

Christmas is a Good Day on Which to Plan a Pennant Winning Ball Team

ROURKE TOUTS NEW WONDER

Justice, Who Joins Omaha Next Season, is Heralded as a Sensational Player.

GOES INTO GAME FOR SPORT Always First Out to Practice and Last to Leave the Field.

CAMPFIELD IS COMING ALSO Big Backstop Comes Here from Defunct Kansas State League.

1912 TEAM IS TO BE A WINNER Six Pitchers Are Now Included on Staff and Lines Are Thrown Out for New Right-Hander and a Southpaw.

Rourke is heralding Justice, the new shortstop, purchased at the close of last season from Fort Wayne, as a sensation next year at the infield position. Justice is touted as the best shortstop ever secured to grace an Omaha diamond. Justice is an ardent ball player and does not go into it for the money which he pays, but for the love of the game. He knows inside base ball like a book and has been picked by judges and critics all over the country as a coming wonder. For the two years he played with Fort Wayne in the Connecticut league and the last two seasons he played with Fort Wayne in the Central association. During the four seasons Justice has not missed one game and it is said he was always the first man to report for practice and the last player to leave the field. According to Pa Justice is a favorite with the fans wherever he plays. He comes from the same league which produced Austin, O'Brien, Hagerman, Lloyd and several others.

Recruit from Kansas. Another new player who was secured by Pa from the defunct Kansas State League and who is looked forward to as a winner at the backstop position is Campfield. He played for four years with the Kansas State league on different teams. Pa Rourke tried to purchase him last year while the league was running, but could not get him for immediate delivery, so was waiting until the end of the season in order to get him, but the league broke up and Pa got him for a small sum. He is a big fellow, weighing over 180 pounds, and is about six feet in height. Pa Rourke considers Campfield as a comer and may use him in many of the games next season.

From all appearances Pa is going to have a whirlwind of a team next season. At present he has six pitchers on his staff and is dickering with the right-hander and a southpaw with the majors and expects to report within the next few days that he has landed two good ones. Another new catcher and an outfielder and possibly a new infielder will complete the roster for 1912. The line-up for next year is still uncertain, but some places are already filled. Kane will be seen again at the corner sack, and it is expected that he will exceed his work of last year. Kane played in every game last season and finished the season with a batting average of .540. He stole more bases than any other man in the league and could lay down a bunt any place he wanted to.

Niehoff at Third. At third base Niehoff will again be seen. Niehoff did not play his regular position at third last year all season, as he was on second base part of the time. He is considered by most of the sports writers around the circuit as the best man in the league for that position.

The shortstop position will in all probabilities be filled by Justice. Second base is still uncovered and there will be much competition for this position at Joplin next spring. For the pitching staff Pa has Rhoades, Robinson, Hall, Pentress, Lutz and Keely. It is not known whether Keely will be able to play next season or not, but he will try out with the team next spring. For the backstop position there is Arbogast, Agnew, Gonding and Campfield, and possibly one or two others.

Thomson and Coyle will be among those in the outfield, with some doubt as to the latter. There is still a chance that Williams will be with the Rourkes next season again. Williams was there with the club last year and hammered out ten home-runs during the season. Schoonover and Anderson are still on Pa's list and they will be given a try-out at the spring training quarters.

SIMONSON WINS OUT IN Y. M. C. A. POOL TOURNAY

The Young Men's Christian association pool tournament, which closed on December 20, has attracted considerable interest among the members. Sam Simonson won the championship and was awarded the handsome cup. The first award in class "B" went to Charles Gross, and the first award in class "C" went to E. Glieck. Each of these consisted of three months renewal of their membership. While the number of entries in the tournament was not very large, the interest was such that another tournament will be held in January. These tournaments are only open to men holding full membership in the senior department.

AGNEW IS PLAYING BALL IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sam Agnew, one of last year's Rourkes catchers, it is reported, is playing winter base ball with the San Bernardino team of California. He is playing at the backstop position and participates in two games a week Saturday and Sunday. Unless Sam puts up a better exhibition of the national pastime than he did last season he will not be seen among the Rourkes players next year. Pa Rourke has received several offers for the purchase of Agnew and can use him in two or three trades which he has up his sleeve. Agnew would not have been with the Rourkes all last season had it not been that the Omaha club was not graded with any too many backstops.

Speedy Athletes Who Shine at Indoor Game of Basket Ball



Left to Right—Clarence Shary, Harry Muncke, James Durke, Eugene Eastman, Edward Baumann, Leslie Burkenroad, Sidney Meyer, Dave Bowman and Kenneth Norton. OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL BASKET BALL SQUAD.

H. S. QUINTET SHOWING FINE

Basket Ball Five is Rapidly Rounding Into Shape.

SEVERAL SHIFTS ARE MADE

Boys Are Practicing Hard for the Regular Games, Which Will Soon Be Coming on the Schedule.

With three weeks of practice now over the Omaha High school basketball squad is rapidly rounding into shape and Coach Clark is well pleased with the showing made so far.

There are still several weak spots in the play of the squad, the chief one being that the lads are lacking in endurance, ability and quick action. This weakness was brought out strongly last Thursday evening in the practice game with the All-Stars quintet of the Young Men's Christian association. The lads showed up strong all through the first half and played their older and more experienced opponents to a standstill. However, in the second half they weakened, playing a listless game and allowing the All-Stars to win in a walkaway.

Coach Clark expects to overcome this disadvantage by carrying out a program of hard practice to get up the wind and endurance qualities of the boys on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons in the association gymnasium. Regular practice will be held through the holidays and all the members of the regular squad who will be home during the next two weeks are expected to take part.

Some of the squad are also weak on "dribbling" the ball, and as this feature of the game is usually one of the most important factors for a successful five they also will be given special attention in this department.

Harry Muncke has been shifted from a forward position to center, in which place he is showing up strong. Clarence Shary is the other candidate for the center position and Coach Clark may retain both these players for that place. Leslie Burkenroad, the star left guard, also has been tried at center in practice.

Sidney Meyer and Edward Baumann are making a strong run for the forward positions. Both have had considerable experience. Meyer playing a star game as captain of the junior five last year.

Beryl Crocker, captain of this year's regular quintet, will hold down his old position at right guard. Crocker has not been able to practice much this season because of a sprained knee received during the foot ball season, but will be able to play with the regulars by the time the season opens.

Leslie Burkenroad may be shifted from his usual position at left guard to center, as he is equally strong at this position. Burkenroad is counted on as one of the mainstays of this year's quintet, having played the game for the last four years. He has the knack of "dribbling" down better than any other player on the squad.

Mahna Berry, who played a stellar game with the South Omaha High school quintet last year, is also counted upon to hold down a guard position. Eugene Eastman, a junior at the school, is classed as good material for a forward, as is Kenneth Cronin, another junior.

J. Over, another member of the regular squad, is expected to make a strong run for either a guard or forward. Dave Bowman and James Durke, both members of this season's eleven, have made good and are working hard for places on the regular quintet.

NO CLUE TO ROBBERY.

TABLE ROCK, Neb., Dec. 22.—(Special.)—No positive clue has been ascertained to the identity of the burglars who, a few nights ago, forced an entrance into the cigar factory of C. G. Egan at Pawnee City. Entrance was gained through the rear door, when the two burglars proceeded to break into the tills of the two slot machines. About \$20 is supposed to have been obtained from these, and the damage to the machine will bring the loss up to over \$30.

CLAIM OF GIANTS REFUSED

Money Refunded to Patrons Will Not Be Returned.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ACTS

New York National Club Must Stand Any Expense Incurred in the Satisfying of Its Patrons.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 22.—The National Base Ball commission in a finding handed down today, refused to reimburse the New York National league club for money that was refunded by the club to patrons for tickets that did not reach them through the mail during the last world's series.

The commission held that inasmuch as the New York club had full charge of the sale of tickets it must stand for any expense incurred in the satisfying of its patrons. Three hundred and forty-two dollars and fifty cents was asked for. Included in this was a claim of \$150 for five patrons, each of whom had a number in the ticket for which there was not a corresponding seat. The commission agreed to allow this small claim and will pay it out of its general fund rather than assess all of the players and clubs that profited by the series.

In another finding, \$50, the last installment from the Pittsburgh club for Player Murray (or Quigley) was turned over to the national association with directions to pay it to whom it belonged. Since the sale the Missouri club of the Union league, from whom Murray was purchased, has changed hands.

Unghaub May Not Manage Antelopes

Bob Unghaub, manager of the 1911 Lincoln team, it is said, wants another crack as manager of that team for the season of 1912. Bob was not a great favorite among some of his players last year, and at present there is no manager for the 1912 season, and it is reported that Bob does not stand a very healthy chance of getting back in his old berth. It is also stated that Frank Isebell is looking for a change and may not be seen at the head of the Pueblo team next year. He is casting for a buyer for his franchise, and is said to be casting covetous eyes toward Des Moines. At present the Des Moines franchise belongs to Comiskey of the White Sox.

Hendricks to Hold the Reins at Denver

Jack Hendricks is still on the outlook for more players, according to advices received from Denver. He is being assisted by Cozy Dolan, formerly a member of the Denver team. Three new players are now under consideration and it is believed by the first of this week some news that he has secured a few in New York. It is also said that eastern players are trying to get their claws on Larry Spahr again. Spahr, the star catcher of the Grizzlies last year, was secured from Newark and that team is now dickering for him.

Police Arrange for Target Tournament

The policemen at headquarters are talking of starting an indoor target shooting tournament. Several of the officers are crack shots and in order to determine who is the best among them, they will hold daily shoots in the gymnasium, which is fitted up on the second floor of the garage. An iron target two feet square has been rigged up and a distance of fifteen yards have been marked off. If enough officers can be induced to join in the shooting, the tournament will be started immediately after the first of the year. Each officer will donate a small sum with which to buy a medal, and will be given to the officer making the nearest perfect score.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION TO HAVE NEW MOTOR SPEEDWAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—It was announced tonight that the Motor Speedway association has acquired 300 acres of land on the Kearney meadows in New Jersey for use as a motor speedway and aviation and athletic grounds. The association has received authority to issue \$1,000,000 capital stock and it proposes to construct a motor-drome two miles long with seats for 100,000 persons. It was asserted that work would begin on February 1.

DON DESPAIN IS ENJOINED

Court Restrains Him from Disposing of Lincoln Club.

ORDER OUTGROWTH OF SUIT

George F. Truman Alleges that Despain Owes Him Seven Thousand Dollars, Part of Which is Overdue.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) LINCOLN, Dec. 21.—(Special Telegram.)—George F. Truman today asked for the appointment of a receiver for the Lincoln Western league ball club and an order restraining Donald Despain, the owner of the club and franchise, from disposing of any of the property of the club, its franchise or releasing or disposing in any way of any of the players.

Judge Stewart signed the temporary restraining order and set December 29 as the date for hearing on the petition for a receiver and a permanent injunction. Truman alleges that Despain owes him \$7,000, evidenced by three notes, one of which, for \$3,500, was due September 1, 1911, and which is unpaid. The plaintiff alleges that Despain has sold three of the most valuable players to the Denver club and in addition contemplates raising the capital stock from \$10,000 to \$20,000, and unless he obtains the relief prayed for his security will be dissipated and his interests jeopardized. He also asks for the foreclosure of his mortgage on the franchise, plant and other property of the club.

Gonding Has Some Calls for Services

Some of the sport writers around the Western league circuit are suggesting Johnny Gonding for a member of Jack Haskell's indicator staff for next year. If the writers would stop to consider that Johnny Gonding has a few more good catches in him they would put a soft peddle on that kind of news. Johnny is still some base ball player and knows too much inside base ball to be wasting it by arguing with chronic kickers. Gonding has received many flattering offers for next season and will within a short time announce that he has put his hooks on a live job.

Denver Scouting For New Players

Jack Hendricks is still on the outlook for more players, according to advices received from Denver. He is being assisted by Cozy Dolan, formerly a member of the Denver team. Three new players are now under consideration and it is believed by the first of this week some news that he has secured a few in New York. It is also said that eastern players are trying to get their claws on Larry Spahr again. Spahr, the star catcher of the Grizzlies last year, was secured from Newark and that team is now dickering for him.

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BANQUET FOR FOOT BALL MEN

Thirty Kearney Normal Warriors Are Feasted and Toasted.

DINNER SERVED BY THE GIRLS

Team Has Fine Prospects for Year, as All But Two of the Men Expect to Return.

KEARNEY, Neb., Dec. 21.—(Special.)—Over thirty members of the Kearney Normal foot ball team sat down to sumptuous banquet Thursday evening at 6:30 and feasted and toasted until 9 o'clock. The dinner was served by Miss Marion Williams of the domestic science department and some of her classes. Responses were given by Captain Burford, R. Randolph, Carrig, Schott, Prof. Porter, Prof. Patterson, Prof. Mercer and Coach VanBuren. Charles Wearham, captain of the second team, was called for and made an enthusiastic talk. President Thomas was toast master.

All of the men but two expect to return next year. Several of those who have completed the certificate course will return for the full college course. It is rumored that Pearce and Ward, former stars on the Normal team, expect to return to work for their degrees and will play foot ball. Several strong players from high schools are also expected among them. Captain Davies of the Kearney High school, Captain Davies deserved a place on the all-state team this year, so his friends think, as he met no superior in any of the high school contests. Captain Burford and Quarterback Carrig, who won places on the all-state team this year, will wear the mole skins next year. The basket ball team are showing up well and Coach Van Buren is pleased with the material on hand for a strong base ball team in the spring. The Normal has the advantage of many of the other colleges of the state in the large number of men enrolled.

Hogan Defeats the "Terrible Dane" in Fast Ten-Round Bout

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—"One Round" Hogan was given the popular decision over Battling Nelson, former lightweight champion of the world, in a ten-round bout at the Madison Athletic club here last night.

Nelson failed to show his old form. The crowd conceded almost every round to the Californian. Hogan was effective with his punch, while Nelson's work was almost altogether ineffectual, which did little damage. Despite its one-sidedness the bout was a fast one. Hogan weighed in at 134 pounds at 9 o'clock, with Nelson at catchweight, about five pounds heavier. "One Round" easily had the better of the first session, but he was much at fault for clinching. In a sharp rally in the fourth Hogan sent the batter to the ropes with a left jab and right swing, and Nelson came back weakly with short-arm work. In the fifth Hogan staggered the batter with a hard right uppercut to the chin. Hogan opened the next round with a left and right to the head without return. The batter later rushed in with a right to the head, which was too far back to be effective.

Hogan landed four lefts in quick succession in the seventh, but later, after breaking a clinch, the Dane swung a staggering right to Hogan's body. The batter got in another good blow in the eighth, a hard right uppercut, which sent Hogan to the ropes. Hogan opened with hard blows in the ninth and was really all over his man, with Nelson resorting to fighting again. In the last round Nelson landed a hard right to the pit of Hogan's stomach, and a full minute of hammer and tonge fighting followed, in which Hogan had the better of the exchanges.

Mrs. Patterson Asks Salary.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Mrs. Mary K. Patterson, mother of Charles A. (Chick) Patterson, for whose murder his wife, Gertrude Gibson Patterson, was acquitted in Denver, today asked the school board for her salary during the time she attended the trial of the wife in the western city. She teaches in a south side school. Her plea was referred to the superintendent of schools.

FORCING A FIGHT FOR SANE RULES

Strict Adherence to Conference Code by Minnesota and Nebraska Designed to Bring Change.

HOPE TO MAKE THEM OBNOXIOUS

Other Schools Then Likely to Be Glad to Abrogate Present Rules.

SUMMER BALL BAR MOST HATED

Practically Makes Professionals of All Star College Athletes

PRESENT RULES GO TO EXTREME

Overzealous Professors, Wanting to Kill Tainted Athletics, Went Too Far and Made Amateur Nearly Impossible.

BY CLYDE E. ELLIOTT.

"The quickest and surest way to abrogate those rules which are obnoxious to interpret them to the letter and cause all schools to see the injustice of them."

This sentiment seems to express the motive behind the action of Minnesota and other schools of the west who object to the summer base ball and other rules of the conference. Minnesota, in the "Big Eight," and Nebraska, in the Missouri Valley conference, have declared war against the anti-summer base ball playing regulation. Nebraska began its campaign in the spring of 1909 and Minnesota has just started its fight as a result of the disqualification for foot ball of Captain Earl Pickering, who was barred from the Wisconsin game because he had received money for playing base ball during the summer.

During the last week word was sent out of Minneapolis that President George E. Vincent and the board of athletic control had ordered a strict adherence to all rules of the "Big Eight." In this order is seen a fight to destroy some of the present rules, among them the anti-summer base ball clause, which is regarded as altogether too stringent a measure.

Minnesota Goes Limit.

The Minnesota faculty is going further than any school in the east to enforce the rules. It is requiring that all athletes sign statements to the effect that they have never played summer base ball and that they are clearly eligible under all rules of the conference. Failure to comply with this order will result in the barring of athletes from participation in intercollegiate sports.

Because of this strict ruling Minnesota has already lost the services of one of its best base ball players. This man accepted \$1 many years ago for running a race at a Fourth of July celebration. "Think of it. One dollar for running a foot race in the days of his youth. Something awful. Wisconsin also has suffered through the same ruling, and one of its stellar base ball players has been dropped from the squad because he admitted he played base ball for money during the summer.

But in taking steps to enforce all the rules of the conference to the letter, the Minnesota authorities see their way to the drafting of a set of regulations. They know that no school in the country has star athletes who are eligible to play in any branch of sports under the present "Big Eight" rules. Chicago, the chief exponent of the purity code in the conference, undoubtedly had several men on last fall's foot ball eleven who were ineligible. All the schools of the Missouri Valley conference are in the same fix.

Nebraska's Book Action.

Two years ago the board of control at the University of Nebraska abolished the game of intercollegiate base ball because none of the men on its squad would sign statements declaring they were eligible under the summer base ball rule. They all knew they were ineligible. They also knew that men at other schools were not free from the taint of professionalism.

As defined in the code of rules of the "Big Seven," The Nebraska board of control was opposed to the rule, and it is still opposed to the regulation, but its members insisted on obeying the rules of the conference. At the same time they instructed their representative to the conference meeting to use his efforts to have a new rule drafted. This delegate tried to have the rule modified, but his efforts were blocked by representatives from schools that had played ineligible.

A prominent member of the Nebraska board of control at that time said: "We see our way clear to take no other action than that of abolishing the summer base ball, unless the athletes will sign statements declaring they are eligible, but since all members of the team had have stated that they are not eligible we cannot permit them to sign a statement that would make liars of them."

Present Rule Unfair.

"I think the present rule which declares that a student shall not play base ball with a semi-professional team during the summer is far too strict. The other members of the board agree with me. We want this rule modified. At present the rule says that any student who plays on a team, any member of which receives a salary, is ineligible for college athletics. This student does not need to talk money for his own services. Let him play with other men who are paid and he is a professional. Such a rule, it seems to me, is about as absurd as any could be. It should be changed, and this board is on record in favor of a better rule."

"We would like to see athletes play summer base ball under certain restrictions. Let them get permission of the board of control to become members of certain teams. They should be compelled to do this before the close of school in the spring. I can see no great harm in letting them gather a certain bit of money for their services with town-not league teams."

The spirit expressed by this Nebraska professor is the same that moves the board of control at Minnesota. These Gopher professors want summer base ball because they know students will play it no matter what rules are made; they also know that the students will be about their playing, too. But so long as the conference insists on having the rule