bass and the Like and Many Good Strings Are Caught.

After the cold of the few days in the first of the week the fishermen, most faithful to their habits, sought the banks of the nearby lakes for their hooks and lines and bagged the long hours in the chilly mornings and the gentle afternoons with the swish of the reel and the strong-mouthed pull of the black bass. But mostly it has been the bait of the look against the hunger of the fish, and the fish have succumbed readily and rapidly. They are hungry and beefsteak and delicate tinned and befeathered spoonbills have had equal charms for them. Skillful fishing has not been a part of the game; it requires only patience to fish for these fish, now.

Black bass, ringtail perch, croppies and catfish are in abundance close to the haunts of the water denizens, are planning long trips into the mountains and to the northern lakes this summer to seek their prey. Day by day they are buying their tackle, flies, spoon hooks and the other accoutrements of the quest. When the day comes that they can pack their things and slip away to the waters that hold their prey they will be well and ready for it, and no time will be spent in making ready when it might be spent on the water and the

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HAPPY HOLIDAY.

Little Folks' Festival of Fun and Feast of Wonders.

Circus day is children's day. It belongs essentially to them. Tradition has made it so. There was a time when "taking the children to see the animals" was the most convenient excuse offered by those who thought it against religious scruples, or their fancied dignity, to go to the circus. Happily that form of hypocrisy is now about extinct. Years of the most careful effort by the managers of the Adam Forepaugh and Sells Brothers Enormous Shows United to eliminate everything and anything in the slightest degree immoral or impolite in the character of their exhibitions, or in the demeanor of their employees of whatever rank, has at last convinced the public generally of the absolute cleanliness and morality of the circus as a place of entertainment, and with such comprehensive shows as are these great consolidated institutions, a source of practical and profitable instruction. There is no longer any excuse or apology for going to the circus. The presence of clergymen at every performance, with the exception, attests the general and sensible

change of consideration for the circus by church people. But all this does not release anyone from a moral obligation to take their children to see the animals and the accompanying circus performance. It is really not only a matter of extreme delight to the children to see the "show," but it is a duty as well as a pleasure upon the part of the parents, relatives and friends to enable them to see it. Children are recognized by the management of this consolidation as the source of a considerable part of their patronage, and ample provision is made in the program of things that will especially appeal to their interest and satisfaction. What all these things are it is unnecessary to recount at this juncture, but they embrace clever comic conceits by the congress of clowns, pretty performances by ponies and all sorts of petite pets and all kinds of funny antics that will appeal to happy-hearted little ones. Circus day in Omaha this year is Saturday, May 16.

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