

SPORTING GOSSIP OF THE WEEK

Doing right well.

For the last three or four weeks the Omaha team has been having up and down with the half-way mark, and it begins to look as if a permanent location on the top side had at last been made. The work of the team everywhere but on bases has been of the most commendable sort. Batting is steady and fielding is brilliant, but the little points in base running that used to be such a feature of the Omaha team's work seem to be overlooked. Yet the team is really doing good work, for it has won fourteen out of its last twenty-two games, and that is surely championship form in these days. Only Muggsy McGraw's Giants are beating .500 in the field, and the Omaha team keeps up the fight it has now struck it will not be any further away from the top at the end of the season than it is now, and the chances are that it will be nearer.

While in Des Moines the other day Mr. Thomas Burns, late of the firm of M. & Vanhook, now managing the affairs of the Western league, all by his lonesome, confided to a reporter that next year the "diamond" Milwaukee franchise would be planted at Pueblo, and the new "Active" St. Joseph franchise would be put into service at Cripple Creek. About the same time Brother George Tebeau, who carries a license from Burns, enticed him to speak once a month, took occasion to endorse the Burns plan, and say that Pueblo and Cripple Creek are the best towns in the world unrepresented in a league. If what we heard from Cripple Creek during the last few months is accurate, its reputation as a ball town is well founded, but it isn't base ball. It's high ball or rifle ball, and it's not at all attractive to one of a peaceful habit. Mr. Burns said that one time he took his team up there and 1,700 people turned out to see the game. That crowd looks mighty good to a man from Colorado Springs, but it will hardly do. The Denver Times jumps onto this proposition with the suggestion that the managers might as well go ahead and plant the other franchises in Colorado and be done with it, for Omaha and Des Moines will not stand for any more of this. And for once in his long and eventful career as a base ball editor Ship was right. Omaha is willing to go down the line with Denver any time; we know that there's a good ball town, and for many years we have enjoyed the scrappiest sort of relations with her, but we are tired of the Colorado water tanks as fillers for a class A league. Here's Colorado Springs with a winning team, turning over the guarantee game after game to the visiting team. What would the Sprinners do if the team had landed where El Paso City did? Never. It's not back to the woods for the Willies, but simply stay there.

Just think of 150 people out to see a 1 to 0 game, won by the home team. That's what St. Joe did last Monday, and it's to the woods for the Missourians, sure. That good old town has been in moribund condition for, lo, these last three seasons, and all it needs now is a few solemn words and a cloud or two of earth dropped slowly and the sextons can go to work, while the procession rides back to town. St. Joe's a dead one so far as Western league base ball is concerned.

Speaking about sextons, our own Michael J. got busy over at Des Moines also, during the week, and proceeded to divide the base ball universe. He didn't waste any more time than did the pope when he settled the dispute between Spain and Portugal. On that occasion his holiness drew a line around the world as near the middle as he could locate it. All on one side he gave to Spain and all on the other he handed over to Portugal, and if anything else was located these two great kingdoms had the privilege of scrapping for it. Sexton has divided the base ball map into zones, and has banished Denver to the limits of a league, with Cheyenne and Salt Lake City for the outlying fowls. He landed Omaha in the west end of a new American circuit, and generally fixed things up. As Michael J.'s plan was merely an elaboration of what Thee printed last fall after the St. Louis meeting had adjourned, he will be given full credit for it. It is a new idea, though, and with a little modification might well be worked out by the magnates. The old Western league circuit, with Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Des Moines, Omaha, Kansas City and Denver, with

either St. Joseph or Sioux City for the eighth town, was a winner. St. Joseph and Sioux City have always been weak spots in a strong circuit. Sioux City is one of the best base ball towns of its size in the country, but it is too small to support a team in really fast company. St. Joseph has always proved indifferent. If the first seven cities could be put into a league with Indianapolis for the eighth it would be a circuit worth talking about, a rational arrangement so far as traveling and other features of the game are concerned, and one that would prove a money maker. There isn't a jump in it that would necessitate the loss of a day in playing time on a properly arranged schedule, and all the towns are evenly enough matched to be splendid rivals, just as they were in the good old days when the local fans used to throw money to the players.

It's just a little early yet to say what the magnates will do, but one thing is sure: The base ball map is going to be changed in the west.

Talking about good things, one of the best that we ever noted came off in the first game of the Denver series just closed. Freese laid a sickly little grounder towards right. It didn't roll quite to the second base line. Pop Elyer was after it, but Billy Hallman shouted "I've got it" and the ball and with the same motion threw to Braun. Braun clasped his big glove over his bare hand and everybody thought Freese was out, all but Caruthers, who motioned "safe," and then the crowd looked for the play had appeared. Freese beat the throw, for the ball hadn't been touched, and what should have been an easy out was scored as a hit for Freese, just where it had stopped rolling. Hallman had missed it entirely in his frantic dash, and while he and Braun had gone through the motions perfectly, it was but a shadow play, for the ball hadn't been touched, and what should have been an easy out was scored as a hit for Freese, the only one he got in the game. Even Hallman laughed at the outcome, and Comedian Kenna joshed him all the rest of the game.

Omaha has been treated to some hard luck games during the last week, two 1 to 0 contests going against us. Each was a hard one to lose, but the little hit that was needed didn't come at the time. We were allowed to see some very pretty work by the pitchers in the field as well as in the box. Brown, who officiated in the place of Thiel, made two really remarkable catches in Thursday's game, and Roy Miller, who is a pitcher by trade, saved the game for Denver by catching an apparently safe drive to right after a hard run. But it was Hostetter who really touched off the fireworks. He was in at short for Denver in the game on Wednesday, and Herman Long in his best day couldn't have beaten the game the younger put up at the position. His stops were all good, his throwing was perfect, and he made one of the swiftest running catches ever seen in Omaha. It was off the bat of Schipke, a low fly close to the foul line. Both Hartzel and McHale were after it, and neither could get to it. Hostetter flashed in between them at top speed, and with outstretched arms managed to get his paws on the ball and hold it. And then, to show that he meant it, he whirled and threw it to Braun at first base as a die. It was a really beautiful bit of work, and brought Hostetter a tremendous round of applause.

It would be unfair and unjust if this paper went to press without making some mention of the revision of the playing rules adopted by Ump. John Kelley and put into force at St. Joseph during the recent visit of the Omaha team to that charming home of the rest cure. Mr. Kelley hopes to have his rules set in book form soon, but in order that the other umpires of the league may have advantage of the researches of the estimable gentleman, the most important of his changes will be here noted. First, Mr. Kelley holds that when a manager is put off the grounds he is off until the umpire wants him to come back. That is, if he is put out during the first game of a double-header, he cannot come back during the second. Again, a pitcher is not allowed to make a quick return of the ball. He must wait until both umpire and batter are ready before delivering the ball. Again, if a

ball should be thrown into the bleacher seats by a member of the home team, the members of the visiting team cannot run bases while the ball is out of play, and if they undertake to do so they are out. The application of this rule cost Omaha a game at St. Joseph. In enforcing his rules Mr. Kelley met with some opposition from the members of both teams, who are accustomed to playing the rules as they are adopted by the National association, and are not onto the curves of the Kelley brand. The result was that an average of three to the game were chucked out. On one occasion Mr. Kelley benched Manager Webster of the Saints in the ninth inning, after two were out and two strikes had been called on the batter, with no one on bases. Only one more ball was to be pitched, but "You're out of the game" roared Honest John in response to Webster's suggestion that the pitcher get 'em up.

Omaha took part in eight games during the week ending Friday night, and four of the eight were of the fierce pitchers' battle sort. Two of these were lost by the score of 1 to 0, one was won by a score of 2 to 0 and one was won by a score of 3 to 2. In these games the Rourke family faced the prettiest pitching the best twirlers in the league outside of the local staff can show. Hodson, Chinn, Elyer and Hostetter, and when this fact is given due consideration and the fact that five of the eight games were played under Kelley's new rules, it will appear quite satisfactory that Omaha won five and lost three. And at that the batting average of the team fell off but three points. The change in position was helped by Bobby Carter greatly, and that man did some good work in the neighborhood of the 300 mark before long. Welch fell just one hit shy of getting into the list. Freese kept himself there, but Dolan, Thomas and Howard all went off a little in their showing. The batting was of the best, and every man on the team improved his standing. Bobby Carter hasn't made an error since the 4th of June, and he has taken all sorts of covers. He is in every game and covers a world of ground. If he isn't entitled to his support as the best of the Omaha twirlers, he is at least one of the best. Joseph getting in two assists in one game, jumping his total for the season to six. The statistics afford quite a bit of food for thought and some consolation this week. Here they are:

BATTING AVERAGES.					
	AB.	R.	H.	Ave.	Last.
Freese	116	13	35	.302	.293
Welch	105	10	29	.276	.267
Dolan	105	8	24	.228	.228
Howard	104	29	194	.278	.255
Thomas	104	10	24	.228	.228
Carter	100	10	24	.240	.227
Gonding	98	10	24	.244	.227
Schipke	98	10	24	.244	.227
Thiel	98	10	24	.244	.227
Brown	98	10	24	.244	.227
Quick	98	10	24	.244	.227
Compagnie	98	10	24	.244	.227
Sanders	98	10	24	.244	.227
Totals	1,796	264	638	.353	.255

FIELDING AVERAGES.									
	O.	A.	E.	T.C.	Ave.	Wk.		O.	A.
Quick	24	1	0	25	.917	.900	Thiel	24	1
Thiel	24	1	0	25	.917	.900	Sanders	24	1
Sanders	24	1	0	25	.917	.900	Gonding	24	1
Gonding	24	1	0	25	.917	.900	Flaister	24	1
Flaister	24	1	0	25	.917	.900	Thomas	24	1
Thomas	24	1	0	25	.917	.900	Chinn	24	1
Chinn	24	1	0	25	.917	.900	Compagnie	24	1
Compagnie	24	1	0	25	.917	.900	Howard	24	1
Howard	24	1	0	25	.917	.900	Welch	24	1
Welch	24	1	0	25	.917	.900	Schipke	24	1
Schipke	24	1	0	25	.917	.900	Dolan	24	1
Dolan	24	1	0	25	.917	.900			
Totals	1,028	201	552	.943	.940				

Wait till some of those outsiders visit Omaha for the middle west tennis championship, especially those who are inclined to have a poor opinion of the racket wielders of this city. Won't they have some eye openers? This last tourney of the city championship has shown that there has been a very decided improvement among all the players, and the outside bunch who will be coming soon with the expectation of being served to a series of dinky little jobs will get the surprise of their lives. Of course, they may have proved correspondingly. If they have the better will be the sport, but they will require all the cunning of which their right hands are capable to down the local boys. Another encouraging point is the fact of the number of players of more than ordinary skill. In former middle west championships games Omaha looked to one or two special men to make a good showing for the city, but now there are at least half a dozen top toppers.

There are Chase, Young, Kohn, Scribner, Pollard, Caldwell, Schneider, all rattling good players and from whom much is expected. Con Young does not see his way open to play this year, but even with this loss Omaha ought to do well. Chase, for instance, after his short rest, is back again at the net, and in his practice matches during the last few days is better than ever before. On account of his losing in the tourneys during the season there seems to be an opinion that he gets rattled in a match. This is far from being so. Take the opening tourney, when he played in the finals with Con Young. Did he show any signs of nervousness? Not a bit. His chief fault seemed to be over-confidence, and though he lost he gave Con a run for those military hair brushes. In his other matches he was better by a long way, and he ought to have been resting. Since his first match with Young there has been a steady improvement in his play. His placing, which won him many a game at the outset of the season, is far better than it ever was, and unless he breaks down altogether this part of his play will tell considerably in the middle west championship. Scribner is another dangerous man, and although he got licked in the preliminaries in the city championship, it is no reason to think of him as a has-been. But a week before his defeat he won a tourney and won hands down. Art is an erratic player, but in his best form he is a player that takes a mighty lot of work to beat.

Herbert Kohn is a player that can be depended on and he has shown up well in every match, and though he has not won any of the tourneys this season he has nevertheless, shown up near the finals in every one. As for Caldwell, there is a bit of doubt about the showing he will make, as he has had but little practice this season. But lately he has been making up for this loss of time by hard work at the net, and at the rate he has been improving he will certainly do well.

The Bedford Athletic association of Bedford, Ia., will hold its second annual tennis tournament on the club's dirt courts at Bedford on Wednesday and Thursday, August 10 and 11. Prizes consisting of a pair of loving cups valued at \$15 for the winning pair in doubles and a racket and balls valued at \$10 for the winner in singles will be awarded. There will be no entrance fee charged. All entries should be sent to Ross B. Haddock, Bedford, Ia., as soon as possible and not later than August 14.

The Omaha Driving club is booming things in its own department these days. Week before last an auto race was the feature of the afternoon and last Saturday a running race between two first-class horses. On Wednesday a meeting of the members of the club will take place in Mr. Nash's office and the plan of getting Jim Perry, a Denver horse, for exhibition here will be discussed. J. A. Burnett, the owner of the animal and president of the Gentlemen's Driving and Riding club of Denver, writes that Jim Perry can do a



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half-mile with a four-wheeled vehicle or road wagon in 1:20, which is the world's record. The horse is booked for the 2:10 trotting at Memphis and Lexington and also for the cup races at Memphis. If arrangements can be made the animal will stop off at Omaha on its way to Lexington. Mr. Burnett also writes of the success of the sport in Denver, saying that the crowds average from 6,000 to 10,000 people every Saturday and that about sixty horses start. Last Saturday 5,000 people attended the matinee.

Advices from the Ottumwa handicap show that the green pace stakes were carried off by the Kid who formerly belonged to Captain Dunn of Omaha and up to a few days ago was racing at the Driving club's race track. The animal was bought by Al Pepper, who, in writing of the race, says the Kid won the three heats in 2:24, 2:15, and 2:04, and was on the bit all the way. Mr. Pepper thinks there is a great future for the Kid and believes that he will be able to beat his own record to smithereens in a year or so.

It has been a quiet week for golfers in Omaha, as most of the leading lights of the links at Minneapolis links contesting for the transmississippi golf tournament. Play there commenced on Wednesday, but no Omaha men figured in the games till Thursday. Among those that played were: H. C. Conway of Omaha against J. W. Seay of Minneapolis, 189-191. A. C. Jones of Omaha against T. C. Hale of Minneapolis, 189-191. F. T. Lemist of Omaha against F. R. Woodruff of Minneapolis, 190-188. C. T. Jeffrey of Minneapolis against J. T. Stewart of Omaha, 190-187. H. T. Lemist of Omaha against Horace Lewis of Minneapolis, 190-188. F. H. Sprague of Omaha against A. Alger of Minneapolis, 190-188. H. Bend of St. Paul against H. G. Leavitt of Omaha, 189-190. H. C. Conway of Omaha against J. P. Magee of Omaha, 189-190.

Practice matches are going on at the Field club links and an encouraging point in the matter is that the women are taking hold of the game. Miss Howland, a newcomer on the links, succeeded in carrying off the monthly contest for the women's cup this month, and it looks as if she is going to be a factor in the coming season. The following were the scores in the match: Miss Howland, 60; Mrs. Dunn, 61; Mrs. Mills, 61; Miss Frederick, 71, and Mrs. Shields, 73. It is hard to understand the reason of the falling off in Miss Frederick's play. Her usual score round the nine holes is around 60, but of late she has been going eight and ten strokes above that figure.

Charley Thorpe has invited a number of shooters to visit his place at Geneva, Neb., on August 18 and take part in a target shoot he is giving. Quite a number are expected to attend the affair.

If you care to listen to a night you are almost certain to hear a faint "tee-wit, tee-wit" way up in the sky. That is the sound of your hunting dogs, for plover are abroad.

Much and plenty doing at Manawa these days. The crews are practicing all kinds of stunts on the boats and in the meantime trying to get their weight down to the weight limit under which they must sail at Oshkosh this month. In all probability there will be two boats sent from Manawa to the northern lake for the Finland Lake regatta, application having been made by the Manawa Yacht club for membership. If this application is accepted the Argo will be sent as well as the Manawa, which is to sail under the colors of the Council Bluffs Rowing association. Then the cranks can determine to a queen's taste as to which of these two boats is the better on heavy water. The Manawa will be sent pretty early so that its builders, Jones & LaBorde of Oshkosh, may have a chance to overhaul it and to try out the double rudders with which it was fitted early in the season, but which have since been cast in the scrap pile. What is more, and what will certainly cause some strenuous racing, is the fact that there comes a report from the Lotus Yacht club of St. Joseph that they may have to buck up against the Lotus again, as they are trying to arrange to send it to Oshkosh also. With the Argo, Manawa and Lotus, as these old rivals, on neutral waters, there most certainly will be fun and much of it.

The men who will go to Oshkosh to man the boats are: On the Manawa, Clarke, Shipper, Cooley, Brinker and Tucker. Dixon, the owner, will not be able to get there. On the Argo, if it goes, McAllister, skipper and partner; Cooley, Weston and Shiverick. Lake Winnebago is quite a lake, being twelve by thirty-two miles, and the local boys will have to prepare for some seas. The cockpits have to be covered

over to keep the water from coming aboard and swamping the boats, which means that sailing will be almost like to old log-rolling contests, as the boats' crews will have nothing to hang onto except a smooth deck from stem to stern.

The inland lake races are the largest meet in the country, there being about fifty boat clubs entered. They are the event of the year at Oshkosh and great plans are made for them each year. There is a special race on Saturday, August 20, and the regular races commence Monday the 22d, and continue until five races have been sailed, each boat receiving so many points for place.

The Oshkosh Yacht club is now trying to debut into the local circles and planning to take a fall out of the sailors here. They have asked for a race, to be sailed on Oshkosh about August 13, but as the boats are to be shipped to Oshkosh on the 13th nothing could be arranged for this year. They have been formally notified of the fine large cup that is at the boat club here, almost, but not quite, nailed there to stay, and they are planning to challenge for it next summer. Some one will get that cup some of these fine days and take these local cranks off of their perch.

Long Branch society loved and admired the nobis horns for a week, but the good people of the north jersey coast have about dismissed Dobbin from their minds, and are now talking about the liberator of the horse, the automobile. Long Branch is much excited over automobile week, which is to be an annual fixture with them. They propose to make the week of August 15 to 20 a thorough success, and to that end the merchants and the city government are doing all in their power to further the automobile promotion week engineered by the man who has made the Ormond-Daytona beach races and the climb to the clouds up Mount Washington successful. The women of Long Branch, Ellerslie, Altonhurst, Seabright and Monmouth are much interested in the floral parade, which will be given Saturday afternoon, August 20, for which handsome prizes will be presented to the best floral exhibits in an automobile way. That is, the automobiles decorated with flowers will come in for the attention of the women. Prizes will also be awarded for the most unique design in the parade, Japanese designs, etc. The program for the week has just been issued by the secretary, W. J. Morgan, 1 Maiden Lane, New York, who also has official headquarters at the West End hotel, Long Branch. The week commences August 15 with the opening of an automobile show in the West End Casino, where the manufacturers of noted automobiles will display their wares and tickets of invitation will be scattered broadcast, as there will be no admission charged to the exhibit. The mayor and town council of Long Branch have granted the use of the famous Ocean drive for some short races of one-quarter and one-half-mile heats on Monday afternoon, August 15, and as there are no records for these distances Long Branch is plugging itself on the fact that the famous Jersey resort will hold records after the tournament is over. Skipping one day to Wednesday and then will come the ten races on Wednesday and Thursday on the Elmwood park mile trotting track, which will be thoroughly scraped and rolled in order to give the fast drivers an opportunity of establishing world's records for a mile track from fifty to 100 miles. The 100-mile race will start at 12:30 and the rest of the program will be commenced on its conclusion. Entry blanks for the races and floral parade and all other particulars will be furnished by the secretary on application.

Automobile Notes.
The Powell Automobile company received Mr. H. H. Loomis' Locomobile runabout last Wednesday.

C. G. Crittenden and family of Lincoln made a trip to Omaha and return in their Pope-Toledo Wednesday.

Hugo Brandels took a long country ride in the White Steamer last Sunday. Mr. Deane, the White expert from the factory was the chauffeur.

Emil Brandels left for New York last night. He had the Powell Automobile company arranged for the use of a White Steamer by him while east.

M. Keston, representing the Pope-Toledo, was in Omaha last week with the Powell Automobile company. He reported the success of the season for the Pope-Toledo.

Chauffeurs should avoid driving close to the curb so that the tire runs into the gutter and the tire will rot through moisture getting into the fabric. It looks well to drive up close, but it is expensive.

William Dunn of Weeping Water, Neb., was in the city this week looking into the automobile proposition. He left his order with H. E. Frederick, one of the Winton touring cars. Mr. Dunn rode home in his new machine.

At the auto show the machine was much impressed by the magnitude of the plant and its system and up-to-date efforts in the commercial vehicle line and seem to be capturing the bulk of this business.

Clark Powell of the Powell Automobile company returned during the past week from a three weeks' trip to the east. He visited the Knox factory in Springfield and was much impressed by the magnitude of the plant and its system and up-to-date efforts in the commercial vehicle line and seem to be capturing the bulk of this business.

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place. Things look favorable for having this much needed improvement made by early fall.

Automobiles for use in the army in the field are to be given an experimental trial at San Francisco in the near future. It is believed there this month. The Winton factory is building two machines of special construction. The first will be a light car, the second a heavy one.

H. Osterberg of Mead, Neb., drove into Omaha Thursday in his White Steamer. There were several other automobiles with him. Mr. Osterberg states the trip was made in fast time and without the slightest trouble.

Mrs. Potter Palmer of Chicago, who spends her summers abroad, is now touring France in an automobile. Mr. Palmer is one of America's greatest social leaders and her lasting toward motoring will doubtless help to infuse society followers with the fever.

An automobile party from the Powell Automobile company returned during the past week from a three weeks' trip to the east. He visited the Knox factory in Springfield and was much impressed by the magnitude of the plant and its system and up-to-date efforts in the commercial vehicle line and seem to be capturing the bulk of this business.

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