

Oh, My! Isn't it Nice and Cool Today? Drawn for The Bee by "Bud" Fisher



Judgments

OMAHA fans are not doing their duty by the Omaha ball team. Omaha for years has enjoyed distinction as one of the best base ball towns in the west. It is not living up to its record reputation. What is the reason? It cannot be laid to a losing team. The team is one of the leaders. It has an excellent chance to win the pennant. It is by long odds the best balanced team the city has had for years. It cannot be laid to the accommodations at the park. They are ahead of any in the league; as good as any in the minor league base ball. The stands were renewed two years ago at a cost of over \$15,000. They are commodious and comfortable. They are conveniently situated with reference to the heart of the city. They can be reached from the retail center in ten minutes. The poor attendance cannot be laid to the lack of interest in the pennant race, to the lack of relative strength between the teams. At this writing only about 100 points separate the first and eighth teams. That is less than the difference between the first and second teams in the National league. It is a nominal difference and means that thus far the pennant belongs to no team. It may be won by any. It is the closest race in the country. It is the closest race in this league for years. It is a race where one or two games cause several teams to change places. That comes near being the ideal situation in base ball. There is no pleasure in a one-sided race. The race is to the swift and every team in the Western league is swift. Today the tall order beats the leaders, tomorrow the second division teams defeat those in first division. Thus the race sees-saw back and forth until here at the middle of the season any one of eight teams may win the pennant. What else could be asked or desired in base ball? A genuine fan will answer, "Nothing." Isn't it about time for those who think the home team should win every game to stop and let more appreciative fans have their turn? Nor can this slump in interest be laid to an odious personnel of home players. Omaha never had a cleaner, more gentlemanly set of young men on its roster. They conduct themselves like men on and off the diamond. They put up a clean game, without any hoodlumism and, as their position in the standing tables show, with the majority of them. What is it, then, that is lacking? Some croaker says, "There are too many spavs on the team." Who are the spavs? Name them. But how does it happen that the team is fighting for first place? The Rourkes here some \$15,000 invested in their business here. It is an Omaha enterprise, an Omaha institution. It is entitled to Omaha support, as it has had in years gone by.

Another evil that will have to be met and dealt with in its turn is the ownership or control of minor league teams by major league managers. Several instances might be cited to show that the purse of a major league man generously has been opened in time to save some minor league club from wreck, but the good that has thus been accomplished is too often more than offset by the overshadowing evil of the presence of major league ownership or influence in minor league affairs.

Knocking the home team and cutting down the attendance is a mighty poor means to pave the way for Omaha to get into a bigger circuit. The base ball man rates the town on the number of paid admissions, and if Omaha is ever to get into a bigger circuit, it will be because the gate money is attractive.

Skipper Bill is showing the home knockers that he is not a down and out by a long shot. He is handling everything that comes around the second bag, and is also hitting some. It was a lucky job that Pa had him when sickness overtook Scanlon.

Pa Burke continues to exert a determined effort to land the pennant. His signing of outfielder Allen and pitcher Bebe is the latest demonstration of that. He already has as strong a team as there is in the league, but is content with nothing short of the best.

"A Fan" has not as yet disclosed his identity, but the offer to print his letter if he will give us his name holds good.

Las Vegas folks are still wondering what they got for their \$10,000. At this distance it looks like a lemon.

The cheapest coward on earth is the man who calls names when he knows he will not be found out.

Gonding, you will recall, stalked Pa to Hickory Johnson. Gonding never gave a bum steer.

When you have an option between the same and something else, take the same every time.

Here's hoping that Jimmy Scanlon will soon be in the lineup again.

Uncle Sam's boys left no room for doubt in Stockholm.

AMATEUR LINEUP FOR TODAY

Workmen and Merchants Do Battle at Athletic Park.

GOOD GAMES ARE SCHEDULED

A Number of Omaha Ball Players Will Go to Surrounding Towns—Several Double-Headers to Be Played in Omaha.

At Athletic park in Council Bluffs a large crowd from Omaha will be on hand to witness the A. O. U. W. Merchants battle, which is scheduled for 3 o'clock this afternoon. The curtain raiser will be between a couple of Class B teams. These two teams are standing high in Class B circles. Lately the A. O. U. W. has been going fast. Out of the last ten games played they have dropped one, that to Ducky Holmes' Nebraska City leaguers by the score of 1 to 0. Cass will be on the mound for the A. O. U. W.'s, while Crimston Top Peterson will work for the opposition. First game will be called at 1:30 o'clock. The lineup for second game:

A. O. U. W. Position. C.R. Merchants. Koran.....First.....Wahl. Brown.....Short.....Hodge. Eastman.....Second.....McLean. McPhillips.....Center.....Phillips. Fox.....Left.....Scanlon. Quigley.....Center.....Goff. Wright.....Right.....Evers. Lightell.....Catcher.....Payne. Cass.....Pitcher.....Patterson. Eisenhart.....Pitcher.....Bogatis.

At Fort Omaha the first game will be between the Townsends and Grain Exchangers. Second game, Stars Triumphs vs. Larks. Last Sunday the Townsends and Grain Merchants both lost, so they are both anxious to win today. Lineup:

FIRST GAME. Townsends. Position. Grain Exch. Coe.....First.....Dennison. Hall.....Second.....Sigler. Faldut.....Center.....Grant. Jenkins.....Third.....McNamara. Malum.....Left.....Knes. Murray.....Center.....Petite. O'Connor.....Right.....Fike. Cavanaugh.....Catcher.....Mosman. Ballinger.....Pitcher.....Rathk. Young.....Pitcher.....Kinnar.

SECOND GAME. Larks. Position. Stars. Hachten.....First.....Drumry. Rapp.....Second.....Graham. Smith.....Center.....Minkus. Tracy.....Third.....Dukee. Denny.....Left.....Dougherty. Melady.....Right.....Welch. Danze.....Catcher.....Clair. Dyke.....Pitcher.....O'Brien. Cunningham.....Pitcher.....O'Brien.

Now the Farrells have started to climb the ladder nothing but the best kind of base ball is looked for at Farrell park today when the syrups back up against the Shamrocks in the second game of a scheduled double header, the first game of which will be between the Klippers and the Sherman Avenue Merchants. Holland or Kemp will swing 'em over for the molasses kids and Snuff Smith will toss them for the South Omaha lads. Lineup:

FIRST GAME. Sherman Avenue. Klippers. Quinn.....First.....Beatty. Smith.....Second.....E. Myers. Platt.....Third.....Stone. McGrath.....Left.....Nolan. Glendon.....Center.....Thompson. Sandan.....Right.....E. Myers. Dineen.....Catcher.....Johnson. Moran.....Right.....Yost. Fitzgerald.....Pitcher.....Fike. Fitzgerald.....Pitcher.....Nolan.

Singles in City Tennis Tournament at Field Club

Table with columns: FIRST ROUND, SECOND ROUND, THIRD ROUND, FOURTH ROUND, SEMI-FINALS, FINALS, CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND, CHAMPION. Lists names and scores of tennis players.

GIANTS GREATER THAN EVER

McGraw Has Better Team Than Won Pennant in 1905. BEATING OLD CLUB ON RUNS. Manager McGraw Says that Merkle is the Best First Base Player in the Entire Base Ball World.

Big Teams Control Too Many Players

Some debate is going on concerning the operation of the rule that permits certain of the big league clubs to control practically the whole visible supply of available base ball players. This is an evil that very naturally flows from the conditions under which "organized ball" as it exists today was brought into life. That the complaint is being made by the weaker teams of the big leagues does not give it special merit; the greatest injustice lies against the owners of the minor league teams. These men have found themselves finally in a place where their business depends almost absolutely on the favor of some big team owner. It has come to pass that any team in any of the higher grades of the minor leagues may be practically wrecked at any time by the exercise of "options" given under pressure of necessity to a major league organization in exchange for players that must be had if the game is to be continued. And the upper ranks of the minor leagues hold the same, in degree at least, power over the lesser teams in the lower grades, until the evil may be said to have permeated from top to bottom of organized base ball. Reform must come, and it must come from within. The major leagues have been forced to grant some concessions to one another, but must put a rigid limit on the ambition to regard the rights of others in the game beyond what now exists. The ideal condition is that no team should be allowed to absolutely control the service of any player it can not use under the rules limiting each team to a certain number of men. The nearer this condition is approached in practice, the better it will be for base ball.

Lieutenant Graves Will Coach the Army

NEW YORK, July 13.—Lieutenant Ernest Graves will be head coach of the Army foot ball team next fall. He will be assisted by Lieutenants Pullen and Arnold and such other men as he may select at a later date. It was Graves who taught Harvard most of what is known at Cambridge about line play, and under the changed rules line play this year will be more important than it has been in years. Top-notch line coaches are rare. There are, says a foot ball authority, just two men who have attained perfection in this department of coaching, and Graves is one of them. This does not mean that he lacks anything in a knowledge of generalship, but the game as it will be played this year comes closer to the range of his experience than it did last season. There is a splendid system at West Point, and Graves will be able to put together as good a coaching staff as there is to be found anywhere—perhaps the best of its size in the country. The revised game should take well with the soldiers. Captain Joseph W. Besenham, last year's head coach, and Lieutenant Vaughn W. Cooper, who was in charge of the defense, will not be available this season. But the West Pointers, with an elastic though sound system, are little upset by a change in coaches. If there is the right material on tap next fall the Army should have another strong team.

It is a Mistake to Force Young Fighter

NEW YORK, July 13.—"It is a mistake to force such young fellows as Palmer and McCarty into bouts for the world's championship," says William Muldoon. "The records will show that no man under 25 years old ever held the heavyweight championship of the world. Frazier and McCarty are splendid young fighters, but they are not matured. They are not full grown men. If I had a son I wouldn't hurry either of them, but would let them have several years of experience before sending either of them against the negro Johnson."

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Gibbons is in Class All by Himself

NEW YORK, July 13.—"If Mike Gibbons should visit England he'd be all the rage," says Jim Maloney, manager of Bombardier Wells. "Englishmen rave over great boxers, but they've never seen the equal of Gibbons. He is in a class by himself. Why? Because he's got brains and knows how to fool the other fellow completely. I notice that his feinting is marvelous. He feints until the other chap is tired of throwing up his hands to protect his face. Then the moment he lowers them Gibbons is there with the quickest kind of blows straight to the mark. He has a clever way of avoiding swings. He has two movements of the head, one directly back and the other to the right or the left, at the same time moving his feet accordingly so that he can come back with alacrity and hit either the body or the face. He's made a study of the boxing game, and I'd like to predict that if he never meets Eddie McCarty he'll win easily. He'd jab Carpenter to ribbons and I believe he'd also win over Klaus on points. There is only one Englishman worthy of a bout with Gibbons. This is Jack Harrison, the new middle-weight champion, but Mike would beat him to a certainty."

TOO MANY PLAYERS TIED UP

Big Winning Teams Have All of Available Material Planted.

SOMETHING BOUND TO BREAK

In Major League Circles It is Freely Admitted that Weaker Teams Will Need Strengthening Within a Year.

NEW YORK, July 13.—So many minor league ball players are tied up by the big leagues that something is bound to break soon in the shape of a move to have the National commission pass new laws restricting the practice. Some of the weaker clubs in the National and American leagues are finding fault with the methods employed by the stronger clubs in this direction and soon there may be some bitter talk right out in open meeting.

It appears that several of the clubs that have winning teams, and consequently are overburdened with money to spend for new talent, are reaching out for all the available minor league players, whether they can use them or not, and are sewing them up in such a manner that the losing clubs cannot in any way secure them. The scouts of the weaker teams invariably find that when a good player is spotted by them he belongs to a pennant winner or a club that has a position near the top of the heap. A champion team may be well equipped with pitchers, catchers, infielders and outfielders, yet it is charged that the owner has strings on at least double the number of regular players planted in the minor leagues. In many cases it is shown that these desirable minor league players are kept out of good positions in the major leagues because the men who control their services have no room for them. Yet the weaker teams have no chance to get them for love or money, the big fellows, governed by selfish motives, being afraid to let their chatters go.

In major league circles it is freely admitted that before another year the weaker teams in the National and the American circuits must be strengthened in some way. If present methods continue to prevail it is urged that this task will prove almost impossible, but that if the stronger clubs are compelled to relinquish their claims upon first-class timber that cannot be used by them the weaker teams will profit thereby. In providing a remedy it has been suggested that each major league club be compelled to give up players held in minor leagues at the order and discretion of the commission. If a weaker club wants or needs one of these players it is pointed out that a claim can be filed, which the commission can pass upon. If it is shown that a strong club doesn't need the talent thus covered up it will be an easy matter for the commission to reach a conclusion.

Much legislation has been passed to prevent the farming evil, but there always has been a way to evade the law. In view of the distressing plight of at least half a dozen major league clubs, it is the prevalent opinion that the base ball governors must do something radical to relieve the existing conditions. Just why the moneyed clubs should be allowed to hog everything is a puzzle in view of the fact that big profits can be made if the second division teams can be improved.

President Tip O'Neill has stuck another \$100 fine on a player for attacking an umpire. The latest culprit to feel the presidential iron hand is Thomas of Des Moines.

Advertisement for Pilsener Beer. Features a bottle of beer and text: 'It has the taste that lingers longest because of its superior delicacy and sparkling goodness. It contains the choicest gifts of nature, skilfully blended by master brewers. In Sterilized Amber Bottles. Family trade supplied by: South Omaha—WILLIAM JETTER, 2502 N St. Tel. South 808. Omaha—HUGO F. BILZ, 1324 Douglas Street, Phone Doug. 1342. Jetter Brewing Company SOUTH OMAHA, NEB. Keep a case in your home.'