

SPORTING GOSSIP OF WEEK

Western League Circuit Matter is Still Up in the Air.

SHIVELEY LEAGUE CONTROLS TOPEKA CASE

Unless Western Association Consents No Way is Known to Get Kansas Capital Into Higher Grade of Base Ball.

Up in the air. It now appears that the Western league may not get Topeka after all. This has no reference to the desirability of the deal, nor has it any regard for the merits of the case. It is simply that the magnates of class C, to which the Western association belongs, have control over the class A magnates, and have determined that Topeka may not advance. The Shiveley league has voted to refuse to allow the sale of Topeka; Dr. Shiveley says he did not disapprove the vote, which was 7 to 1, and disclaims any responsibility for the refusal. He says Topeka will be in the Western association or nowhere during the coming season, and that appears to end it. This is one of the knicks of base ball law that appears a little strange to the lay mind, but it is there, and all the Western league magnates can do is to abide by it. Here is the situation in a nutshell: Topeka wants to get out of the smaller circuit into a bigger one; the place in the bigger circuit is open; the men who run the little circuit have it in their power to say no to Topeka, and they have said it. Under the law their say is final, and no way is known to compel them to give up the territory. All requirements of right and justice are in favor of Topeka's being allowed to advance. The top-notch manager policy of the Western association makes it sure to prove ruinous in the end. It is not at all likely that the people of Topeka will patronize the class C ball when they have been denied class A ball that was open to them. This will make Topeka a "dead one" for the summer, and will probably end the life of the Western association, which has depended on Topeka as its main support. Next year, then, Topeka will be available to the Western league without the aid or consent of the Western association, for there will be no such league.

Western League's Position. Some of the writers who have discussed this question have said the Western league is in the attitude of a big boy trying to do something away from a smaller. This is not correct. But if the smaller has something that is of no use to him, and the bigger offers him value in full for it, the transaction would seem to be fair and the smaller boy wrong if he did not sell. Here is what the Western league did. It went to the Western association and offered to purchase Topeka. The Western association refused to sell. Dick Cooley, who owns the Topeka franchise, tried to buy his release, and was turned down. The case was taken to the meeting of the National Association of Minor Leagues, and there the league below class A voted to keep Topeka from advancing. Then appeal was taken to the National commission, and it was sent back to the National board, as being a matter that concerned the minor league alone, but with a recommendation that the minor league change the rule as to drafting so that Topeka could be drawn by the Western league. The minor board met with Shiveley, who is a member, present, and after a conference at which Shiveley put his own price on Topeka, recommended that the Western association sell Topeka to the Western league. The money was sent by O'Neill to Shiveley, but the little fellow refused to sell. In all this controversy the Western league has acted fairly and in the best interests of organized ball, and the Western association has acted against not only its own interests, but the interests of all other clubs. Refusal to sell a town to a higher class is just the same as refusal to sell a player. A team owner who would prevent a player from advancing would be considered small, and a law exists whereby he can be compelled to part with the services of a town, but the principle is the same. The Western league has acted fairly and the Western association unfairly throughout the entire controversy.

Six-Club Circuit Again. The Western league has prepared for two seasons with a six-club circuit, and can stand it for another. The towns now in the league are all live ones, and certain of support for their teams. Each has a strong band of players to put into the field at the opening of play, and while Topeka and St. Joseph will be missed, the assurance of good ball for the patrons of the Western league is made certain by experience. It is not impossible that Shiveley and his followers will yet permit Topeka to be taken over, but if they don't the Western league will join along with its six-club circuit for another season, and will deal out

THE HIGHEST GRADE OF CLASS A BALL TO ITS PATRONS.

Rourke's High School. Many interesting letters come to Manager Rourke from players in smaller towns in Nebraska and Iowa who want to get on the Omaha team. Pa's reputation as the developer of ball players has done so far and wide that many seem to think that all Pa has to do is to take a man in hand and make a ball player out of him. One youth, of whom neither Pa nor Grotte had heard of before, wrote that he would like to know what his chances of being put on the Omaha team were. He said he had a good offer to go to South Dakota to play, but preferred to come to Omaha. Pa told Brother Dave to write the youth he had better go to South Dakota while that chance was open.

Field Club Base-Ball. Another top-notch base ball team is assured for the Omaha Field club for the coming summer, as the directors have appropriated sufficient funds to carry out a good schedule and to pay all expenses. Base ball is conducted at the Field club on a strictly amateur basis, as the players receive no salary, nor is any admission charged to any of the games, which are purely for the sport of the players and the members of the Field club. The Field club boasts all branches of sport and is not going to neglect base ball this summer. While a manager has not been chosen for this season, it is thought Paul Hoagland will act in that capacity, as he is well known in the city, and is a member of the formation of the club and is an A-1 player. He is one of the best amateur players in Omaha and his long connection with amateur sport, especially base ball, qualifies him for the position of manager of the team. Creighton, Karr, Abbott, Omaha, Malone, Chambers, Crawford and other stars of the team will be back in the game this summer. Murphy is missing and says he will not have time to play ball this summer, as he is buying boys for a Denver house, which takes all his time. Manager Hoagland would like to hear from teams which would like to play at the Field club grounds any Saturday afternoon, as a start is being made on the schedule.

Open Time for Fish. Tomorrow is the date for the opening of the fishing season and the anglers of Omaha have prepared to get busy. Cut-Off lake will see more fishermen this year than any previous year because there are more fish to be caught. Omaha fishermen are beginning to realize the excellent work Fish Commissioner O'Brien has been doing at Cut-Off lake during the last few years with the numerous plants of game fish he has made in those waters so near and accessible to Omaha. Few may know it, but there are thousands of pike at Cut-Off, which weigh over two and one-half pounds and which will make a nice mess when caught this summer. They have been planted off and on and are now of a good size for table use. The black bass are also well grown and many more of these will be caught. Crappies are the same and many good strings will be taken this summer of good sized crappie instead of the little fellows which were caught last year.

At the Field Club Links. Golf Instructor Watson of the Omaha Field club has been at the club since March 1 supervising the spring repairs on the links. Chairman Sholes of the golf greens committee says he will have the links in splendid condition by the time the spring rains quit the country and the course will be in better shape this year than ever before. Heretofore numerous changes have been necessary all summer, but the change made last fall probably will be the last for some time. The course was laid out with considerable care and the directors say they hope it will not have to be changed for some time to come. The new links of the course are in the north side of the road have some of the prettiest holes of any course in the country. There are plenty of hazards, with heavy timber on all sides, compelling a player to keep to the course. James Allen is chairman of the greens committee and is arranging some interesting events for the summer.

Country Club Golf. Robert Simpson, the new golf instructor of the Omaha Country club, arrived in Omaha Wednesday and at once set to work taking up his duties for the summer. Simpson is a player of recognized ability and has played in the greatest tournaments in the country and has always given a good account of himself at the finish. His skill as a clubman is also recognized and his sticks are in demand in all sections of the country. Some of the leading players in the Omaha section of the country are members of the Country club and are congratulating the directors on securing the services of

BEE DIRECTORY TO OMAHA'S BEST AMATEUR BALL TEAMS

Table with columns: TEAM, MANAGER, PHONE, CLASS, PLAYS. Lists various amateur ball teams and their managers, including teams from Omaha, Lincoln, and other nearby cities.

This directory has been arranged by the sporting editor of The Bee and is based on last year's records, subject to change in classes, addresses, etc., as the season gets under way. The new teams are: St. Joseph, Omaha Gas Co., Hartmann, W. G. Clark, Townsend and others, have been classed only from a personal observation.

Storrs Athletic Club Park. With the completion of the Storrs Athletic club park Omaha will have another grand stand built as the new Storrs park. Little change was needed at the Field club diamond, but Manager Malone is getting his men out each evening in anticipation of a good season's sport.

Middle West Tennis Tourney. The week of tennis is the time allotted by the National Lawn Tennis association for the holding of the middle west tennis tournament this year at the Field club. This event is an annual affair and recognized as one of the main events of the year, being considered as one of national importance.

Base Ball at Creighton. John O'Malley, the progressive young philosopher, who is managing base ball affairs at Creighton university this year, is gracefully bearing the laurels of success in his new department. He has deviated from the course of the former manager, and instead of playing the smaller colleges, which his team has been accustomed to meet, he has secured the most excellent schedule that the institution has ever prepared. The schedule is not yet complete, but will be published in a few days.

Nebraska Schedule. Two open dates remain to be filled with games with Colorado or other teams in the Missouri valley, which have been seeking games with the Cornhuskers for some time. The Nebraska management says that should Minnesota and Iowa be possible, these rules the game is also liable to be cancelled. The schedule as it now stands is: October 5—South Dakota university, in Lincoln. October 12—Grinnell college, in Lincoln. October 19—Minnesota university, in Minneapolis. October 26—Open. November 2—Ames Agricultural college, in Ames. November 9—University of Kansas, in Lawrence. November 16—Open. Perhaps University of Colorado or Denver university, in Lincoln. November 23—Doane college, in Lincoln. November 30—St. Louis university in St. Louis.

Small Diamond Dust. The Victorians open the season at Fort Crook, April 7. It is expected that it has a faster bunch of players this year than ever. Leo Soukup, manager of the Invincibles, has received twelve pretty catches for his team. Joe Scully has gone into business at Twohens in Omaha. Sam Letherby was been taking a fifty-round lumber ball home Thursday night. Sam said: "I'll be ready when the ball flies."

McKittick, manager of the Omaha Real Estate team, says his lineup is much stronger than last year and would like all managers. Any good ball player who wants to join a first-class amateur team should write the sporting editor of The Bee. Applications will not be considered without reference. Frank Garvey of the Victorians writes that he has a fine bunch of players. The Victorians, says Frank promises to play the cars off bag number three this season. If any one thinks ball players won't work, he is wrong, for there were four of the best players in Omaha yesterday on the grounds at Storrs park yesterday all day.

Frank McNeal, who will play third base for the Storrs team this year, returned from Oakland, Cal. He says that "Buck" Washer of Buchtel college will be a crack catcher for the team. Barto S. S., for the Townsend Gun company, says he has one of the greatest dogs in Omaha. He is a regular base ball dog. He wears a muzzle, snaps at fleas, chases fowls and when he sees the dog catchers coming he runs for some time. Big Bill Kocher, the south paw, who will pitch for Storrs this season, says he is feeling better than ever. He says he is feeling better than ever. He says he is feeling better than ever.

Mullen, the crack center fielder for the Walter G. Clark, was practicing base ball for a car and at last grabbed the hind end of the car. He was carried over the rough ground for a block, being that he was not strong enough to throw the car from the track. He finally let go and said about fifty feet. Mullen says if he could slide that far in a ball game it would be a "padding" stunt. What was once known as the Greens is now Storrs park and a more modern amateur park would be hard to find. The two teams will be out for the first time

today and loosen up a little and from now on there will be something doing at the park every evening and Sunday afternoon. Preparations are being made for the grand opening, which will be soon. The management is now taking dates and would like to hear from all managers.

Boots of the Hook Horn. F. M. Castetter of Blair visited the local garage Tuesday afternoon. He had a large touring car which he had bought. Daniel Bush purchased a large touring car recently, which he expects to enjoy life during the coming summer months.

Arrangements are being made in England for a national road racing contest. It is expected that all the different pieces of apparatus designed for the purpose of applying oil to highways, with the idea of securing, which is the most effective for spreading tar.

Mr. Kuhlman has secured some promising young players. He says he has the strongest amateur team in Southeast Nebraska. Mr. Kuhlman recently wrote Thomas Knapp that Sunday base ball was prohibited in Nebraska City, and he is desirous of arranging games with Omaha teams for Sundays. The Coupon club will have a good park in Nebraska City and it is thought in the near future they will be pleased for visiting teams and patrons.

Base ball bus and gas is the real thing that is being done at the new Storrs street and Harry Brunner, who will manage the Omaha Gas company's team this year is proud of his fine squad of ball players. Manager Brunner says he has a hundred to pick from and feels confident that he will have a good team. The boys at Cut-Off lake during the last few years and some of them are certainly making a splendid showing. Manager Brunner has a keen eye for ball players and he should have a crackerjack of a team.

The People's Store team is working hard and before two weeks rolls by will be ready to start. Manager Torrey has a splendid team and would win majority of his games. This team will be one of the best equipped in the state, and if out-of-town managers want a good attraction they could do not better than secure this team.

The Hartman Furniture and Carpet company will be well represented on the field this year and Manager Winkler says he will surprise some of the fans, as he claims to have some very fast and clever players. The team will come on the field with blue uniforms. L. Sanders will captain the team. Captain Sanders has done much toward securing good players and will no doubt wind up the season with a well average in general. The lineup for the team will be: Williams, first base; Gorman, second base; Gorman, third base; Gorman, shortstop; Hill, right field; Jones, center field; left field; Clearwater, catcher; Winkler, pitcher.

The Victor team will be the fastest in the city for its size this year and Manager Lenz is having no trouble whatever in securing good players. The team is composed of some of the most popular amateurs in Omaha and every player has a splendid record. The lineup this season will be: Housky, catcher; Hinton and Broadbeck, pitchers; Hineck, first base; N. Kill, second base; W. K. shortstop; Garvey, third base; Krehl, right field; J. Rose, center field; Moucha, left field.

The newest base ball team out is the Brodegar's and Manager Buck says the team will be composed of men under 20 years. He intends to have the fastest team in Omaha. The team has just received new uniforms and fixtures and is now working on its grounds at Thirty-fourth and Woolworth avenue. The uniforms are navy blue, with white trimmings, and exactly like those of the People's store team.

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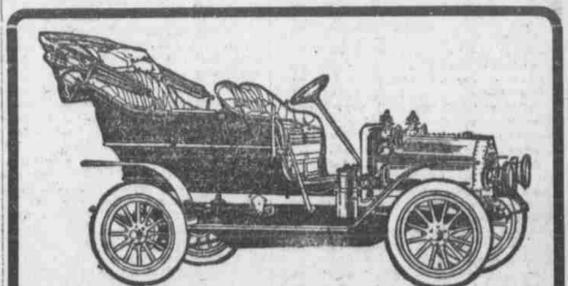
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