

SPORTING GOSSIP OF THE WEEK

Hard luck. The boys got it up all right and Papa Bill was ready to slip the chunk under and hold it there, when the pry slipped and down came the whole booming bunch. Even at that, we won three out of the eight games played, and that is so much better than we have been in the habit of doing in Colorado that we ought to be very grateful and not kick because we didn't get 'em all. And we had the Mountaineers scared to death all the time we were out there. There's only one thing to feel really sad over, and that is old Jack Thornton getting up in his grave clothes and beating us. We can afford to lose a game to a live pitcher, but when one that has been dead for at least nine years puts it all over us, then indeed are our hearts bowed down. But it was like this, Jimmy Burns had gotten in the notion of sending Big Jack over to Cripple Creek to take a job of cooking for Sherman Bell's army, as his days of usefulness in the Springs had about come to an end. "Here, I'll show you what I can do," said Jack, and Burns turned him loose, expecting to see Omaha's pitcher hit home. But for hadn't the Rourke tribe just finished lambasting Monsieur Villenain until he looked like a tub full of pulp after it has been "treated," and wouldn't they give Thornton the third degree and furnish the excuse for wiping his name off the salary list? And what does Old Jack do but go and give Bill Rourke a vision of the far gone days when Jack Thornton and Jack Grim were the best that Charley Cushman had in stock, and nothing in Milwaukee was concealed from them or withheld? It was awful, but this wreck of a former athlete, who can no longer see his toes without the aid of a mirror, actually went in and pitched a game that looked like the work of a new phenom. It cost Omaha one game in the standing table, but it made Jack solid for at least another fortnight on the pay roll, for Burns won't can him before the first of the month now, and so we are all happy.

Just to show that the boys didn't idle away any time while abroad, it may be stated that in the seven games Omaha had 261 tries at the bat and landed eighty drives in safe territory, a team-batting average for the seven games of .339. And at that "Spotty" Fresse didn't get a hit on the trip. In the fielding department the work was not quite so good, although it ranked up well with the season's average. Our old college friend Brown lost a little through being asked to officiate at a base during a couple of games, thereby accumulating a pair of errors that hurt his standing somewhat. He still keeps his hitting over the .300 mark, though. The team-fielding average for the trip was .750, which isn't bad, when one considers that 340 is the highest mark it has reached this season, and at 340 it has been now for three weeks. Here are the figures for the team up to Friday night:

Table with columns: Name, AB, R, H, AV, Wk. Rows include Fresse, Brown, Dolan, Welch, Howard, Miller, Thomas, Schipke, Gondering, Carter, McCarthy, Companion, Pfeister, Quick, and Totals.

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President Rourke is much encouraged by the attendance at both Denver and Colorado Springs on the trip. He says the crowds at Denver were far in excess of those reported by the papers, and that more than 6,000 people paid to see the four games played there, one being a double-header, and drawing over 3,500. At Colorado Springs the double-header on Thursday was witnessed by 761 paid ad-

missions, and fully 500 of these were tourists. The tourist season is now well under way, and from this time on there will be somebody at Colorado Springs with money to spend on a ball game. Mr. Rourke says he has heard nothing of the intention to dispose of the services of Empire Kelly, and that the talk of Colorado Springs trading Congalton for Josh Clarke seems absurd. The Springs needs Congalton just now as bad as anybody, and Burns isn't in the humor for weakening his team just at present. And there was another case of Omaha's luck. When Des Moines was at the Springs Congalton and Kahl were both out of the game, and when Omaha gets there both are in ready to play, and the lineup is fixed so that not only this pair of sluggers, but Thornton and Graham are retained, and I guess that doesn't make it hard for the Omaha pitchers; look at the score.

And maybe there won't be something doing at Vinton park this afternoon. Five hundred rooters will be here from Des Moines, and at least 1,000 loyal Iowans will join the train along the way, so that Billy Hoffer and his band will have as fine a crowd of backers as they could ask for. Omaha will turn out the customary 5,000 or 6,000 just to show the Hawkeyes that there is no coolness, and the game is likely to be one of the warmest that has been seen here in many years. Both teams are playing good ball, and the series means a great deal to each. If Omaha wins, the Rourke family is back in the running; if Des Moines wins the Hoffers will be out of our reach, for a time, at least. It isn't as if the pennant depended on the result, but it is mighty near that important.

The fast stepping nag will find itself well occupied at Omaha in holding its own with the age of auto racing which is surely in its way here, and will be under full swing before the leaves come wafting down. There has been considerable talk among local drivers of the red devil concerning the introduction of automobile races here, but the game never passed the talk stage until last week. Every one seemed rather timid about breaking the ice, as the saying is, until N. B. Urdike and Frank Colpetzer took the initiative. That was on Thursday afternoon. The furor under the wire a good winner is just the under the fire a good winner, is just the thing that autoists have been beckoning. Already those who have discarded horse-lesh for gasoline have been making arrangements for an auto meet to be held next month. Minor events are being planned in the meantime. For the amateur who contemplates competition, the mile track at Council Bluffs is looked to with great favor. The Sprague street course is but half a mile around, and that distance does not go with fast auto racing.

Edwin Hayden purchased a Knox Tuxedo touring car last week. Clarke O. Powell left last week for an extended trip to several automobile factories in the east. Mr. Wetsford and family will make a trip to Kansas City and the St. Louis world's fair in a Cadillac. Dr. Robinson of Bonesteel, S. D., made a trip from his home to Omaha last week in a Cadillac. E. E. Huntley, accompanied by a party of local grain dealers made a long trip into the country last Tuesday to look over the crop situation. Emil Brandeis is making regular evening runs from Omaha to his home at Calhoun. Charles H. Brown has returned from Colorado Springs and is again seen on the boulevards in his White steamer. Gould Dietz has left for a week's tour in an automobile. Dr. Impy has ordered a handsome Knox touring car of green. It will be equipped with a covering with plate glass front.

The event of greatest immediate interest to the raquet welders of Omaha is the city tennis tournament which will be in progress here during the first week of August. In consequence there has been great activity on the local courts during the last week, particularly at the Field and St. Croix clubs. Chairman William Wood of the Field club, who has the tournament on hand, predicts the best thing in the way of a local meet that has been held in Omaha for some little time. Interest is rampant and players in general

are exhibiting a desire to compete for the trophies which are hung up on the outcome of the singles and doubles. The dates for the tournament are no more than a ball and a hollow away now, and for the lagard there will be little chance of winning out unless hard practice every day sets him under smooth sail. To pull down the trophies in the meet will be one matter and to win the championship titles will be quite another. Cox Young and Samuel Caldwell, winners of last year's tournament, will be here to defend their titles when the time comes for the championship event, although it is not likely that they will be in the city during the tournament proper. Young holds the championship for singles and the winner of the singles this year will be compelled to play him for the title.

The city tournament will lead up to the interstate meet which comes on the boards later in the month. There are a number of new men who are playing an A1 game and competition will be keen. Field club people look to Scribner, Chase and Pollard to make things interesting for outsiders, but it must be remembered that there may be a different story told when they get into the fray with such men as Dr. Schneider, Jack Hughes and Kohn. Dufrene is another who is looked to for something better than early defeat. Schneider is said to have developed a fast game since last year and there are hopes of the observing class who tout him as a winner. Chase and Potter are said to have improved wonderfully as well. The drawings for the tournament, which will be void of any handicap, will be held after 8 o'clock on the evening of July 30, as at that time the entries will close. The drawings will be made at the Field club. The games will be played off each evening during the week of the tourney, beginning at 8:30 o'clock. The prominent players from the Field, St. Croix and Shrinor clubs will compete during the meet, beside many other local players of ability.

These are boom days for the golf game at the Field club. Everybody seems to want to go round the course in pursuit of the little sphere and the best part of it is that nearly everyone who does spend a reasonable amount of time at the game is playing exceptionally well. There are now no less than 145 golf players at the club and of that number there are many who are playing around ninety. Marked developments in the younger players is noted with more than common interest. Not only that but in every event there are from fifty-five to sixty-five starters, a mighty good showing and no dispute. The golf committee has caught the right cue and intends to make the enthusiasm in the game worth while. It has arranged that from now until the end of the season three trophies a month will be posted and played for in as many tourneys. Six of these cups are to be won outright and the others become the property of the winner after having been won three times. The course is in excellent condition and great numbers of players are taking advantage of this feature. The turnout, in short, is all that the committee could ask for, and the committee, by the way, is to be congratulated, for it has done much to make the game what it is at the club.

A. J. Christie, golf instructor at the Field club, and Edward Boyer attended the meet at Chicago last week, Christie participating. The Omaha man played in hard luck at the outset and consequently was out of the contest early. The first day he had 96 and 89 against a hard bogey of 32. He had a long gain, but could not control it, as is shown by one instance when his ball went into the river on his second hole. His iron work is said to have been bulky and his approaching dole to the hole. Mr. Boyer was not very much impressed with the Glenview course, declaring that it is inferior to that of the Field club. "There are not a great many who realize what a truly good course we have here," he said. "All we need are a few more bunkers to have one of the finest courses in the country. Eight or nine bunkers would do it and we may have them next year. The turf through our fair green is far ahead of that of the Glenview course and our putting greens as good as any in Chicago."

Though the rains have played pop with the tennis courts at the Field club, it was just what the golf links required, and as the average golfer does not care a particular hang whether it's pouring or not, it did not interfere with the practice work last week. One or two broke all rules of link conventionality and took umbrellas, but these were discarded at about the second hole and the owners forgot health, happiness and apparel at the delightful excitement of approaching and putting.

And now comes a golfer with another remarkable score at the Field club in the person of Dr. Sumner, who though he played nine times at two holes, managed to finish the course two below bogey. His driving and brassie strokes were such that all who witnessed bowed down and hailed him as it.

What is a hazard? This is a question which bothers the uninitiated and the old hands. The question was asked by an amateur who was being shown around the links by a player. "A hazard," he said, "is the other, picking out his mid-rim preparatory to a stroke. The hazard is—is a—a—" He struck the ball as he was speaking, sending it swift and straight and about two feet above the ground. It hit the bank near the railroad tracks and came rolling down to the bottom. "A hazard," continued he, "is a—a—" "Well, never mind what he said; it is the opinion of the average golfer and not worth repeating. Christie, who is a Scotchman with a due regard for the Sabbath, himself says a hazard is "that which causes profanity."

The Transmississippi Golf association will hold its fourth annual championship tournament from August 3 to 6, inclusive, on the Minikahada course at Minneapolis. The association now has twenty-eight clubs on its membership list, the three latest being the Salt Lake Country club, the Rock Island club and the Clinton Golf and Country club of Clinton, Ia. The following are expected to go as a team from the Omaha Field club: Dr. Sumner, Edward Boyer, J. E. Buckingham, E. S. Kemper, E. A. Cope and A. B. Pratt.

The "ladies and gentlemen" bowling tournament held last Thursday at the Field club was an unqualified success from start to finish, and was witnessed by a number of spectators. The following were the scores: Miss G. W. Manchester, 150 85 138. Mr. Pratt, 154 117 175-866. O. G. Bush, 157 135-866. Miss Grace Conant, 115 81 128-866. J. Murphy, 152 158 150. Miss G. W. Manchester, 150 85 138. Mr. Hughes, 152 159 175. Miss Merrill, 88 93 79-779. The prizes were, for the men, a pair of link cuff buttons and a gold scarfpin, both with the monogram of the Field club, and for the women an oxidized shirtwaist set and an oxidized silver hatpin. The highest individual score was made by Miss Ethel Robertson, who did 311 out of a possible 324. This is the highest score made by any lady in a tournament. The affair was under the management of Charles Nelson. Next Monday afternoon there will be another ladies' tournament and on Thursday

opening the men will compete in a seven-up match. The Manawa gets a try at the races of the Inland Lake Yachting association to be held at Oshkosh, on Lake Winnebago. The regatta committee decided this last Saturday. The boat will be sent up there about August 15, in time for the special race on Saturday, August 20, for which there is a separate cup offered. On the following Monday the regular races commence. Between forty and fifty boats are entered for these races, and they hail from all the northern lakes. They are divided into two classes, class A boats being thirty-two feet long and carrying 50 square feet of canvas and class B boats being thirty-two feet long and 50 feet of canvas. The Manawa will sail in class B. Each boat is accredited with so many points, according to place, in each race that it finishes, the second boat receiving almost as many points as the winner. It thus behooves a boat to keep well in the van in all of the five races, for should it go lame in one and not finish, it would give it some of a handicap to overcome. Clarke is skipper of the Manawa, and Cooley, Brinker and Tukey the balance of the crew. The crew cannot weigh over 25 pounds, and of four is doing a fine line of work to reduce the combined weight thirty-five pounds. Clarke, being the most prominent, has been picked as the man who shall lose twenty pounds and the others will content themselves with a loss of five each. Many of these of the sailor men are going to be built after. There is no question about which is the best boat on the home lake, as the Argo has proven that this year, but up north the lake is thirty-two by twelve miles and it takes but little wind to stir up quite a sea. The Manawa was built for those water and has sharper lines than the Argo. In fact, as both boats cannot go to once it is more or less a race this year for the Manawa to get a better place than third, which was the Argo's place last year.

The matinee at the Omaha Driving club tracks are becoming more and more popular as time progresses and the regulars are shortening their time by bringing forward new features that will be of interest to lovers of horsemanship. This was evidenced at the last meeting of the club last Saturday, when a committee was appointed to invent novelties in the way of races. Among some of the new attractions expected to be racing with light road wagons. The club is also endeavoring to get either Dan Patch or Prince Alert for exhibition purposes some time during the fall. Regina, a newcomer on the Omaha track, from the Glasgow stables, is the property of Tom Dennison and is a fine gray mare with a record of 2:05. Judging by the showing she made last week on the track, she is going to come to the top in great style and will give Annawill and Mr. Dunn's Kid plenty of running before she is beaten. It is expected that these three will try against each other at the next meeting. The race was booked for the last meeting, had to be postponed at the last moment on account of Chief of Detectives Dunn being called upon to hunt down the murderer Zeller. Practicing on the course has been going on steadily all the week and an encouraging feature is the marked improvement of nearly every animal. Before the Omaha track from the Glasgow stables, in Class B will be promoted to Class A. Among some of the animals that are showing good form are Mr. Nash's chestnut mare Sadie Ann and Mr. Burn's black gelding Myrtle Boy, but there is hardly an owner that does not declare that his animal is in as good shape as ever it was and that he future races are going to be things to be handed down in trotting history. Mr. Thompson's Black Hawk is at present being quartered at the track under the care of Fred Poffenberger, pending the completion of a barn the owner is having built.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY. The severe weather of last winter had a serious effect on the receipts of the surface railways of New York city. Ten years ago the desert of Reckna Doab, in India, had not a single inhabitant, but today there are 60,000 living in comfort on it. Irrigation is responsible. At a sale of the household goods of Ann Pugh, at Norristown, Pa., who died a few weeks ago, over \$500 in gold was found in the house. The gold was in the form of floor. Since the death of Miss Pugh large sums of money have been found all over the house. She also had money deposited in every bank in town. In Minnesota there are 10,000 pounds of wild rice, but the work of prehistoric tribes, but Warren Upham, of the state historical society, who has given the matter some attention, says they have

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