

# Les Darcy Isn't Alone in the Quest for the Soft Spots on the Sport Map

## ROURKE WANTS TO GET THOMPSON BACK

### Omaha Magnate Trying to Persuade Connie Mack to Make Outright Sale.

#### STILL NEEDS CATCHER

That he will be able to induce Connie Mack to release Shag Thompson to him again is the belief of Pa Rourke.

Mack is pretty well loaded up with outfield timber and Rourke believes he will probably be unable to make use of Thompson. In that case Rourke has asked Connie to give him first chance to buy the youngster.

Shag is only 22 years old, but he's already had three years of base ball experience. He is a nifty fielder, a pretty good hitter, has a great throwing arm and is fast on the base. Rourke believes Shag will yet prove himself a major leaguer, but needs more schooling in the minors, as in the past Shag has been a little headstrong at times.

A short time ago Thompson declared he intended to quit base ball, but later he gave his plan a second thought, and decided he would stick to the profession.

#### Wants Outright Sale.

Last year Mack merely loaned Thompson to Rourke, but now Pa thinks he can persuade Connie to make an outright sale.

If he secures Thompson's return Rourke will have his outfield about rounded out and will make only one more purchase necessary, that of a catcher to assist Larry Pratt.

The players Rourke will send contracts to now are:

- Holderman, first base.
- Ireland, second base.
- Krug, shortstop.
- Watkins, shortstop.
- Burg, third base.
- Smith, outfield.
- Phayzie, outfield.
- Brokaw, outfield.
- Pratt, catcher.
- Reston, pitcher.
- Barham, pitcher.
- Merz, pitcher.
- O'Toole, pitcher.
- Thompson, pitcher.
- Currie, pitcher.
- Gaskett, pitcher.

#### Seven are New.

Of these sixteen players seven are new men. The new men are Holderman, Watkins, Brokaw, Pratt, Reston, Barham and Currie.

With the possible exception of Watkins, Rourke expects all of these new men to win regular places on the team without any trouble. Watkins is a semi-pro from Kansas City, highly touted by Nig Perrine. He may prove a sensation, but Rourke regards him only as a prospect. The others, he believes, are sure.

Benton, the hurler, and Brokaw, the outfielder, come from Winnipeg, where they were league leaders. Barham comes from Vancouver. The St. Louis Cards turned Currie over to Rourke and Pratt comes from Columbus.

#### Assistant for Pratt.

Rourke intends to get another catcher and another outfielder. If he gets Shag Thompson he'll look no further for an outfielder. But he must get a catcher to aid Pratt. He has several strings out now for a likely receiver.

There is also a chance, it must be remembered, for Earl Smith, Kewpie Kilduff or Ernie Krueger to return. In case these stars of last year fail to hit the pace in the big leagues they will be returned to Omaha. Rourke, however, is not banking on this, as he believes they all have an even chance to stick.

Contracts will go out soon after February 1, says Rourke. "That gives less time for argument," he explains.

Marty Krug, who will once more manage the Rourkes, arrived in town last week and intends to remain here until the opening of the season.

## Omaha Volley Ball Team Enters State Tourney at York

With the avowed intention of capturing the state championship, no matter what may be the odds, the volleyball ball team composed of paper men and printers in the Omaha Young Men's Christian association will break into the first annual Nebraska state volleyball tournament, which will be held at York February 15.

The paper men and printers are the class of the "Y" at volleyball. They have consistently cleaned up every team that has faced them and the local sharks are confident they will prove equally as formidable in the state play.

One other Omaha team may also enter the York tournament, but what team it will be has not yet been definitely decided. The six regulars on the paper men and printers' team expected to play in the state tourney are E. H. Hoel, H. E. Milliken, E. L. Potter, A. G. Kittell, Leo Wilson and R. B. Wikson.

The Omaha lawyers' volleyball team is also going to do a little invading. They have scheduled a match with the lawyers' team at Fremont.

## Y. M. C. A. to Hold Annual Circus Last of Next Month

The annual indoor burlesque circus will be staged by the physical department of the Young Men's Christian association on February 23 and 24. Physical Director Kearns is already lining up the stunts and the talent and hopes to have the biggest and best circus ever held at the local "Y."

## Gate City League Will Hold Class B Tourney

The Gate City Bowling league will hold a tournament for all class B bowlers in Omaha, starting February 8, on the Morrison alleys. A meeting will be held at the Morrison alleys this morning at 10:30 and all interested in the class B tourney are urged to have a representative present.

## Ernie Krueger Grows Mustache

### Ernie Krueger has raised a mustache.

Ernie is down in Arizona acting as tutor, coach and nurse girl to a bunch of youngsters enrolled in a military school. He writes Pa Rourke that "the only excitement I get down here is watching my mustache grow."

Krueger also writes Pa that he is in splendid shape, plays about one game of ball a week and will be ready to report to the Giants at Marlin, Tex., in the best of condition to battle for a regular job in McGraw's backstopping department.

## WHEN GREEK MEETS GREEK, THEN WHAT?

### And What Will Happen When Stecher Scissors Tangles With Peters Scissors?

#### FEBRUARY 9 WILL TELL

Scissors against scissors, Nebraska against Nebraska, that will be the situation when Joe Stecher and Charley Peters clash in mortal combat on the mat at the Auditorium the night of February 9, and unless all signs fail wrestling fans have something of a rare treat in store for them.

It was with the aid of his deadly scissors hold, which he employed so skillfully and with such startling success, that Joe Stecher made his comet-like flash across the wrestling sky. Almost in no time Stecher bowled over a score of the greatest wrestlers in the country and made his name a household word from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Every match he has won was turned into victory via the scissors route. Excepting Strangler Lewis and John Olin, no wrestler has been able to withstand the pressure of that scissors hold, and, for that matter, Lewis in his last match with Joe Stecher and his hold made him become almost synonymous.

**Peters Bobs Up.** But last fall Charley Peters bobbed up with a scissors hold in his bag of tricks and Charley, until he was suddenly taken ill, had begun to lay all opponents low with that scissored hold that looked very similar to Joe's and apparently had the same effect.

What will happen when the Stecher scissors tangles with the Peters scissors? Will Stecher be as effective in defending himself against the scissors as he is in using it? And will Peters be as efficient in defending himself against the scissors as he is in using it? February 9 alone will tell the tale.

And still another factor about this coming match which is making gossip for the mat fan is that both Stecher and Peters are Nebraska boys, farmers, boys, horny-handed sons of Nebraska soil. Stecher comes from Dodge, a little town in Dodge county. Peters comes from Papillion, a little town in Sarpy county.

**Both County Heroes.** Stecher is easily the leading figure in Dodge county, the county's most prominent citizen, almost a hero. Peters occupies the same position in Sarpy county. Stecher has never gone up against a fellow Nebraskan before, and neither has Peters.

Interest, it is believed, will be even keener in this match than in the other two Stecher bouts here, both of which attracted record-breaking attendances. Stecher has many staunch admirers and supporters in Omaha and Nebraska and so has Peters. And even those who are admirers of Stecher are interested in Peters because he is a home boy and the same goes for those who are supporters of Peters. It is something different from an invader meeting a home product.

**Creighton Quint Faces Three Hard Games This Week**

Three hard conflicts confront Tommy Mills' Creighton basketball quint this week.

Tuesday the blue and white five journeys to Sioux City for a game at that point with Trinity. Wednesday continue to Vermillion, where South Dakota university will be the foe to overcome. And then Mills' men take a quick jump back to Omaha for a game with Doane here Thursday night.

As all three of these schools have strong quints and the Creightons must make a long jump just before each game, Mills' men have their work cut out for them.

A longer trip, which will carry the locals as far east as Chicago, is scheduled for the following week. This tour will open February 6 at Dubuque, Ia., with Dubuque college. On February 7, Company F of Rockford, Ill., will be the opponent. Two games are carded in Chicago. They are with St. Ignatius and Loyola colleges on February 8 and 9, respectively. On February 10 Mills' men will play St. Viator's college at Kankakee, Ill., before returning home.

## Phil McShane to Attend Chicago Auto Club Feed

F. J. McShane, director of contests of the Omaha Auto speedway, will be one of the guests at the annual banquet of the Chicago Automobile club February 1. It is at this banquet that the championship trophy will be awarded to Dario Resta, along with the snug sum of prize money that accompanies it. Those other drivers who won prizes in the championship fight last year will also be given their awards. Eddie Rickenbacher, who topped third place, however, will not be on hand, as Eddie is journeying in Europe in search of a couple of new racing cars.

## Cubs Wallop Coyotes, Tigers Lick Giraffes

Two games were played in the business boys' basketball league at the Young Men's Christian association Friday night. The Cubs walloped the Coyotes to the tune of 12 to 6, while the Tigers trounced the Giraffes 20 to 8.

## George Chip and Al McCoy Are to Lock Horns Again

George Chip of Newcastle, Pa., and Al McCoy, the Brooklyn middleweight, have been matched to box ten rounds at Youngstown, O., February 12.

## RACE STARS MUST APPEAR IN OMAHA

### New Ruling of A. A. A. Will Force Five Leading Drivers to Enter Local Derby.

#### \$100 A MILE PRIZE MONEY

When the dozen or so racing automobiles line up on the East Omaha speedway July 4 next to clash in Omaha's third annual automobile derby the five leading drivers of the country will be in the starting line. This is the word brought back from New York by Director of Contests Felix McShane, who went to Gotham for the organization meeting of the new American Automobile Speedway association.

The five leading drivers are Dario Resta, Johnny Aitken, Eddie Rickenbacher, Ralph De Palma and Wilbur D'Alene in the order named.

The speedway association, in collaboration with the American Automobile association, under whose direction and supervision all licensed races are run, decided that in 1917 only eight championship races would be held. Each speedway is permitted to hold one championship race. It can, however, hold as many other races as it wants to.

Those speedways which will hold championship events are New York, Chicago, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Des Moines, Tacoma, Providence and Omaha.

Only these eight races will be included in the race of the drivers for the American motor championship, which was won last year by Dario Resta. Last year, however, about fifteen championship races were held, several speedways holding more than one.

#### Will Forfeit Points.

When this decision was made the speedway association began to lay plans to force the leading drivers to enter all these events. The American Automobile association was appealed to. And the American Automobile association put a clause in its 1917 rule book that the five leading drivers shall appear in each championship race or forfeit all their point credits.

The prize money for the championship last year was \$15,000. It will be at least as large this year, if not larger. That means the drivers will be very loathe to lose any points they have earned and they will have to enter all the races for their own protection.

So that is why Resta, Aitken, Rickenbacher, De Palma and D'Alene are sure to be contenders in the Omaha derby July 4. Aitken is the only man in the quintet who did not take part in the local classic last year.

#### Hundred Dollars a Mile.

Another ruling of the new speedway association is that \$100 a mile prize money must be offered for each of the championship events. Last year several of the speedways fell under this rule.

Omaha will probably hold two races this year, last, except that the championship event will probably be only 100 miles long instead of 150. This means the prize money for the Omaha championship race will be \$10,000. A secondary fifty-mile race, for which a probable purse of \$2,500 will be offered, also will be held.

Director of Contests McShane of the local oval was made a member of the board of directors of the new speedway association, so that Omaha will be sure to be represented when any legislation is passed. Harry Harkness, head of the Sheephead Bay speedway in New York, and the man who owned the fatal car which carried Dan Columbus to his death here last July 15, is president.

## Caddock Fails to Throw Man Thought To Be a "Ringer"

Earl Caddock ran into something of a tangle at Huron, S. D., according to reports from that city.

Caddock, according to the story, agreed to throw a chap who was described as "Jack Hull of De Smet," twice in thirty minutes. Mr. Hull proved to be a young man of over 200 pounds and great strength. Hull's superior weight enabled him to hold Caddock on the mat until two-thirds of the time had elapsed. Then Caddock broke away and pinned Hull, but in the second round of seven minutes Hull obtained a reserved seat on Caddock's spinal cord and held him down for the limit. Caddock thus lost the handicap match.

Hull's identity is something of a mystery. There is a suspicion he is a ringer. He is thought to have been secured by De Smet sports who lost heavily on a match some time ago, when Caddock threw another De Smet grapple.

The match Caddock put up \$500 that he could throw Hull twice in an hour Tuesday. This bout will also be held at Huron.

## McShane Gets Word From Eddie Rick, Who Tours Europe

F. J. McShane, director of contests of the Omaha Auto speedway, yesterday received a letter from Baron Eddie Rickenbacher from London, England. The letter was just twenty-four days in reaching Omaha.

Rick was held up several days in Liverpool because the authorities at that point were a bit skeptical as to Eddie's mission in England. They must have learned that Rick is called "Baron" in this country.

Eddie said in his letter that he was just getting ready to beat in from London to Northampton, where the Sunbeam automobile is made. After visiting the Sunbeam factory he said he intended to go to France and Italy.

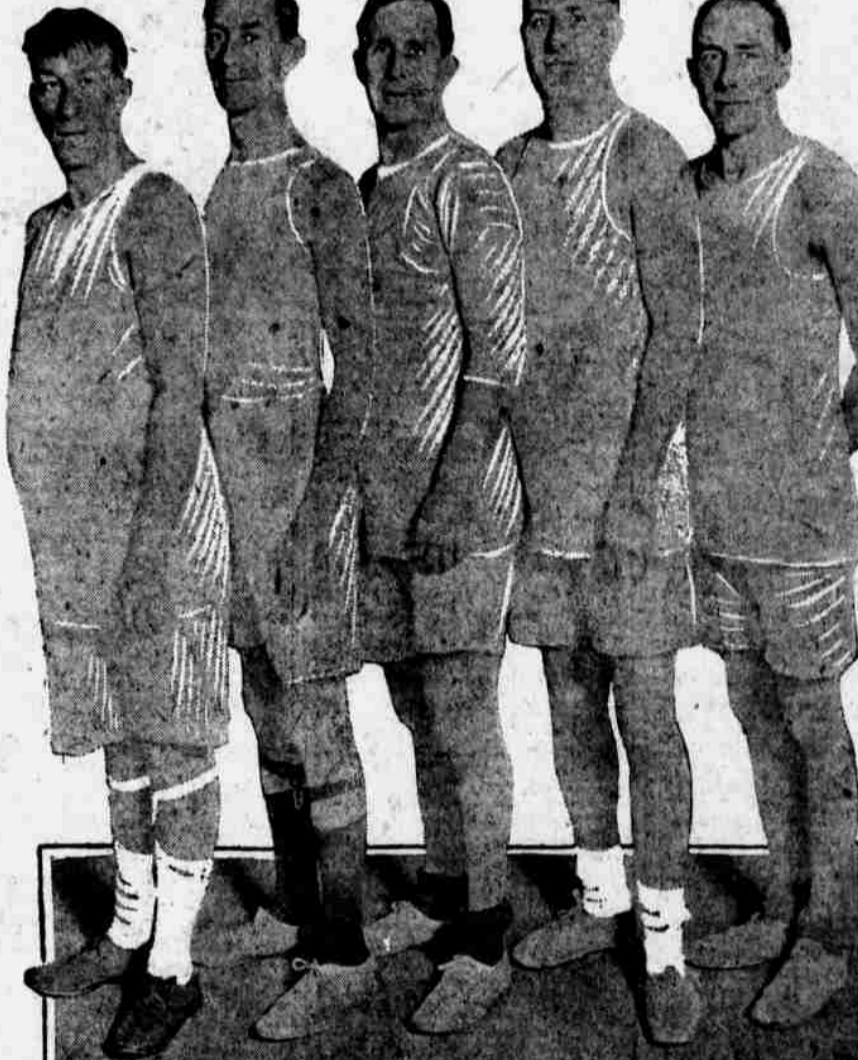
Rickenbacher is in Europe looking for a couple of fast racing cars which will chase Dario Resta all over the lot and he declares he will get 'em before he returns.

# SPORTS SECTION OF THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 28, 1917.

## ACTIVE IN PULPIT AND GYM—Ministers' team in the Y. M. C. A. volley ball league.

### Reading left to right: Rev. H. C. Burrows, Rev. Albert F. Ernst, Rev. John Calvert, Rev. Titus Lowe and H. D. Frankfurt, who thus display their interest in active life.



## FIVE NEBRASKANS ON ROLL OF HONOR

### Only Five Cornhusker Trap Shooters Break Into Interstate 1916 Records.

ED VARNER IS HIGH GUN

Nebraska trap shooters didn't cut much of a swath in the registered tournaments held under the auspices of the Interstate association during 1916, according to the annual averages.

Only five Nebraska amateurs shot at 2,000 targets or over in registered tournaments in 1916. And only three Nebraska professionals shot at that number of targets in registered events.

In 1915 over two score of amateurs shot at over 2,000 targets in registered shoots and were named in the records.

Not a single Omaha marksman is named in the records as shooting at over 2,000 blue-locks in the twelve-month period just passed.

Ed Varner of Adams, C. L. Waggoner of Diller, Al Koyen of Fremont, R. J. Starkey of North Platte and R. J. Middaugh of Fremont are the Nebraskans who are named in the records. Varner led the field with an average of 9448 for the entire year.

The Adams crack shot at 2,750 targets, breaking 2,125. C. L. Waggoner was second with an average of 9268. Al Koyen shot at the largest number of targets of any of the Nebraskans. He trained his eye on 4,290 of the clay birds during the year. Not over a score of shooters in the entire country shot at more targets than Koyen.

## Razee Leads Pros.

Rush Razee was the leading professional of the state, earning an average of 9652. George Maxwell, the one-armed professional from Hastings, had a good year, marking up a general average of 9462.

## Kewpie Kilduff Wants More Coin

Kewpie Kilduff, the diminutive Rourke shortstop, who was purchased by the New York Giants last fall, is a holdout.

Kilduff didn't like the contract the Giants sent him, the salary figures named weren't large enough, so Kewpie sent the contract back unsigned.

## MILLS CALLS FOR CINDER PATH MEN

### One Hundred Candidates Expected to Answer Summons of Creighton Coach.

HAS SOME GOOD MATERIAL

Creighton's first attempt to carve its name on the cinder path will begin next Monday with the call for track candidates by Coach Tommy Mills. At least 100 are expected to respond for what will really be the beginning of the blue and white track activities.

The Creighton mentor is enthusiastic with the material he has on hand. While he admits that he has not a finished athlete in school, he feels confident that he will have no trouble in turning out track men that will be the class of the state.

At least two early meets have already been assured for the blue and white cinder men. Mills has accepted an invitation to enter into the Nebraska Inter-collegiate athletic meet to be held at University Place under the auspices of Wesleyan college and the other at Des Moines to be held under the auspices of Drake college. Both meets will be held early in May.

A number of athletes now attending the Catholic school have made records in the high schools they attended before continuing their work on the hill.

Carl Lutes, former Central High star, now holds the state high school record for putting the shot. With proper training, Coach Mills believes that he can develop him into the class of the state. Lutes won the championship, while the Creighton mentor was coach of the Omaha High school. McCarthy and "Cy" Kamanski are also said to be good weight men.

As to the hurdles, Vic Spittler, formerly of the Ewin High school, is expected to be a strong asset. Spittler has had four years of training along that line.

While Mills knows that practically all of his men are green, he feels certain that a blue and white squad will be developed that will hold up the colors of the Catholic school.

## SAVAGE WILL PUT CLUB INTO JOPLIN

### Business Men Pledge \$6,500 and Savage Says Missouri Town Gets Franchise.

ROURKE APPROVES DEAL

Joplin, Mo., Jan. 27.—(Special Telegram)—John Savage, owner of the Topleka Western league franchise, today pledged himself to local business men to transfer his holdings to this city.

Joplin business men had subscribed more than \$6,500 at noon today toward a fund to build a park and Mr. Savage had only asked for \$5,000. Savage will close the deal Monday.

The park will be six blocks from the busiest corner in Joplin and will be served with an electric line connecting Joplin with Carthage, Carterville, Webb City and Galena, Kan. Each city will have direct car service to the gate.

Pa Rourke, owner of the Omaha club, declared the remaining Western league club owners would undoubtedly sanction Savage's move in invading Joplin. "Of course," said Rourke, "the long jump will mean an additional expense of about \$700 per club during the season for transportation, but it is probable Savage will be required to pay a large guarantee to the visiting clubs, probably about \$20. This will offset the increase in transportation cost.

"Joplin, however, I believe will be an asset to the circuit for the time being at least. I presume the site for the park will be leased to Savage without cost, so Savage won't lose very much even if he has a bad year. It's a cinch it will be better than Topleka.

"The mines at Joplin, Carthage and Webb City and the rest of those towns are running full time, most of them night and day, and there's plenty of money down there. Joplin ought to be a winner."

## Chicago Cubs to Play First Game on March 2

Chicago, Jan. 27.—The Chicago Nationals will play their first exhibition games on their training trip in California on March 2, it was announced today. The squad will be divided into two teams, one playing the Los Angeles club at Pasadena, and the other playing Santa Anna at Santa Anna.

Norris O'Neill, former president of the Western league, who is arranging the dates will leave here tomorrow night for Oakland. He will stop at Denver, Salt Lake City and Los Angeles to schedule exhibition games.

## JOY REIGNS AMONG STATE STUDENTS

### Missouri Valley Governing Board Permits Freshmen to Compete in Athletics.

#### BUT RULE IS RESTRICTED

By JAMES E. LAWRENCE.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 27.—(Special.)—Nebraska athletic authorities are overjoyed as a result of the action of the Missouri Valley conference governing board, composed of the chancellors and regents of the Missouri valley schools, in voting to permit freshmen competition in athletics, limited as follows:

- Two foot ball games a season.
- Two track meets a season.
- Five basket ball games.
- Five base ball games.

The rule does not mean that freshmen will be permitted to play on the varsity teams, but authorizes the scheduling of games between Missouri Valley conference schools for freshmen only. Acting under the rule, the Nebraska athletic board will start at once an attempt to arrange foot ball games with the University of Kansas and the Ames Agricultural school between the freshmen elevens of each university. Two track meets with the freshmen squads of other universities, five basket ball games and five base ball games will also be arranged. The Kansas freshmen foot ball game will no doubt be played on the same day as the big battle between the varsity elevens of the two schools, while the Ames game will be earlier in the season.

#### New Era Dawns.

The adoption of the rule by the conference heads virtually marks a new era in University of Nebraska athletics and will lend a decided impetus to freshmen athletics at the state university. Competition for first-year men with outside schools has been a sore point at Nebraska for years. Under the old system all of the larger institutions in the conference, particularly Nebraska, Kansas, Ames and Missouri, suffered the loss of many promising freshmen athletes because first-year competition was denied. Only last year three Beatrice High school foot ball stars went to Grinnell because their school is not bound by conference rules and freshmen could compete for their university's first year.

Although the Nebraska athletic board has not taken final action in arranging for the freshmen competition, undoubtedly a special first year letter will be adopted, subject to award on the same basis that the varsity letter is now given. With the elimination of the only talking point which has been used to lure Nebraska high school stars to other states, the athletic authorities here are much encouraged.

#### Runners Defy Cold.

Nebraska's 1917 track squad has well earned the title of snowbirds and have been training faithfully outdoors in scanty track suits for the last two weeks in spite of the wintry blasts. Coach Reed said his track squad is one of the strongest he has had.

When the weather was severe, the track men donned heavy sweaters, and woolen trousers, with foot ball shoes. There is again a notable absence of veteran material—with only juniors and sophomores available. No seniors have reported.

Caplan Overman has all of the earmarks of a wonderful miller. He took third place in the Missouri Valley conference meet last year—his first collegiate experience. Grad, a star high school long distance man, looms up strong for the two-mile run.

Werner is the most promising sprinter, but the Huskers are short on good material for the dashes. Finney is the best hurdler in the university since the days of Dale McDonald and Owen; Townsend and Bryans are all splendid quarter milers. Reed says Grau is a comer in the half-mile run and Flint, an Omaha high school star, looks good in the jumps.

In the weights Nebraska is well fortified. Reese, a brother of Herb Reese, the Lincoln High school coach, is in school and bids fair to develop into a great shot putter and discus thrower. Shaw, the holder of the university record in the shot put and captain of the 1917 foot ball team, is also available.

The javelin throw will be a new event in the valley this year. Reed says the track outlook is bright for the youngsters this year. The Huskers meet with Minnesota, Kansas and Ames, in addition to the relay carnivals.

## Sam Reynolds Wins Tilt On Burgess-Nash Course

Sam Reynolds was medalist in an eighteen-hole medal play match on the indoor course of the Burgess-Nash company yesterday. Reynolds shot a 36 for the eighteen holes which is bogey for the course. Karl Beck shot an even 40 for second money.

A tournament for the women will be held at Burgess-Nash Wednesday afternoon and an open thirty-six-hole medal competition will be staged next Saturday.

## Commerce High Quintet Will Play Alumni Five

The High School of Commerce basketball quintet will meet a team composed of former Commerce stars Tuesday evening at the Young Men's Christian association.

The undergraduates were scheduled to meet the Commercial teachers on that day, but the latter on account of the extra work of the new semester had to call off the game so John Fixa volunteered to organize a squad consisting of the alumnae to substitute.

The graduates will include such stars as John Fixa, Lennart Millburg, Miro Rokovec, Arthur Dutcher, Max Moko-vitz, William Dancy and Sam Brown, who are expected to furnish a hard game against the regulars.

## Bobby Christie Says His Farewell to Omaha

Bobby Christie, formerly assistant to Charley Johnston at the Happy Hollow club, leaves Omaha tonight for Chicago, where he will spend the remainder of the winter before going to Kewanee, Ill., April 1 to take up his new duties as professional of the Midland Country club at that city.