

LONG DRIVING IN GOLF

American Amateurs and Professionals Equal British Players.

SOME SHOTS OF NOTE ON RECORD

Disparagement of Travis' Record Not Warranted by Facts—Length from Tee a Good Servant, but Bad Master.

An account by cable of the recent drive by W. H. Horna at the Beckingham Golf club of 361 yards has attracted attention in this country and wherever golf is known. The American interest was heightened by the addition to the report that W. J. Travis, "record of 374 yards" is not generally accepted by British golfers. This opinion, to deal first with the question of accuracy, is based seemingly on a notation in a British book of golf statistics, which states, "W. J. Travis in 1903 drove a ball 374 yards, but as Mr. Travis is a short driver the grounds could not have been level."

"I somehow managed to get off an astonishing long ball," said Travis at the time. "It is the longest drive ever made on any hole of the course."

He used a rubber cored ball and a driver with a forty-four-inch shaft, for Travis did not go in for the fifty-inch shaft until 1906. Americans have accepted the drive as a world's record, as it supplanted 341 yards of the late P. C. Teit, made at St. Andrews on a frosty morning, and the 300 yards of Edward Blackwell, made in 1902 from the seventeenth tee at St. Andrews. The two drives were with the solid gutta ball and the latter, until Horna's achievement, was quoted in Great Britain as the world's record.

Particulars are as yet scant regarding Horna's drive, except that he carried a bunker 250 yards from the tee and that there was a following wind. He is described as the professional at the Beckingham Golf club, which is at Woodside, Croxden, and one of the courses about London. The record is held by W. H. Thomson, who is listed in a British directory as the professional at Beckingham. Horna's name does not appear in this register, but he may be one of the younger set who are to gain renown in the British game. Certainly if the drive in question is accepted as a record Horna has made a stirring bid for fame.

Since the coming of the rubber cored ball, quite aside from Travis' phenomenal drive, the Americans have held their own from the tee and through the green. One of the lessons learned by our players during the trip of the Oxford and Cambridge society's team in 1906 was that to keep "on the flag" was of greater value than to strive for reckless distance and that in the drive for counts could be best.

Putting has been termed an inspiration, and according to Brad long driving comes as a similar special gift. Although a scratch player Brad was a short driver until his seventeenth year, when without any alteration of stance, grip or swing, or any conscious effort of any sort, he changed within a week into a very long driver.

"How it all came about was a mystery to everybody, including myself," Brad has written. "All I or anybody else knew was that, whereas one week all my opponents were outdriving me by a good twenty yards every time the next week I was outdriving them the same distance, and the best of it was this sudden display of form was not merely temporary. I have had no serious fault to find with my tee shots since that time."

It is interesting to quote Edward Blackwell on his record shot. In an article for a British golf journal last year he stated: "I must certainly admit that I have hit some long balls in my time. The best performance of this kind with which I am credited took place when I was home for my holiday in 1892, and, of course, I was then playing with the gutta ball. I was going to the fifth hole at St. Andrews, which is about 320 yards, and I reached the green in two shots. Major Robert Bethuna, who was near the green and saw what had happened, fluttered his handkerchief and called out, 'The wind is a little against you, too.' As we were only doing a few holes, I and my partner then turned around and played the same hole going in the distance again being about 300 yards, and as before I reached the green with my second stroke, so that in four shots I drove more than a thousand yards. As a matter of fact, it was a wondrous drive that was blowing, coming a little from the side, and I had to use it to the best advantage to get the length I did. It is generally known that a few years later, I drove from the eighteenth tee at St. Andrews to the steps on the left of the green leading up to the terrace of the clubhouse, or 377 yards. The longest single drive that I have ever accomplished and which was measured with the tape, was from the seventeenth tee at St. Andrews, this also happened in my holiday year of 1892. On this occasion I did not play across the corner of the dike, and my ball went close to the putting green of the first hole. We knew that I had hit a very long ball, and so we marked the spot, and the next morning my father and I went down with a tape and measured the distance. We found it to be 366 yards.

American as do not carry tape measures, yet accredited instances of great driving are frequent, but with the rubber cored ball the solid ball that Blackwell then used. In the final with Fred Herreshoff, also a great driver, in winning the championship

of 1904 at Balmoral, H. Chamber Egan gained the 325 yard sixteen green with a drive and a cleft shot, while he has a record of 351 yards from the tee at Onwentsia. There is a 350 yard green at Plainfield, but there is a slope somewhat favors the ball for the last fifty yards, which Robert Abbott of Yale, intercollegiate champion in 1905, has twice reached from the tee, and in winning the Deal tournament in August Abbott in each of his matches gained the 352 yard ninth green in two shots. Records of 356 yard drives are held by H. P. McKinnie at St. Louis and for the late H. J. Tweedie at the Belmont course, Chicago. In the fall of 1903 Allan Kennedy carried the 200 yard bunker from the first tee at Montclair and gained the 312 yard green, and the professional George Low, on the same day got to the fourth green at Dyker Meadow, 312 yards. In both instances there was a stiff wind with the ball. P. W. Kendall of Deal and Fox Hills is an amateur who gets a terrific drive and second shot, but as a rule his game ends there. Archie Graham is in the same class, but an exceptional time both he and Kendall also reach good results on their short game.

In the general average comparatively few championships or great matches are won by the players who sacrifice direction for length, for the latter shots are too risky. They are the boldest in the game and the most dangerous. Yet long driving is the most glorious thing in golf when the line is kept, for the ability to annihilate distance from the tee or on the second shot makes the heart like new wine or as the scent of the battle kindles the spirit of the charger. A match between such players is titanic and enthralls the gallery far beyond any meeting of less daring golfers. It is the sort of golf Jerome Travers and Warren K. Wood played in the last amateur championship at Birkdale, which really determined the fate of the title, although the final between Travers and Graham was also a contest of long tee and second shots.

One of the greatest driving matches on the records was between Freddy Douglas and Norman Hunter, when the Metropolitan Golf association team played the Oxford and Cambridge society at Garden City. Each gave the ball the longest of rides from the tee and the followers were kept on the tenterhooks of excitement throughout. Douglas won by 1 up, the medal scores being 75 and 76. But very often when two long drivers meet the match is over with one establishing his better skill for the moment in the long game. To the "heady" player who can win despite being outdriven, must be awarded the laurel for courage, and to watch such a finish is almost as exciting, while perhaps a better season of the game by illustration than when two "swipers" are in the lists, although the latter style of match suggests "reading Shakespeare by flashes of lightning." Travis won a great match against a longer driver when he beat Travers in April on the thirty-eighth hole, and John Ball, Jr., who on his renascence has become an accurate instance of a daring driver, won his sixth championship at St. Andrews this spring by beating the slasher, Guy Campbell and C. A. Palmer, in the semi-final and final.

The long drivers fully appreciate the advantage of forging to the front when two of them are drawn together. They eye each other on the tee as jealously as gamecocks in the pit, and in teeing up each is determined to make the other "crack." In a famous match for the Metropolitan Golf association championship at Deal, when Findlay Douglas beat Allan Kennedy, the former confessed afterward that he had shut his eyes on both the first and second on the tee as he teed off. As it happened, Douglas caught both drives just right, and as Kennedy had to play the odd hole time, he began to press and fell an easy victim. Guy Campbell had the same kind of a match with Blackwell in the last championship at St. Andrews. The latter went as his tee shots, as Kipling said, "like a wild beast," but Campbell had the better distance and won by 4 and 2. Campbell drove the tenth green on one occasion, which is 312 yards. In the same competition C. A. Palmer reached the fifth green, 533 yards, in two shots, while Blackwell had the first hole of 365 yards, no less than five times in 3. It is evident that Blackwell and his compatriots have the mastery of the rubber-cored ball to an equal degree with their control of the gutta in the old days.

It is a marvel that with the greater average in length of the drives with the rubber cored ball, yet the number of our golfers who now swing at the ball with the motion of a bullet whirled around

on a string, especially the college boys, and who get with but little apparent effort from 240 to 300 yards habitually from the tee, is far greater than the number who could drive 200 yards with the solid ball. The American professionals, G. H. Nicholls, Aleck Ross, Aleck Smith, Will Anderson, John Hoban and many more, have also lengthened out their drives in a proportionate degree, yet the old marks have stood as impregnable as Gibraltar. The exceptional drive is more rare than to hole in one, despite the improvements in clubs, balls and golf greens. Perhaps the truth is very often it does not pay to drive an excessively long ball, but for amateurs and professionals in their general efficiency rank as creditably from the tee as any golfers in the world.

Bernard Nicholls has records of 325 yards at Cannes and of 315 yards at Boston, with the solid ball, but he conceded that G. H. gets a longer ball now as a rule. Even where the wind and a slight slope aids the roll, an excessive length is deemed impossible, except on ground hard from drouth or frost. Hard turf is not common in England and golfers here would not be so ready to give up before they fully accept Horna's great tee shot.

While the greatest distance is gained by the younger American amateurs, the rubber cored ball has made driving easier to the older players and the circumstance has worked back to golf many who had dropped out in the solid ball era. When they drive a straight ball and are steady in other departments of the game they often defeat the college boys, for wild direction is now punished more often on the best links than a short ball on the line. A topped ball is the only terror now for the short drivers, for the long carrier for the tee shots are now not so frequently encountered. But when a college boy is driving straight he is hard to beat, for he gets to the green more surely and with less effort than the player who has distance to make up after the tee shot. Besides, the man who has to play the odd is a pilot to his opponent as to the wind resistance and other considerations. Long driving is only dangerous when it becomes a vanity. It is a good servant in golfing, but a bad master.

REVISION THIS SIDE THE WATER

Old Country Golf Players Recognize Claims of America.

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—All objectors to the rules of golf as they stand have been silenced since the arrival of the letter from Captain Burn, chairman of the rules committee of the Royal and Ancient Golf committee, stating that a rough advance draft of the amended rules is to be sent to this country for revision before the committee makes its report. On the arrival of the copy the executive committee of the United States Golf association will probably act in the matter as a whole and not submit the rules to a subcommittee, as in 1907 and 1902, for interpretation according to American ideas. No positive action on this question, however, will be taken until the executive committee meeting this month.

As the United States Golf association committee contains a representative from each getting section of the country, it is believed the general body will be better able to act in a judicial capacity on the amended rules than a subcommittee. The previous rules as amended were sent to this country only after they had been officially adopted and all that could be done was to turn them over to a subcommittee for annotation to suit the exigencies of the American game. In the present instance the American suggestions will be incorporated in the complete code and the necessity for an interpretation will no longer exist. As a consequence the business of suggestion comes within the regular scope of the United States Golf association committee.

Manifestly if the American ideas as to the severity or mildness of the penalties under each rule are accepted all the talk of a separate American set of rules must cease. The prompt response of the Royal and Ancient committee of St. Andrews, and the recognition granted is a guarantee that the one set of rules will continue to govern the golfing of the world. Captain Burn writes in a friendly spirit and he admits that the game has outgrown the code. He states:

"When the rules were last framed, in 1902, it was perfectly understood that the questions submitted to the rules committee would disclose weak spots in them and that it was merely a question of how long a time should elapse before these errors



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Has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. The great scientists of all Nations after careful analysis declare that beer brewed from pure barley malt and hops contains only 3 1/4 per cent of alcohol or just enough to mildly stimulate the body and promote healthy digestion. Dr. Bauer, the German analyst (whose fame is international) says "Beer has a number of pleasant and valuable qualities. No other beverage contains such a combination of useful properties. The water of it quenches the thirst, the carbonic acid refreshes, the extracts are nutritious, the alcohol furthers digestion, the mineral salts build up the bones and extracts of hops act as a tonic."

Dr. Bauer's statement here given exactly describes the qualities of

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Its commanding superiority over all American brews was proven at the St. Louis World's Fair where in open competition with the best America can produce it won the Gold Medal. Peerless has been brewed for over 50 years on the best Maltng Barley and finest Bohemian Hops by the world-famous "Gund Natural Process" and has won its high position solely on account of unadulterated genuine honest merit. Sold at all places of public resort and generally found in the homes of our very best people. Telephone, write or call; a case will be delivered to your home at once.

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had to be corrected. Last May the rules committee decided that, as about 200 questions had been submitted, the time had arrived when this should be done, and I am glad to say that the work is progressing more rapidly than seemed possible.

Clarity of expression will be one of the matters to be considered by the American committee; aside from any suggestions to be made regarding the penalties or about new rules. In the definition of a hazard, according to one United States Golf association committee man, the present rule errs for general application in stating a hazard is "any bunker, water (except casual water), sand, path, road, railway, whin, bush, rut, rabbit scrape, fence or ditch." In his opinion, except when on the fair green or the putting green, the ball is in a hazard, barring only casual water, ground under repair, sand below or sprinkled on the course, bare patches or snow and ice, beside permanent grass in a hazard.

ROWING WILL BE LIVE SPORT

Carnegie Lake Alive with Crews Out on Trial.

PRINCETON, N. J., Oct. 5.—That rowing is really going to be a live sport at Princeton was evidenced by the scene on Carnegie lake the other afternoon. More than 150 candidates responded to the first general call and Coach Titus was busy forming crews and sending them out for trial spins. Two four-oared shells, a double's gig and an eight were out. Those who

were not in the boats were given rudimentary instruction in the handling of the sweeps in a rowing box on a float in the canal adjoining the lake.

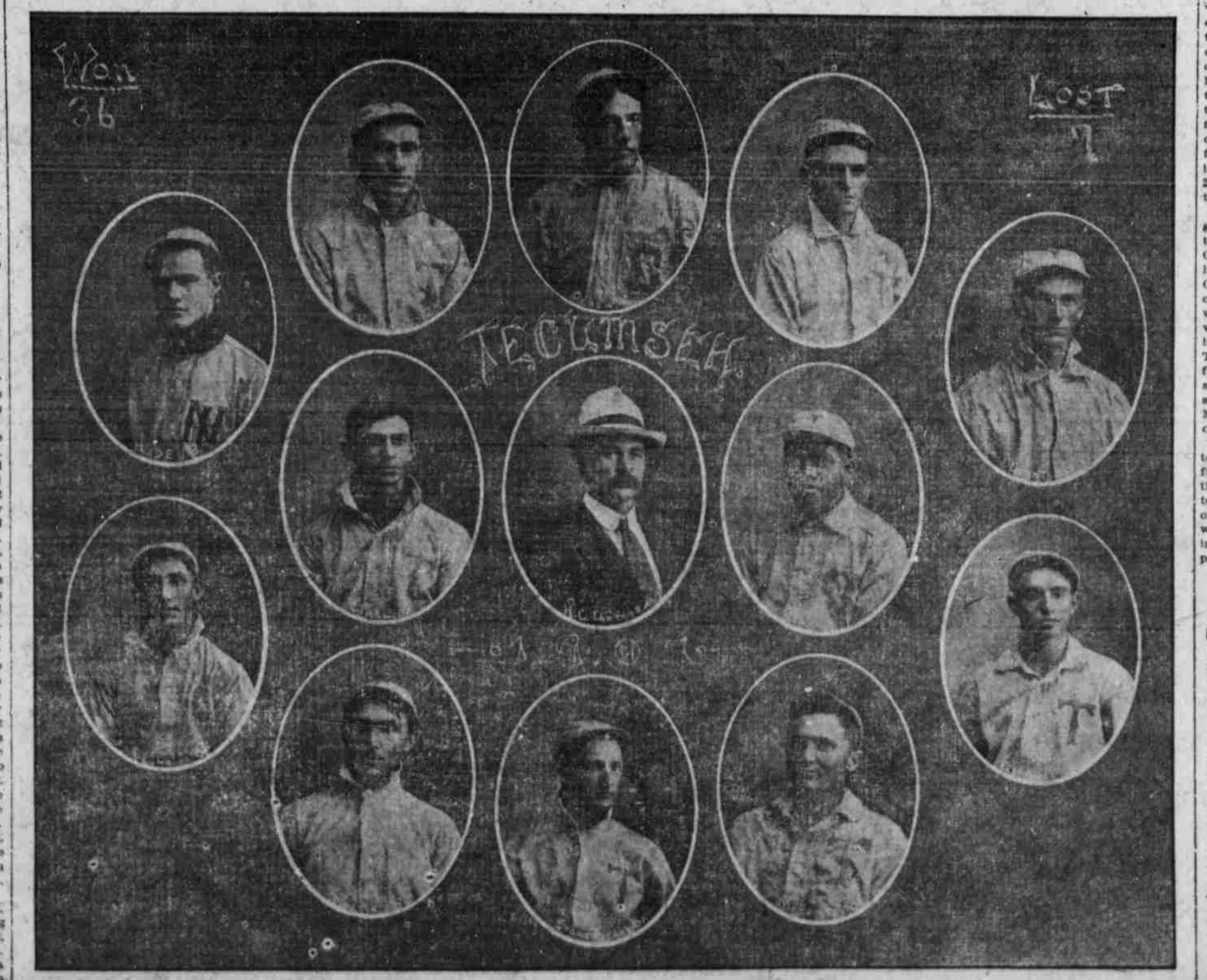
Many a man with previous experience in a saddle seat appeared and on the whole the turnout surprised even Coach Titus himself. He said: "I never was more surprised. I didn't think that enough interest had been aroused, but this beats all. There are fully four times as many men here as we had last spring in our preliminary call. We will have an intercollegiate regatta for the Carnegie cup and it seems to me there will be some lively competition for places in the boats."

MIDDIES' PROSPECTS BRIGHTER

Navy Department Brings Some of Best Players to Annapolis.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Oct. 5.—The Middles' prospects were considerably brightened the other day by an order from the Navy department, which brings some of the middies' best men to Annapolis for the football season. Byron Long, quarterback on the 1899 team; Spencer, captain last year, and Captain Howard of the 1905 team will report at Annapolis and help coach the team. This arrangement was effected after a long discussion between the athletic committee and the officers of the naval board. The victory over the army last year has made the middies feel that, with proper coaching, they can trim their rivals from West Point once more.

Tecumseh Team That Led All Competitors in the South Platte During the Season



VANDERBILT AT HORSE SHOW

New Yorker Probably Will Enter the Omaha Arena.

WILL HAVE FAMOUS STABLE

Lawrence Jones, Crow & Murray, Penners, Cudahys and Other Notable Horses Are Making Entries.

Reginald Vanderbilt is negotiating with the directors of the Omaha Horse Show association with a view to entering his splendid stable at the fourth annual show. With his string the competition would be most keen and people would flock from all sections of the country to attend the show, for Mr. Vanderbilt is a busy man and does not take the time to show his horses many times during the season. The prospects are bright, and should Mr. Vanderbilt come with his horses the competition would be most keen.

Word was received Saturday afternoon that the entries of the Crow & Murray stable of Toronto, Canada, were on the way. Mr. Murray will make about fifty entries with his sixteen horses. Murray is the real ring clown who furnishes all sorts of amusement to the spectators by his clownish antics. He is a most thorough horseman and all well remember some of the famous drives he has made around the tankark arena with his four-in-hands and fives and pairs. He rides his own horses over the jumps in the classes where conformation counts and where the high jump is not so material, for Murray weighs about 200 pounds and is quite a load for any horse to carry over a high jump.

Another entry which was received with glee by the directors of the association was that of the Tichenor-Gund company of Chicago. This company has never before had more than one horse entered at the Omaha show, but this year word was received Saturday that over fifty entries would be made by this firm. The entries will include single horses, pairs, four-in-hands and all other park and road classes. The success of the show is now assured as far as entries are concerned, for these large stables could give a show almost by themselves, and with Lawrence Jones, W. H. McCord, Tichenor and Crow & Murray the classes are all sure to be well filled.

SELECTION OF YALE OFFICIALS

Central Board of Foot Ball is to Name Men Who Will Act.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Oct. 5.—Yale university will place the selecting of officials for all its games in the hands of the central board of foot ball officials. This means that the board will name the men that are to govern this year's Yale-Princeton and Yale-Harvard games. Last year the Yale-Harvard game almost fell through because of the demands made by Harvard at the last moment. With the central board naming the men such a dispute will not again crop up, and it is expected that the game will naturally be improved. What Harvard will think of the matter is another question. Last year the Crimson management did not take very kindly to the men sent by the central board.

GOLF PLAYERS ARE TO COMPETE

Intercollegiate Association Will Meet at Nassau Country Club.

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—The Intercollegiate Golf association has arranged to hold its annual championship tournament over the links of the Nassau Country club October 15 to 19. Robert Abbott, the far-driving Plainfield golfer, who has been elected captain of the Yale team for the coming year, said that he was, as were a number of others, in favor of the week preceding the one selected. They realize that bad weather is likely to be encountered this month. In the tournament at Garden City a year ago the collegians were handicapped not only by the cold, but had to contend with wind which blew with the fierceness of a gale most of the time. Last year the Yale players cleaned up everything, winning both individual and team honors. W. E. Clow, Jr., who defeated Dwight Partridge in the final, is out of college now and, of course, will not defend his title. As for the Yale team it may be said that the chances of success appear unusually bright. In addition to Abbott there are Partridge, W. Howard, Ella Knowles, W. L. Lyon, C. E. Van Vleet, Jr., N. H. Bundy and A. A. Swords, all of whom are playing good golf.

LIMIT TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

National Contests to Be Confined to Players Winning Tournaments.

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—National tennis championships may be limited presently to players who must qualify by winning an open tournament or a state championship. This is to be done with the idea of weeding out many from the field in the championships who have no real reason to be in. It might make the field very limited, indeed, because some winners of western and middle western tournaments hardly would come to the national tournament, and the result might be that at best twenty men would compete. If, however, all tournaments are conducted on the play through system and the national championship also goes that way, it is considered by many players that that might be a very effective way of choosing a real champion.

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