

# It Wasn't Jeff's Birthday, but He Got a Present Just the Same : Drawn for The Bee by "Bud" Fisher



## Judgments

WE ARE here to say that in our judgment Pa Bourke has a ball team, and when the flag raising goes on a year from now in token of the permanent winning of the preceding autumn, we would not be vastly surprised, barring accidents, that the said Pa will have a hand in the ceremonies. But, understand, we are not making that as a flat prediction, content to rest our case on this: That Omaha is from 50 to 75 per cent stronger than it was in 1911, when, by a prodigious season-end spurt, it made fourth place. Some of our sapient sages over the circuit have gone on record with the proposition that Omaha will be a second division team. Well, only prejudice or ignorance could acquate that assertion. Here is the situation: Last year, as everybody who knows the facts knows, Omaha was about as badly demoralized—until the last few weeks—as a team could be. It floundered along with nobody at third base, little more at short, weak at second, decidedly weak in the outfield until late. This year we start more formidably in both in and out-field than we have been for many years, if not in the history of the team. Added to this is a staff of pitchers who are away ahead, both the old and new ones, of last year's bunch, and the catching department is as strong. Of course, we realize that Omaha is not the only team that has strengthened itself this year; we think all have, but we are not foolish enough to imagine that the others have strengthened themselves so much more than Omaha as to make Omaha a second division team, considering relative merits last year and the fact that under the greatest handicap we ever suffered, we still finished in first division. All things considered, it looks to our calm, ripe and unbiased judgment as if the race of 1912 would be the best the Western league has seen in many a year. Let the best team win.

President Bourke did a great thing when he landed Billy Davidson from Brooklyn. Billy Davidson, gentlemen, was one of the premier fielders of this league when he played with Lincoln, and he is better now than he was then, for he has had two seasons of experience in the majors, where he will be seen again some day. His addition makes Omaha's outfield invincible—Davidson, Thomason, Coyle. Where do you beat it? All are batters, runners, fielders; all are heady, all are tractable, all are ball players. Davy's last season with Lincoln was measured in these figures: At bat, 308; runs, 35; hits, 157; total bases, 24; doubles, 25; triples, 15; home runs, 3; sacrifice hits, 13; stolen bases, 43. His batting average was .36. But these figures do not tell it all. Those loyal Omaha fans who have seen an Omaha runner base who have seen Davy on the base in center know that they know with what trepidation they viewed the anxious runner at third as he attempted to beat that deadly throw of Lincoln's tall center fielder to the plate, with the possible exception of old Ira Seiden, who had anything on Davidson with the wing.

Cadman still operates his thinking machinery as he did when wearing an Omaha uniform. Friday he had Niehoff dead to rights on the third base line. He tossed the ball back to Kelly at third and then stepped squarely in front of Bert, effectually blocking his passage toward home. Of course, the umpire gave Niehoff the run, and right there was the time to nip that sort of thing in the bud, and umpire Carter did a good job of it, sounding a warning to all players for the season. It was the only possible way Niehoff could have scored and Cadman gave it to him. There was no occasion whatever for Cadman's ivory act, except that that is the way Cadman has of acting.

Red Andreas seemingly has a good team. Red, himself, looks like the right man for the right place as manager. He has the ginger and the head for a leader and he is fighting every inch of the way. In Friday's game he showed that. He came to the front three times with hits when his team needed hits, runs and courage. He has Babe Towne so far out-classed as manager as to leave him tied to the post. Andreas cannot only tell the others what to do, he can execute.

Omaha had a good opening for Rourke park, even if the weather was not ideal. Sioux City and the home team put up a splendid game of ball, just the kind a real fan likes—a zigzag back and forth from start to finish. The liberal number of runs boots nothing so far as the quality of playing went. The preliminary exercises were novel and interesting and altogether it was a good get-away.

Jimmy Kane starts out playing first better than ever. Twice he saved Friday's game with difficult one-hand stabs and once he won it with his vicious bat, knocking the first ball pitched for a double scoring two runs ahead of him.

Pa has at last got a shortstop. Justice is the boy. It would do your chicken heart good to see that chicken run up and get 'em and whip 'em over to old Jim. Oh, men, he's a daisy!

Umpires Klesane and Carter started well, anyway. Here's the gentlemen and let's forget the recall in the benches.

## HOCKEYS VS. BRODEGAARDS

Several Good Games Are Scheduled at Local Parks Today.

### HANSCOM'S BATTLE A. O. U. W.

Amateur Teams Will Be Out in Force on Both Sides of River and Some Lively Contests Are Anticipated.

The Hectors and Brodegaards will play this afternoon at Fort Omaha, and when they finish the Workmen will take on the Hanscom Park. Following is the lineup for the second game:

A. O. U. W.	Position	PARKS
Prucha	First	Cavanaugh
Brown	Short	Blando
Elliot	Second	Front
Woodruff	Third	Collins
Spellman	Left	Collins
Fox	Center	Swift
Wright	Right	Corrigan
Lightell	Catch	Cavanaugh
Eisenhart	Pitch	Bogatts
Merton	Pitch	Benson
Kills	Pitch	Johnson

At Riverfront park the Spaldings and Foresters will lock horns.

At Elmwood there is an excellent base ball field located in the vicinity of Sixth and Leavenworth streets. On this spot the Advos and Independents will mix this afternoon.

The first game at Athletic park, Council Bluffs, today will start at 1:30 p. m. Stars and Strips against Council Bluffs Ramblers.

There will be one game at Fort Crook this afternoon. It will be between the Duendes Woolen Mills of Council Bluffs and the Bluecoats stationed at Fort Crook.

The main attraction at Florence this afternoon is the Florence Athletics-S. A. C.'s game.

At Diets park there will be two games. The Wagmans will play the Alamitos. Immediately after the first scrimmage the Townsends and the Shamrocks will lineup for a battle.

Lineup for the second game:

TOWNSENDS	SHAMROCKS	
Dennison	Base	Fletcher
Willard	Base	Kennedy
McLean	Short	Horn
Malum	Base	Collins
O'Connor	Center	Clark
Faber	Right	Haduya
Theuer	Left	Mayfield
Co	Catch	Yost
Morley	Pitch	Mason
Adams	Pitch	Badura

H. L. (Tom) Knapp says he is going to run his team from the wood.

In the center garden Ogden is doing great work for the Farrell Syrup.

Vern Hirsch is pitching grand ball for Portland, Ore., of the Coast league.

The Sherman Avenue Merchants have the distinction of winning the first out-of-town game.

Those Farrell Syrup have got a clever hitman in that fellow Kemp, who hangs around the first station.

Eisenhart of the A. O. U. W. team looks better this season than ever before and he always was good.

Next week will find McKee of the A. O. U. W. team hopping around the short-stop territory for Fremont.

Willard Quigley, the southeastern league umpire, will handle the indicator at Athletic park this afternoon.

Linn Young will hold down the middle cushion hereafter for the Wagmans.

That former Stars Triumph favorite, Buck Kucera, is holding down the left pasture for the Farrell Syrup in a faultless manner.

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## Omaha High School Base Ball Squad



### ROUNDING UP FOR THE MEET

University of Omaha to Put Men in the Big Track Meet.

### ATHLETES SHOW UP GOOD FORM

Entrants in Most of Events and Physical Director Maxwell is Pleased with the Work Being Performed.

The track team at the University of Omaha is rapidly rounding into shape for the big indoor meet to be held at the Auditorium Saturday, April 27. This will be the first time that the Crimson and Black have taken up track sports, but notwithstanding that, prospects for making a good showing are very bright. The last week regular practice has been held on the track recently laid out on the university campus, supplemented by some work at the gymnasium of the Omaha Young Men's Christian association.

Though there has been no regular coach secured, Physical Director J. T. Maxwell of the association has been giving the boys instruction in starting form for short-punting, jumping and pole vaulting, and has been highly pleased with the progress of the work. Maxwell was during his days as an amateur one of the best all-around men in Indiana, and since taking up professional training has learned a great deal more about all of the track and field sports.

Interest is Aroused.

For college entries from Nebraska, the half-mile relay is arousing more interest than any other event, and in this the University of Omaha has high hopes of winning the cup. Each of the four men will run 20 yards, the same distance that will be run at the intercollegiate meet at Hastings. Those who will run for Omaha will be selected from the squad consisting of Willard Flor, Andrew Dew, Glenn Whitcomb, George Parish, David Larson and Paul Selby. Willard Flor, who comes from the Waterloo High school, probably will run the fifty-yard dash.

The 23-yard run will be done by Paul Selby and Andrew Dew. George Parish and David Larson will be entered in the half-mile run.

The one point of weakness will be in jumping and pole vaulting. There is no one at the school who has done much in either one of these branches, and so it is probable that there will be no entries in these events. In the running, though the chances are very good for the Omaha school to get a place, the department in which there is a feeling of assurance that they will win first place is in the weights. Dew, Whitcomb of the team, will handle these and in practice has been showing great form. He is heaving the loaded bar to the average about forty feet, and is far to do better than this before the end of the week. Last year Dew took second place in the weights at the

### College Pitchers Keep Scores Low in Most Contests

NEW YORK, April 20.—In these days of good pitching high scores in college base ball games have decreased in almost in the same proportion as they have in professional contests, and, indeed, in the games between the larger college lines lately there have been few high score contests. In the '70s, and even as late as 1898, high score games were not nearly as uncommon as they are now. If the records are correct Lafayette has scored more runs in one base ball game than any other college line. In 1872 Lafayette won the first game of the series with Lehigh by a score of 34 to 18, and in the second contest established the extraordinary record of 58 runs to Lehigh's 20. One hundred and eight runs in one game is almost like the total score in some "Cristo Indians" foot ball game. The next highest score made by a college team seems to have been in the Minnesota-Michigan game in 1882, which the Wolverines won by a score of 27 to 1.

### Omaha High School to Be in the Base Ball Game Again

Base ball has "come back" at the Omaha High school and the fact that the game has been abandoned for the last four years is now entirely forgotten. Competing for prizes on the regular squad so far this season has been keen and interest among the students has been aroused.

A strict ban was placed on cigarette smoking last week by Coach McKay. So far no boy has broken faith, but once the rule is broken by any member of the team, he will be promptly dropped from the roster.

Daily practice was somewhat divided between the University of Omaha diamond and Creighton field last week. Father Devlin of the blue and white university has granted the high school permission to use Creighton field until a 'c'lock each afternoon.

### OFFICERS AT FORT OMAHA ARE INDULGING IN GOLF

Golf has come back in its own at Fort Omaha and the commissioned officers are playing the game on the green whenever spare time presents itself. The course is in excellent condition at present and will be kept in good shape all season by Carvaker, E. W. Carvaker.

The next of officers who are following the lure of the golf ball are Major Carl G. Gorman, commanding officer of the post, Major Harry Gilchrist, Captain S. Gorman, Lieutenant A. H. Bennett, Lieutenant Clark Lynn, Lieutenant C. S. Bennett.

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NEW YORK, April 20.—It is the fact that for the first time since the days of ancient Greece, a government is conducting an Olympiad; building the stadium, supervising the games and, more important still, footing the bills.

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## Basket Ball Game is on Probation Until Rules Are Revised

NEW YORK, April 20.—In declining to make more than a few, and comparatively minor, changes in the basket ball rules for next year, the members of the college basket ball rules committee have placed the burden of responsibility for the abuse that marred the game during the last season upon the shoulders of the official referees—where in not a few instances it belongs. But there is something more the matter with basket ball than the officials. The game has steadily lost standing at all the leading universities except Columbia, and there must be a reason. Perhaps it lies in the rules themselves; perhaps, as the committee says, the fault is partly with the players, who lay more stress upon guarding their opponents than upon following and passing the ball. Whatever may be the secret, it is a fact that basket ball has suffered because of the tremendous number of fouls called throughout the season, and the great amount of scoring possible from fouls. When a game reaches a point where one team can and does win because of the experience of one of its players to throw foul goals it is on the downward path. The rules committee propose to instruct the officials to enforce holding and blocking rules more rigidly another year, and in that way the committee thinks the play will become less defensive and more offensive in character. But this is leaving a good deal to the officials.

Basket ball is a good game, and a fast one. It is altogether too good a game to lose on account of its admittedly bad features. But so long as fouling goes merrily on the spot will continue to lose followers. It was said the other day that they were about to drop basket ball as a league game at Yale. It is said that Yale will remain in the league another season, during which the game will be on probation.



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