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PLAY BALL TODAY IN THE MAJORS

Season of 1916 Opens in Eight of Large Cities of East and Middle West.

BOSTON CLUBS THE FAVORITES

NEW YORK, April 11.—The major base ball season of 1916 will be inaugurated in eight of the leading cities of the east and middle west tomorrow afternoon.

In the National league, which begins its forty-first season, the initial contests will bring together Boston at Brooklyn, New York at Philadelphia, Chicago at Cincinnati and Pittsburgh at St. Louis.

The opening games in the American league, its seventeenth season, will see Washington playing at New York, Philadelphia at Boston, St. Louis at Cleveland and Detroit at Chicago.

Many of these clubs have been strengthened during the last winter and every indication points to close races for the pennants. The defunct Federal league and the minor circuits have been fine-combed for diamond talent. In some cases famous stars will be seen in strange uniforms, but once the players and fans have accustomed themselves to the new combinations the general predictions of a "banner year in base ball" seems likely to be realized.

Boston Clubs Favorites.

While there is a vast difference of opinion among close followers of the game regarding the order in which the team will finish the season, the two Boston clubs appear to have the greatest number of backers, although the eleventh-hour sale of Tris Speaker has not improved the chances of the Boston Americans.

In the National league, Boston, Philadelphia, Brooklyn and New York are generally picked to finish in the first division, while in the American league Boston, Chicago, Detroit and New York are favored to fill first division positions.

In the senior league the Philadelphia club, which won last season's pennant, starts the 1916 campaign with almost the same lineup as a year ago. Manager Moran believes that the Phillies will repeat their winning performance, but many critics disagree with him. The Philadelphia clan is fully as strong as last season, but the general strengthening of the other clubs will make the going harder for the Quakers this summer.

Class of National League.

The Boston Braves, runners-up to the Phillies last season, are considered by many experts to be the class of the National league this year. The team has been strengthened with the addition of several former Federal league players, including Ed Konetchy, Frank Allen and Elmer Knetze. George Stallings again will appear in the managerial role, while Percy Haughton, the famous Harvard foot ball coach, now is president of the club, which changed ownership during the winter. The infield and pitching departments are unusually strong, with a fair outfield and catching corps.

Brooklyn, which wound up the 1915 race in third place, appears to be fully as efficient as a year ago. Manager Robinson predicts that the club will be a pennant factor this year from the very start. The infield and pitching corps are the strongest features of the Superba combination. The catching department, due to the acquisition of Chief Meyers, is stronger than last year. The outfield, with Johnston in the lineup, should be fairly effective.

The winning ability of the Chicago club, which finished fourth a year ago, is uncertain. Joe Tinker has been valiantly trying to produce a winning combination from the amalgamated Cubs and Chicago Federals, but has found some of his veterans lacking in the speed he desires. Team play has suffered somewhat from the fact that the players are not entirely accustomed to each other, while unexpected weakness in the infield and poor hitting have developed. Nevertheless, critics in Chicago believe the team will soon round into formidable shape.

Chances of Pirates.

Pittsburgh is another club which starts the season with a new manager at the helm. Jimmy Callahan, the 1915 leader, expects his team to finish in the first division in place of fifth, last year. The Pirates have a number of new players, and it probably will take the best part of the season to weld the old and new material into effective combination.

Miller Huggins, manager of the St. Louis Nationals, holders of sixth place last year, predicts a good season for his team if his infield will stand the strain. He will not send his own name in as a player. Beizel will take the veteran's place at second base, while Beck will play his old position at third. The slap at shortstop will be filled by Roy Corhan, who made a good record in the Pacific Coast league.

Cincinnati is picked by many to make the best showing of any of the western clubs. The Reds have secured a number of former Federals since last season, when the team finished in seventh place, including Hal Chase, who while a member of the New York Americans played first place in a manner that made him one of the stars of the junior league. If Chase puts his heart and head into his play he will be a great assistance to Manager Herzog, who has an excellent pitching staff, good outfield, fair infield and catching corps.

Hopes of the Giant Fans.

From last place a year ago to a first division berth is the prediction made by the supporters of the New York club. The Giants undoubtedly have been strengthened since last season, but it appears unlikely that Manager McGraw's clan can come back and make a successful fight for the pennant this year. The addition of Kauff, Rousch and Barlden from the Federal ranks will help materially. The outfield is the best that the Giants have had in many seasons in batting, fielding and throwing. The infield is unbalanced and an uncertain quantity.

In the American league there have been fewer changes in the personnel of the teams. Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Washington and Philadelphia took few if any of the Federal league talent, although it will try out young players. New York, Cleveland and St. Louis have strengthened their combinations from various sources and the race should prove unusually close.

Just what effect the absence of Tris Speaker from the world's champions will have on the season's play is problematical. The management of the Red Sox seems to be well satisfied that Clarence Walker will fill the outfield vacancy satisfactorily. With these two changes and the addition of Sam Agnew to the staff of catchers, the playing strength of the club is as formidable as it was a year ago and its chances to repeat as a pennant winner are seemingly more than promising. Manager Carrigan feels confident that the team has not been weakened in any department and that perhaps physically his men are in better shape than they were a year ago.

Burns Not Sure of Place.

Detroit and Chicago, which finished second and third, respectively, last year, will enter the present campaign with veteran teams, although both have several promising young players in reserve. The only regular on the Detroit club whose place is not considered secure is First Baseman Burns. He has not hit well thus far this spring. The pitching staff probably will be Coveleskie, James, Dauss and Boland, all veterans, as regular performers.

The most important change in the lineup of the White Sox is the shift of George Weaver to third base, this being made possible by the ability, in Manager Rowland's opinion, of Zeb Terry, the Los Angeles recruit, to take Weaver's place at shortstop. Byrd Lynn has fulfilled expectations and with Jack Lapp will battle for the honor of understudying Catcher Schalk.

Clarke Griffith, one of the keenest of managers, is satisfied that the members of his team, the Washington Americans, will this year not be troubled with dissension and are prepared to support Walter Johnson and the other members of the twirling staff. The new first baseman, Joe Judge, from the International league, is expected by his teammates to outplay any other man in that position on any American league club this season, and the pitching and catching departments are very strong.

Yanks Strengthened.

The New York club, which won fifth place in last year's chase, has been greatly improved with the purchase of Lee Magee, Cullop and Gedeon of the Federals. "Home Run Baker," from the Athletics and a number of promising recruits from the minors. Every department appears to be strong, both in fielding and batting and the pitching and catching staff is much superior to the old combinations.

Through the acquisition of several Federal league stars, the St. Louis Americans, sixth last year, is also considered much stronger. Plank, a former pitcher for the Philadelphia Athletics and last year with the St. Louis Federals, is on the hurling staff, together with Davenport, Groom and Crandall, a trio of Federal league pitchers. The Cuban, Armando Marsans, will be seen in the outfield.

The Cleveland American league team's chief additional strength lies in the acquisition of Speaker and Arnold Gandil from Washington. Speaker's all around ability is a known asset. Gandil is a strong batsman, a good fielder and fast on the bases. Terry Turner, who served as a utility infielder much of last season, will play at third. Tom Daley, catcher, and Larry Chappelle, outfielder, are two new faces that will be seen with the Indians, each at present slated for extra duty.

Connie Mack, manager of the Athletics, is making no predictions. The Philadelphia Americans start the season with a mixture of veterans and minor league recruits, and Mack has stated repeatedly that he is building for 1917.

FRANCIS RELEASED BY SIOUX

While Heading Is Tied Up in San Francisco.

FAIRBURY, Neb., April 11.—(Special Telegram.)—Ideal base ball weather is prevailing in this vicinity at last and Manager Gaspar of the Sioux intends to make the best of it preparatory to opening the season.

Since the Arctic weather of last week disappeared, the players have taken a new lease on life and are full of pep.

The Sioux went to the training ground this morning and took several hours practice before leaving for Beatrice on the noon train.

Three consecutive games will be staged at that point with the Rourkes, the team returning to Fairbury Thursday night.

Manager Gaspar released L. H. Francis last night. Francis dealt out the slants in the last frames of the Monday game with the Rourkes.

Whitie Hensley of San Francisco has failed to put in his appearance. He looked after matters around third sack for the Sioux last year, but will play in outfield this year. It is reported he is tied up in the coast city on account of a contagious disease. Twenty players are in training camp at Fairbury.

An exhibition game with the Lincoln Western leaguers will probably be staged here on Friday and Saturday.

REDSKIN HURLER STRUGGLING FOR ROURKE JOB.

Class Captains of Track Teams Named At the High School

Seventy-five ambitious athletes and near-athletes signified their intention of turning out for track at Central High yesterday. A meeting of all candidates for the team was held last night and class captains and managers were elected.

The following were elected captains of the class teams: Alvin Geisler, seniors; Frank Campbell, juniors; Nicholas Mayne sophomores; Charles Vorhees, freshmen. Faculty managers chosen are: E. E. McMillan, seniors; J. F. Woolery, juniors; Mr. Bexton, sophomores; C. A. Cairns, freshmen.

The annual interclass meet will be held on Creighton field the first week in May.

ROURKES BREAK CAMP AND RETURN TO OMAHA FRIDAY

Pa Rourke's crew of huskies will return to Omaha from Beatrice Friday. The Rourkes are billed to battle Johnny Dunnison's champ Lincoln crew at Rourke park Saturday afternoon and on Sunday they will tackle the Brandeis semi-pro outfit.

Baseball Gamse Today

National League—Boston at Brooklyn, New York at Philadelphia, Pittsburgh at St. Louis, Chicago at Cincinnati.

American League—Detroit at Chicago, St. Louis at Cleveland, Washington at New York, Philadelphia at Boston.

SIOUX WALLOPED BY OMAHA AGAIN

Marty Krug's Boys Hop on Gaspar's Hurlers for Eleven Hits and Cop Combat.

J. RUEGER AND MILLER SLUG PILL

BEATRICE, Neb., April 11.—(Special Telegram.)—By the score of 9 to 3 Pa Rourke's aggregation defeated the Sioux City club here today.

In the seventh inning Krug and his boys began hitting strong and at the close of the game had six counters.

That his boys are just getting their batting eyes is the opinion of Marty Krug and he is especially proud of the showing made the last two games by Miller, Kilduff and Krueger. The cool weather has interefered materially with the work of the pitchers, but if the present nice weather continues for a few days he stated that they will be in fine working condition when the season opens.

Extra base hits featured today's game. Krug's three-bagger in the seventh brought in three counts. Both teams were in fine fielding shape and worked in mid season form. Score:

SIOUX CITY.	AB.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Connolly, 3b	5	2	2	1	0	0
Cosgrove, lf	4	1	2	0	0	0
Callahan, ss	4	0	1	1	2	0
Leisure, cf	3	1	1	2	0	0
Watson, rf	4	1	0	0	0	0
Mendler, 1b	4	2	1	2	0	0
French, 2b	4	2	1	3	0	0
Donnelly, c	2	0	1	4	0	0
Crosbie, c	1	0	0	3	0	0
Clark, p	1	0	0	0	2	0
Kelly, p	1	0	0	1	0	0
Firschner, p	1	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	34	9	9	27	4	0

OMAHA.	AB.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Miller, lf	5	2	2	2	0	0
Clare, 3b	5	0	0	0	1	0
Forsythe, rf	4	2	2	0	0	0
Miller, 1b	4	2	2	9	0	0
Krug, 2b	5	1	3	1	6	0
Kilduff, ss	5	0	1	4	6	0
Krueger, c	3	2	2	5	2	0
North, p	3	0	0	0	2	0
Thompson, p	0	1	0	0	2	0
Totals	36	11	12	27	13	1

Sioux City	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	—3
Omaha	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	*	—9

Three-base hits: Krueger, Krug. Two-base hits: Forsythe, Schliebner (2), French, Connolly (2), Miller, Cosgrove. Sacrifice hits: Cosgrove, Donnelly, Claire. Stolen bases: Cosgrove, Miller, Krug, Schliebner. Bases on balls: Off North, 1; off Thompson, 1; off Clark, 1; off Firschner, 3. Struck out: By Clark, 4; by Kelly, 1; by Firschner, 2; by North, 4; by Thompson, 1. Hit by pitched ball: By Firschner, Kilduff, Forsythe. Wild pitch: Clark. Hits: Off North, 6 in five innings; off Thompson, 4 in four innings; off Clark, 3 in three innings; off Kelly, 2 in three innings; off Firschner, 6 in two innings. Losing pitcher: Firschner. Time: 2:00. Umpires: Gaspar and Allison.

Women's Bowling Leagues Closes the Season with Feed

Members of the Woman's Metropolitan Bowling league brought their first season to a close last night by shooting perfect scores on the banquet boards at the Castle hotel. Thirty-six women, members of the league, and their husbands and friends enjoyed the sumptuous repast that culminated the successful inaugural season.

The A. B. Sweet Shop team won the league race with the Brandeis team close runners-up. Miss Lois Nesbitt captains the Sweet Shop, while Mrs. H. W. Huff led the Brandeis team.

Those members of the league who attended the banquet last night are:

Miss Cassie Bierman, Miss Laura Bruch, Miss Lucetta Miller, Miss Mayme Goerne, Miss Lillian Hughes, Miss Lois Nesbitt, Mrs. A. C. Campbell, Miss Nora Collins, Miss Marjory Hume, Miss Fannie Collins, Mrs. Goedecke, Miss Edna Hume, Mrs. Marie Evans, Miss Lulu McGreer, Mrs. H. W. Huff, Mrs. A. P. Thompson, Miss Sophia Rauber, Miss Tot Bauer, Miss Hannah Jensen, Mrs. Bird Roben, Mrs. Andrew Murphy, Mrs. Ted Neale, Miss Abbie Howes, Miss Ann Vestlgren, Mrs. E. P. Beeson, Mrs. W. H. Gould, Mrs. T. H. Jameson, Mrs. P. E. Stanton, Mrs. H. J. Hackett, Miss Genevieve Osborne, Mrs. Charley Kehm, Miss May Baisley, Miss M. Hannan, Miss Elisabeth Crowe, Miss Vera Filling.

Smoky City Gets Kelly.

Peter F. Kelley, formerly secretary of the Boston National league club, has been appointed business manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Foster Turned Back.

Herbert Foster, purchased last fall by President Navin of the Detroit Americans, has been turned back to Duluth.

CHET WEEKES WILL LEAD THE BOWLERS

Omaha Pin Tumbler Elected President of State Association—Next Tourney at Fremont.

KEN SCIPLE CARRIES OFF COIN

LINCOLN, Neb., April 11.—(Special.)—Fremont gets the next meeting of the State Bowling tournament, the executive committee decided at its business session. These officers were elected:

President, C. L. Weekes, Omaha.
First vice president, W. S. Ridgell, Lincoln.
Second vice president, W. T. Banks, Lincoln.
Third vice president, C. V. Willard, Grand Island.
Fourth vice president, Lucius Hammond, Fremont.
Fifth vice president, Henry Fritscher, South Side, Omaha.
Secretary-treasurer, P. A. Brown, Lincoln.

Omaha bowlers, as indicated, practically swept the platter of prize money. At its executive session the committee agreed to the distribution. Kenneth Sciple of Omaha was the heaviest winner, taking first prize money of $30 in the singles, seventh in the doubles and a gold medal for the highest score in all events. The members of the Lincoln Candy Kitchen team, winner of the team events, all received gold medals.

Following is the basis of distributing the prize money:

TEAM EVENTS.

	Pins.	Prizes.
Lincoln Candy Kitchen, Lincoln	2,753	$84.00
Coin, Omaha	2,742	56.00
Clara Belles, Omaha	2,735	42.00
Metz, Omaha	2,721	28.00
Poe Clothiers, Lincoln	2,701	28.00
Lincoln Cleaners, Lincoln	2,701	28.00
Burrough's Cafe, Lincoln	2,701	14.00
Karr's Colts, Omaha	2,610	14.00
Hein's Cubs, Fremont	2,591	14.00

DOUBLES.

Fritscher-Fitzgerald, South Side, Omaha	1,221	40.00
Fagenberg-Peterson, South Side, Omaha	1,201	30.75
Hopewell-Amspoker, Lincoln	1,173	30.50
Harman-Karr, Omaha	1,171	15.50
Rosenberg-McCoy, Omaha	1,155	15.50
Spangler-Starboard, Lincoln	1,147	10.30
Sciple-Neale, Omaha	1,140	10.30
F. Jarosh-Toman, Omaha	1,139	10.30
Kuhry-Pruyn, Schuyler	1,134	10.25
McCarthy-Warchow, Omaha	1,112	10.25
Bland-Yousem, Omaha	1,108	5.15
Kirlakedes-Mathiesen, Lincoln	1,108	5.15
Bengele-Voss, Omaha	1,105	5.15
Meikins-Hays, Lincoln	1,103	5.15
Mockett-Kalberg, Lincoln	1,102	5.15
Armstrong-Evans, Lincoln	1,083	5.15

SINGLES.

Sciple, Omaha	681	30.00
Yousem, Omaha	631	25.00
Learn, Omaha	628	20.00
Struve, Fremont	617	15.00
Zimmerman, Omaha	610	12.50
Pederson, Omaha	607	10.00
Hudson, Lincoln	604	7.50
Starboard, Lincoln	603	5.85
Kehm, Omaha	601	5.85
Farrow, Lincoln	601	5.85
S. Amspoker, Lincoln	601	4.00
Schoeneman, Omaha	600	3.35
McCarthy, Omaha	600	3.35
Gumble, Lincoln	600	3.35

The next seven in the singles drew $1 apiece, including Kairy, Omaha; Hammond, Fremont; Neal, Omaha; Remke, Lincoln; R. Spangler, Lincoln; Plattner, Lincoln, and Ridgell.

Plestina Goes to Spokane, Where He Meets Jack Taylor

Mario Plestina has taken down the $100 forfeit money he had posted with the sporting editor of The Bee for a match with Earl Caddock and has gone to Spokane, where he wrestles Jack Taylor. He had a match with Gotch for Minneapolis, but Gotch was forced to break this because of his circus engagement.

Omaha fans are anxiously waiting for the next wrestling announcement for this city. Gene Melady is trying to get Abera for a match with Stecher and an effort is also being made for a match with some good one for Caddock. The only definite match on tap now is that of Stecher and Charlie Peters for the evening of the big automobile race in Omaha, which will be July 17. As Peters has thrown all the best men as they have come along he is looked upon as the next logical candidate for a try with Stecher. Peter's record for the last six months has been a good one. As both these are Nebraska products and both use the scissors, there is considerable interest already in the match.

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