

Talk About Your Come-Backs, What's the Matter With Santa Claus?

EARL SMITH HAS CHANCE TO STICK

Rourke Outfielder Has Better Opportunity Under Mitchell Than Under Tinker.

WICHITA IS WAKING UP

There is one man in Omaha who is tickled to see Fred Mitchell succeed Joe Tinker as manager of the Chicago Cubs. That man is Pa Rourke, owner of the Omaha club.

Pa has a chance to collect a nice slice of coin from the Chicago Cubs and he believes the chance is much better with Mitchell at the helm than Tinker.

It will be remembered when Rourke sold Earl Smith, the crack left fielder of the Rourkevians, he took a gambler's chance with Charley Weeghman. If Smith makes good Pa gets several thousand dollars. If he fails he doesn't get a cent, but Smith comes back to this city.

That Smith is a major league outfielder is Pa's belief. And it's the belief of many Omaha fans, too. Earl is a finished fielder already, he doesn't need any tutoring along this line. He is quick to judge a fly, runs forward and back, has a great throwing arm with which he throws with constant accuracy and he keeps hits to the left garden down to the least number of bases.

Is Good Hitter. Earl is also a good hitter, but should be still more of a power with the war club with a little big league coaching. He has the makings of a base runner, too, with some good coaching.

Under Tinker last fall Smith got away to a bad start. Tinker had half a dozen outfielders and he juggled them around like men on a chess board. One day it was one man, the next day another and he even switched 'em around during the game.

Tinker's system is all right with veterans, but it's a poor way to handle recruits. It makes them nervous and they lose their confidence. Under Tinker Smith's chances to stick in fast company weren't any too rosy. But under Mitchell it is believed he has more than an even chance. Mitchell's strong point—it was with the Braves—was developing youngsters. It is believed he will see the possibilities in Smith and give the lad every chance to make good. And Rourke and Omaha fans are confident he will.

And that is why Pa Rourke is tickled to see Mitchell step into the managerial shoes at Chicago.

Wichita Wakes Up. According to the latest reports from the jobbing city, the business men of Wichita have at last opened their eyes and decided that Wichita should retain a place in the Western league. The period of slumber seems to be over.

When Frank Isbell paid Wichita his first visit the business men gave him the merry titter. They refused to put up a dime and tried to hold Isbell up to boot. Now they are singing another tune and offering Isbell all kinds of inducements to return to their city. They have promised to sell \$3,000 worth of season tickets as a starter and have assured the bald eagle they will do all in their power to give the team the proper support.

As Isbell always had a liking for Wichita, it is believed the Des Moines owner will try to reinstate base ball in the Kansas town.

Such a move would, of course, necessitate a new owner at Des Moines. This, however, should be a simple matter, as it is pretty generally known that Tom Fairweather and the Chicago White Sox have the money in the Iowa capital, not Isbell. That, it is believed, is one reason why Isbell is sweet on Wichita, but not on a club of his own. Fairweather and the White Sox could get a successor to Isbell without any trouble.

It is also said Topeka is waking up and that the Jayhawk capital does not want John Savage to quit the village. In case he insists, it is said, a number of Topeka business men may come to the front and buy the club.

Wants Eight Clubs. Jack Holland down in St. Joseph has come to bat with a plea that eight clubs be retained in the Western league, no matter what the outcome of the Kansas muss. Holland prefers a far-flung eight club circuit to a compact six-club circuit.

The Joctown magnate suggests that in case Topeka drops out Davenport be added to the list. Permission of the National commission would have to be obtained to make this move, but it is believed such permission would be granted. Davenport should be good territory. It's always been a pretty good base ball town itself, better than some of our Western league towns, and Rock Island and Muscatine are near at hand to swell the population from which the club could draw. Cheyenne is another town Holland suggests, but it is probable the other magnates would be leary about testing out Cheyenne.

Charley Moon, former secretary of the Lincoln club, is still angling for a club. There is a chance that Charley will be able to snap up a bargain in the reorganization that is due to come. He probably will be able to buy Savage out.

Minnesota Puts Up More Seats at Northrop Park. Leonard Frank, track coach at the University of Minnesota, has been re-engaged for another year at an increased salary. The board of athletic control also has authorized the erection of new stands at Northrop field with a seating capacity of 3,000. Large crowds are expected to attend conference basket ball games and permission was given for the installation of 2,500 additional seats in the armory.

Wagner Moves Home to Be Near Bill Carrigan. Bill Carrigan and Heinie Wagner of the Boston Red Sox are the real pals of the national pastime. Carrigan winters at Lewiston, Me., while Wagner calls New Rochelle, in New York state, his home. The winter is so long in passing that Carrigan has induced Wagner to change his residence from New Rochelle to Lewiston.

Watch Out, Boys Kibane Is Sore

G-r-r! Woof! Wow! These and other noises denoting anger and ferocity are to be heard daily at the Kibane training camp, Cleveland.

"Yes, I'm sore now, so watch me go," said the featherweight champion during a short period of rest in the gym.

"I'll stop those fellows who say I'm too easy and gentlemanly in the ring; the gentleman stuff doesn't get me much but criticism, it seems."

"I've watched rough fellows in the ring and heard them praised and talked of after, as a 'good boy,' 'rough and ready,' so here's where John P. gets busy with a little 'heavy stuff'."

So now, you critics, watch Johnny perform, and you featherweights and lighties be prepared for a mauling when you meet the champion.

FIVE VETS NOW ON CENTRAL QUINTET

Return of Turk Logan Will Give Mulligan Five of Last Year's Regulars.

FAVORITES FOR THE TITLE

Central high's prospects of capturing the Nebraska high school basketball championship were manifestly increased last week when the news that Turk Logan, star guard last year, will return from the border December 26 and will be mustered out in time to report for duty with the Central squad upon the reopening of school after the holidays.

This will give Central high five veterans back this year, with Maxwell, Paynter, Patty and Smith. Clyde Smith may be placed at a forward this year on account of his basket shooting ability. In that case Jesse Patty and Smith would play the forward positions, Floyd Paynter center and Logan and Maxwell guards. Finding likely substitutes is now the chief worry of Coach Mulligan. Almost all of the substitutes on the squad last year were lost by graduation. Class basketball will be pushed as soon as school is resumed and a close watch will be kept on any likely material by Coach Mulligan.

The schedule this year is one of the stiffest ever attempted by Central. At least seven hard games will be played away from home. The season will open on January 13, Creighton high being the first opponent. South high will be played on the Young Men's Christian association floor January 19. The following night the fast University Place high school will be met. Omaha makes its first trip away from home on January 27, meeting Lincoln high. The team which will be met on February 3 is still in doubt. Both St. Joseph and Sioux City have been offered the date. This is the only open date on the schedule and Sioux City, who has been an annual opponent, but only recently applied for a game, as they were in doubt as to whether they would play basket ball this year, will be given the first chance on the date.

Invasion of Iowa. The following week will be a busy one for the squad. A three-day trip has been arranged through Iowa and three of the strongest teams in the state will be faced. Jefferson high will be played on February 8, Boone on February 9 and Fort Dodge on February 10. An old enemy will face Omaha on the home floor on February 17, when the husky Beatrice five, state champions last year, will be played. The second game with South high is scheduled for February 16.

A two-day trip will be undertaken the following week. St. Joseph high will be played on February 23 and the following night the team will play at Wichita. St. Joseph invaded Omaha last year and when the game was over there was little doubt as to who had the better team, for the Missourians put up a fast and aggressive game and easily outdistanced the locals.

The final home game of the year will be played on March 3, Lincoln high coming here. The season will be concluded with the annual high school tournament at Lincoln on March 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Coyote Flippers Will Play Creighton Here. The University of South Dakota will be represented by a basket ball team this season, according to recent announcement of the athletic board of control of the school. There had been some doubt as to whether a varsity basket ball team would be organized this year. The athletic department now is drilling candidates for the squad.

No schedule has been decided upon yet, but it is probable that three trips will be made, a northern trip, which will include games at Yankton, Dakota Wesleyan, Aberdeen Normal, Huron and Sioux Falls college; a southern trip which may include games with the University of Nebraska, Creighton and Nebraska Wesleyan; and a central invasion into Iowa. This schedule, however, is only tentative.

Life of Stage Proves Too Much for Mamaux. Because of illness the vaudeville engagement of Pitcher Al Mamaux, the Pirates' sweet singer, was cut short. The theatrical pate was too fast. Mamaux lost ten pounds in weight, and he's not a fellow who can afford to lose poundage, either. He'll rest now and try to get in shape for the real business of next summer.

Rip Hagerman Runs Down Little Girl With Motor. Pitcher Rip Hagerman of the Portland Coast league club recently, while out in his automobile, ran over and killed a 13-year-old girl in Anaheim, Cal. The coroner's jury exonerated Hagerman. It was shown that the girl ran out into the street in front of his auto to recover a tennis ball and that he had no chance to stop.

NEBRASKA RANKS HIGH IN SHOOTING

Report of Interstate Association Shows Cornhusker State Was a Favored One.

HELD NINETEEN TOURNEYS

Nebraska ranked third among all the states in the union in the amount of money contributed to the states by the Interstate Trap Shooting association for registered trap shooting tournaments during 1916.

A total of \$975 was contributed to Nebraska, Missouri and Pennsylvania alone were more favored. The association contributed \$4,325 to Missouri and \$1,550 to Pennsylvania. And Missouri entertained the Grand American handicap this year, the biggest money shoot in the country, while Pennsylvania is a regular holder of trap shooting and holds more big money shoots than any other state in the union.

Nebraska held nineteen registered tournaments during the year. Three of these were held in Omaha at the Omaha Gun club. Six other states held more shoots than Nebraska. Iowa holds the record with 56. Illinois held 55, Pennsylvania 52, New York 26, Indiana 24 and Minnesota 22.

A total of 255,305 targets were shot at in registered shoots in this state during the current year. Five other states surpassed this record. Pennsylvania's record was 633,515, Illinois, 517,855, Iowa's 491,785, Missouri's 421,390, and Ohio's 299,275.

Standing is Remarkable. Nebraska's standing in these three divisions is considered quite remarkable in view of the fact that four-fifths of the states in the union have more trap shooting clubs than Nebraska, and most of them three times as many shooters enrolled.

The average attendance of amateur marksmen at Nebraska shoots during the year was 44 and 3-19, a very good average, which was beaten only by half a dozen states. The average attendance of professionals was four.

A total of 546 registered tournaments, at which 10,528 marksmen competed, were held in the United States this year. A total of 6,366,110 targets were trapped at these shoots.

These figures are all shown in the annual report of the interstate association.

Bellevue to Play All Grid Combats With State Teams

Bellevue college has practically completed its foot ball schedule for 1917 is the announcement made by Coach Benjamin of the Indians. Only two games are still doubtful, that with Wayne at Wayne on October 26, and that with Peru at Bellevue on November 9. A feature of the schedule is the absence of games out of the state, Benjamin and the athletic board of control having decided that games outside of Nebraska do not pay. Hence Tarkio, Midland and Trinity, which have been on the schedule for two years, will not appear next year.

Instead games with Hastings and the University of Omaha will be played. One other game, perhaps two, will also be scheduled.

The schedule is as follows: October 6—Open. October 13—Custer at Bethany. October 18—Hastings at Bellevue. October 26—Wayne at Wayne. November 2—Open. November 9—Peru at Bellevue. November 16—University of Omaha at Bellevue. November 24—Doane at Bellevue.

Bill Donovan Hopes Love Will Make Good. Bill Donovan has hopes that Slim Love will win a regular place on the New York's pitching staff next season. Love simply lacks confidence in his own great ability. In batting practice when he puts his stuff on the ball Love usually has the New York hitters helpless. At such times his control is exceptional.

Utility Job with Giants For Indian James Thorpe. Jim Thorpe will be utilized as a sub outfielder for the Giants next year. The Indian made a reputation in the association as a deadly slugger against southpaw pitching. He will replace either Kauff or Robertson when left-handers perform against the Giants.

Believe Barbare Will Be Cleveland Regular. There are a good many wise base ball men who believe that Walter Barbare will be the regular third sacker of the Indians in 1917. Illness put Barbare out of the running for two years, but he appears to have entirely recovered.

Paul Kamansky Captains Border Eleven and Turk Logan Is Quarter. Logan played halfback with Central High. Both also played basket ball. Logan was heralded as the best high school guard in the state last year.

Kamansky and Logan are both expected to re-enter school upon their return and they are due shortly. Kamansky will make the Creighton floor five look like a real championship squad, while with Logan back in his position at guard, a state championship seems inevitable for the Central High squad.

Another Omaha boy, Julius Festner, played part of the time on the Fourth Nebraska eleven, and Bretzke, who played at Creighton one year, also played half on the militia team. Other stars on the Fourth regiment team were Lee, former Kearney High school star; Miner, Dana, Schultz, Green and Thomas, all former Nebraska state high school players.

SPORTS SECTION OF THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1916.

LES DARCY SAYS HE IS NOT SLACKER

Australian Pugilist, Reaching New York, Going to War After Makes Money.

HAS FAMILY TO SUPPORT

New York, Dec. 23.—Les Darcy, Australian middleweight, arrived here today, after an adventurous two months' voyage from the antipodes, and will be signed to meet George Carpenter, the French heavyweight; Jack Dillon or Billy Mike within the next twenty-four hours, for the American ring debut.

Darcy, who is accompanied by D. J. O'Sullivan as manager and trainer, reported that he was ready to box any opponent selected to meet him after a period of training. He stated he had kept in moderately good condition by working aboard ship.

The Australian middleweight left Newcastle, Australia, as a stowaway late in October without saying farewell, and his disappearance caused much wonder in Australia sporting circles. He traveled under the name of Dawson.

Darcy said that he wanted to make it clear that he was not a "slacker," and had not left Australia to avoid going to the front.

"I am going to fight for Great Britain as soon as I have had a few fights here and made enough money to support my father and mother and sisters in comfort," he said. "After that I will go to Canada or England and enlist."

"I would have gone before, but I would have left my family in want then. One of my brothers is older than I am, but he is a cripple. Another is 17 and he works day and night as a baker. The others are only little fellows. After I have got enough money for the family then I will go to war. What happens after that won't make much difference then. I can be killed then. There is not much chance of going through without being killed."

The immigration authorities waived the usual examinations in Darcy's case.

Magnate Knew it Five Years Before Player Did Himself

Joe Cantillon tells this story as his latest contribution: The magnate wanted the player to appear at a position to fill in for an injured man.

"I can't do it," declared the player. "You can do it and you're going to do it," replied the magnate.

"I tell you I won't play—that's all there is to it," said the player. "You will if you remain on my payroll—that settles it," retorted the club owner.

"I'm through," replied the athlete. "I knew that five years ago," was the quick retort of the magnate. "The player had no come back."

Medal Shoot at Omaha Rifle Club

No snow or cold, no, not even a blizzard, will be able to stop the annual members' match at the Greater Omaha Rifle and Revolver club today. The shoot is for the medal presented by the National Rifle Association of America. About 150 are expected to take part. The shooting will be as follows: Ten shots at 200 yards, rapid-fire; five kneeling and five standing, with time limit of one and one-half minutes, and at the 300 and 500-yard ranges also.

Plank Warns Against Use of the Curve Ball. Eddie Plank insists that rare use of the curve ball has been the greatest factor in prolonging his career as a pitcher. Plank claims that during his entire career he has thrown four fast balls to one curve. Constant use of the curve soon tends to sap the strength of the salary whip, according to Eddie.

Stecher and Peters were carded to meet in Omaha on July 15 last, but Peters took ill and Stecher cut out wrestling for a while after his affair with Strangler Lewis.

Now Peters is a well man and is showing his old-time speed on the mat, some fans who have seen him working out believing he is even a better man than he was last spring. Hetmanek is said to have agreed to have Stecher meet Peters some time in February, or as soon after, Joe recovers as possible.

Columbia Wins Chess Tourney; Yale Is Second. New York, Dec. 23.—Columbia university again won the inter-collegiate chess championship, which was finished here today with a score of eight points won. The Yale team was second, with six and one-half points; Harvard third, with five and one-half, and Princeton last, with four points.

Semi-Pro Hurler is Signed by the Giants. The Giants have signed Sterling Stryker, a New Jersey semi-professional, who pitched a lot of winning ball around Atlantic Highlands last summer.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMP ARRIVES IN UNITED STATES—This shows Les Darcy, the sensational middleweight champion of the Antipodes, who arrived in New York yesterday, boxing with Jim Tracey, his sparring partner.



JIM TRACEY & LES DARCY.

STECHEER TO REST FOR THIRTY DAYS

Champion Will Be Unable to Enter Ring for at Least Month.

Joe Stecher, the pride of Dodge county, will not climb through the ropes into a squared ring to do battle with any of the hulks occupying positions on the wrestling map for thirty days at least and the time may be longer still. Neuritis in a shoulder will keep Stecher inactive for this time.

The neuritis set in after Joe's bout with Charley Cutler at Chicago Thanksgiving day. Joe passed it off as a temporary pain, but it refused to leave him. Stecher wrestled Cyclone Burns and John Olin anyhow and during the clash with the latter the neuritis became so bad Joe was unable to use his arm.

Joe Hetmanek, Stecher's manager, is much distressed over the condition reports of the Stecher-Olin match, which have found their way to Nebraska. One report was that Stecher quit cold. Another was that Olin stilled through the match much like Lewis did in Omaha on July 4.

Hetmanek is said to have a certificate from Stecher's physician that Stecher is suffering from neuritis.

To Wrestle Peters. When Stecher has rested up and is ready to resume the pursuit of his calling two big matches, it is said, will be made. One is with Alex Aberg, the noisy New York Russian, who made such a racket in New York last year, and the other is Charley Peters of Omaha. Both events probably will be held in February, the first in New York and the second in Omaha.

Last winter Aberg called attention to himself by offering to give Stecher \$10,000 if he could throw him Graeco-Roman style. As the scissors Joe employs cannot be used under Graeco-Roman rules, Aberg's offer was not taken seriously. But Aberg got a lot of prominence and publicity and New Yorkers are anxious to see the two tangle. Aberg has agreed to wrestle catch-as-catch-can and the event will be held in Gotham as soon as Stecher recovers.

Carded Before. Stecher and Peters were carded to meet in Omaha on July 15 last, but Peters took ill and Stecher cut out wrestling for a while after his affair with Strangler Lewis.

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South Dakota Gridiron Warriors Get Emblems. The sixteen foot ball players who were awarded varsity monograms in recognition of their season's work on the University of South Dakota's 1916 foot ball team have been announced as follows:

Ferdinand H. Duncan, captain, Humboldt; Don McKinnon, Sioux Falls; Harold Sprague, Clark; Claude Manry, Sioux Falls; Carl Hoy, Hurch; Clark Elmore, Vermillion; Robert Bergh, Sioux Falls; Hugo Aljerman, Pierre; Abraham Seely, Anson; Frank McCormick, Yankton; Leo Hack, Pierre; Floyd Brown, Elendale, N. D.; F. Harmon, De Smet; George Ellis, Mitchell; Carter Smeal, Sioux City; H. W. Frankendorf, Dallas.

Weeghman Will Release Tinker Unconditionally. Chicago, Dec. 23.—Jose B. Tinker, former manager of the Chicago National, who with Thomas E. Wilson of Chicago, has practically closed a deal for the purchase of the Columbus club of the American association, will be given his unconditional release from the Chicago club, if he desires it. Charles H. Weeghman, president of the club, made this announcement today. The price of the Columbus club is given as \$65,000.

CURLERS TO START PLAY ON XMAS DAY

Sixty-Four Players Are Drawn in Match for Individual Championship of City.

RINK PLAY ON NEW YEAR'S

The curlers are at work. With the arrival of heavy ice the curlers began to dig up their curling stones, polish up the handles and buy new brooms in order to "scoop 'em up and clean 'em." Activities start on the rink at Miller park Christmas day.

Sixty-four players are drawn to compete for the individual championship of Omaha starting Christmas day. Bob Melvin now holds the title and the Robert Malcolm trophy, but Bob will be up against a difficult task to hold it.

Drawings for the first round of play for the individual championship is as follows:

B. G. Watson	Al Poloner
Roy Melvin	W. E. Hiltop
J. Hume	W. E. Adams
D. Hagan	R. L. Christie
J. G. Fleming	W. J. Hiltop
A. Winchols	H. Horne
J. Malcolm	J. C. Kent
W. D. Clark	S. Nielson
G. Dunn	P. Lowden
J. S. Forbes	H. Peters
R. Malcolm	S. Melvin
H. McDonald	H. Fernandez
B. Young	R. V. Hiltop
D. Durral	George Anderson
Jamie Rowie	W. Hampton
D. Reed	Tom Leuchars
D. Calhoun	R. Galt
W. Ronnie	R. S. Melvin
H. Henderson	A. Poloner
M. Letich	Jim Henderson
J. Mitchell	William Scott
J. W. Muir	D. Munroe
W. McDonald	R. Anderson
Charles Johnston	John Henderson
B. D. Dodes	J. Loyall
A. Dick	J. Murray
D. Dunn	J. L. Kennedy
R. Tracy	A. McArthur
Alex McKee	W. McClellan
John Brown	John McTaggart
W. McCabe	W. W. P. Horne

Grid Star Wants Uni to Pay Repairs For Smashed Auto

Ernest Murphy, quarterback of the University of Washington foot ball team, is shy \$78—that is, if the student board of control doesn't come to his rescue.

Murphy is a lieutenant in the National Guard encamped at Cosgrove when the university opened this fall. In order to get to University field each afternoon in time for foot ball practice, Murphy hired an automobile, in which he and his fellow guardsmen rushed to the gridiron.

On one of these trips a smash-up occurred and Murphy had to pay the damages, amounting to just \$78. This amount Murphy is trying to recover from the university students' fund, declaring that his wild dash was made in the interest of varsity foot ball aspirations.

Manager J. Arthur Younger insists that he warned Murphy against the accidents of motoring, and told him before the catastrophe that he would not be responsible for injuries to property or limb.

A committee has been appointed by the board of control to investigate Murphy's claim.

Lincoln Club Sends Harry Williams to Bloomington I. I. L.

Harry Williams, Omaha boy, has been released by the Lincoln club to the Bloomington club of the I. I. L. league.

Williams got his start in base ball on the sandlots of Omaha. He became good enough to play a year with the New York Yanks, who sent him back to Lincoln two years ago.

Williams will trade places with Ray Schmandt. Last spring Harry beat Schmandt out of a job on the Lincoln team and Schmandt went to Bloomington. This fall, however, Ducky Holmes got Schmandt back again and now Ducky sends Harry to Bloomington.

Western League Umpire Again is Leader of Union

Edward Eckman, rotund arbiter of the Western league, has been re-elected president of the Professional Base Ball Umpires' union. The union is in its second year.

The umpires at their annual meeting, which was held in Chicago, filed protest of the conditions governing umpires and the uncertainty of their employment. The union also decided to establish a clearing house which will make it easier for umpires who suddenly find themselves without work, to find other jobs.

Kyronen of Millrose Club Comes First

New York, Dec. 23.—Villar Kyronen of Millrose, Athletic club of New York, who won the senior national cross-country championship two weeks ago, finished first in the Yonkers' marathon today. His time for the distance, about twenty-six miles, ten of it on the Rapid City race track, was two hours fifty-one minutes and fifty-eight and two-fifths seconds.

Kyronen finished a mile ahead of Sidney S. Hatch, unattached, of Chicago, whose time was three hours and thirty-six seconds. James Brooks of the Mohawk Athletic club, New York, was third, a mile back of Hatch. Of thirty-two starters ten finished within the time limit.

First Iowa Infantry At Fort Des Moines

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 22.—The Second battalion of the First Iowa infantry reached Des Moines late last night after a four days' trip from Brownsville, Tex. The returned troops were trained at Fort Des Moines, where they will be mustered out within the next few days. The First and Third battalions are due here early today, having left Kansas City last night.