

JUDGMENTS

WESTERN league season never opened more auspiciously than the season of 1908 will open Wednesday. We haven't got the eight teams, that's true, but we have six, and they are six good teams. They have been strengthened during the winter, until every one promises great improvement over its record of last year.

From all over the country come reports of the interest felt in the opening of the baseball season. Nothing could more potently indicate the hold this great game has on the public, and the advantage an athletic sport are so many that to undertake to enumerate them would be tedious, but none is of more moment than the fact that it takes thousands of city dwellers and office workers into the open air, under such conditions as to stimulate the circulation of their blood and to excite them to healthy respiration while they are out.

A big league scout makes the statement that the minor leagues contain fewer promising youngsters today than ever; that it is gradually becoming more difficult to find big league material in the minors. This man must have fallen down on his winter's work and must be putting up this talk to deceive himself and his boss.

Keep in mind that this season a batsman who knocks a fly far enough to advance a runner is credited with a sacrifice hit when caught out. This is a return to the practice of a few seasons ago, and will help the batting averages of a lot of hitters. Think of how many sacrifice hits Johnny Gonsing would have had in past seasons if he had been given one for every long fly he has boosted to help along a runner.

Joe Gans says he will meet Rudy Unholz if he gets \$20,000, win or lose. Joe is crafty, or he's avicious.

The pinochle season will soon be awarded, and then the real war of the season will be over. Jack Pfeister has signed. Now, War Sangers, it's up to you.

TROUBLES OF GOLF REFEREES

Players Wanted Rule Changed on Account of a Tree.

HIS TROUSERS WERE TOO THIN

What Brave Empire May Dare the Social Referee at a Resort Course—Aspect of Removing Loose Impediments.

PHILADELPHIA, April 11.—Golfing referees in the south suffer trials unknown to northern tournaments. Now, when a ball lights in a tree hereabouts, the player cheerfully shoots that he must climb up to play the shot or else give up the hole.

Another story the returning travelers have brought from the south concerns the golfing of some women who followed the recent match between the professionals, Martin O'Laughlin and G.H. Nicholls. The latter has a Boston green and has toured the resort courses for many winters, but O'Laughlin, who is the chubby-faced and curly-haired professional of the Plainfield Country Club, had not been south before.

What could the referee do with the swirl of skirts against him? What he should have done is plain enough, but those who expound the referee's shortcomings do not happen to have been stopping at the resort. There is no ball in such a place as the man who affronts the social rulers of the place. Possibly the United States Golf association might make an addition to the code of etiquette stating exactly what woman onlookers must do, no matter how their sympathies go.

Portland, Ore., dealers are preparing for a show. Residents of Portland, Me., are organizing a club. Although Globe, Ariz., has 10,000 residents, there is not an automobile in the city.

Timely Tips for Automobile Owners and Drivers

hanced at night by 10,000 electric lights, were the colors used in the Pittsburgh deal-half second annual auto show. Actual test has shown that the automobile used by First Chief Cooks of Indianapolis can be started and gotten under way faster than a horse-drawn repair wagon.

marker, or referee; however, that is an other story. The story I have now to tell opens, so far as my knowledge of it went, by one of the partners on the side opposed to the player of the running approaching shot saying to me: 'I say; did you see that?' The obvious answer was: 'See what?'

"Then it was explained that as the player walked up toward the hole before playing his stroke in order to examine the ground he thoughtlessly turned back into its place with his club the loose-lying scum of a wound in the turf. This was explained to me. Therefore I inquired of the player what it was that he had done, and he interpreted his act as one of no thought or intention, and said that the replacement was of a piece of turf lying quite off the line of the approach. So then I asked the player, who had begun with 'I say, did you see that?'

On the same day when Travis and Byers played in the final of the 100-mile tour championship at Nassau, the leaves lay as thick as in Vallombrosa. Travis, a stickler for rules and for a clean putting green, was very energetic in brushing these loose impediments away. Often as he had in mind that the rule defines "all ground within twenty yards of the putting green, except hazards" as the putting area, Travis cleared away leaves beyond the then closely shaven circles of the Nassau greens.

PHILADELPHIA, April 11.—Joe Gans, the lightweight champion, is no cheap fighter. Jack McGuigan, manager of the National Athletic club showed Gans a telegram he had received from Jim Jeffries offering Gans 50 per cent of the gross receipts to fight Rudy Unholz at his new club just outside of Los Angeles, Cal., on April 23, but Gans told McGuigan he would not think of fighting Unholz unless he got a big piece of money for his trouble, naming \$20,000 for his end.

Joe Gans is Not a Cheap Man

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ATLANTIC CITY GOLF PROGRAM

Annual Spring Tournament of the Country Club Announced. ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., April 11.—The annual spring golf tournament of the Country club of Atlantic City will be held April 20 and May 1 and 2, entries to close April 20 for the main event and May 2 at 10 a. m. for the handicap. Qualification play will take place on April 20 and will consist of thirty-six holes, medal play. The three of starting and ending of players will be announced Wednesday evening. Six sixteen will qualify. The first sixteen will qualify for the governor's cup, the second for the president's cup, the third for the Atlantic City cup, the fourth sixteen for the Northfield cup, the fifth and sixth sixteen for special cups to be given to those chosen. In cases of ties in qualifying rounds the committee will draw lots to decide which sixteen the contestant will play in. The first and second rounds of medal play will take place on Friday, May 1, and the third and final on Saturday, May 2. All matches will consist of eighteen holes.

FARMER BOYS BEST PLAYERS

Detroit, Mich., April 11.—Hughy Jennings of the Detroit Americans has come out strong as the champion of farm-bred boys for star ball players, rather than youngsters who have been brought up in the city, for he says that the hard work, early hours and wholesome food that the former class are brought to cause them to develop much faster and get their full strength much earlier than the would-be players who have too many attractions to keep them up late.

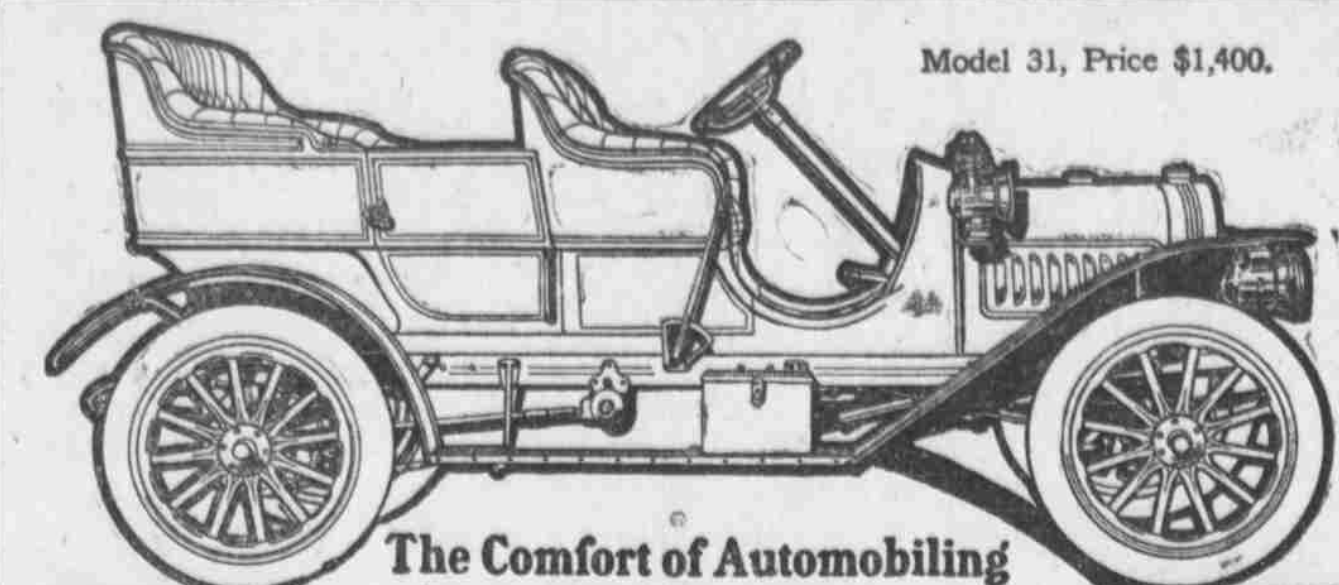
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Only Wants \$20,000, Win or Lose, to Meet Unholz.

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